

## **MOJ, MOFA, and Supreme Court co-host a High-Level Regional Seminar on the ICC and the Asia-Pacific, in cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

- Discuss on the achievements, tasks, and development directions for the past 25 years since the adoption of the Rome Statute
- Gathering high-ranking officials from the Asia-Pacific region, including the President of the ICC and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mongolia

- In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute\*, MOJ, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Supreme Court of Korea, co-hosts a High-Level Regional Seminar on the ICC and the Asia-Pacific in Seoul on November 14 and 15. The Seminar will discuss the past, present, and future of the Rome Statute and the vision to strengthen solidarity.
- This year's seminar will bring together around 100 high-level participants from the Asia Pacific countries, including President Piotr Hofmański of ICC, Judge Chung Chang-ho, President Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi of the Assembly of State Parties, Chief Justice Ganzorig Damdin of the Supreme Court of Mongolia, Minister Han Dong Hoon of Justice, and Judge Ahn Chul-sang, who is currently serving as the acting chief justice of the Supreme Court.

\* Rome Statute: The founding treaty of the ICC (adopted on July 17, 1998, by the UN Diplomatic Conference in Rome)

- During the drafting process of the Rome Statute, the Republic of Korea acted as an active participant, and since joining the Rome Statute in 2002, Korean legal professionals have served key positions at the ICC. As such, Korea has

been maintaining a close cooperative relationship with the ICC in order to secure the universality\* of the ICC to increase the number of parties.

○ From Korea, Judge Song Sang-hyun served as the President of the ICC (Judge: 2003-2015, President of the Court: 2009-2015), Judge Chung Chang-ho is currently serving as a Judge (2015-2024), and Judge Kwon O-Gon served as the Assembly President of the States Parties (2017-2021). For the 2023 ICC judicial elections, Lawyer Paek Keebong has been nominated as a candidate.

\* Universality: The principle of contributing to international peace through the expansion of the number of parties so that the ICC can become a court that exercises universal jurisdiction to efficiently punish serious crimes

□ In his opening remarks, Minister Han emphasized, "For the ICC to successfully carry out its role in responding to serious crimes against humanity and in protecting life and human rights, close solidarity with the international community is inevitable, and to this end, the capabilities and wisdom of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region are essential."

□ Minister Kim Sang-hwan of National Court Administration Office also commented in his welcoming remarks, "The judiciary of Korea also acknowledges the importance of expanding the role of the ICC and will continue to actively support and sponsor the ICC."

□ In times of inhumane acts and recurring conflicts occurring in the international community, the active participation of the ICC and the parties is needed more than ever. This seminar is expected to raise the determination and importance of international cooperation for the realization of an international criminal justice court and an opportunity to encourage active participation from countries in the region.

○ The Korean government will continue to actively participate in the efforts of

the ICC and the assembled parties to safeguard peace and protect the universal values of humanity. ☐

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