

January 2020

My dear fellow prosecutors!

Happy New Year!

Since my inauguration as the President of the IAP last September, I have learned precious lessons and gained much experience through various IAP activities. To begin with, I attended a strategy meeting organised by the IAP Secretariat in The Hague, last December. It was a valuable opportunity to go over the future directions and major programs that the IAP should head for in 2020.

After the meeting, I participated in an expert roundtable in New York to discuss the independence and responsibility of prosecutors. Among the 10 experts were some of my dear colleagues, Mr. James Hamilton from Ireland, the former President of the IAP, and Mr. Mutembo Nchito from Zambia, a former Member of the IAP Executive Committee. I was indeed proud of the fact that they are such renowned international experts as well as excited to meet my old friends.

The year 2020, in with the new decade, marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the IAP. In particular, the 25th Annual Conference of the IAP will be held in Athens, Greece in September. Celebrating our anniversary in the very birthplace of the Western civilisation, we will raise high the torch of international criminal justice. I firmly believe that the IAP can present a far more mature and outstanding capability in this new decade.

According to the Asian zodiac, the year 2020 is the “Year of White Mouse”, a symbol of wisdom, agility, fortune and prosperity. While the mouse is the first animal in the 12-year calendrical cycle, the white mouse is considered the leader of all mice. Through the wisdom, agility and leadership of the white mouse, I sincerely hope the IAP will take a new leap towards a more advanced platform for international cooperation in criminal matters.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow prosecutors for your full dedication and commitment. I wish you and your families great health and happiness in 2020 and may all the prosecutions in the world continue to develop sustainably.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cheol-Kyu Hwang', is displayed on a light-colored background.

Cheol-Kyu Hwang, President of IAP