

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

12TH ANNUAL MEETING

RESOLUTION APPF12/RES.16

Co-operation for the Prevention and Eradication of Emerging Infectious Diseases

(Sponsored by Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand)

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

Recalling the APPF Resolution on infectious diseases (APPF9/Res/Pol/);

Noting the growing interdependence and deepening of globalization in the International community;

Concerned that infectious disease have endangered socio-economic development and have become one of the world's main security threats, as evidenced by SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and HIV/AIDS, along with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;

Reaffirming the important role of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the global specialized organization to promote health, security and the need for international collaboration to fight against existing and emerging infectious diseases;

Considering that under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the parties to the Agreement formalized in August 2003, can allow the production of patented medicines in cases of public health emergency;

Considering that HIV/AIDS eradication is one of the Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations;

Welcoming the APEC Action Plan on SARS endorsed by the APEC Health Ministers meeting in Bangkok on 28 June 2003 as a timely response in the Asia Pacific Region to address the impact of SARS and establish common co-operative actions and mechanisms to prevent the spread of SARS and other emerging infectious diseases in and across the region;

Convinced by the connection between poverty and dissemination of infectious diseases;

Convinced that public education is an essential factor in the prevention of disease as a long term solution to pandemics, along with the availability of medicines and treatments;

Noting that APPF member countries consider that infectious diseases in bio-terrorism weapons is inhumane;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call** upon APPF member countries to actively co-operate in the fight against infectious diseases, particularly affecting children, through, inter alia, implementing common guidelines and recommendations as prescribed by WHO, and the sharing of timely and accurate information and strengthening capacity building for the affected countries;
2. **Urge** APPF member countries to work in close collaboration with WHO and the international scientific community including WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and the APEC Emerging Infectious Network to effectively contain and cure infectious diseases on the basis of scientific research;
3. **Urge** the APPF member countries to implement the necessary efforts so that the Millennium Development goals defined by the UN in the year 2000, can be fulfilled among them, HIV/AIDS eradication is a priority;
4. **Urge** the APPF member countries to support the Global Fund promoted by WHO and the World Bank with the goal of eradicating HIV/Aids, Tuberculosis, Malaria etc;
5. **Encourage** APPF member countries to consider and adopt the APEC Action Plan on SARS to prevent the future outbreak and spread of SARS;
6. **Endorse** the resolution A/RES/58/3 entitled “Enhancing capacity building in global public health” adopted at the 58th General Assembly of the United Nations;
7. **Urge** the APPF member countries to facilitate and promote the use of the WTO TRIPS Agreement of 30 August 2003, which establishes the margins for trade of patented pharmaceutical products to advance in the eradication of infectious diseases;
8. **Encourage** the developed countries to support the developing countries in capacity building in public health.