

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

22ND ANNUAL MEETING

RESOLUTION APPF22/RES.20

Promoting Cooperation in Education, Culture, Science and Technology in the Asia-Pacific Region

(Sponsored by Australia, Chile, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Thailand)

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

Recalling the APPF Vancouver Declaration which encourages mutual understanding, friendship and confidence-building among countries;

Noting the Resolutions APPF21/RES-13 and APPF21/RES-11 which were adopted at the 21st Annual Meeting of the APPF in Vladivostok in January 2013;

Conscious of the interrelationship between culture, education, democracy and development, and emphasizing that education and culture are the basis for both democratic participation and economic and social development,

Aware of education's potential as an incentive for progress in all proportions of development - political, economic, cultural, social, and ecological, and also conscious that underperforming educational systems and undervalued cultural traditions are a menace to become threat,

Mindful that education is a prerequisite for participation in cultural life and for democratic participation, and essential to the promotion of democratic values,

Knowing that education and cultural policies must take into consideration universal human rights while maintaining cultural diversity, and should therefore promote and respect regional, national and universal values,

Acknowledging that a civil society is playing an increasingly important role mainly in politics and in culture and that one of the most important commitments of cultural policy is to encourage and promote creative energies that foster the active role of citizens and,

Emphasizing the need of international collaboration especially on MDGs 2 and 3 as well as working actively with UNESCO;

Mindful that more than sixty years have gone by since every person's right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community was stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and yet there remain glaring disparities between educational institutions in the region that render the citizens of some countries unprepared to fully participate in the globalized society;

Recognizing the forthcoming realization of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community in 2015, the subsequent emergence of a better defined ASEAN identity and the resulting impact of the integration process on the economies and educational sectors of Asia-Pacific;

Taking into consideration the Declaration of scientific organizations of APEC, adopted in Vladivostok in 2012 and aimed at multilateral research cooperation of the Asia Pacific countries;

Aware that intercultural dialogue plays a major role in upturn of mutual understanding and enhancing social connections between the nations, parliaments and people belonging to different cultures and religions;

Recognizing the role of APPF in providing a regular and unique opportunity for national parliamentarians to come together in the spirit of regional cooperation;

Emphasizing that today's interconnected world is also one of unparalleled opportunity to develop greater educational, cultural and scientific exchange between our countries;

Reaffirming the importance of all sectors in society including government and private sector as key players to promote cooperation in education, culture, science and technology;

Aware that new improving technologies for all ICT can ease and ameliorate access to education and participation in the democratic process,

Cognizant that understanding and tolerance between countries can provide the basis for strengthening regional relationships and engendering mutual trust and openness;

Highlighting the role of education in fostering deeper cultural and social understanding between countries and human understanding among the diverse peoples of our region;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment by APPF member countries to promote a culture of tolerance and respect for cultural dynamism, by embracing diversity as a decisive advantage and learning from each other's experiences.
2. **Call on** APPF member countries to work collaboratively to develop common strategies, policies and programs which facilitate educational, cultural, parliamentary and professional exchanges between each other's countries.

3. **Call upon** governments to invest heavily in human capital to reduce poverty, since it is the primary factor keeping children out of school, and to enhance the quality of education at all levels to build competent and professional human resources that will contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development.
4. **Affirm** that education is a precondition for fostering and keeping sustainable development, securing a healthy environment, securing peace and democracy and achieving the objectives of fighting against poverty, and creating gender equality, and that culture is an essential component of the development process in the Asia Pacific Region;
5. **Accentuate** the requirement to carry out education and cultural policies that contribute significantly to sustainable political, social, environmental and economic development, in particular by improving universal access to education and culture;
6. **Emphasize** the relevance of perceiving education and cultural policies as key components of an independent and sustainable development policy and ensuring that they are implemented properly in coordination with policies in other fields; urge nations belonging to the Asia Pacific Region to strengthen environmental education in school curricula and in the media;
7. **Underscore** the need to boost knowledge and comprehension of cultural and linguistic diversity through education and cultural policies;
8. **Call** for the adoption of cultural policies which help to guarantee that every person is able to exercise his or her right to participate freely in cultural life according to domestic law;
9. **Acknowledge**, promote and capitalize on shared universal values while preserving and respecting traditional cultural values.
10. **Bring** out the need to place education high within the precedence's of national budgets in the Asia Pacific Region and to promote actively education conducive to the mastery and creative use of science and new information technologies by the younger generations and the training of teachers in science and new technologies;
11. **Demand** a constructive involvement of civil society in education and cultural policy;
12. **Promote** the value of including relevant state and non-state stakeholders, including educational institutions, business and nongovernment organizations, in the collaboration process.
13. **Emphasize** a pressing need to promote development of interaction of universities, research entities and laboratory centers of the Asia Pacific countries aimed at promoting further trans-border cooperation in scientific and educational spheres.

14. **Call upon** the APPF member countries to continue systematic work to create an Asia Pacific scientific coordination centre as a solid regional platform for interaction of research and scientific organizations.
15. **Encourage** universities and research institutions to promote, support and increase the number of education exchange programs, including those with a focus on regional language and regional cultural studies.
16. **Assert** that the development of education in the Asia Pacific Region calls for an extensive enhancement of international interaction to promote better education in developing countries, urges that the latter be given all possible assistance in their efforts to foster democratic values by means of education, and recommends in particular promoting cooperation among developing countries so that they benefit from knowledge of other cultures and other experiences of development;
17. **Encourage** parliamentarians to enact domestic laws related to cooperation in education, culture, science and technology to narrow the gaps in access to lifelong education, between those in rural and urban areas;
18. **Provide** conditions for convergence and the further mutual enrichment of the cultures, to develop new forms of intercultural dialogue, with a view to support Siberia and the Far East of Russia into the Asia Pacific integration processes by calling upon the APPF Member countries to support the 4th Asia Pacific International Musical Festival in the city of Krasnoyarsk on June 26 - July 4, 2014 ".
19. **Support** APPF member countries to strengthen sustainable development through educational efforts and recognize the importance of education quality and standards which will provide young people with equal employment opportunities, as well as the competence to successfully meet the demands of regional integration in a globalizing world.
20. **Explore** the application of innovative science and technology to further promote unity through a shared approach to problems and obstacles common to the region.
21. **Accentuate** the need of revamping technical infrastructure of ICT in such a way that they can be used by as many people as possible in the Asia Pacific Region, and of fomenting new media skills through education and training programs; calls for wide-ranging efforts by developed countries to bridge the digital gap by actively providing developing countries with both technical assistance and support for education in information technologies;
22. **Exhort** the governments of APPF member countries to improve the people's quality of life and foster the productivity through the services offered by the digital world;
23. **Recommend** the parliaments members of the APPF to create a legal frame that can make the adaptation to technological innovation easier through the transnational cooperation, which becomes vital at the moment of providing the people with the greatest benefits and guaranteeing their access to the digital world as well.

24. **Request** parliamentarians, national governments, universities and educational NGO's from the Asia Pacific Region to promote institutional programs of exchanging students, teachers and professors, both from high school and university level to ensure mutual understanding in all aspects of cultural, economic and social life and to share skills in educational matters.
25. **Assert** the need to implement in the Asia Pacific Region education policy commitments to ensure that by 2015 all children, especially girls, children in difficult circumstances and children from ethnic minorities, have access to free, high-quality compulsory primary education and complete such education.
26. **Stress** the needs to consistently establish links with other regions by means of Memoranda of Understanding linkage programs and other specially designed projects.