

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

24TH ANNUAL MEETING

RESOLUTION APPF24/RES.11

Promoting Gateways and Enhancing Infrastructure to Facilitate Economic and Trade Goals

(Sponsored by Thailand and Mexico)

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

Approving the commitment of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders in Manila 2015 to take action to fully realize the vision laid down by our predecessors of a stable, integrated, and prosperous community in the Asia-Pacific, in which all people can enjoy the benefits of economic growth and technological progress;

Welcoming the adoption by APPF Member States of a more systematic approach to addressing existing checkpoints in supply chains through targeted capacity-building and taking concrete steps towards making supply chains more reliable, resilient and safe;

Concerned over the complex economic environment that APEC economies face, the high volatility of financial markets, the uncertain monetary policies of some countries, and persistent low market prices of some raw materials;

Agreeing that it is of vital importance for micro, small and medium enterprises to participate in global value chains, regional economic integration and the development of human capital;

Aware that the development of appropriate structures of supply routes will strengthen regional economic integration and boost economic growth;

Wishing to play an even more proactive role in supporting Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) competitiveness in the international arena, particularly now when the ASEAN countries are hard at work preparing for the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015;

Acknowledging that reliable supply chains are crucial to promote trade, maintain sustainable development, and ensure economic investment and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region and globally;

Considering that civil society participation plus the acknowledgement of our needs and interests are key to producing public policies aimed at improving transport logistics and infrastructure;

Accepting that it is necessary to advance both software-defined infrastructure, transport infrastructure and logistic systems as a gateway to regional investment and to cooperate with ASEAN countries are a unique regional initiative that connects with APPF Member States;

Conscious of the role that regional members of parliaments have in the creation of national legal frameworks, the importance of driving structural reforms through parliaments of various APPF member countries is an important mechanism to counter high levels of volatility in the global economy, to broaden transport possibilities and to enhance renewed commitment to global trade;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member States, Parliaments and other relevant stakeholders to adopt the measures established in the APEC Multi-Year Plan on Infrastructure Development and Investment 2013-2016, to facilitate commercial operations through customs legislation, modernization and infrastructure projects that would connect special economic zones, and to improve the reliability of transport gateways and logistical networks for foreign investment in the region that would facilitate movement of goods and services across borders;
2. **Confirm** the need to design capacity-building programs for Asia-Pacific countries and to improve and implement advanced technologies that would enhance supply chain reliability;
3. **Encourage** governments to move forward jointly, in the setting of software-defined infrastructure, and transport logistics plans, that would support the different interests of APPF Member States, while at the same time promote sustainable development, greater regional inclusion and integration;
4. **Encourage** APPF Member States and Parliaments to participate actively, in fostering high-level business rapport in the Asia-Pacific region, creating networks that would foster the flow of private capital for comprehensive projects that would eliminate barriers to trade, improve the investment climate and further economic integration;
5. **Encourage** the establishment of ties between the public and private sectors and the adoption of laws and regulations, in order to drive investments in the development, construction and implementation of comprehensive infrastructure projects, especially in telecommunication and transportation networks;
6. **Carry out** legislative actions to encourage the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in value chains for the development of major infrastructure projects;

7. **Promote** the adoption of legislation that will enable the development of infrastructure in APPF member countries and will open up foreign investment and joint ventures between governments and the private sector and among countries, especially to support commercial transport initiatives;
8. **Encourage** cooperation among APPF Member States to implement the ASEAN Single Windows that would enable the electronic sharing of customs data;
9. **Encourage** prompt action within the APPF to develop infrastructure and logistical systems and to integrate infrastructure and appropriate regulation that would enhance cross-border and international land and sea transportation of goods and services;
10. **Stimulate** the development of transportation infrastructure by encouraging agreements among APPF Member States on human capital, education and training with a view to sharing technology, knowledge, processes and methods that would create intelligent sustainable infrastructure.