



16th Annual Meeting of the
Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)
Auckland, New Zealand, 20 - 24 January 2008

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the Parliament of New Zealand, the 16th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 20 to 24 January 2008 with participants from 21 member parliaments and 9 observer countries. The list of participants is attached.

The Executive Committee convened a meeting on 20 January, before the opening of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Executive Committee meeting is attached.

On 21 January 2008, at the opening ceremony the Hon. Margaret Wilson, President of the APPF and Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives welcomed the participants to the Annual Meeting and declared the meeting open.

His Excellency Mr Sergey Mironov, Former President of the APPF and Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Diputado Patricio Walker, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, addressed the participants. Mr Yoshinobu Shimamura, Permanent Leader of the Japanese Delegation, delivered a speech to the APPF on behalf of the Honorary President of APPF, His Excellency Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Delegations were honoured and pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Governor-General of New Zealand, His Excellency Anand Satyanand, and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon Helen Clark.

In the plenary session on political and security issues delegates discussed a number of topics and made resolutions on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, cluster munitions, the Middle East peace process and the situation in Iraq, and the situation in Myanmar.

In the plenary session on economic and trade issues delegates discussed a number of topics and made resolutions on climate change and sustainable development, energy security, international and regional trade developments, people-centred information, and science and technology.

In the plenary session on regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region delegates discussed a range of topics and made resolutions on disaster preparedness and pandemic disease, interfaith dialogue and the Alliance of Civilisations, promoting women's participation in politics and the economy, South Pacific fisheries management, and a number of issues of long-term concern to the region, such as demographic changes, water management, human rights, the abduction of citizens, poverty alleviation, the mutual recognition of occupations, free speech, HIV/AIDS, child labour, marine pollution, and the treatment and protection of migrant workers.



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The 16th Annual Meeting of the APPF adopted 23 resolutions on these issues. These resolutions are attached.

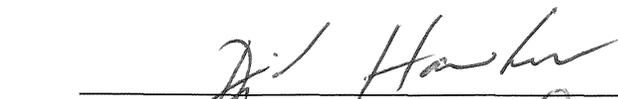
In the final plenary session participants discussed the future role of the APPF and agreed that the 17th Annual Meeting be hosted by the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 11 to 15 January 2009.

The annual meeting resolved to invite the President of the APPF, after consulting with the Executive Committee and the Honorary Chairperson, to write to the new Executive Committee setting out the ideas raised at the 16th Annual Meeting and asking that it:

- Review the rules of procedure during 2008 and make recommendations for amendments that it thinks fit to the 17th Annual Meeting; and
- Address the ideas raised at the 16th Annual Meeting with Laos in terms of developing the draft agenda and schedule for the 17th Annual Meeting.

The meeting thanked the Drafting Committee for its efforts in developing a package of resolutions and the joint communiqué, which contributed to the success of the meeting.

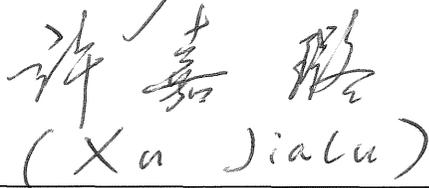
The Annual Meeting expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the New Zealand Parliament for its organisation and hospitality, and especially to Hon. Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the House of Representatives for her Presidency of the APPF, and to the Secretariat and the staff for their hard work, which contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting.



Australia



Canada


(Xu Jialu)

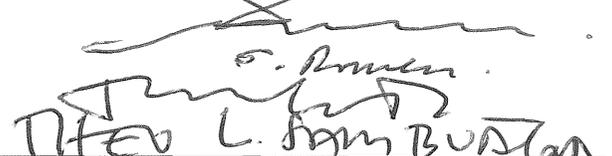
People's Republic of China



Kingdom of Cambodia



Republic of Chile


Piteo L. Sambutan

Republic of Indonesia



Japan



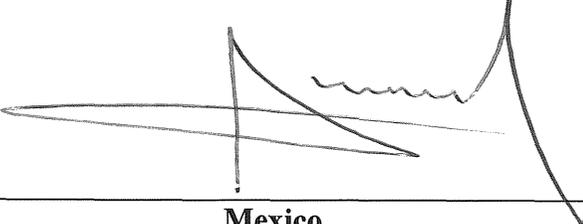
Republic of Korea



Lao People's Democratic Republic



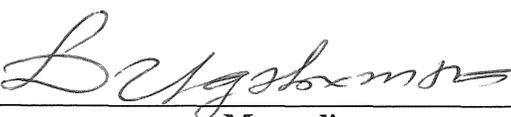
Malaysia



Mexico



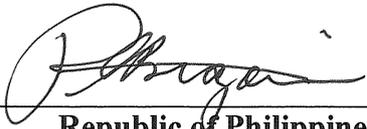
Federated States of Micronesia



Mongolia



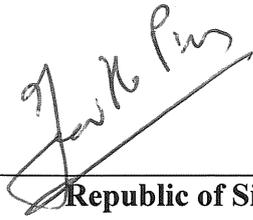
Papa New Guinea



Republic of Philippines



Russian Federation



Republic of Singapore

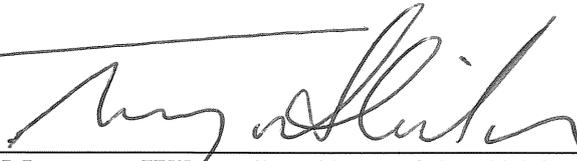


Kingdom of Thailand

Viet Nam



New Zealand



Hon Margaret Wilson, President of the APPF