

ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Advancing Towards a People-Centred Information Society

Sponsored by the Republic of Korea

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which confirmed that the effective utilisation of information and communication technologies is a means to boost national competitiveness and promote productivity and welfare, in an era of digital revolution, with the advent of knowledge-based society and in a ubiquitous world that is a beginning to unfold;

Noting that digital divide between countries, regions, and even between the people within a country is widening due to various factors including income, education level, age and region, and that inadequate efforts are being made to produce a pool of ICT human resources through ICT education;

Acknowledging that informatization is the key to a brighter future for both individuals and a country as a whole;

Emphasizing that advances in information and technology (ICT) should be directed at improving an individual's human rights and promoting the welfare of all mankind in a more human-centric manner;

Recognizing once again that there is a need for all countries and the people to be able to make equitable use of information and technology, irrespective of income, education, age and region, and that ICT human resources should be developed with an aim to build a people-centred information society;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** APPF member countries to be cognizant of the fact that ICT development and utilization are major means of achieving improvement in national competitiveness and the welfare of the people, and to place a policy priority on advancement in ICT;
2. **Call upon** all the APPF member countries to establish the ICT-related infrastructure, to promote citizens' desire for gaining access to ICT services and improve their abilities to utilize such services, and to strive to secure useful

services that can be provided by ICT networks; thereby, realizing a human-centric information society;

3. **Call upon** member parliaments to enact appropriate law and supplement the existing law, where necessary, for advancement in information and communication, and to support seminars and training programs for more active information exchanges and cooperation among countries in the region;
4. **Encourage** APPF member countries to reinforce collaboration with international organizations in the region including Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) for advances in ICT in the Asia Pacific region, and to join forces particularly with United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN APCICT), which was financed by the Korean government and established with an aim to nurture ICT human resources in the region; thereby, enhancing overall information capacities in the Asia Pacific region;
5. **Support** all the APPF member states to develop information and communication by identifying best practices for advances in ICT among member countries and disseminating them to the rest of the member States.