

Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Ha Long City, Viet Nam, 10-13 January 2005

June 2005

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Foreword

In January 2005 a five member delegation attended the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Ha Long City, Viet Nam. The annual APPF meeting is significant for Australia and for our Asia Pacific region. I was pleased to lead the delegation. All members participated in debate and negotiation and formed an effective and cohesive team to represent the Australian Parliament.


The meeting took place very soon after the earthquake and tsunami tragedy of 26 December 2005 and provided an important opportunity for parliamentarians of the region to express their sympathy and friendship to colleagues whose countries were badly affected. The meeting also provided an opportunity for us all to discuss the support and assistance that was being provided and what might be needed in the future.

The delegation wishes to thank the President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Organizing Committee, and staff, who provided such a well organised program and warm welcome to participants.

The delegation received strong support from a number of sources. We would like to express our thanks to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for its assistance in drafting resolutions and current briefing material. The delegation is very grateful to Ms Sandra Henderson, from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi, who worked with the delegation throughout the meeting, providing professional advice and practical assistance. We also thank the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, H.E. Mr Joe Thwaites, for his support. The Parliamentary Library, as always, provided effective assistance with briefing material and advice.

I thank members of the delegation for their hard work and contributions to the delegation, the Parliamentary Relations Office, Mr Peter Gibson, and the delegation secretary for their assistance.

The Hon. David Hawker MP
Leader



Membership of the delegation

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| Leader | The Hon. David Hawker MP | Speaker of the House of Representatives Member for Wannon Liberal Party of Australia |
| Deputy Leader | The Hon. Graham Edwards MP | Member for Cowan Australian Labor Party |
| Members | Senator Alan Eggleston | Senator for Western Australia Liberal Party of Australia |
| | Ms Kirsten Livermore MP | Member for Capricornia Australian Labor Party |
| | Mr Alby Schultz MP | Member for Hume Liberal Party of Australia |
| Staff | Mr Peter Gibson | Senior Adviser to the Speaker |
| | Ms Catherine Cornish | Delegation Secretary |

The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

General role and operations

Australia and the APPF

- 1.1 In January 2005 a delegation from the Australian Parliament (the Hon. David Hawker – Leader; the Hon. Graham Edwards – Deputy Leader; Senator Alan Eggleston; Ms Kirsten Livermore; and Mr Alby Schultz) participated in the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) at Ha Long City, Viet Nam.
- 1.2 This chapter of the delegation’s report describes the role and activities of the APPF in general terms, and Australia’s contribution to its work over the years. This background information on the APPF sets the scene for Chapter Two of the report, which covers the delegation’s contribution to the Thirteenth Annual Meeting and outcomes of the Meeting.
- 1.3 The APPF is an assembly of members of national parliaments in the Asia Pacific region which, since 1993, has met annually to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern – mainly strategic, economic, social and cultural. More information about the history and objectives of the Forum is provided below beginning at paragraph 1.6.
- 1.4 APPF meetings are attended by delegates from all regional countries with which Australia has strong links. The Forum enables Australian Members of Parliament to hold discussions with parliamentarians

from the wider region on matters of common interest. The APPF is of particular importance to Australia as a parliamentary association because it focuses on countries that are of immediate concern to Australia's regional strategic and economic interests.

- 1.5 Australia has played a prominent part in the Forum from the beginning. One of the two preparatory meetings to establish the Forum was held in Canberra and the eighth annual meeting in 2000 was also held in Canberra. Australia was a member of the Executive Committee of the APPF from 1993 until 2000. For the last several meetings Australia has not sought membership of the Executive but has supported other countries in the Oceania group for office.

History and role of the APPF

- 1.6 The APPF was established formally at its First Annual meeting in Tokyo in January 1993, following preparatory meetings held in 1991 in Singapore and Canberra. The Tokyo Declaration¹ outlined the objectives of the APPF and defined organisational aspects. It provided for the APPF to be open to all national parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group members and members of the South Pacific Forum who:
- have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region; and
 - accept the objectives and principles of the APPF.²

Objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the APPF, as outlined in the Tokyo Declaration, are to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific region:
- to identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context;
 - to deepen their understanding of the policy concerns, interests and experiences of the countries of the region;
 - to examine the critical political, social and cultural developments resulting from economic growth and integration;

1 The text of the Declaration is available at <http://www.appf.org.pe>, Milestone Declarations, Tokyo Declaration.

2 Paragraph 7 of the Tokyo Declaration.

- to encourage and promote regional cooperation at all levels on matters of common concern to the region; and
- to foster the roles of national parliamentarians in furthering in their respective countries a sense of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.³

Principles

1.8 The APPF operates under these guiding principles:

- commitment to frank and constructive dialogue;
- equal respect for the views of all participants; and
- full recognition of the roles performed by governments, business communities, labour organisations and research institutes.⁴

APPF procedures

Introduction

1.9 The Manila Rules⁵ (1994) are the guidelines for the conduct of meetings. Minor amendments to the rules were agreed in Lima in 1999 (Executive Committee changes) and Hawaii in 2002 (additional member countries). The meeting in Beijing in 2004 established the role of an Honorary Chairman and provided for a rotating Presidency (a President will be appointed each year by the next host country).

Defining documents

1.10 The policies and administrative procedures of the APPF have gradually evolved by means of resolutions agreed at annual meetings. Australia has had a significant role in the evolution of the Forum as expressed in these documents. There are now four strategic documents:

- the Tokyo Declaration (1993)
- the Manila Rules of Procedure (1994 and since amended)
- the Vancouver Declaration (1997) and
- the Valparaiso Declaration (2001).

3 Paragraph 2 of the Tokyo Declaration.

4 Paragraph 3 of the Tokyo Declaration.

5 See <http://www.appf.org.pe>, Rules of Procedure.

The Tokyo Declaration

1.11 The Tokyo Declaration is the foundation document of the APPF. It describes the Forum's functions:

The APPF seeks to promote greater regional identification and cooperation with particular focus on:

- cooperation for the further advancement of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity;
- open and non-exclusive cooperation for the expansion of free trade and investment, and sustainable development and sound environmental practices; and
- non-military cooperation, which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security.⁶

1.12 The Tokyo Declaration also provides that:

- all decisions of the APPF be made by consensus at an annual meeting⁷
- membership of the Forum be reviewed 'when necessary'.⁸ The most recent additions to the membership of the Forum were Costa Rica and Ecuador in 2001. (The Executive Committee at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting considered the attendance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at APPF meetings. After deliberation the Executive agreed that the President of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting will consult with member countries on the participation of the DPRK in future meetings.) and
- all delegates to the annual meetings be national parliamentarians.⁹

The Manila rules

1.13 More detailed rules of procedure were adopted at the Second Annual Meeting in Manila in January 1994. The Manila document (also known as the Manila rules) adds detail to the vision for the Forum that was established by the Tokyo Declaration.

1.14 Amongst other things the Manila rules cover:

- the structure and role of the organisation (rules 1 and 2)

6 Paragraph 4 of the Tokyo Declaration.

7 Paragraph 5 of the Tokyo Declaration.

8 Paragraph 8 of the Tokyo Declaration.

9 Paragraph 7 of the Tokyo Declaration.

- eligibility for membership and participation as delegates at annual meetings (rules 3-5)
- administrative arrangements for annual meetings (rule 6)
- rules of debate (rule 6)
- the provision of a secretariat for each annual meeting and the duties of the host parliament (rules 6(d) and (e))
- the role of the President and Chairman of the annual meeting (rules 6(f) and 7; and 6(g), (k) and (l))
- the role of the position of Honorary Chairman (rule 6(i), added in 2004)
- the Executive Committee (rule 8) and
- Working Groups (rule 9).

Vancouver and Valparaiso Declarations

1.15 Two additional policy documents are relevant to the operations of the APPF:

- the Vancouver Declaration (1997) enunciated the common interests of countries in the region in the context of the end of the Cold War and the approach of the 21st century and
- the Valparaiso Declaration (2001) focused on the geographical significance of the Asia-Pacific region and identified five basic principles of peaceful co-existence in the area.

Executive Committee

1.16 The Executive Committee consists of representatives from member countries, rather than individuals, with countries being elected on a rotating basis (every second year). There is a maximum of nine delegates – representing two countries elected from each of four sub-regions, and one from the host country of the next annual meeting.

1.17 The Manila rules provide that the Asia Pacific be divided into four sub-regions, with two countries being elected to the Executive Committee from each sub-region.¹⁰ The four sub-regions comprise:

- **Northeast Asia** (5 countries): People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Russian Federation

10 Manila rule 8(b)(4).

- **Southeast Asia** (8 countries): Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam; (Negara Brunei Darussalam not included as it has observer status)
- **Oceania** (6 countries): Australia, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands)
- **The Americas** (8 countries): Canada, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United Mexican States, Republic of Peru, United States of America.

1.18 The term of office of the Executive Committee is from May of the year of an annual meeting until April two years later. Half the members of the committee are re-elected each year to provide continuity. The member from the next host country joins the Executive Committee in the May before the annual meeting and retires in the April following the annual meeting.¹¹

1.19 At the Thirteenth Meeting the Executive Committee comprised Viet Nam (as the host country) and:

- Japan and China (Northeast Asia)
- Indonesia, Malaysia (Southeast Asia)
- Fiji and New Zealand (Oceania) and
- Canada and Chile (The Americas).

Organisation of the annual meeting

Annual meetings and secretariat

1.20 APPF meetings take place in January each year – usually for five days – and are hosted by a national parliament, occasionally with help from an independent agency. The host, date and venue of each annual meeting are determined at the preceding meeting (paragraph 10 of the Tokyo Declaration).

11 Manila Rule 8(d).

- 1.21 The Tokyo Declaration (paragraphs 11 to 14) provides for the host for the annual meeting to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting, in consultation with the Executive Committee. Further arrangements relating to the annual meeting are described in Manila rule 6. Rule 6(d) specifies the duties of the host of the annual meeting and includes the provision of a secretariat for that meeting.
- 1.22 While the framework of the APPF is established by the procedural documents, the usual organisation of the annual meetings is a matter of precedence and mutual agreement. Procedural arrangements relating to the timing of preparations for annual meetings were agreed at the seventh annual meeting in Peru, but they are not necessarily adhered to.¹²

Proposed agenda

- 1.23 The proposed agenda is usually determined by the Executive Committee in September preceding each January meeting. Until 1999 these September meetings of the Executive Committee were generally held in the country which was to host the next annual meeting. Since then, all arrangements for annual meetings have been arranged by electronic communication between the next host country, the Honorary Chairman's office in Tokyo and other Executive Committee representatives.

Invitations and draft resolutions

- 1.24 Official invitations to attend the next annual meeting are generally sent to member countries by the end of October. Member countries are asked to forward all theme papers and draft resolutions by mid-November. This timetable is published on the APPF website.¹³ An outline of the main aspects of annual meetings is at the end of this chapter, at Figure 1.
- 1.25 The Executive Committee has asked that countries send no more than five draft resolutions each. In theory, the draft resolutions are posted on the APPF website where they may be viewed by all members (and members of the public). In practice, few countries forward draft resolutions according to the official timetable. Most countries do not prepare draft resolutions and choose to propose amendments to the

12 *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the seventh annual meeting of the APPF*, January 1999, p. 7.

13 See <http://www.appf.org.pe>; Annual Meetings.

draft resolutions of those countries that do prepare them according to the timetable. Australia provides draft resolutions ahead of the annual meetings.

- 1.26 Draft resolutions need to respond directly to an agenda item if they are to be debated in full. Some proposed resolutions are either outside the main agenda items or only vaguely related to them. These draft resolutions may come before the plenary if there is an 'other business' category, but they are rarely debated in any detail. Similarly, countries occasionally submit two draft resolutions on different sub-topics of an agenda item. Depending on the way the agenda is interpreted by the Chair, these drafts may have to be combined.
- 1.27 Where more than one country has submitted a draft resolution on a particular agenda item, participants from the countries involved are asked by the Chair of the annual meeting to cooperate in order to produce a single draft resolution on the item.
- 1.28 The method of converting similar (sometimes contrasting) draft resolutions into an agreed final draft for consideration by the plenary, varies. At some annual meetings all drafts are finalised by a formal drafting committee. At others, such as the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, drafting committees are quite informal and the membership varies according to whether a delegation has an interest in a particular draft resolution. At other meetings much of the work is done behind the scenes by delegation officials who convey messages to and from their delegations until agreement is reached.

Drafting Committee

- 1.29 In 1997 the Executive Committee agreed on terms of reference for the drafting committee:

Participation in the discussions of the Drafting Committee should be limited to Parliamentarians (official delegates). Technical advisors and secretariat personnel may be present to support the work of the Committee: however, they may not take part in substantive debate.

The purpose of the Drafting Committee is to prepare APPF resolutions, documents and proposals that accurately reflect the decisions and consensus of the plenary meetings. The Committee should not take it upon itself to resolve outstanding issues that have not been decided in the plenary

forum; nor should it introduce new items that have not been previously brought forward during the plenary.¹⁴

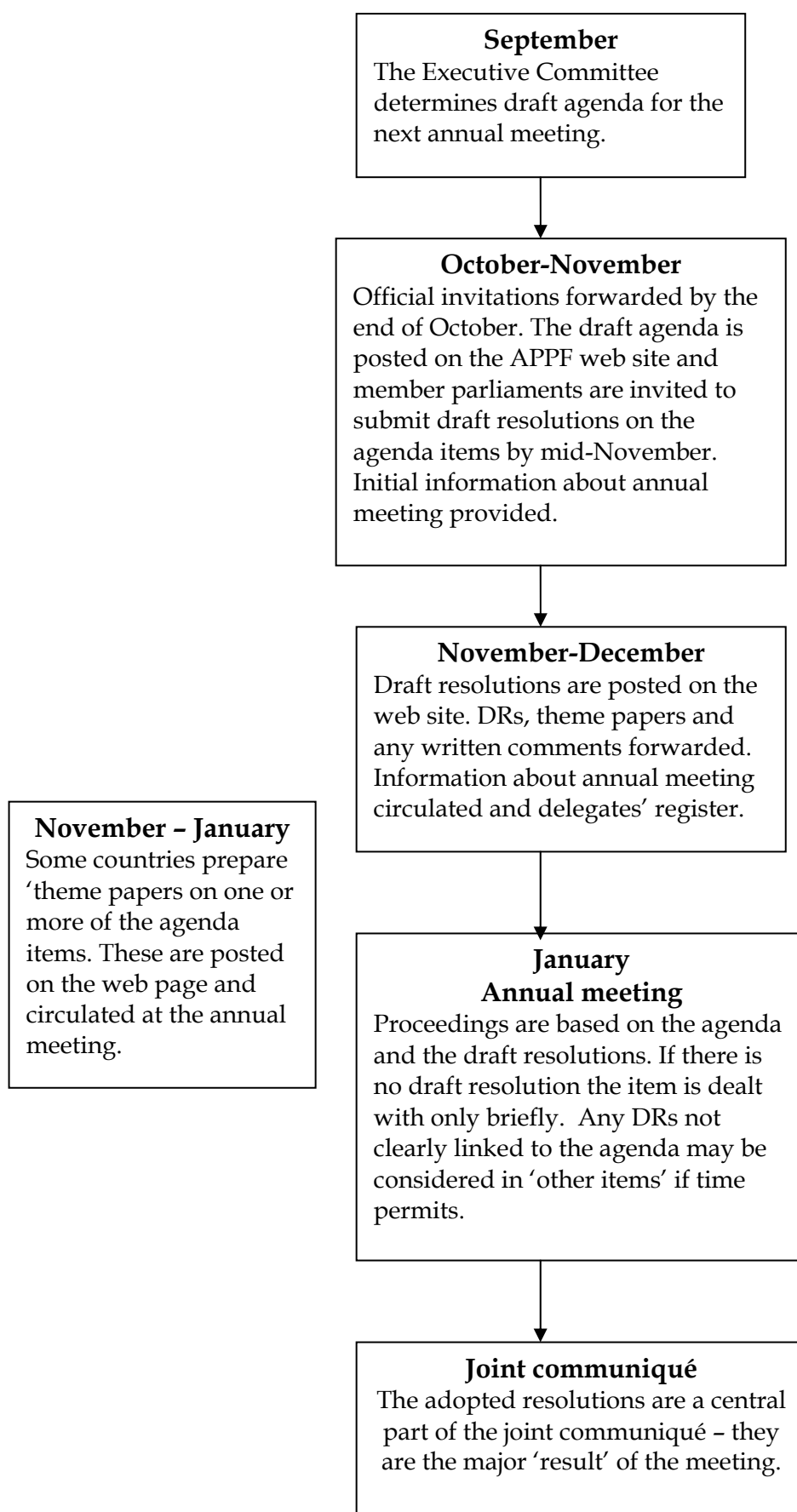
- 1.30 The administrative work is often managed by delegation secretaries but, naturally, the leaders of the delegations have the final say regarding the wording of the final draft. Some of the larger delegations have specialists on particular agenda items and this delegate will usually advise the delegation leader. The larger delegations also have professional advisers ranging from academics to diplomats to assist the process.
- 1.31 When the final draft comes before the plenary, participants from those countries which provided the original draft resolutions may speak on the item. Other delegates may also speak. The final draft may be amended during the debate in the plenary. The text is determined by consensus. The chair of the meeting determines when consensus has been reached. The secretariat then arranges for the printing of the resolution and it is circulated to all delegates.

Joint Communiqué

- 1.32 At the conclusion of each annual meeting the leaders of all participating nations sign a Joint Communiqué which includes, amongst other things, a list of all resolutions passed by the meeting. The Joint Communiqué for the Thirteenth Annual meeting is at Appendix D.

¹⁴ *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the 5th Annual meeting of the APPF, Vancouver, 1997, p. 8.*

Figure 1 Outline of usual annual meeting proceedings



Work of the 13th Annual Meeting

Overview

- 2.1 The chapter begins with a brief description of the opening ceremony. It then addresses the work of the annual meeting from the perspective of the Australian delegation.
- 2.2 Under the leadership of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. David Hawker, the Australian delegation continued the substantial role played by its predecessors at APPF annual meetings. All members of the delegation participated in debate relating to the draft resolutions of which they had carriage and followed through by negotiating with other delegations on the contents of final resolutions. Australia also participated in the meeting of the Technological Working Group.
- 2.3 The meeting began in Ha Noi on 9 January 2005 where delegates registered for the meeting and attended a welcome reception hosted by H.E. Mr Truong Quang Duoc, Vice President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Head of the delegation from Viet Nam. The Executive Committee met later that evening and considered the agenda of the meeting and the program of activities.

- 2.4 Early on the morning of 10 January delegates travelled together by road to the venue for the rest of the meeting: Ha Long City. This enabled delegates to see something of the Vietnamese countryside and to have discussions with delegates from other countries in an informal setting.

Opening ceremony

- 2.5 The opening ceremony was held at the Quang Ninh Convention Centre in Ha Long City on 10 January 2005. It was presided over by H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and President of APPF's Thirteenth Annual Meeting.
- 2.6 The President welcomed all participants and highlighted the challenges and opportunities now facing the APPF. He called for greater legislative and economic cooperation among member countries.
- 2.7 At the ceremony, the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 was commemorated by a one-minute silence.
- 2.8 The ceremony also included addresses by:
- the Honorary Chairman, H.E. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, who welcomed delegates, thanked the hosts for their hospitality and preparations, and stressed the need for cooperation and constructive exchanges
 - the Vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and leader of the Chinese delegation, H.E. Ms Gu Xiulian and
 - the President of the People's Council of Quang Ninh province, Mr Nguyen Van Quynh.
- 2.9 Delegates were also welcomed by musical and dance performances by Vietnamese artists at the opening ceremony and by local school children during travel to and from the opening ceremony.

Subject matter of the annual meeting

The impact of the tsunami disaster

- 2.10 The first plenary session adopted the agenda for the Thirteenth Annual Meeting and endorsed the Executive Committee's decision to add an initial, special item: the earthquake and tsunami disaster of December 2004. The scale of this recent disaster had a powerful impact on the atmosphere of the meeting. The draft agenda had consisted of three substantive subject areas, as well as future work of the APPF in terms of a venue for the next meeting, and adoption of the Joint Communiqué.

The agenda

- 2.11 The Agenda's substantive subject areas comprised:
- I. Political and Security Issues
 - ⇒ Political and Security Situation of the Asia-Pacific Region and the World¹
 - ⇒ International Terrorism*
 - ⇒ Sub-regional Issues
 - Korean Peninsula
 - Middle East Peace Process
 - ASEAN Regional Forum
 - Others*
 - II. Economic and Trade Issues
 - ⇒ World and Regional Economic Situation*
 - ⇒ APEC-2004 Report by the Chilean Delegation
 - ⇒ Globalization and Cooperation to Promote a New Round of WTO Negotiations
 - ⇒ Reinforcement of the Bilateral and Multilateral Economic Partnerships
 - III. Asia-Pacific Cooperation in Addressing Regional Issues of General Interest
 - ⇒ Environment*

1 Australia had proposed resolutions on the agenda items masked with an asterisk.

- ⇒ HIV/AIDS issue and Infectious Diseases (risk of the re-emergence of bird-flu)
 - ⇒ Resources for Sustainable Development
 - ⇒ Transnational Crimes
 - ⇒ Exchange and Cooperation Among Cultures
- 2.12 The special session acknowledged the terrible loss of life and the destruction caused in the region by the tsunami. Delegates were affected deeply by the presentation from the Indonesian delegation, led by H.E. Mr Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The presentation included a video showing the impact of the earthquake and tsunami and an expression of appreciation and gratitude for support and sympathy that had been received from the APPF, governments, regional and international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and individuals.
- 2.13 H.E. Mr Suchon Chaleekure, President of the Senate of Thailand and H.E. Mr Truong Quang Duoc, Vice-President of the Vietnamese National Assembly, also addressed delegates during this session.
- 2.14 A resolution on the disaster that was proposed by Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam was adopted. As might be expected, the resolution urged international and regional cooperation and assistance to deal with the immediate aftermath of the disaster and to prepare better for disasters that might occur in the future.² Delegates expressed their sympathy for the countries which had been affected by the disaster.

Working through the agenda

- 2.15 The methods used to process the work of annual meetings are discussed in Chapter 1. Annual meetings progress through the agenda by hearing speeches from delegates on the agenda items. Those countries which have proposed draft resolutions on a particular agenda item usually speak to it but there are more speakers on an agenda item than there are proposers of draft resolutions.
- 2.16 At the Thirteenth Annual Meeting there were a number of subjects on which more than one draft resolution had been proposed. The work of the Drafting Committee was effectively begun by smaller, informal committees. These comprised representatives from delegations which

2 The text of the resolution, and other resolutions of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting are available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, Final Documents.

had proposed the resolution(s) under consideration and any other delegations with an interest in participating in negotiations and drafting. They met during and after debate on the topic and negotiated to settle a 'draft resolution' to bring before the Drafting Committee and then the plenary for adoption.

- 2.17 Once a final draft was agreed, the Meeting secretariat arranged for it to be processed and later distributed to delegates. Except for the resolution on the tsunami disaster, the 'final' draft resolutions were put to the plenary at the last session of the meeting, to consider the question of adoption. At that stage there was still some comment by delegates on the resolutions, including from delegations that had not participated in the negotiations which had developed the 'final' draft. Acceptance of the final resolutions was by consensus, in compliance with APPF procedure.

Australia's draft resolutions

- 2.18 Australia submitted five draft resolutions before the meeting. These addressed:
- Item I.a: the Political and Security Situation of the Asia Pacific Region and the World
 - Item I.b: International Terrorism
 - Item I.c: Sub-regional Issues – Others: Landmines
 - Item II.a: World and Regional Economic Situation and
 - Item III.a: Environment.
- 2.19 The Australian delegation had met in December 2004 and agreed to sponsor five draft resolutions, with each resolution being the responsibility of one of the delegates. The Speaker had carriage of the draft resolution relating to agenda item I.a (the Political and Security Situation of the Asia-Pacific Region and the World) and Mr Schultz took responsibility regarding agenda item I.b (International Terrorism). The Hon Graham Edwards had carriage of the draft resolution on landmines. The delegation proposed this be included in Agenda item I.c (Sub-regional issues: others). On item II.a, (World and Regional Economic Situation), Senator Alan Eggleston took responsibility, and Ms Kirsten Livermore took the lead on item III.a, (the Environment).

- 2.20 Briefing notes were provided to the delegation with assistance from the Parliamentary Library, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the delegation's secretariat. The delegation wishes to express its gratitude for support from the Parliamentary Library and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 2.21 Each delegate prepared for discussion and negotiation on the subject matter of the item for which he or she had taken responsibility.

Draft resolutions proposed by other countries

- 2.22 Apart from the draft resolutions proposed by Australia, resolutions were proposed by the following countries and notified on the APPF website before the Thirteenth Annual Meeting:³
- Japan
 - ⇒ The Situation of the Korean Peninsula
 - ⇒ The Middle East Peace Process
 - ⇒ Terrorism
 - ⇒ Measures Against Global Warming for the Post-Kyoto Protocol Era
 - ⇒ Human Security
 - ⇒ Economy and Trade
 - ⇒ Co-operation for the Prevention and Eradication of Emerging Infectious Diseases
 - Mexico
 - ⇒ 60 Years of the United Nations
 - ⇒ Support to the Gender Agenda 10 Years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, Held in Beijing in 1995
 - ⇒ Support to the Global Agenda of the Small Islands Developing States
 - Chile
 - ⇒ Environment
- 2.23 It is clear that these resolutions varied in the relevance of their subject matter to items on the Agenda.

3 The text of the draft resolutions proposed before the Thirteenth Annual Meeting is available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, References.

Australia's draft resolution on the political and security situation

- 2.24 The Speaker spoke to Australia's draft resolution on agenda item I.a—the Political and Security Situation of the Asia Pacific Region and the World. In his opening remarks he noted how the response to the tsunami disaster illustrated the strong bonds of friendship, compassion and common interest amongst the region's diverse countries. On behalf of the Australian Parliament the Speaker expressed sorrow and sympathy to all affected by the disaster and he noted the assistance that would be provided by the Australian Government, with strong support from the Opposition, and immense private contributions from the Australian people.
- 2.25 In terms of the current international security environment, the Speaker referred to the impact of globalisation and stated that as this increases economic interdependence, then countries begin to share a stake in stability and security. He also referred to Australia's concern about threats posted to the world and the region by international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology, and the problems posed by weak and unstable states.
- 2.26 The Speaker commended Australia's draft resolution for its statement of the vital principles for pursuing peace and security in the region, and its urging of nations to redouble their efforts on matters which they can influence and control, to advance the security and prosperity of all people in the Asia Pacific region.
- 2.27 The Speaker's speech was followed by a number of contributions, including from Cambodia, Russia, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Mexico.
- 2.28 Although there was only Australia's draft resolution on this agenda item, it was still subject to amendment by other delegations (as is customary). The final form of this resolution (APPF 13/RES/05) is shown in Appendix C and it reflects contributions from and negotiations with the Vietnamese and Indonesian delegations.

Australia's draft resolution on international terrorism

- 2.29 Mr Schultz had carriage of Australia's draft resolution on international terrorism. A copy of the resolution proposed by Australia is at Appendix C.
- 2.30 Mr Schultz began the debate on this item by noting the persistence of the threat of terrorism and the implications it has for the Asia Pacific

region's peace, security and prosperity. He noted the need for a comprehensive and cooperative response to a threat that has been evolving constantly.

- 2.31 As well as the immediate effect of terrorist acts (which cost lives and destroy property and livelihoods), Mr Shultz pointed to the further impact of uncertainty, and loss of confidence. He stated that if terrorism is not fought comprehensively, then, as well as the immediate losses, there would be longer term issues such as slower growth and lost trade and investment opportunities.
- 2.32 Mr Schultz noted the threat that terrorism poses to regional development and that the goals of regional security and prosperity require countries to work together. Further, terrorism contravenes the laws and religious beliefs and fundamental values of countries and should not be associated with any religion or any race or nationality.
- 2.33 In commending the resolution to the meeting, Mr Schultz called for a comprehensive and united response to terrorism, including the completion of negotiations for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and implementation of the Security Council Resolutions on Counter-Terrorism.
- 2.34 The final resolution – APPF13/Res/03⁴ – was sponsored by Australia, Japan, Russia, and Vietnam, and reflects considerable discussion and negotiation following debate on the item and this and the other draft resolutions on this topic.

Australia's draft resolution on landmines

- 2.35 The Hon. Graham Edwards had carriage of this draft resolution for the Australian delegation.⁵ He referred to the two-fold impact of landmines. Not only do they inflict terrible harm on the individuals they strike, but they also have a broader economic and social impact.

4 A copy of the final resolution is at Appendix C of this report. The text of the final resolution, and other resolutions of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting are available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, Final Documents.

5 A copy of the draft resolution and the final resolution, AFFF 13/RES/07, is at Appendix C of this report. The text of final resolutions is available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, Final Documents.

- 2.36 Mr Edwards drew attention to the Ottawa Convention of 1999 (the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction). Five years after the Convention entered into force, the first Review Conference had been held in Nairobi. The Conference had reviewed progress since 1999 and discussed the direction of international mine action for the next five years. The main Conference documents, including the Action Plan 2005-2009, were all adopted by consensus. Australia's draft resolution acknowledged the work of the review and the Plan of Action.
- 2.37 A universal ban on landmines was the ultimate goal, Mr Edwards stated, although this goal does not seem likely to be achieved in the near future. In the meantime, it is important to encourage those countries which have not yet signed or ratified the Ottawa Convention to do so. It is also important to regulate the use of landmines through adherence to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, particularly Amended Protocol II, which had entered into force in 1998.
- 2.38 Australia's draft resolution acknowledged the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Development Programme. These bodies contribute to one of the United Nations' most significant goals: 'a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies.'
- 2.39 Mr Edwards also noted Australia's active contribution to this goal. Australia has assisted neighbouring countries by sharing the knowledge and skills it has gained in mine clearance and the destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel landmines.
- 2.40 Debate on the draft resolution was followed by negotiation and informal discussion. The final resolution adopted by the plenary is in very similar terms to the draft proposed by Australia.

Australia's draft resolution on the world and regional economic situation

- 2.41 Senator Alan Eggleston dealt with this issue for the Australian delegation and in doing so was the first speaker in the plenary session on economic and trade issues. The text of the original Australian draft resolution is at Appendix C, together with the final resolution, APPF 13/RES/10.⁶
- 2.42 Senator Eggleston noted that the world economy in 2004 was growing at its strongest in decades and the Asia Pacific region had played a significant role in this. The economic outlook for 2005 had been subject to a number of risks, including the possibility that high oil prices might lead to inflation, and the threat that terrorism poses for the stability of world markets.
- 2.43 The strength of trade and investment in the region and the more broadly-based economies was acknowledged. There was reason to be optimistic about the growth and efficiencies that had come about following the reforms of the late 1990s.
- 2.44 On the other hand, the impact of the great tragedy of the earthquake and tsunami in the Asia Pacific region was not known but it could be expected that economic losses would be added to the terrible human losses that had been suffered. In these circumstances, Senator Eggleston added, the need for regional cooperation to support sustainable and equitable economic growth and development could hardly be greater.
- 2.45 Following debate on this agenda item there was informal discussion and negotiation on the draft resolution. The final resolution is in the same terms as the original except that two references to the removal of subsidies, 'as appropriate', were added.

Australia's draft resolution on the environment

- 2.46 Ms Kirsten Livermore had the lead role for the Australian delegation on this item on the agenda. Australia's draft resolution on the environment, focusing on small island states, is at Appendix C, together with the final resolution, APPF 13/RES/14.

6 The text of all final resolutions of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting is available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, Final Documents.

- 2.47 The Barbados Programme of Action was adopted at the first United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994. Ms Livermore noted that the Programme was endorsed by 111 governments and it set out principles and actions to support the sustainable development of small island developing states.
- 2.48 In Mauritius there was to be a meeting in January 2005, Ms Livermore stated, to Review Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.⁷ Small island developing states face particular environmental and development challenges, including susceptibility to natural disasters and environmental change such as climate change and rising sea levels; remoteness, isolation and fragile ecosystems, small, scattered populations and small domestic markets that are relatively undiversified. The particular challenges and vulnerabilities of small island developing states had been brought into sharp focus in recent times, Ms Livermore said.
- 2.49 Australia's draft resolution was commended to the meeting by Ms Livermore for its reiteration of the need for full implementation of the Barbados Programme, and for calling on regional parliaments to examine outcomes from the Mauritius meeting.
- 2.50 The final resolution, sponsored jointly by Australia and Mexico, is entitled Resolution on Support to the Global Agenda of the Small Island Developing States. The title change was made to align with the resolution proposed by Mexico and to distinguish the draft resolution from another that was proposed on a different aspect of the environment.
- 2.51 The final resolution is an amalgamation of the Australian draft with suggestions and additions raised during negotiations after debate. The main contributions to drafting the final version were from the Australian and Mexican delegations.

Additional contributions to debate

- 2.52 As well as contributing to debate and negotiations on the resolutions it had proposed, the Australian delegation took an active interest in the debate on other items. In particular, Senator Eggleston made an intervention during debate on item III.b, concerning Asia-Pacific Cooperation in Addressing Regional Issues of General Interest – HIV/AIDS and infectious disease.

7 The Mauritius meeting was called Barbados+10.

Other meetings

Bilateral meetings

- 2.53 The Speaker, as Leader of the Australian delegation, paid a courtesy call, with other delegation leaders, on H.E. Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Speaker also held meetings with
- H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam and President of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting
 - H.E. Mr Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Leader of the Indonesian delegation and
 - H.E. Ms Gu Xiulian, Vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and leader of the Chinese delegation.

Technological Working Group

- 2.54 The Technological Working Group (TWG), sometimes known as the Technological Working Committee, is one of two working groups established under paragraph 9 of the Manila rules of procedure.
- 2.55 Professor Yasuhide Yamanouchi from Japan attends each APPF meeting to provide technical support to the working group and was present at the working group's meeting on 12 January 2005. The meeting was chaired by a representative from the Vietnamese Delegation.
- 2.56 The working group's early high objective was to establish a legislative clearing house giving members of APPF access to a legislative data base which would allow comparisons of legislation on similar matters across the region. This has been overtaken by the growth of the Internet. More recently the working group's focus had been to encourage member countries to establish and maintain websites for their parliaments. The working group's meeting at Ha Long noted that all APPF members had achieved this. While it acknowledged that the resources available to member countries varied greatly, the meeting expressed the hope that APPF members might support the

APPF's future work and translate onto their own sites information from the central APPF site.⁸

Outcomes of the 13th Annual Meeting

Final plenary meeting and closing ceremony

- 2.57 At the fifth and final meeting of the plenary on 13 January, proceedings were chaired by Mr Ngo Anh Dzung of the Organizing Committee, who provided an overview of the entire proceedings. He reported on the work of the sessions and the Drafting Committee before putting to the plenary for final debate and adoption, the resolutions and the Joint Communiqué.⁹
- 2.58 Representatives of each sub-region made speeches endorsing the work of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting and thanking the hosts from the National Assembly for their hard work in organising the meeting and for the warmth of their welcome to all delegates. On behalf of delegations from the Oceania region, Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Fiji and Leader of the Fijian delegation, thanked the hosts and all participants for their contributions to the success of the meeting.
- 2.59 The Leader of the Indonesian delegation, the host of the Fourteenth Meeting, addressed delegates and expressed the hope of meeting all delegations in Indonesia in 2006, at a location to be decided.
- 2.60 The final speech was by H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and President of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting. The President thanked delegates for their constructive and cooperative spirits and contributions to the plenary sessions and meetings of the Drafting Committee. He also thanked the staff of the National Assembly, and the government and people of Quang Ninh province for their arrangements. He also remarked on the opportunity the Forum had provided for participants to understand more fully the problems facing the region and to obtain the knowledge and practical experience needed for the law-making and oversight work of each parliament in the region.
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8 <http://www.appf.org.pe>. This site is maintained with the generous support of the Congress of the Republic of Peru.

9 The text of all resolutions and the Joint Communiqué is available at: <http://www.appf.org.pe>, What's New, Vietnam Successfully Held the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005, APPF 13, Final Documents.

Conclusion

Value to Australia of the 13th Annual meeting

- 2.61 All delegates agreed they had learnt much from the meeting. As with previous meetings, highlights included opportunities for debate and close communication with parliamentarians from the region. These included negotiating in the drafting committees on resolutions where Australia had submitted a draft. Members of the delegation appreciated the opportunity to explain Australian views to their fellow parliamentarians and hear the perspectives of others.
- 2.62 The Thirteenth Meeting began soon after the tsunami and earthquake that caused such loss and destruction to many of Australia's neighbours. Delegation members will remember the impact of this catastrophe on the meeting and the opportunity the meeting provided not only to extend their sympathy but also to discuss the future together.

Figure 1 The Speaker, Ms Livermore and Mr Edwards during debate on the environment



Figure 2 Senator Eggleston, Mr Schultz and Ms Livermore





Appendix A

Agenda and program of activities

Sunday 9 January 2005

Arrive at Noi Bai International Airport, Hanoi

19.00

Welcome Reception

Hosted by Hon Mr Vu Mao, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Viet Nam National Assembly, President of the Organizing Committee of the APPF-13

20.30

Executive Committee Meeting

Discussion/adoption of Agenda of the Meeting and Program of activities

Monday 10 January 2005

07.30

Depart for Ha Long City

10.30

Arrive at Ha Long City

14.00

Reserved for official program

15.00

Inaugural Ceremony

- Inaugural Address by H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the Viet Nam National Assembly, President of APPF-13
- Welcoming Address by the Guest from the Government of the S.R. of Viet Nam
- Address by Representative of a Foreign Delegation
- Photo Session

18.30 Dinner
Hosted by H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly of the S.R. Viet Nam, President of APPF-13

Tuesday 11 January 2005

- 08.30-10.00 **First Plenary Session**
Item I: Political and Security Issues
- 10.15-12.00 **First Plenary Session** continued
Item I: Political and Security Issues
- 14.00-15.30 **Second Plenary Session**
Item II: Economic and Trade Issues
- 15.45-17.30 **Second Plenary Session** continued
Item II: Economic and Trade Issues
- 20.00 **Welcoming Arts Performance (Gala Concert)**

Wednesday 12 January 2005

- 08.30-10.00 **Third Plenary Session**
Item III: Asia-Pacific Cooperation in Addressing Regional Issues of General Interest
- 10.15-12.00 **Third Plenary Session** continued
Item III: Asia-Pacific Cooperation in Addressing Regional Issues of General Interest

- 14.00-15.30 **Fourth Plenary Session**
Item IV: Future Work of the APPF
- 14.00 **Meeting of the Drafting Committee**
- 15.45-17.30 **Fourth Plenary Session continued**
Item IV: Future Work of the APPF
- 20.30 **Meeting of the Drafting Committee** continued
- Thursday 13 January 2005**
- 08.00 Gather at the Lobby
- 08.30-12.00 Excursion Program – Tour on Ha Long Bay
- 15.00 **Fifth Plenary Meeting**
– Adoption of Resolutions and Joint Communiqué
– Signing of the Joint Communiqué by Heads of Delegations
- Closing Ceremony**
– Address by the Leader of the Delegation – Host of APPF-14
– Closing Address by H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly of the S.R. Viet Nam, President of APPF-13
- 17.00 **Press Conference**
- 18.30 **Farewell Dinner**
Hosted by Chairman of the People’s Council and Chairman of the People’s Committee of Quang Ninh Province
- Friday 14 January 2005**
- 07.30 **Leave** Ha Long for Ha Noi
Departure of Delegates



Appendix B

Participants at the 13th Annual Meeting

Australia

Hon. David Hawker

Speaker of the House of
Representatives and Leader

Hon. Graham Edwards

Deputy Leader

Senator Alan Eggleston

Ms Kirsten Livermore

Mr Alby Schultz

Cambodia

H.E. Mr Norodom Ranariddh

President of the National Assembly
and Leader

Hon. Cheam Yeap

Hon. Un Ning

Hon. Sisowath Santa

Canada

Hon Bryon Wilfert

Leader

Hon. Beverly Desjarlais

Hon. Yvan Loubier

Hon. James Abbott

Hon. Thomas Wappel

Senator Joseph A Day

Senator Lowell Murray

Chile

Hon Mr Andres Zaldivar Leader

Hon. Marios Rios Y Stra

Hon. Jorge Martinez

Senator Juan Antonio Coloma

Hon. Carlos Onimami

Patricio Melero

Dario Molina

Jose Antonio Galilea

Rodrigo Gonzalez

Ivan Paredes

China

Hon. Gu Xiulian Vice-Chair of the Standing
Committee of the People's Congress
and Leader

Hon. Zhou Zhengqing

Hon. Wang Yingfan

Ms Fang Xin

Ms Liu Hairong

Fiji**Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau**Speaker of the House of
Representatives and Leader

Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca

Mr Jocketani Cokanasiga

Indonesia**H.E. Mr Agung Laksono**Speaker of the House of
Representatives and Leader

Hon. Amris Hasan

Hon. Mrs Maryamah Nugraha Besoes

Hon. Mrs Vera Febyanthy

Hon. Mr Muklfachri Harahap

Hon. Fahri Hamzah

Japan**Hon. Yasuhiro Nakasone**

APPF Honorary Chairman

Hon. Shizuka Kamei

Leader

Hon. Iwao Matsuda

Hon. Takuji Yabaguniti

Hon. Shingo Nishimura

Hon. Yukio Edano

Hon. Masamitsu Naito

Hon. Hirofumi Nakasone

Hon. Koji Kakizawa

Korea**Hon. Kim Duk Kyu**Vice-President of the National
Assembly and Leader

Hon. Hong Joon Pyo

Hon. Shin Jung Sik

Hon. Kwon Young Ghil

Hon. Ahn Byong Yub

Hon. Lee Ke Jin

Laos**H.E. Mr Samane Vignaket**President of the National Assembly
and Leader

Hon. Xayxomphone Phomvihane

Hon. Koukeo Akhamountry

Hon. Somphong Mongkhonvilay

Hon. Khampheuy Phanthachone

Hon. Souvanpeng Bupphanouvong

Malaysia**Hon. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh**

Senate President and Leader

Hon. Lim Si Cheng

Hon. Tan Cheng Tee

Hon. Mohd Sultan Hazizah

Hon. Samsiah Samsudin

Hon. Ahmad Shabery Cheek

Ms Tan Lian Hoe

Mexico

Hon. Dulce Maria Sauri Riancho Leader

Hon. Noemi Zoila Guzman Lagunes

Hon. Benjamin Gallegos Soto

Hon. Raymundo Cardenas Hernandez

Hon. Rogelio Rueda Sanchez

Hon. Isidoro Ruiz Arrgaiz

Micronesia

Hon. Isaac V Figir Leader

Hon. Dohsis Halbert

Mongolia

Hon. Enkhsaikhan Mendsaikhan Leader

New Zealand

Hon. Susan J Kedgley Leader

Papua New Guinea

Hon. Bob Danaya Leader

Hon. Caspar Wollom

Mr Carlos Yuni

Philippines

Hon. Miriam Defensor Leader

Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile

Hon. Rodolfi G Biazon

Hon. Panfilo Lacson

Russian Federation

Hon. Dmitry Mezentsev Leader

Hon. Vasily Likhachev

Hon. Vitaly Vishnyakov

Hon. Vasily Zhelnov

Hon. Shamil Zainalov

Hon. Victor Dobrosotskyi

Hon. Bato-Zhargal Zhambalnimbuev

Hon. Yury Medvedev

Hon. Yury Bazrykin

Singapore

Hon. Magad Ahmad Leader

Thailand

H.E. Mr Suchon Chaleekure President of the Senate and Leader

Hon. Lt Gen Opas Ratanaburi

Hon. Surachai Danaitangtrakul

Hon. Niwes Phancharoenvorakul

Hon. Khunying Jintana Sookmark

Hon. Oudsanee Chidchob

Hon. Aranya Suchanil

Hon. Jitra Yooprasert

Hon. Arkom Tulardilok

Hon. Rawee Kingcamvong

Hon. Samart Ratanaprateeporn

Hon. Som Thayod

United States of America

Hon. Daniel Akaka Leader

Hon. Darrell Issa

Viet Nam

H.E. Mr Nguyen Van An President of the National Assembly
and President of APPF 13

Hon. Mr Truong Quang Duoc Leader

Hon. Mr Vu Mao

Hon. Mr Ngo Anh Dzung

Hon. Mrs Ton Nu Thi Ninh

Hon. Mr Nguyen Ngoc Tran

Hon. Mrs Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa

Hon. Mr Nguyen Van Thanh

Hon. Mr Dang Nhu Loi

Hon. Nguyen Viet Chuc

Hon. Mrs Nguyen Thi Bach Mai

Hon. Mr Nguyen Ngoc Dao

Hon. Mr Le Quang Minh

Hon. Mr Nghiem Vu Khai

Hon. Mr Do Ngoc Quang

Hon. Mr Trang Dong A

Brunei

Hon. Yusuf bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahim Leader

Hon. Dato Pehin Paduka Haji Judin bin Haji Asar

Hon. Haji Ismail Rose Aminah

Hon. Pengiran Mahari Bin Pengiran Sulaiman



Appendix C

Resolutions of the 13th Annual Meeting

List of resolutions

- APPF13/RES/01: Resolution on Cooperation to Overcome the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster (sponsored by Indonesia, Japan, and Viet Nam)
- APPF13/RES/02: Resolution on the Peaceful Resolution of the Nuclear Issue on the Korean Peninsula (sponsored by the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States)
- APPF13/RES/03: Resolution on Terrorism (sponsored by Australia, Japan, Russia and Vietnam)
- APPF13/RES/04: Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/05: Resolution on Political and Security Situation of the Asia-Pacific Region and the World (sponsored by Australia)
- APPF13/RES/06: Resolution on Actions for Nuclear Disarmament after 60 Years of the Atomic Era (sponsored by Mexico)
- APPF13/RES/07: Resolution on Landmines (sponsored by Australia)

- APPF13/RES/08: Resolution on 60 Years of the United Nations and its Reform (sponsored by Mexico).
- APPF13/RES/09: Resolution on Supporting Efforts Making the ASEAN Regional Forum Progress to the Preventive Diplomacy Stage (sponsored by the Philippines)
- APPF13/RES/10: Resolution on the World and Regional Economic Situation (sponsored by Australia)
- APPF13/RES/11: Resolution on Application of the Doha Development Agenda (sponsored by Mexico and Vietnam)
- APPF13/RES/12: Resolution on Economy and Trade (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/13: Resolution on the Pacific Maritime Environment (sponsored by Chile)
- APPF13/RES/14: Resolution on Support to the Global Agenda of the Small Island Developing States (sponsored by Australia and Mexico)
- APPF13/RES/15: Resolution on Support to the Gender Agenda 10 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, Held in Beijing in 1995 (sponsored by Mexico)
- APPF13/RES/16: Resolution on Human Security (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/17: Resolution on Cooperation for the Prevention and Eradication of Emerging Infectious Diseases (sponsored by Japan, Philippines and Vietnam)
- APPF13/RES/18: Resolution on Measures against Global Warming for the Post-Kyoto Protocol Era (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/19: Resolution on Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation among the Asia - Pacific Countries (sponsored by Viet Nam)
- APPF13/RES/20: Resolution on Poverty Eradication and Environmental Protection (sponsored by Viet Nam)
- APPF13/RES/21: Resolution on Promoting Religious Tolerance and Cultural Understanding in Light of Combating Terrorism (sponsored by Philippines)

- APPF13/RES/22: Resolution on the Protection of Traditional Medicine in the Asia-Pacific Region (sponsored by Philippines)

Draft resolutions proposed by Australia

Draft resolution submitted by the Australian delegation: Agenda item 1(a): Political and Security Situation of the Asia-Pacific Region and the World

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum,

Reaffirming the importance of global peace and security and stability in the Asia Pacific region

Acknowledging that the nature of security threats has changed in the advent of the global terrorist threat

Underlining sovereign nations' responsibility for protecting their citizens from the threat posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, through effective national measures and international cooperation

Mindful of the importance of regional peace and stability to the well-being of member states' peoples and economies

Committed to working together to promote dialogue and cooperation within the Asia Pacific on security issues

Recognising the ARF's role as the region's pre-eminent security forum

Supportive of efforts by forums such as the ARF in promoting regional stability

Resolves to:

Commend the efforts of the ARF and other forums such as APEC to address security threats in the Asia-Pacific

Call upon Asia Pacific Parliaments to redouble national measures and international cooperation to promote peace and security

Reaffirm the importance of open and inclusive regional architecture for Asia Pacific security

Support efforts by member states and multilateral organisations to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to combat terrorism and transnational crime, to promote good governance, rule of law and to provide the conditions for stability and prosperity.

Draft resolution submitted by the Australian Delegation—Agenda item 1(b): International Terrorism

The 13th Annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):

Noting with concern the continuation of terrorist acts in the region and worldwide;

Realising that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to the region's peace, security and prosperity;

Reaffirming our shared determination to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms through close and effective cooperation;

Declaring that terrorism contravenes the laws, religious beliefs and fundamental values of all countries concerned and should not be associated with any religion, race or nationality;

Recognising that the transnational nature of terrorism calls for a comprehensive national, regional and global response that embraces action on many fronts, including by addressing the economic, social and political factors that create conditions in which extremism can take root and flourish;

Reaffirming that terrorists threaten the most fundamental human right, the right to life;

Resolves to:

Urge all states to become party to the 12 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and to complete negotiations for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;

Call on all states to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism;

Encourage all states to pursue national and regional cooperation and coordination among police, defence, justice, customs, immigration, intelligence and other relevant agencies to ensure more effective law enforcement, border control and intelligence sharing efforts;

Encourage all states to uphold universal human rights standards in the prosecution of the global war against terrorism.

**Draft resolution submitted by the Australian Delegation—Agenda Item: 1(c):
Sub-regional issues—Others—Landmines**

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum,

Recalling the resolutions on Land Mines adopted by the 7th and 8th meetings of the APPF;

Noting the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention) on 1 March 1999;

Noting the success of the first Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention held in Nairobi in November 2004, attended by over 100 States Parties, and the adoption of the Plan of Action 2005-2009 by consensus and without amendment;

Noting the entry into force of the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on 3 December 1998;

Recognising the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Development Programme in coordinating and implementing international mine action programs and promoting international action to address the humanitarian and socio-economic problems posed by landmines;

Recalling the support of the international community for United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Ottawa Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and international mine action activities; and

Acknowledging the continuing problems, trauma and suffering caused by landmines mainly to non-combative civilians and the need for continued efforts to remove these mines to reduce their devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences;

Resolves to:

Encourage APPF member countries and other concerned parties to encourage continuing dialogue on the Ottawa Convention;

Encourage those countries which have not yet signed or ratified the Ottawa Convention to do so; and

Encourage international recognition that landmines remain a key impediment to both sustainable growth and development as well as improved livelihoods and security for affected communities and encourage ongoing commitment to assist in the clearing of mined areas and to provide support for the victims of landmines.

Draft resolution submitted by the Australian Delegation—Agenda Item II(a): World and Regional Economic Situation

The 13th Annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):

Acknowledging that growth in the world economy is strong, with generally subdued inflation and low interest rates;

Commending the region's achievements in contributing to the strength of world growth, with strong growth in regional economies, intra-regional trade and investment;

Recognising the region's progress in pursuing reforms and structural adjustment, which have facilitated higher economic growth and greater efficiency in local markets;

Reaffirming the importance of open markets in achieving higher economic growth, via enhanced competition and more efficient allocation of resources;

Mindful of the scope for further reform, that will enhance the functioning of economies and sustain high economic growth and economic development;

Underlining the region's commitment to further reform and co-operation, especially in regard to lowering trade barriers and developing regional financial markets;

Resolves to:

Call upon Asia Pacific Parliaments to redouble national measures and international cooperation to promote economic growth and development, and remove barriers to trade and investment;

Reaffirm the importance of open and inclusive regional economic architecture;

Support efforts by member states and multilateral organisations to promote economic growth and development, including through reform of domestic markets and institutions, and removing barriers to trade and investment.

Draft resolution submitted by the Australian Delegation—Agenda Item III(a): Environment

The 13th Annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the emphasis given to small island developing states,

Recalling the decision to convene the Mauritius Ministerial meeting, including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable development, globally and in the Asia Pacific region,

Reaffirming also the political importance of the ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing states has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance towards achieving the goals of sustainable development,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national, regional and international levels for the International Meeting,

Resolves to:

Commend the efforts of the United Nations to address the sustainable development of small island developing states;

Reiterate the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the Declaration of Barbados;

Encourage states to implement the outcomes from the Mauritius Ministerial meeting;

Call upon Asia Pacific Parliaments to carefully examine the outcomes from the Mauritius Ministerial meeting and actively pursue policies necessary to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing states.

Final resolutions on the topics on which Australia proposed resolutions

APPF 13/RES./05

RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND THE WORLD

(Sponsored by Australia)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Reaffirming the importance of global peace and security and stability in the Asia Pacific region;

Acknowledging that the nature of security threats has changed in the advent of the global terrorist threat;

Underlining sovereign nations' responsibility for protecting their citizens from the threat posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, through effective national measures and international cooperation, on the basis of international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

Mindful of the importance of regional peace, stability and democracy to the well-being of member states' peoples and economies;

Committed to working together to promote dialogue and cooperation within the Asia Pacific on security issues;

Recognising the ARF's role as the region's pre-eminent security forum;

Supportive of efforts by forums such as the ARF in promoting regional stability

Resolves to:

Commend the efforts of the ARF and other forums to address security threats in the Asia-Pacific;

Call upon Asia Pacific Parliaments to redouble national measures and international cooperation to promote peace and security;

Reaffirm the importance of open and inclusive regional dialogue for Asia Pacific security;

Support efforts by member states and multilateral organisations to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to combat terrorism and transnational crime, to promote good governance, rule of law and to provide the conditions for stability and prosperity.

APPF 13/RES./03

RESOLUTION ON TERRORISM

(Sponsored by Australia, Japan, Russia and Viet Nam)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Noting with concern the continuation of terrorist acts in the region and worldwide;

Expressing deep concern about the increase of number of victims, including children, in various regions of the world as a result of international terrorist activity;

Expressing deep sympathy with the victims of terrorism and their families;

Considering that the actions of terrorists put in immediate threat the fundamental right- the right to life, as well as the social and economic development of states;

Referring to the APPF resolutions on terrorism, adopted unanimously at the previous annual meetings, and to all resolutions on terrorism that have been adopted to date by the United Nations;

Convinced that all terrorism is a crime that can not be justified under any circumstances, regardless of motive, location, timing, or identity of the perpetrator;

Reaffirming the need to use every possible means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to combat the threat to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts;

Reaffirming our shared determination to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms through close and effective cooperation;

Reaffirming the effectiveness and the importance of the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols which strictly bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts as well as the need to prevent terrorists and their supporters from gaining access to the international financial system and to suppress the flow of funds to terrorist networks;

Recognizing that it is important for all countries to seek to enhance their counter-terrorism capabilities with a view to depriving terrorists of any safe haven;

Convinced that it is important to continuously explore measures for eradicating terrorism and mindful of recent development and efforts at the regional and global level for preventing and suppressing terrorism;

Recognizing that the transnational nature of terrorism calls for a comprehensive national, regional and global response that embraces actions on many fronts, including by addressing the economic, social and political factors that create conditions in which extremism can take root and flourish;

Declaring that terrorism contravenes the laws, religious beliefs and fundamental values of all countries concerned and noting that terrorism and should not be associated with any race, culture or religion, and that counter-terrorism measures must consistently be implemented in accordance with universally-recognized principles of international law;

Confirming the central coordinating role of the United Nations in the international efforts to counteracts terrorism;

Welcoming the progress achieved in regional counter-terrorist cooperation, in particular, within the framework of APEC, ASEAN, ARF, Asia-Europe Meeting, CIS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization;

Welcoming progress in international counter-terrorism cooperation as evidenced especially in the paragraphs relating to counter-terrorism of the Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative (SAFTI) G8 Action Plan issued at the G8 Sea Islands Summit Meeting in July 2004 and the Santiago Declaration ("One Community, our Future") adopted at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2004;

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing dialogue and strengthening mutual understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions in order to settle the unresolved regional conflicts and the entire scope of global problems, which would make for effective struggle against terrorism;

Resolves to:

1. **Request** all UN member countries to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions relating to counter-terrorism measures, including Resolution 1373;
2. **Request** APPF member countries to accede to, ratify and implement in good faith all 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols,

including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism; to establish relevant domestic legislation to prevent terrorism; and to cooperate in realizing an early adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which are currently under negotiation;

3. **Encourage** all states to pursue national and international cooperation and coordination among police, defence, justice, customs, immigration, intelligence and other relevant agencies to ensure more effective law enforcement, border control and intelligence information sharing efforts;
4. **Request** APPF member countries to note that capacity building in various areas, including suppressing the financing of terrorism and preventing the acquisition and/or use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups, is essential in order to combat terrorism more effectively and to promote the necessary cooperation among member countries in order to enhance their capabilities through such multilateral frameworks as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF);
5. **Underline** the necessity of efficient collective efforts aimed at strengthening and perfection of the legal basis of the international antiterrorist cooperation;
6. **Note** the importance of APPF members efforts aimed at harmonizing their antiterrorist legislation, rendering each other necessary legal assistance and technical support on these issues as well as to call them to intensify these efforts;
7. **Call upon** APPF members to cooperate in combating terrorism, especially with those states in which or against which citizens the acts of terrorism have been committed, with the purpose to find those who participate or attempt to participate in financing, planning, preparing or committing acts of terrorism, support or assist either harbor them; to deny those persons any refuge and to institute criminal proceedings against them on the principle "either extradite, or prosecute";
8. **Emphasize** the necessity for the states to enhance information exchange on terrorists and terrorist organizations, their activity, plans, movements and financing;
9. **Point to** special importance of reliable prevention of access of terrorists to the weapon of mass destruction;

10. **Note** the importance of combating the transnational organized crime, often being the nutrient medium for terrorists activity, including such kinds of crimes as illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors, money laundering, illicit arms sales;
11. **Support** escalation of antiterrorist efforts by regional organizations as the important component of global strategy of counteraction to threats and challenges to the security of XXI century being formed under the aegis of the United Nations;
12. **Urge** the prompt coordination in the United Nations of the Universal convention on the international terrorism and the International convention on combating nuclear terrorism, which could strengthen the legal base of antiterrorist cooperation essentially;
13. **Note** the importance of establishment of special APPF body to combat terrorism as the permanent mechanism for exchange of expertise of parliament members of in the area of perfection and harmonization of antiterrorist legislation;
14. **Encourage** all states to uphold universal human rights standards in the prosecution of the global war against terrorism;
15. **Remain** seized of this matter.

APPF 13/RES./07

RESOLUTION ON LANDMINES

(Sponsored by Australia)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Recalling the resolutions on Land Mines adopted by the 7th and 8th meetings of the APPF;

Noting the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention) on 1 March 1999;

Noting the success of the first Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention held in Nairobi in November 2004, attended by over 100 States Parties, and the adoption of the Plan of Action 2005-2009 by consensus and without amendment;

Noting the entry into force of the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on 3 December 1998;

Recognising the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Development Programme in coordinating and implementing international mine action programs and promoting international action to address the humanitarian and socio-economic problems posed by landmines;

Recalling the support of the international community for United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Ottawa Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and international mine action activities; and

Acknowledging the continuing problems, trauma and suffering caused by landmines mainly to non-combative civilians and the need for continued efforts to remove these mines to reduce their devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences;

Resolves to:

Encourage APPF member countries and other concerned parties to encourage continuing dialogue on the Ottawa Convention;

Encourage international recognition that landmines remain an impediment to both sustainable growth and development as well as improved livelihoods and security for affected communities and encourage ongoing commitment to assist in the clearing of mined areas and to provide support for the victims of landmines.

APPF 13/Res./10

RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD AND REGIONAL

ECONOMIC SITUATION

(Sponsored by Australia)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Acknowledging that growth in the world economy is strong, with generally subdued inflation and low interest rates;

Commending the region's achievements in contributing to the strength of world growth, with strong growth in regional economies, intra-regional trade and investment;

Recognising the region's progress in pursuing reforms and structural adjustment, which have facilitated higher economic growth and greater efficiency in local markets;

Reaffirming the importance of open markets in achieving higher economic growth, via enhanced competition and more efficient allocation of resources;

Mindful of the scope for further reform, that will enhance the functioning of economies and sustain high economic growth and economic development;

Underlining the region's commitment to further reform and co-operation, especially in regard to lowering trade barriers and developing regional financial markets;

Resolves to:

Call upon Asia Pacific Parliaments to redouble national measures and international cooperation to promote economic growth and development, and to remove subsidies, as appropriate, and barriers to trade and investment;

Reaffirm the importance of open and inclusive regional economic architecture;

Support efforts by member states and multilateral organisations to promote economic growth and development, including through reform of domestic markets and institutions, and to remove subsidies, as appropriate, and barriers to trade and investment.

APPF 13/ RES./14

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL AGENDA OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

(Sponsored by Australia and Mexico)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994;

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), in particular the emphasis given to small island developing states;

Recalling the decision to convene the Mauritius Ministerial meeting in January 2005, including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable development, globally and in the Asia Pacific region;

Reaffirming also the political importance of the ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing states has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance towards achieving the goals of sustainable development;

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national, regional and international levels for the International Meeting;

Resolves to:

1. **Acknowledge** that the nations that are members of the APPF can and must assume the commitment of achieving new global understanding for the situation of the small island developing states;
2. **Acknowledge** that the nations that make up the APPF must support the cause of the small island developing states under a program of economic solidarity and environmental co-responsibility based on the geographic affinity and their location in the Asia – Pacific region, one of the main geographic areas of the planet where the small insular nations are located;
3. **Urge** the parliaments that integrate APPF to promote greater attention to the problems of the small island nations, acknowledging that these are shared by the large insular nations and by continental nations that have insular systems, to offer a new vision of regional and global co-responsibility and deal with problems common to all the nations on the planet, such as climatic change and global warming;
4. **Urge** parliamentarians to request their governments to acknowledge that the negotiations developed within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda must reconcile the different positions among the developed countries, the developing countries, and the small island developing nations, accepting that the positions of the latter must be fundamentally understood based on the fact that they face particular vulnerabilities and challenges not experienced by other developing countries;
5. **Encourage** states to implement the outcomes from the Mauritius Ministerial meeting;

Call upon Asia-Pacific Parliaments to carefully examine the outcomes from the Mauritius Ministerial meeting and actively pursue policies necessary to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing states.



Appendix D

Joint Communiqué of the 13th Annual Meeting

13th ANNUAL MEETING OF ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

1. At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held in Ha Long city, Viet Nam, from 10 to 13 January 2005 with 275 participants from 22 member countries and one observer country. The list of participants appears as Appendix I [see Appendix B].
2. The Executive Committee convened on 9 January 2005 in Ha Noi and approved the Annual Meeting's agenda and program of activities, including a Special Session on the earthquake and tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004, which was held before the first plenary session.
3. On 10 January 2005, the President, H.E Mr. Nguyen Van An, opened the Annual Meeting by warmly welcoming all participants and wishing them a pleasant stay in Viet Nam. In his opening remarks, the President highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the APPF and called for greater legislative and economic cooperation among APPF member countries. The inaugural ceremony of the Annual Meeting was also welcomed by a performance of Vietnamese artists.
4. A moment of silence was observed during the inaugural ceremony in memory of the earthquake and tsunami victims.

5. H.E Mr. Y. Nakasone, the APPF Honorary President, and H.E Ms. Gu Xiulian, Vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress and Representative of the host country of the APPF 12, Head of the Chinese delegation, thanked the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for its hospitality and excellent preparation for the Meeting. They also proposed ways to strengthen APPF's cooperation in the future.
6. Mr. Nguyen Van Quynh, President of the People's Council of Quang Ninh province, where the Annual Meeting took place, thanked other speakers at the inaugural ceremony for their kind remarks and expressed his Province's honor to welcome the participants to Ha Long - part of the world's natural heritage.
7. The Heads of APPF 13 delegations paid a courtesy visit to H.E Mr. Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The President highly appreciated the increasingly developed APPF cooperation and solidarity, and called to bridge the development gap among APPF member countries and promote regional linkage.
8. In the Special Session on the earthquake and tsunami disaster, a touching documentary video on severe consequences of the earthquake and tsunami disaster was presented by the Indonesian delegation. Participants expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami, urged greater international and regional support and assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims and their families, and called for the establishment of an early warning system in the region and elsewhere in the world. Delegations unanimously endorsed a Resolution on Cooperation to Overcome the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster sponsored by Indonesia, Japan, and Viet Nam.
9. The Annual Meeting held five plenary sessions. A great number of speakers addressed the plenary sessions. A list of speakers from the plenary sessions appears in the Appendix II. [See <http://www.appf.org.pe>]
10. In the plenary session on item 1: Political and Security issues, delegations shared the view that, despite the ongoing trend of stability, cooperation and development, the Asia-Pacific region faced a number of traditional and non-traditional threats to peace and security such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, transnational crimes, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and natural disasters.
11. Participants resolutely condemned terrorism and shared the view that international community should cooperate to effectively address social and political factors that create conditions in which terrorism can flourish such as poverty and widening gap between rich and poor among other aspects. In this regard, participants stressed the significant importance of

the economic cooperation for development of countries in the region, thus ensuring regional peace and security. They also supported efforts to strengthen regional security cooperation frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other dialogue mechanisms.

12. Statements delivered at the first plenary session also touched upon such other issues of common concerns as the situation in Iraq, Middle East and Afghanistan; the United Nations reform, the issue of landmines, the abduction (Appendix III) etc.
13. APPF Parliamentarians expressed their concern over the situation on the Korean Peninsula and urged parties concerned to resume the 6-party talks so as to work out equitable and durable solutions for all sides.
14. In the plenary session on item 2: Economic and Trade issues, delegations agreed that despite many uncertainties, Asia-Pacific region remained dynamic with high growth rate and greater economic integration. Delegations stressed that the on-going globalization and increasing economic integration brought about both unprecedented opportunities and challenges for all countries. In this connection, participants shared the view that further cooperation among regional countries would promote globalization and concurrently address its challenges.
15. The Meeting welcomed a report from Chile on the outcome of the 12th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Chile in November 2004 and Viet Nam's presentation on her preparation for the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Ha Noi in 2006.
16. APPF delegations acknowledged the important role of the WTO in expediting liberalization of global trade and welcomed the recent positive developments of the July package. They stressed that greater cooperation, taking into account different development levels of members during negotiations, is a vital factor to the success of the Doha Development Agenda, which would benefit all members. Participants unanimously supported an open, equitable and fair multilateral trading system on the basis of accountable, inclusive and transparent trade principles.
17. Delegations welcomed important progress in the WTO accession efforts of Viet Nam and the Russian Federation, and strongly supported their prompt accession to the WTO.
18. Participants stressed that great and imminent FTAs/RTAs should be transparent, consistent with the WTO principles and should embody open provisions. They further hoped that FTAs/RTAs take into account the development interests of less developed member nations, and would promote sustainable economic development in the region as well as in the world.

19. In the plenary session on item 3: Cooperation in Addressing Common Issues in Asia - Pacific, delegations exchanged views on a number of global and regional issues including environment, infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, SARS and bird-flu), transnational crimes, agent orange, resources for sustainable development, and cultural exchanges and dialogues.
20. Delegations expressed their deep concern over these global issues and acknowledged their interrelationship. Environmental issues are global, affecting security and development of all nations. To address the environmental concerns, there is an urgent need to enhance international cooperation. Delegations stressed the necessity for APPF members to incorporate environmental protection and sustainable development in national development policies, transfer appropriate technologies, encourage the use of renewable energies, implement their commitments and develop an inclusive strategy toward these issues.
21. On the issue of infectious diseases, the Meeting urged APPF countries to share information and experiences, to strengthen the role of international and regional organizations, to increase coordination and cooperation in research and production of vaccines and to maintain and develop traditional medicines. Delegations called on APPF developed countries to continue providing financial assistance and know-how for developing members.
22. Participants emphasized the role of cultural exchange in promoting the understanding among nations, thus making contribution to reducing and eliminating clashes among civilizations.
23. In the plenary session on item 4: Future Activities of APPF, the Annual Meeting unanimously accepted the kind invitation of the Indonesian Parliament to host the 14th Annual Meeting in January 2006, with the venue to be announced later.
24. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Technological Working Group meeting held on 12 January 2005. The Group noted with pleasure that all APPF member countries had established national legislature websites. Issues considered at the group's meeting included: maintenance of up-to-date information on the central APPF website and ensuring that the APPF website continues to support the future work of the APPF. The Meeting encouraged APPF members to translate information from the central APPF site to their own sites.

25. The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum adopted 22 Resolutions, as follows:

- APPF13/RES/01: Resolution on Cooperation to Overcome the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster (sponsored by Indonesia, Japan, and Viet Nam)
- APPF13/RES/02: Resolution on the Peaceful Resolution of the Nuclear Issue on the Korean Peninsula (sponsored by the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States)
- APPF13/RES/03: Resolution on Terrorism (sponsored by Australia, Japan, Russia and Vietnam)
- APPF13/RES/04: Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/05: Resolution on Political and Security Situation of the Asia-Pacific Region and the World (sponsored by Australia)
- APPF13/RES/06: Resolution on Actions for Nuclear Disarmament after 60 Years of the Atomic Era (sponsored by Mexico)
- APPF13/RES/07: Resolution on Landmines (sponsored by Australia)
- APPF13/RES/08: Resolution on 60 Years of the United Nations and its Reform (sponsored by Mexico).
- APPF13/RES/09: Resolution on Supporting Efforts Making the ASEAN Regional Forum Progress to the Preventive Diplomacy Stage (sponsored by the Philippines)
- APPF13/RES/10: Resolution on the World and Regional Economic Situation (sponsored by Australia)
- APPF13/RES/11: Resolution on Application of the Doha Development Agenda (sponsored by Mexico and Vietnam)
- APPF13/RES/12: Resolution on Economy and Trade (sponsored by Japan)
- APPF13/RES/13: Resolution on the Pacific Maritime Environment (sponsored by Chile)
- APPF13/RES/14: Resolution on Support to the Global Agenda of the Small Island Developing States (sponsored by Australia and Mexico)

- APPF13/RES/15: Resolution on Support to the Gender Agenda 10 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, Held in Beijing in 1995 (sponsored by Mexico)
 - APPF13/RES/16: Resolution on Human Security (sponsored by Japan)
 - APPF13/RES/17: Resolution on Cooperation for the Prevention and Eradication of Emerging Infectious Diseases (sponsored by Japan, Philippines and Vietnam)
 - APPF13/RES/18: Resolution on Measures against Global Warming for the Post-Kyoto Protocol Era (sponsored by Japan)
 - APPF13/RES/19: Resolution on Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation among the Asia - Pacific Countries (sponsored by Viet Nam)
 - APPF13/RES/20: Resolution on Poverty Eradication and Environmental Protection (sponsored by Viet Nam)
 - APPF13/RES/21: Resolution on Promoting Religious Tolerance and Cultural Understanding in Light of Combating Terrorism (sponsored by Philippines)
 - APPF13/RES/22: Resolution on the Protection of Traditional Medicine in the Asia-Pacific Region (sponsored by Philippines)
26. The Annual Meeting appreciated the Drafting Committee for its efforts to develop a package of significant resolutions and the Joint Communiqué which contributed to the success of the APPF 13.
27. The Annual Meeting expressed heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Viet Nam National Assembly for its outstanding organization and hospitality, especially to H.E Mr. Nguyen Van An, President of the Viet Nam National Assembly for his exemplary Presidency of the 13th Annual Meeting, and Hon. Mr. Vu Mao and Hon. Mr. Ngo Anh Dzong, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Viet Nam National Assembly, in assisting the President, and to the Secretariat and the staff for their hard work and excellent care for all participants, which contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting.