

**RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND
ERADICATION OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

(Sponsored by Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines and Viet Nam)

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

Recalling the APPF Resolution on infectious diseases (APPF12/Res/Pol/);

Noting the growing interdependence and deepening of globalization in the International community;

Concerned that infectious diseases have endangered socio-economic development and have become one of the world's main security threats, as evidenced by avian influenza, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and HIV/AIDS, along with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;

Reaffirming the important role of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the global specialized organization to promote health, security and the need for international collaboration to fight against existing and emerging infectious diseases;

Considering that under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the parties to the Agreement formalized in August 2003, can allow the production of patented medicines in cases of public health emergency;

Considering that HIV/AIDS eradication is one of the Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations;

Welcoming the initiatives on Fighting against AIDS in APEC endorsed by the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Santiago de Chile on 20-21 November 2004 with the aim of encouraging greater cooperation in the region to prevent HIV/AIDS and promote access to safe and affordable medicines and treatment for people living with AIDS;

Convinced by the connection between poverty and dissemination of infectious diseases;

Convinced that the role of APPF parliaments in public education is an essential factor in the prevention of disease as a long-term solution to pandemics, along with the availability of medicines and treatments;

Noting that APPF member countries consider that infectious diseases in bio-terrorism weapons is inhumane;

Recognizing that every nation is vulnerable to infectious diseases and that they will only be contained by enhanced international cooperation;

Resolves to:

1. Call upon APPF member countries to actively co-operate in the fight against infectious diseases, particularly affecting children, through, *inter alia*, implementing common guidelines and recommendations as prescribed by WHO, and the sharing of timely and accurate information and strengthening capacity building for the affected countries;
2. Extend the support of parliaments to APPF member Governments in exchanging information and sharing experience and best practices in dealing with infectious diseases at international and regional workshop and seminars;
3. Urge APPF member countries to work in close collaboration with WHO and the international scientific community including WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and the APEC Emerging Infectious Network to effectively contain and cure infectious diseases on the basis of scientific research;
4. Urge APPF member countries to align all policies, programmes and initiatives on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS within the framework of the United Nations Millennium of the year 2000, which set the time frame "...to halve, halt and begin to reverse..." the spread of HIV/AIDS;
5. Urge APPF member countries to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with the goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
6. Encourage APPF member countries to consider and adopt the APEC Action Plan on SARS to prevent the future outbreak and spread of SARS;
7. Endorse Resolution A/RES/58/3 entitled "Enhancing capacity building in global public health" adopted at the 58th General Assembly of the United Nations;
8. Urge APPF member countries to facilitate and promote the use of the WTO TRIPS Agreement of 30 August 2003, which establishes the margins for trade of patented pharmaceutical products to advance in the eradication of infectious diseases;

9. Encourage developed countries to assist developing countries to improve their capacity to utilize AIDS funds efficiently and effectively and to monitor performance and impact;
10. Call upon all APPF member countries to recognize that the prevention and comprehensive management, care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS are inseparable elements of an effective response to this disease. Such programs to combat HIV/AIDS, therefore, should be non-discriminatory within supportive social environment; and
11. Urge APPF member countries to actively support and cooperate in the Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific to be held in July 2005 based on the results of the XV International AIDS Conference held in Thailand in July 2004.