

**RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION
AMONG THE ASIA - PACIFIC COUNTRIES**

(Sponsored by Viet Nam)

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

Recalling the Global Agenda of the United Nations on Dialogue among Civilizations (Resolution 56/6) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21st November 2001; the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted at the 31st session of UNESCO General Conference in November 2001;

Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific countries created the most ancient and abundant civilizations in the world; that the Asia-Pacific cultures which are diversified and at different stages of development, are an integral part of humankind cultures and civilizations;

Applying the commencement of negotiation process of an International Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions, which is considered an important contribution to the strengthening of cultural diversity and the enhancement of cultural exchanges at national, regional and international levels;

Acknowledging that cultural exchanges and co-operation are effective ways to enhance mutual understanding among nations, avoiding misunderstandings and conflicts, contributing to peace, international understanding and sustainable development.

Resolves to:

1. Raise awareness of the people on the important role of culture in building and preserving peace and stability for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world. as a whole;
2. Accelerate the exchange and co-operation among countries in the region in the fields of culture, education, science at all levels; facilitate exchanges between students, youths, artists, media practitioners, scientists and cultural professionals;
3. Strengthen the role of museums and other cultural institutions in enhancing inter-cultural activities and mutual understanding among and within countries of the region;

4. Expand and intensify the exchanges and co-operation among the Asia-Pacific countries to preserve and promote their respective traditional and contemporary forms of arts and cultures, intangible and tangible cultural heritages, especially those recognized by UNESCO as the world cultural heritages;
5. Encourage the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bring together diverse communities, cultures and civilizations, thus enhancing mutual understanding among countries, which is a basis for peace and stability in the region;
6. Encourage civil society to actively participate in cultural activities and exchanges in the Asia-Pacific countries;
7. Provide favorable conditions for the development of sustainable tourism based on the promotion of diversified values of cultural heritages of the countries in the region.
8. Call on the Asia-Pacific Parliaments:
 - a) to urge their respective Governments to put forward measures to implement all commitments and signed agreements, bilateral or multilateral, which are aimed at promoting cultural exchanges and co-operation among countries in the region as well as between countries in the Asia-Pacific region and those in other regions of the world.
 - b) to ensure the early ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Intangible Heritage, which is an integral part of cultural heritage as a whole and to support the early finalization of new standard-setting instruments, such as the Convention on Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions.