

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

APPF-15/RES/7

**ECONOMY AND TRADE**

*(Sponsored by Australia, Japan and Mexico)*

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

*Noting* the development of interdependence and the deepening of globalization in the international community;

*Recognizing* the current trends toward economic integration in various regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific;

*Reaffirming* the important role that the World Trade Organization (WTO) plays in promoting and strengthening the multilateral trading system;

*Noting* Hanoi Declaration and Statement on the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO issued at the Fourteenth APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2006 and the Resolution on Economy and Trade adopted at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the APPF in January 2006; and

*Noting* that regional effort and cooperation are steadily growing as a complement to the existing international regime for the purpose of achieving stability in the currency and money market as economic interdependence deepens in the Asia-Pacific region;

RESOLVES TO:

1. *Render* utmost support for an open, equitable, and rules-based multilateral trading system, which is essential to sustain global economic growth. In this sense, call upon APPF countries to uphold the effort to resume the WTO Doha Round negotiations suspended in July 2006 and to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible;

2. *Call upon* all countries and regions to develop existing and emerging

regional trade agreements as means to complement and strengthen the multilateral trading system centered on the WTO, in such a way that will be transparent and profitable to the entire world;

3. *Welcome* the moves toward economic integration, such as EPA(Economic Partnership Agreement)/FTA(Free Trade Agreement) negotiations among countries in the region, as a positive contribution to the prosperity of the entire region; wish for economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region to be deepened on the basis of these movements and in a way consistent with the WTO; and call upon APPF nations to endeavor to advance substantial EPA/FTA negotiations;

4. *Wish* for the Asia-Pacific region to develop into a region that is advanced in terms of trade and investment through the facilitation of such activities by improving trade rules related to intellectual property rights and investment in regional trade agreements.