

### International and Regional Trade Developments

Sponsored by Japan, Mexico, and Russia

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF),

**Recognising** the development of interdependence and deepening globalisation in the international community, and the current trends toward economic integration in various regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific;

**Convinced** that the countries of Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean share similar challenges and opportunities in the context of globalisation;

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

**Underlining** the utmost importance of strengthening the global trade system, established on WTO rules, calling upon the speedy and successful completion of the Doha Round of negotiations, seeing it as the best-possible tool for future economic growth and resolving key economic development issues for the region's countries;

**Noting** the Statement on the WTO Negotiations issued at the Fifteenth APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in September 2007 and the Resolution on Economy and Trade adopted at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the APPF in January 2007;

**Emphasising** the need to work together in APEC to increase the prosperity, stability and solidarity of the region through partnership and cooperation;

**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;

**Placing** special emphasis on promotion of direct contacts between Asia-Pacific region business community members, who ultimately determine how intensive and efficient trade and economic cooperation will be;

**Welcoming** the positive dynamics and specific results of growing cooperation between APPF member states in economic, trade, energy, transportation and other spheres of contact between countries and peoples;

**Reaffirming** adherence to active promotion of a comprehensive and constructive regional trade and economic partnership aimed at strengthening peace, securing stable development and prosperity;

**Considering** the benefits of a strategic partnership between our countries based on the enormous opportunities of trade, investment and cooperation;

**Noting** that there is ample room for dialogue regarding good governance; the implementation of social policies; the quest for sustainable development; and the need to strengthen the competitiveness of the countries of the region;

**Convinced** that the search for the best mechanisms to achieve these objectives should strengthen the ties between our nations;

**Reaffirming** that attainment of a consensus decision on international and regional trade issues is possible only on the basis of movement toward a far-reaching and balanced result, which tangibly and significantly broadens access to the agricultural and industrial goods and services market, and which secures the real and significant reduction of state agricultural subsidies, whose use negatively affects trade development;

**Noting** with satisfaction that efforts to ensure free trade and investment activity have allowed APPF countries to alleviate poverty, improve living conditions and achieve progress in economic and social development work;

**Relying** at the same time not only on returns from large-scale projects, but also on ever more substantial contribution from private, midsize and small business;

#### **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 conclude the WTO Doha Round negotiations early and successfully;
2. **Encourage** a political dialogue on the Doha Round negotiation process, considering alternative ways to promote the development agenda;
3. **Recommends** developing existing and concluding new regional trade agreements that strengthen a multilateral trade system within the frameworks of the WTO, at the same time providing the transparency of trade operations and profitability for all participants;
4. **Calls upon** all countries and regions to develop existing and emerging regional trade agreements such as East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA), and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA), as the 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;
5. **Encourage** a high level dialogue on bilateral and regional free trade agreements in the region;
6. **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;

7. **Wishes** to deepen economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region on the basis of these processes and in accordance with WTO principles;
8. **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.
9. Exchange information regarding business opportunities and market access in the region, including basic economic indicators and trade tendencies; regional progress in integration; and the competitive environment;
10. **Facilitate** foreign investment as a key element for growth; backed with macroeconomic policies which promote financial stability, and create the favorable conditions for the productive sectors;
11. **Implement** strategies that allow all businesses to use the most recent information technologies;
12. **Emphasise** the establishment of partnerships between small and medium-sized companies; facilitate their access to new technologies; contribute to the improvement of the business environment and guarantee accessible mechanisms of financing;
13. **Encourage** the development of common ground on issues of the global agenda, before which our countries share common interests;
14. **Deepen** the mechanisms of regional cooperation in order to increase the competitiveness of key sectors, such as multimodal transport; ports; customs, as well as the administrative simplification that is required to increase the efficiency of our trade relations;
15. **Promote** cultural and educational activities in APEC in order to deepen our links and mutual understanding. The promotion and reinforcement of cultural interchange between young students in our different countries will help us to find better and easier ways to solve our problems today and in the future.