

23rd Annual Meeting

Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Sponsored by: Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia, and Ecuador

EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Reaffirming Resolution APPF 22 / RES-20 on the promotion of cooperation in education, culture, science and technology in the Asia Pacific region, adopted at the 22nd Annual Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, by the APPF Member States;

Adamant that access to quality education and the benefits of advances in technology are fundamental rights for humanity;

Supporting the efforts of the APPF Members States to pursue sustainable and effective cooperation regarding education, culture, science and technology, to be able to promote sustainable development, as well as innovation, participation and social inclusion, to finally achieve the prosperity and welfare of the people;

Aware that education, culture, scientific research and technological investigation are the cornerstone for the development and economic growth of nations;

Considering the resolution of the UN General Assembly A / Res / 65/166, adopted on December 20, 2010, about Culture and Development, which emphasizes the importance of culture and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium development Goals and their integration into policies and development strategies;

Highlighting the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted on October 20, 2005, which identifies culture and development as critical topics and stresses the rights of all states to enact their own cultural policies, to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and allow the international cooperation for development by strengthening cultural industries;

Considering the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted on November 2, 2001, which recommended the establishment of cultural policies to ensure the free flow of ideas and work, thus promoting the introduction of measures that would create the right conditions for production and dissemination of diversified cultural property by local, regional and global cultural industries;

Recalling the commitment of the Vancouver Declaration to establish a "Comprehensive Joint Research Centre" on culture and education in the Asia - Pacific region and the importance of promoting the exchange of scholars between universities and research institutes, aimed at generating joint research projects for the benefit of the countries of the region;

Considering the Bonn Declaration by the UNESCO - NEVOC on Education and the Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) adopted on 28 October 2004 and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary General Assembly (AIPA) in September 2014; it is globally recognized that the vast majority of the workforce require knowledge, technical and professional skills throughout life, to increase efficiency; contribute to economic and social transformation towards sustainable development of a country, with emphases on education for sustainable development as a critical topic of learning in the XXI century;

Considering the resolution adopted at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, which encourages cooperation among member countries on education and encourages governments to adopt and support exchange programs, aimed to promote joint research projects between universities and research institutes as well as motivate higher education institutes in their respective countries to provide a comprehensive program of educational assistance to young people;

Bearing in mind the APPF21 / RES-13 resolutions on Scientific and Educational Cooperation in the Asia Pacific and APPF21 / RES-11 on Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultural Promotion, Educational and Humanitarian Contacts, Standardization Policies for Youth and Migration Processes adopted at the 21st Annual Meeting of the APPF which emphasize the educational and cultural exchange between the youth of APPF Member States;

Given the Ministerial Declaration of Dhaka on "Diversity of Cultural Expressions", developed in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2012, focusing on the integration of culture in national policies, the promotion of cultural and creative industries, gathering and sharing information and promoting the participation of civil society in the process of decision making;

In view of the Quebec Declaration of February 3, 2011, that declares that progress towards more democratic societies, growing economies and social equity, depend on an educated citizenry and a skilled workforce; in which a number of policies were agreed to improve access to quality education through the training of teachers on civic values and the use of information technologies both in classrooms and in assessment programs, the achievement of better educational policies and a greater investment in our education systems will help reduce income disparities and close the technological division in our hemisphere;

Recognizing the important role of civil society, academia and voluntary groups to promote "Education for All" and support for practical measures to mobilize civil society, including capacity building, opportunities and framework for cooperation;

Considering the contribution of the media and new information and communication technologies to promote the education of youth;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Guarantee** the rights of citizens to quality education that provides knowledge, values, skills and competencies for sustainable living, development sustainable participation and social inclusion, to achieve the welfare of the people;
2. **Consolidate** a policy framework for education, culture, science and technology with adequate budget allocation among member countries;
3. **Call** to take action to guarantee the inclusive education, promotion of an active multilateral cooperation in cultural, science, and technology topics, promote continuous improvement of quality education; also to promote intercultural dialogues to build mutual understanding among nations in order to maintain peace and stability;
4. **Create** tools for the promotion, exchange and protection of the mobility of researchers, teachers, youth organizations and students in areas of education, culture, research, science and technology; supporting any public or private initiative to improve

member states relationship for the development of research, science and technology transfer; as well as management and government support for scholarships, exchanges and internships at universities and institutes of member countries;

5. **Increase** the mobility of students, researchers and education providers, and promote virtual academic mobility through the use of internet-based resources and innovative learning practices;

6. **Promote** the creation of knowledge networks and exchange of technology between research and training, with special emphasis on the development of projects for rural and marginal urban sectors in member countries;

7. **Promote** social development, to reduce poverty and inequality through policies that strengthen local and regional cultural industries and develop training programs for cultural entrepreneurs; as well as promoting policies and programs that offer citizens the knowledge and skills to understand and develop the interests of the diverse cultural and linguistic expressions and strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to create conditions to allow the promotion of cultural diversity with respect for the sovereignty of countries; to promote international cultural events;

8. **Consider** ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a commitment to recognize the importance of cultural preservation; and, to promote respect to its own cultural heritage and that of all nations;

9. **Condemn** the wanton destruction of cultural heritage property wherever it may occur;

10. **Raise** public awareness of the protection of cultural heritages against the risk of theft, clandestine excavation, and illicit export; and to ensure that museum, libraries, and other national institutions in their respective territories do not possess illicit ownership of cultural property. To also encourage voluntary restitution of cultural property and to return artifacts and manuscripts to the country of origin;

11. **Respect** cultural rights of the indigenous communities;

12. **Enhance** the practices of knowledge sharing on policies, systems and effective programs in the integration and promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, in labor markets, adopt policies and strategies to upgrade labor skills;

13. **Urge** the international exchange of practices and successful experiences in the implementation of public policies aimed at knowledge management, science, technology, innovation, culture and education of children and young people, as well as provide support for States that wish to take action implementing this policies.

Quito, January 14th, 2015