Resolution on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) (Thailand)

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF):

Recognizing that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has become the primary vehicle for economic cooperation, coordination, and consultation among Asia Pacific economies;

Noting with satisfaction the positive outcomes of the 11th annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Bangkok in October 2003 which built upon the successful outcomes of the Shanghai APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in October 2001 and the Los Cabos APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in October 2002;

Welcoming the commitment by APEC Economic Leaders in Bangkok to strengthen partnership among APEC economies not only in the liberalization and facilitation of regional trade and investment, but also in the protection of our peoples and societies against threats to their security, while preparing them to benefit fully from free and open trade;

Endorsing the reaffirmation by the APEC Economic Leaders of the primacy of the multilateral trading system and their continued strong support for successful negotiations under the WTO's Doha Development Agenda;

Endorsing further the renewed commitment of APEC Economic Leaders to bridge the gap between developing and developed economies and to strengthen the capacity of their societies both to meet the challenges and take up the opportunities of globalization;

RESOLVES TO:

Commend APEC member economies for the sustained progress they are making in forging an Asia Pacific community;

Urge the APEC member economies to take concrete actions to follow-up on their commitments, in particular, to continue to strive to achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region according to the timeframes outlined by the Bogor Goals;

Call on APEC member economies to accord appropriate importance to human resource development and other technical capacity building projects in order to reduce the gap between developed and developing economies within the region.