



Resolution on Development of the Information Society and Education (Japan)

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

Recognizing that, against the background of the development and spread of information and communications technologies (ICT), the information society has progressed rapidly since the beginning of the twenty-first century in the Asia-Pacific region;

Acknowledging that by shrinking the distances among the nations and peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, the development of ICT may not only nurture a spirit of mutual solidarity and cooperation but also bring about considerable political, economic and social change toward integration in the region;

Concerned at the same time that this rapid development of ICT may lead to further expansion of the digital divide between the developed and developing countries or within the same country;

Recognizing that the information society in the Asia-Pacific region requires that all members of society, especially those in weak social positions, such as low-income individuals, the disabled and the aged, be able to take full advantage of ICT through fair and appropriate access to information and communications networks;

Acknowledging that in order for people to be able to make the best use of the information society, it is essential to raise their levels of knowledge and technical expertise regarding ICT through educational and training opportunities;

Also Emphasizing that in view of the tremendous diversity in the Asia-Pacific region, the ICT must develop in such a way that this diversity and cultural heritage are not harmed; and

Recalling that at the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 10 to 12, 2003, the many Heads of States were brought together, and after discussing various problems and issues related to the twenty-first century's information society, adopted a Declaration of Principles;

RESOLVES TO:

1. Call upon all member governments and parliaments to ensure that everyone will enjoy fair and appropriate access to information and communications networks that are sophisticated, inexpensive and easy to access;
2. Call upon all member governments and parliaments to promote international cooperation so as to eliminate the digital divide, including through financing assistance and technology transfer between developed and developing countries;
3. Call upon all member governments to link all schools, classrooms and libraries in their countries – at the level of institutions of higher learning, the primary education and lifelong learning -- to computer networks and work to improve education designed to make all their citizens act more competently in the information society and acquire the ICT literacy, the ability to understand what certain information means and utilize it correctly, so that all their citizens may be able to take advantage of information and communications networks;
4. Call upon all member governments to promote the training of human resources for the ICT field through interchanges among researchers and acceptance of trainees in this field and encourage the construction of international networks in order for the educators, researchers, technicians, and administrators of all the Asia-Pacific countries to collaborate to promote the kind of education that takes advantage of ICT;
5. Call upon all member governments to take appropriate steps for the development of ICT so as to ensure the safety and reliability of ICT networks while engaging in mutual cooperation and collaboration; and
6. Call upon all member governments to respect and realize the spirit of the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society so as to improve education and enable people to achieve their full potentials in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life.