



**20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
8–12 January 2012, Tokyo, Japan**

APPF20/RES/7

RESOLUTION
ON

COOPERATION IN DISASTER PREVENTION

(Co-Sponsored by Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Micronesia, New Zealand and Russia)

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Noting the alarming number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing diversity and impact in recent years in the Asia-Pacific region;

Expressing our deep condolences to those who lost loved ones and our sadness regarding those who passed away in the numerous natural disasters that have occurred around our region in recent years; sympathizing with those who survived the disasters; and expressing our solidarity and thanks to the countries, international organizations, and volunteers for their support activities, including personnel and material assistance for the disaster-affected areas;

Recognizing the fact that most of Asia-Pacific countries lie on the “ring of fire” and the necessity of reducing vulnerability to disasters because the damage caused by natural disasters hinders the economic growth and development of nations through the impact on human well-being and security;

Confirming the strengthening of international and regional, inter-parliamentary cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, the necessity of not only sharing efforts on disaster risk reduction, disaster responses, and reconstruction from disasters, but also the need to tackle the challenge of climate change which may impact the occurrence of natural disasters;

Recognising the need for Early Warning, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, Early Recovery and long term Reconstruction and Rehabilitation programs to be designed systematically and within a single strategic umbrella;

Remembering the resolution about “Cooperation in Disaster Management and Emergency Responses” approved at the 19th Annual Meeting of the APPF and the resolution about “Natural Disaster Reduction” adopted at the 16th Annual Meeting of APPF;

Supporting the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and other statements on disaster management adopted at regional leaders’ meetings such as ASEAN and East Asia Summit (EAS);

Expecting the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx), and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness to be best utilized in disaster management countermeasures in the Asia-Pacific region;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call upon** all governments from the Asia-Pacific region to share the experiences and lessons learned from natural disasters (for example, by creating knowledge-sharing mechanisms for the purpose of commencing post-disaster recovery programs as soon as possible) in order to make use of them in disaster risk reduction and disaster relief activities in the future, and encourage disaster risk reduction and resilience programs to be included in recovery and reconstruction programs in order to achieve sustainable development;
2. **Call upon** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific region to urge their governments—through their legislative and oversight roles—and the United Nations and its specialised agencies and all relevant regional and international organisations to include plans and programs for the management and mitigation of natural disasters, and disaster education and awareness enhancement programs in their strategies and policies, and to join bilateral and multilateral treaties to further promote mutual cooperation;
3. **Call upon** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific Region to urge their governments to prioritise compliance with international commitments dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction particularly the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 by strengthening their participation in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system, including national and regional platforms, thematic technical platforms and the midterm review process, as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;
4. **Call upon** all governments from the Asia-Pacific region to implement the support for disaster-affected countries as rapidly as possible in the cases of natural disasters with consideration of international principles and situation of the areas and to smoothly accept volunteers;
5. **Encourage** the development of standardized procedures and guidelines for the management and mitigation of disasters, as well as for the coordination of the respective agencies in responding to emergencies and the training of national response teams and specialized work groups that can coordinate at the regional level when faced with a catastrophe;
6. **Call upon** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific region to urge their governments to exchange technologies for disaster reduction and to oversee the efforts taken by their governments in search, emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities relating to these

disasters and in supporting these activities within a framework of close regional and multilateral coordination and solidarity;

7. **Support** the existing suite of regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities that can improve preparedness for future disasters;
8. **Welcome** Japan's initiative to host the third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015 in order to share the experiences and lessons learned from the recent large scale disasters in the world and to promote international cooperation;
9. **Encourage** all governments from the Asia-Pacific region to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of the need for disaster risk reduction through public awareness, education, training, and disaster management programmes and the importance of integrating the needs of all communities;
10. **Urge** APPF and its Member Countries to regularly hold regional forums on natural disasters, including inter-parliamentary ones, and to actively participate in an exchange of information and technology, as well as education on disaster management programs;
11. **Request** all countries and international organizations to consider creating or developing early warning and response systems and common radio communication systems for exclusive emergency services as a means to mitigate the impact of natural disasters;
12. **Urge** all the governments of the Asia Pacific region to coordinate with their neighboring countries to prevent and cope with the damage and multiple problems, including those related to transport and communications, produced by disasters with cross-border impact, such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and floods;
13. **Urge** all public and private sectors to assist developing countries to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures as part of medium and long-term sustainable development strategies and to give increased priority to supporting national efforts in this area to support developing country partners.