

Mutual Recognition as a Mechanism to Expand Regional Economies

Sponsored by New Zealand

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

Recognising the importance of reducing barriers to trade for the benefit of all participating economies;

Affirming the desirability of allowing suitably qualified people to use their skills for the advantage of their country of residence;

Noting that the mutual recognition of product safety and quality specifications makes international trade easier and more efficient;

Recognising that Parliaments, as representatives of their people, can positively contribute to advancing trade liberalisation negotiations by expressing the support of their people for international agreements that seek to ensure strong and stable economies, which in turn bring about the security, prosperity and social benefits their people desire;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** APPF member countries to encourage their governments to develop mechanisms for the mutual recognition of occupations, including related qualifications and experience, in order to facilitate skill exchanges towards regional economic prosperity;
2. **Urge** APPF member countries to encourage their governments to develop mechanisms for mutual recognition of product safety and quality specification in order to facilitate regional trade and cooperation;
3. **Encourage** APPF member countries to provide progress reports to the next annual meeting.