

ASIAN-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS' UNION

THE 39<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMUUNIQUE



AUGUST 10-12, 2008

NARA JAPAN

## JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE 39<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union was held in an atmosphere of cooperation and friendship from August 11 to 12, 2008 at the Nara Prefectural New Public Hall, Nara, Japan.

Fourteen Member Groups representing: Republic of China (Taiwan); Cook Islands; Republic of Kiribati; Republic of Korea; Federated States of Micronesia; Mongolia; Republic of Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of the Philippines; Samoa; Kingdom of Thailand; Kingdom of Tonga; Tuvalu; Japan participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 73<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting started at 8:00pm, Sunday, August 10, 2008. Opening remarks were made by the Chairman of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting, the Hon. Mario Gulibert, Delegate of the Republic of Palau. He then called for the election of the Chairman of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting and the Hon. Ryotaro Tanose, Secretary General of Japanese National Group was unanimously elected as the Chairman. The Hon. Ryotaro Tanose greeted the Council and expressed appreciation for his nomination and election. The Council adopted the agenda for the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; discussed the handling of Draft Resolutions; adopted the Annual Report on the Work Programs, Financial Statement for FY 2007, the Budget Estimate for FY 2008 and the midterm Statement of Account of the Central Secretariat of the APPU; and the Council unanimously agreed to accept the Republic of China (Taiwan)'s offer to host the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 74<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Taipei. The Council Meeting concluded at 10:00pm.

On Monday, August 11, 2008 at 9:30am, the Opening Ceremony of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was called to order by the President of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Hon. Alan R. Seid, the Senate Floor Leader of the Republic of Palau. The Hon. Alan R. Seid convened the Opening Ceremony of the General Assembly, delivered his opening remarks, and requested the election of the President of the General Assembly. The Hon. Taro Aso, President of the Japanese National Group, was unanimously elected as the President of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Hon. Taro Aso expressed his appreciation to all delegates for his election and stressed the importance of further promoting dialogue under the APPU.

The First Plenary Session of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly began with the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. The Hon. Taro Aso proposed that all heads of delegations be Vice Presidents of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and was accepted by all member delegates.

The Hon. Ryotaro Tanose, the Chairman of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting, presented the Report of its Council Meeting, and the Assembly accepted it. The Hon. Taro Aso asked whether the Assembly could adopt the four Draft Resolutions recommended by the Council (CM-73//RES/DR1, CM-73//RES/DR4, CM-73//RES/DR6, CM-73//RES/DR7), and the General Assembly adopted them. They were:

1. Sustainable Use of Whale Resources, originally proposed by the Tonga National Group and co-sponsored by Papua New Guinea and Cook Islands National Groups, and then revised by Japanese and Palau National Groups

(GA-39//RES/DR1/REV1).

2. Energy Cooperation and Security proposed by the Philippine National Group (GA-39//RES/DR4).
3. Integration of Energy Security, Global Warming Solutions and People Participation proposed by the Thai National Group (GA-39//RES/DR6).
4. Actions to Promote Activities and Strengthen the Role of the APPU proposed by the Thai National Group (GA-39//RES/DR7)

The Hon. Taro Aso further asked all delegates to discuss the rest of the Draft Resolutions pending from the Council Meeting (CM-73//RES/DR2/REV1, CM-73//RES/DR5).

With regard to Draft Resolution (CM-73//RES/DR2/REV1) on support by the APPU for the application of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for observer status in the World Health Assembly, the APPU members discussed in detail and in a substantial manner. Certain members strongly supported the Draft Resolution. However, certain members stated that although they could not support Taiwanese application for the observer status at this moment, they would support the APPU to take actions for the full access by the Republic of China (Taiwan) to relevant information of the WHO, regardless of its observership, since there was a serious concern over the current poor access to such information. In the spirit of capacity and consensus building, it was decided after lengthy discussion that the Draft Resolution, further amended as CM-73//RES/DR2/REV2, would be deferred, in order to allow all member states the opportunity to consult their leadership to determine whether to support the said amended Draft Resolution, given its more humanitarian scope and intent.

The Draft Resolution on food security (CM-73//RES/DR5) proposed by the Philippine National Group was adopted by the General Assembly with amendments made by Palau, the Philippines, Thailand and Japan National Groups (GA-39//RES/DR5/REV3).

The Assembly deferred the adoption of the following Resolution because of the absence of the sponsor delegate to the General Assembly:

1. Support of the APPU Member States for the Continued Development of the Asia Pacific Center for a Sustainable Future proposed by the CNMI National Group (GA-39//RES/DR3).

The Hon. Taro Aso proposed that the three Draft Resolutions sponsored by the Republic of Palau be deferred to the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly because they were submitted to the Central Secretariat on the day of the Council Meeting, and there was not enough time for members to consider them. The Assembly accepted the proposal by the Hon. Taro Aso. These deferred Draft Resolutions were:

1. Cooperation to Address the Decline in Stocks of Highly Migratory Fish and Preserve the Stocks of Highly Migratory Fish at Sustainable Levels (CM-73//RES/DR8)
  2. Promoting the Use of Existing Carbon Trading Mechanisms to Finance Projects to Reduce Emissions in Developing and Developed Countries; and Encouraging Information Sharing about Alternative Energy Programs to Carry Out the Intent of Existing Resolutions (CM-73//RES/DR9).
  3. Facilitating Exchanges of Training and Scholarships between APPU Members
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to Share in the Development of Human Resources for all APPU Member Countries (CM-73/RES/DR10).

The First Plenary Session of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was concluded at 12:00.

On Monday, August 11, 2008, at 1:30pm, the Second Plenary Session of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly convened. The delegations to the 39<sup>th</sup> General presented their respective Country Reports and discussed issues such as environment, climate change, energy crisis, alternative energy and clean energy technologies, food security, fishery, and human resources development.

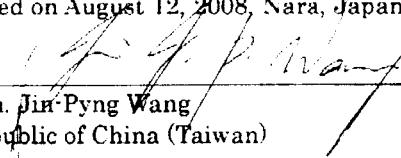
The chief delegate of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Hon. Jin-Pyng Wang, announced the willingness of his delegation to host the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Taipei. His announcement was warmly welcomed by all the delegates present and the Assembly decided the 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly would be held as proposed by the Republic of China (Taiwan) at the first half of August 2009, most probably sometime between the beginning of August and August 12<sup>th</sup>. Details including the theme would be informed in thirty days to all APPU delegates through the APPU Central Secretariat.

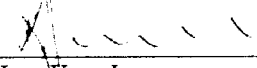
The Joint Communique was adopted by the delegates at the closing ceremony.

#### MEMBER NATIONAL GROUPS

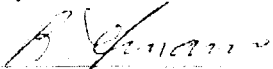
Republic of China (Taiwan); Cook Islands; Japan; Republic of Kiribati; Republic of Korea; Federated States of Micronesia; Mongolia; Republic of Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of the Philippines; Samoa; Kingdom of Thailand; Kingdom of Tonga; and Tuvalu.

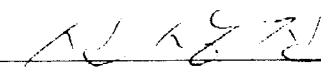
Signed on August 12, 2008, Nara, Japan.

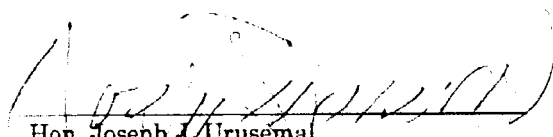
  
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Hon. Jin-Pyng Wang  
Republic of China (Taiwan)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Kete Ioane  
Cook Islands

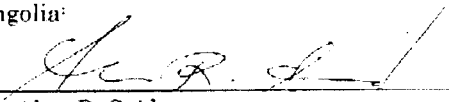
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Taro Aso  
Japan

  
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Hon. Bauro Tenano  
Republic of Kiribati

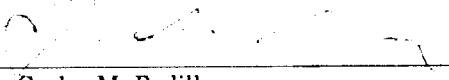
  
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Hon. Sang Jin Shin  
Republic of Korea

  
Hon. Joseph J. Urusemal  
Federated States of Micronesia

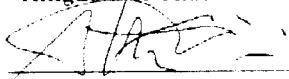
Ms. Narantungalag Tserendorj  
Mongolia:

  
Hon. Alan R. Seid  
Republic of Palau

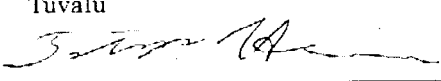
Hon. Ano Pala  
Papua New Guinea

  
Hon. Carlos M. Padilla  
Republic of the Philippines

Hon. Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe  
Samoa

  
Hon. Apiwan Wiriyachai  
Kingdom of Thailand

Hon. Sunia Manu Fili  
Kingdom of Tonga

  
Rt. Hon. Sir Kamuta Latasi  
Tuvalu

Mr. Tetsuya Hirose  
APPU Central Secretariat

In this Joint Communiqué, there is no signing by Mongolia since the participant was the Executive Secretary of the Mongolian Parliamentary Group, and had no authority to sign documents including the above Joint Communiqué.