

ASIAN-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS' UNION

THE 41<sup>st</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMUNIQUE



AUGUST 9-11, 2010

TOKYO, JAPAN

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS' UNION (APPU)**

The 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) was held from August 9 to 11, 2010, in Tokyo, Japan, on the theme of development and environment.

Eight member Groups representing the Republic of China (Taiwan), Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, and Japan participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and the 75<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting was held from 8:00pm to 10:20pm, on Monday, August 9, 2010. Opening remarks were made by Hon. Lin Yu-fang, Chairman of the 74<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Taipei, Republic of China (Taiwan). He then called for the election of the Chairman of the 75<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and the Hon. Shunichi Yamaguchi, Vice-President of the Japan National Group of the APPU, was unanimously elected as the Chairman. The Council adopted the agenda for the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and discussed the handling of the Draft Resolutions. The Council approved the Annual Report on the Working Programs, the Financial Statement for FY2009, the Budget Estimate for FY2010 and the midterm Statement of Account of the APPU Central Secretariat for FY2010. As no country offered to host the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and the 76<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, it was decided that a decision on the host would be made in the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. The Council Meeting concluded at 10:20pm.

On Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 9:30am, the Opening Ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly was called to order by H.E. Wang Jin-pyng, President of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, who delivered opening remarks before requesting the election of the President of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the APPU. The Hon. Taro Aso, President of the Japan National Group of the APPU was unanimously elected as the President of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. The Hon. Taro Aso expressed his appreciation to all delegates and stressed the importance of further promoting dialogue under the APPU. The Hon. Taro Aso asked all the delegates to provide a self-introduction.

The First Plenary Session of the 41<sup>st</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 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and the motion was adopted by all member delegates.

On behalf of the Hon. Shunichi Yamaguchi, Chairman of the 75<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, the Hon. Junzo Yamamoto, Secretary General of the Japan National Group of the APPU, presented the Report of the Council Meeting and the General Assembly accepted it.

The draft resolutions that had been submitted to the 75<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were as follows:

1. Requesting the Support of the Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union Member States for the continued development of the Asia Pacific Region Center for a Sustainable Future (CM-75/RES/DR1).
2. To request all Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) member countries to recognize Palau as the World's First Shark Sanctuary and to address shark-finning in the Asian-Pacific Region (CM-75/RES/DR2)
3. To urge Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) member countries to preserve and protect hawksbill turtles and other species of sea turtles in the Asian-Pacific region (CM-75/RES/DR3)
4. The Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) welcomes and supports the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the UNFCCC COP-16 and related mechanisms, meetings and activities this year. (CM-75/RES/DR4)
5. To state that the Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union supports the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan, to obtain the observer status in the UNFCCC and the ICAO (CM-75/RES/DR5)
6. To support the advancement of the Micronesia Challenge and information sharing that could carry out this resolution and link the same to environment conservation and climate change funding initiatives of donor countries including but not limited to APPU members (CM-75/RES/DR6)

The General Assembly deferred the adoption of Draft Resolution CM-75/RES/DR1 because of the absence of the sponsor National Group.

With regard to the remaining draft resolutions, the General Assembly discussed the issue of the "fifteen day" rule in a substantial manner. It was noted by the President that as none of the new draft resolutions had been received by the Central Secretariat within the "fifteen day" rule as detailed in Article 6(2) of the Rules of the General Assembly,

accordingly they would be deferred until the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Draft Resolution CM-75/RES/DR6 was withdrawn by the member National Group.

Members discussed the fifteen day rule, with certain members recommending that the minimum time for draft resolutions to be submitted in advance should be reduced. However, other members were of the opinion that the fifteen day rule should remain in place, in order to give time for due consideration and examination of the draft resolutions prior to the General Assembly. It was noted that if the fifteen day rule was to be amended, it would require amendments to the Charter of the APPU.

Concerning the issue of amendments to the Charter of the APPU, Members were referred to Article 8 (Voting) and Article 17 (Amendment) of the APPU Charter. Article 8 refers to the principle of unanimity in voting, whereas Article 17 notes that the Charter shall be amended, upon the recommendations of the Council, with the approval of all the Member Groups participating at the General Assembly.

After extensive discussion the President tabled a motion for the amendment of Article 8, with reference to Article 17, to allow for a two-thirds majority of Member Groups participating at the General Assembly to approve draft resolutions. The President's proposal was agreed by seven participating National Groups. The Thailand National Group indicated that it will take the proposal to consultation with the Thai Parliament, in accordance with the Thai parliamentary process, and will inform Thailand's response at the next General Assembly.

It was agreed and announced by the President that details of the draft amendments to the Charter of the APPU would be distributed to all 21 member National Groups, and a final decision would be carried forward to the 76<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

The First Plenary Session of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly was concluded at 15:20pm.

On Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 15:20pm, the Second Plenary Session of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly convened. The session began with a presentation from the Thailand National Group concerning the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the APPU Working Group for Promoting Eco-Tourism in Asia-Pacific Region, scheduled to be held from September 23 to 26, 2010, in Phuket, Thailand. This meeting is based on the resolution for the establishment

of an APPU Working Group for Promoting Eco-Tourism in Asia-Pacific Region at the 74<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the APPU. The delegations to the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly presented their respective Country Reports and discussed a wide variety of issues on development and environment.

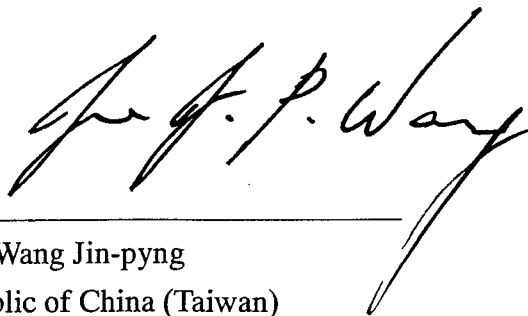
The chief delegate of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Hon. Joe N. Suka, announced the willingness of his delegation to host the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. His announcement was warmly welcomed by all the delegates present and the Assembly decided that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly would be held as proposed by the Hon. Joe. N. Suka during the first week of August 2011. Details including the theme would be informed to all APPU delegates through the APPU Central Secretariat upon consultation with the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Joint Communiqué was adopted by the delegates at the Closing Ceremony. The General Assembly concluded in an atmosphere of friendship and a sense of solidarity.

#### MEMBER NATIONAL GROUPS

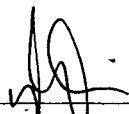
The Republic of China (Taiwan), Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, and Japan.

Signed on August 11, 2010, in Tokyo, Japan



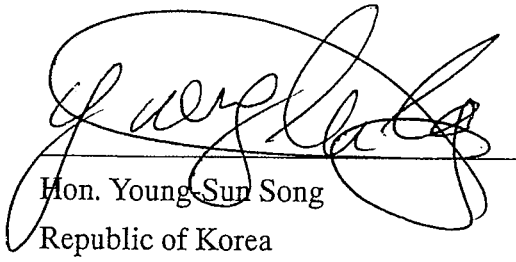
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Hon. Wang Jin-pyng  
Republic of China (Taiwan)

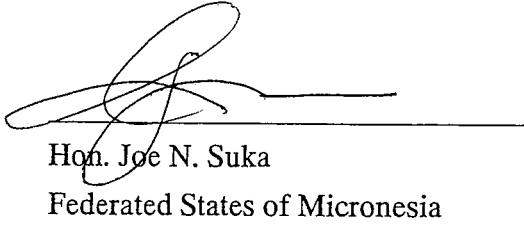


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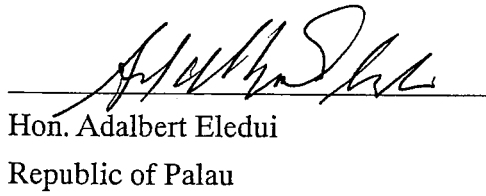
Hon. Rimeta Beniamina  
Republic of Kiribati



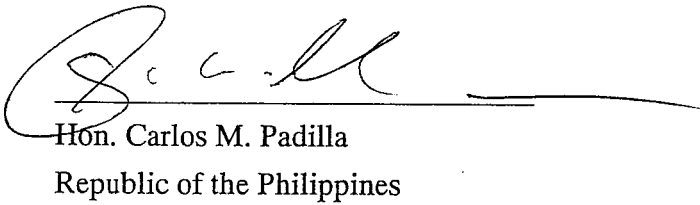
Hon. Young-Sun Song  
Republic of Korea



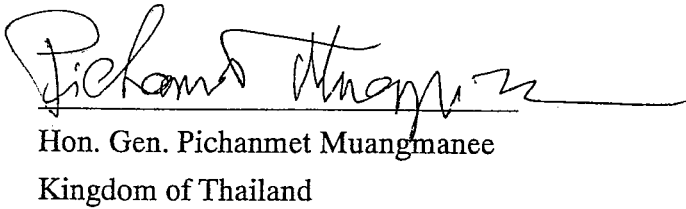
Hon. Joe N. Suka  
Federated States of Micronesia



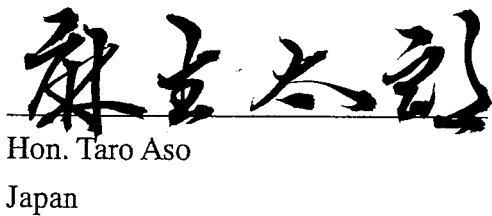
Hon. Adalbert Eledui  
Republic of Palau



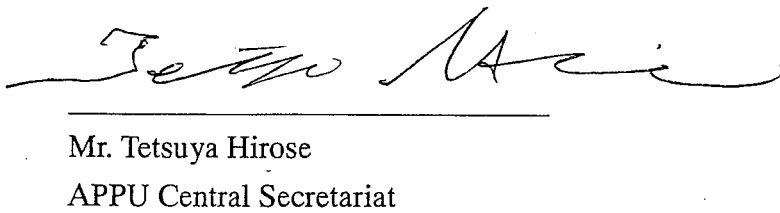
Hon. Carlos M. Padilla  
Republic of the Philippines



Hon. Gen. Pichanmet Muangmanee  
Kingdom of Thailand



Hon. Taro Aso  
Japan



Mr. Tetsuya Hirose  
APPU Central Secretariat