

Seoul Communiqué

- Joint Communiqué for the beginning of a new Asia-Pacific Era through parliamentary cooperation

1. The Secretaries-General Forum of Asia-Pacific Parliaments was held in Seoul, Korea, from 8 to 9 July, 2009, with the objective of strengthening the parliamentary network of the Asia-Pacific region, which is emerging as the axis of the global politics and economy. The Forum, stressing the beginning of a new Asia-Pacific era of parliamentary cooperation, was attended by 42 representatives of parliamentary Secretariats from 32 countries.
2. The Asia-Pacific region, home to half of the world's population, is playing a key role in facilitating global economic development with diverse political systems, socio-cultural backgrounds and the world's most dynamic market. Taking note of this development, the Forum agreed that the role and cooperation of Asia Pacific countries is crucial to resolving such issues as the economic crisis, climate change and poverty.
3. Noting the need for systematic and continuous exchanges among Asia-Pacific parliaments in pursuit of the vision of a new regional community, Secretaries General expressed their sincere hope that the SGFAPP would serve as a continuing avenue for close cooperation and communication.
4. Observing that e-parliament facilitates the way for the public to access information amidst a new political and cultural environment in the rapidly changing era of informatization, the Forum agreed to continue to cooperate and share experiences in order to develop into a mature democracy.
5. Sharing the view that parliaments and their support organizations are essential in responding to a dynamic legislative environment and close and comprehensive cooperation among parliamentary support organizations contributes to building professionalism, the Forum agreed to review ways to facilitate people-to-people exchanges and technological collaboration, including joint operation of training programs.
6. Concurring that parliamentary cooperation can be integral to discuss issues of common concern and promote substantive exchanges and cooperation, Secretaries General resolved to continue to provide policy support to strengthen exchanges among parliamentary leaders and inter-parliamentary councils and groups.
7. Observing that the Forum provided a new opportunity to share experiences and learn good practices and to foster substantive parliamentary cooperation for institutional development and enhanced Secretariat capability, Secretaries General agreed to further the discussion and host the Forum on a regular basis.
8. Acknowledging benefits of the exchanges shared in Seoul, the Forum expressed its appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and the secretariat led by Hon. PARK Kye Dong for the magnificent arrangements surrounding this Forum.