

Canada - Japan  
Inter-Parliamentary Group



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**REPORT of the DELEGATION**  
**TO THE**  
**ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE ON**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (APPCED)**  
**FIRST APPCED PARLIAMENTARIANS WORKSHOP**  
**SEOUL, KOREA**  
**SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2006**

# Report

## **On its First APPCED Parliamentarians Workshop**

The Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) held its first Parliamentarian Workshop from September 1 to September 3, 2006, in Seoul, Korea. As Vice-President of APPCED, Mr. Bryon Wilfert, M.P., P.C. was the Canadian delegate who was invited to participate at this workshop. During his visit in Korea, Mr. Wilfert also had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, H.E., Han Mycong Sook and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade H.E., Ban Ki-moon to discuss environmental and trade issues.

The three day workshop was attended by a range of Asia-Pacific parliamentarians, representatives from NGOs and experts of over 20 countries. The focal point of the APPCED workshop was to deliberate on the important issue of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how to achieve them by the deadline of 2015.

## **Purpose of Workshop**

The purpose of the workshop was twofold, in which it was intended to implement the Millennium Development Goals and to promote cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Essentially it aimed to provide a medium in which regional partnerships in the Asia Pacific region could be forged by parliamentarians, where they could exchange their initiatives for poverty reduction, while proposing and discussing the future direction and plans of each nation's development strategy. The workshop also included in-depth review and evaluation on the progress of the MDGs and the efforts and policies made by the global community for poverty eradication in developing countries. The overall goal was to strengthen cooperation between nations on environment and development within the Asia-Pacific region.

## **Brief Summary of APPCED**

APPCED was established in 1993 and since then it has held twelve General Assemblies which has greatly contributed towards greater awareness for parliamentarians and the citizens of the member states on environmental issues and coming up with viable solutions.

## **Detailed Outline of Program**

The structure of the workshop was divided into four main sessions which included both a presentation made by experts followed by a panel discussion by parliamentarians. This particular workshop allocated two sessions on environmental issues. The overall aim was to find a consensus between legislators around the globe to develop sound and sustainable policies, in which these MDGs can be realistically achieved by 2015.

Mr. Wilfert facilitated the session on the Role of the Parliamentarians for joint goals and made a closing address to all the workshop members.

The sessions were based on the following themes:

1. **Environment and MDG** presented by Mr. Kim. Chan-Woo, Senior Coordinator for Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Korea.

Presentation on: *“Environment and MDGs”*

- It was found that there is a close relationship between environmental sustainability and the MDGs in which environmental degradation can both directly and indirectly affect the goals
- The presentation also discussed the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis and it was suggested that we must advance the turning point
- There were two policy instruments recommended which could contribute to environmental sustainability:
  - i. introduce eco-taxes
  - ii. eliminate environmental harmful subsidies (EHS)

2. **Development and Environmental Policy** presented by Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head, Ozone Action Programme, UNEP and Dr. Kwak Il-Chyun, Professor Kyung Won University, Korea.

Presentation on *“How the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) contribute to MDGs: Case study of Montreal Protocol”*

- The 1987 Montreal Protocol illustrates the potential role of governments to set up responsive policies and that of industry to invent and to adapt to change
- The main challenge of the Montreal Protocol was to phase out Ozone Depleting substances and the solution was to prevent the dangerous incidents of UV rays
- Essentially through this initiative it would meet some of the MDGs and the Montreal Protocol’s success is attributed to the partnerships it has created
- Ultimately parliamentarians can facilitate government policy-making to implement MEAs

Presentation on *“Too little effort has been spent defining environmentally sustainable solutions for attaining the MDGs.”*

- Environmental and sustainable aspects are not prioritized in MDG implementation, as environmental dimensions are often overlooked by most poverty reduction strategies
- Poverty and environment issues must be addressed simultaneously and environmentally sustainable solutions contribute to building long-term resilience and reducing risks in the future
- Recommended solutions to meet the MDGs include:
  - i. water needed for production

- ii. sustainable sanitation
- iii. energy services

**3. MDG and International Cooperation** presented by Richard Bridle, Deputy Regional Director, East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF.

Presentation on “*The Millennium Development Goals and international cooperation in Asia-Pacific*”

- It has been noted that there is some progress in the countries of Asia and the Pacific but further progress is needed
- There is the issue of leadership, increasing investment, tackling inequality and disparity and compliance in which standards and accountability are required
- Furthermore, it is vital that parliamentarians are properly informed and that they ensure that the executive is meeting their promises.

**4. Role of Parliamentarians for joint goals** presented by Mr. Rajendre Shende Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director, AFPPD.

Presentation on: “*Parliamentarian forum on MEAs Related to Atmospheric Cluster: UNEP’s Catalytic Role.*”

- Parliamentarians represent the potential people’s power for action (the link)
- MEAs are the key legal instruments to address the global environmental issues, parliamentarians can act as the initiators, facilitators and custodians to ensure for adequate enforcement and compliance measures
- There were key recommendations listed:
  - i. Greater domestic measure and more cohesive regional cooperation is required to combat environmental problems
  - ii. clearer role of legal and institutional mechanisms to combat atmospheric issues like ozone depletion and climate change etc...

Presentation on: “*Parliamentarians for Sustainable Environment*”

- It was found that issues of sustainable environment is directly linked to population issues in which population growth is increasing demand for water
- There is a lack of access to safe water supply and sanitation
- Parliamentarians are actors in support of good governance and must be given facilities and funding to help them perform their monitoring, capacity for the development of environmental laws, able to develop guidelines on enforcement of laws and agreements

- The fundamental problem is the lack of institutional capacity and that there is no access to specialized and independent expertise

Following each presentation, were comprehensive panel discussions which consisted of delegates from Fiji, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Japan, Kazakhstan, Tonga, Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Palau, India and Canada.

In addition to the orders of business, the delegates attended a welcoming dinner hosted by Hon. Won, Hye Young, President of Executive Committee of APPCED, and a luncheon hosted by H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade whereby Mr. Wilfert had the opportunity to discuss a wide-range of bi-lateral issues as well as strategic concerns in North Asia. Mr. Wilfert was also invited to a dinner at the Official Residence of Prime Minister Han MyCong Sook, in which he had the opportunity to discuss the current state of Free Trade negotiations between Canada and Korea, on investment, environmental issues and on the North Korean missile issue.

## **Conclusion**

The first APPCED Parliamentarians Workshop proved to be a useful and constructive opportunity where delegates were able to exchange ideas. It was collectively agreed that a practice approach would be taken in which, the sharing of information through a web site and other avenues to assist parliamentarians in working with their respective governments is required. It is a privilege for the Canadian Parliament to have representation at this workshop and as Vice-president of APPCED; it provides an opportunity for Canadian values to be incorporated in this global dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Marie-P. Poulin, Senator  
Co-Chair  
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary  
Group

Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P.  
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary  
Group

## Travel Costs

Association: Canada-Japan Inter-parliamentary Group

Activity: First Parliamentarian Workshop of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians  
Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED)

Destination: Seoul, Korea

Dates: September 1 to 3, 2006

Members of the House of Commons: Mr. Bryon Wilfert, P.C. M.P.

**Transportation: \$5,302.00**

**Accomodation:**

**Hospitality:**

**Per Diems: \$285.73**

**Official Gifts:**

**Miscellaneous:**

**Total: \$5,537.95**