



Canada - China Legislative Association  
Association législative Canada - Chine



Canada - Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group  
Groupe interparlementaire Canada - Japon

**Report of the Canadian Delegation  
14th Annual Assembly of the  
Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment  
and Development (APPCED)**

**Canada-China Legislative Association and  
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group**

**Koror, Palau  
November 17 – 19, 2009**

The delegation of members of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group and the Canada-China Legislative Association participated in the 14th Annual Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) held in Koror, Palau from November 17 - 19, 2009.

# Report

From the Senate: Hon. Paul Massicotte, Senator and Hon. Michel Rivard, Senator.

From the House of Commons: Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., MP (Leader of the delegation) and Mr. Merv Tweed, M.P.

Staff: Ms. Elizabeth Kingston, Delegation Secretary.

The Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P., led the Canadian parliamentary delegation that participated in the 14th Annual Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) held in Koror, Palau from November 17 to 19, 2009.

Delegates from 9 parliaments attended the 14th Assembly.

The Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) was established by the Korean Parliament in June 1993. APPCED is designed to provide ample opportunities to share ideas, experiences and policies in order to enhance legislative activities for sustainable development within its member Parliaments. The aim of APPCED is to stress the importance of environmental protection and the maintenance of ecological balance throughout the Asia - Pacific region.

The Conference, which is the only parliamentary conference dedicated to the environment and development, is held every year and is composed of the member parliaments of 46 countries.

The theme of the 14th Assembly was: climate change and alternative energy development.

In addition to attending a meeting of the executive and the presentation of country papers from the participating countries, delegates attended the following presentations:

- Short Term Economic Impact of Traditional Energy Choices
- Economic Opportunities in Investing in Alternative Energy
- Long-term Impact of Climate Change on Environmental and Economic Security

The Canadian delegation gave a presentation on climate change and alternative energy development in Canada.

The Conference was an opportunity for parliamentarians to hold lively discussions and resulted in the adoption of the Palau Declaration. The text of the declaration adopted is set out in Appendix A.

It should be noted that the Palau Conference conferred on its President the Honourable Won Hye Young the mandate to present the Palau Declaration at the upcoming world conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

In addition to attending the conference itself, the delegates held bilateral meetings with the following countries: Malaysia, Kiribati, China, and Korea.

### **Malaysia Bilateral Meeting:**

The delegation congratulated the Malaysian delegates in agreeing to host the 15<sup>th</sup> APPCED conference in Malaysia. Both sides agreed on the importance of the deepening friendship between Canada and Malaysia, bolstered by its common stance on Burma / Myanmar, growing trade relations, mutual efforts in combatting international terrorism and support of the ASEAN Parliamentary Association. Moreover, it was noted that Canada is an important partner for Malaysia in its support of climate change, transportation and education. Specifically, the Malaysian delegation noted the significant investment made by Malaysia in improving its transportation infrastructure while implementing alternative energy means to fuel its transport sector.

### **Kiribati Bilateral Meeting:**

The Republic of Kiribati is an island nation and part of the island states of Micronesia. It is composed of 32 atolls and one raised coral island, dispersed over 3,500,000 square kilometres. During the APPCED meeting, Kiribati made a passionate plea about its very survival, given the rising sea levels in the South Pacific. Given the current rising level, it is expected that the state will not longer exist in 50 years time. The delegation members stated that the youth of Kiribati are moving off the island, migrating for the most part to Australia and New Zealand, as the economy no longer permits a viable future for its citizens. The economy has virtually come to a standstill, only fuelled by the purchase of fishing licences and the import duty generated from import duties due to flags of convenience for ships. Moreover, the delegation members stated that Kiribati experiences much erosion largely due to excessive agricultural development, fishing and coral reef damage. The Republic would like to look to Canada to assist it in its environmental plight, which severely impacts the economy.

### **China Bilateral Meeting:**

The Chinese delegation members stated that China was most pleased to be receiving Prime Minister Harper in early December, and stated the importance China attaches to the bilateral relationship between Canada and China. The upcoming year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and both sides remarked on the great strides made in the maturing relationship especially in the areas, of trade, technology transfers, environmental standards, culture and education. While China has bilateral ties with over 170 countries, the Chinese delegation remarked on the fact that Canada was the first country with which bilateral parliamentary exchanges were initiated. Both sides remarked on the success of the Canada-China Legislative Association in fostering the relationship. They also noted the differences in opinion that do arise, particularly in the area of human rights.

### **South Korea Bilateral Meeting:**

Both Korea and Canada remarked on the strong friendship that exists between the two countries. The Canadian delegation members congratulated the leader of the Korean delegation, the Honourable Won Hye Young on his election as president of APPCED. The issue of a potential free trade agreement with Korea was discussed, with the Canadian side noting that the fact that Hyundai had not yet invested in Canada is an impediment to the talks. The issue of the import of Canadian beef was also of issue in

the discussion. The Canadian delegation urged Korea to look at the science of beef production in Canada which ensures its safety to consumers. The issue of the six party talks was discussed and Korea expressed its appreciation to Canada for its support of the the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Appreciation was also expressed to Canada for its favourable treatment of North Korean refugees, as well as the many Korean students who choose Canada for their studies at its educational institutions.

### **Conclusion**

As a member of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED), the Conference gives Canadian parliamentarians an opportunity to engage in dialogue with their counterparts from other countries on important issues relating to the environment and development. The issue of climate change and its impact on the environment and economic security was particularly highlighted at this 14<sup>th</sup> Conference, demonstrating in dramatic terms the plight of those islands in the South Pacific region whose very existence and livelihood is threatened by rising sea levels.

A summary of the expenses incurred for this activity is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Delegation

## Appendix A



PALAU DECLARATION ON THE THEME OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT  
17 - 19 NOVEMBER 2009  
KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

We, parliamentarians representing countries from the Asia-Pacific Region, at the 14th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) in Koror, Palau from 17th to 19th November 2009, having discussed in detail the issues related to climate change and alternative energy development;

Reaffirming our convictions that action on climate change is essential for the protection of human life and that alternative energy will spur new industries and innovation across industries, thereby promoting economic growth throughout the world;

Remembering the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which set forth objectives towards reductions of emissions of Green House Gases (GHG), but did so in a principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

Recognizing the Kyoto Protocol, whereby members agreed to legally bind themselves to take measures to reduce their emissions of Carbon Dioxide (C02) and other GHGs in the commitment period 2008 to 2012;

Mindful that a new generation of agreements is needed to guide the world towards more sustainable energy development, and that members of the Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed upon a roadmap to a new climate change agreement at the Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007;

Recognizing also the Manado Ocean Declaration which was adopted by the World Ocean Conference in Manado, Indonesia, 11-14 May 2009 whereby the Ministers and the Heads of delegations at the World Ocean Conference discussed threats to the ocean, the effects of climate change on the ocean, and the role of the ocean in climate change;

Recognizing that long-term cooperative action under the Convention should accelerate "actions to address the adverse impacts of climate change that are now occurring and will increase without aggressive intervention;

Aware that energy production and consumption is a major cause of GHG, and that alternative energy can reduce emissions of C02 and other environmentally destructive gases;

Mindful that much of the Asia-Pacific is vulnerable to the risks of global warming, as most of the major cities and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific region are in low-lying, coastal regions near the Pacific Ocean, leaving them vulnerable to physical destruction if sea levels rise;

Mindful that many nations in the Asia-Pacific face rapidly growing populations with outdated or minimal infrastructure, and that much of the population of these nations are living in poverty;

Recognizing that green technologies are creating a new generation of industries whose development will require skilled labor to develop and maintain this new wave of infrastructure. Development and deployment of Green Technologies could allow Asia-Pacific cities to build 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure, in the process preventing the physical destruction that will be inevitably result from climate change, and employing people in new industries;

Recognizing further that the urban centers of Asia are becoming world-renowned centers of technological innovation and manufacturing, and that Green Technologies should be the next cycle of innovation that leads to the further prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region;

Do hereby Resolve to:

Promote the research and development of alternative energy technologies as a vital part of protecting the environment and providing for sustainable economic growth;

Promote cooperation between countries in the Asia-Pacific region to provide for energy needs and for transfer of alternative energy technologies, to allow emerging technologies to be widely distributed;

Ensure the national capacity building of all members to develop modern infrastructure and take advantage of the unique capacities and challenges of each nation to generate, as well as utilize, appropriate alternative energy technology;

Recognize the individual vulnerabilities that each nation faces in confronting climate change;

Enhance each nation's workforce by ensuring that educational and training programs are in place to provide for the skilled labor that energy systems require;

Anticipate the need to identify and strengthen the appropriate institutional, financial and legal mechanisms to ensure that alternative energy development serve as a catalyst for sustainable development.

## TRAVEL EXPENSES

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-China Legislative Association / Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	14th Annual Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED)
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Koror, Palau
<b>DATES</b>	November 17-19, 2009
<b>SENATORS</b>	Hon. Paul Massicotte, Senator, Hon. Michel Rivard, Senator
<b>M.P.s</b>	Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P. , Mr. Mervin Tweed, M.P.
<b>STAFF</b>	Ms. Elizabeth Kingston, Secretary to the delegation
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	\$57,930.94
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$3,888.46
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	\$49.70
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	\$1,642.09
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	\$760.75
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	\$118.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,390.47</b>