



ASIA AFRICA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ASIAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE



Strengthening the role of parliament in the South-South Cooperation to promote world peace and prosperity

Asian-African Conference Commemoration 2015

Asian-African Conference 1955

Asian-African Conference in 1955 marked an important milestone in the history of Asian and African countries. The delegates from 29 participating countries gathered in Bandung, Indonesia to discuss peace, security, and economic development in the midst of emerging problems in many parts of the world.

The problems were mostly caused by the two blocs which had different interests and ideologically contradicted. The blocs were known as Western Bloc and Eastern Bloc. Each of them tried to persuade support from the countries in Asia and Africa which was known as “the Cold War”. The world situation, especially in Asia and Africa, was also affected by colonialism in various forms. In addition, some independent Asian-African countries suffered conflicts that existed as a result of colonialism and divide et impera politic. At the time, the United Nations was unable to tackle those problems.

The problems become the major reasons for the governments of Burma (Myanmar), India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to organize the Asian-African Conference (AAC). They invited countries from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to craft a new ethos of relationship among nations which was called "The Spirit of Bandung". The Leaders at the AAC also declared "The Ten Principles of Bandung" that reflects the commitment of nations to practice tolerance and to live peace with one another as good neighbors.

New Asian-African Strategic Partnership 2005

Fifty years after the conference, Indonesia successfully hosted the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference. The Bandung Spirit was finally revived; and plans were made for future cooperation between the two continents. All participants who gathered on April 22-24, 2005 in Jakarta and Bandung were convinced that the Bandung Spirit continued to be a solid foundation to nurture better relations among Asian and African countries and to resolve global issues. The commemoration led to the creation of New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

Formally signed by the summit's co-hosts, Indonesia and South Africa, the Declaration of NAASP serves as the blueprint for collaboration of two continents in addressing poverty and underdevelopment that considered as major problems in Asia and Africa. It was an accord which aimed at strengthening multilateralism, achieving economic growth, promoting global peace and security, and pursuing a path of sustainable growth between the two regions. Besides that, the Leaders also endorsed the outcome documents that addressed poverty eradication, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the development of tsunami early warning system.

Declaration

A 10-point "declaration on promotion of world peace and cooperation," incorporating the principles of the United Nations Charter was adopted unanimously:

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations;
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations;
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small;
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country;
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself, singly or collectively, in conformity with the charter of the United Nations;
6. (a) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve any particular interests of the big powers;
(b) Abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries;
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country;
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice, in conformity with the charter of the United Nations;
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation;
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

The final Communiqué of the Conference underscored the need for developing countries to loosen their economic dependence on the leading industrialized nations by providing technical assistance to one another through the exchange of experts and technical assistance for developmental projects, as well as the exchange of technological know-how and the establishment of regional training and research institutes.