

**Inaugural Meeting of Northeast Asian
Chapter(NEAPAC)**

2003. 5. 25 28

Seoul, Korea

NEAPAC

. Outcome of the NEAPAC Inaugural Meeting

1. Date and Venue

- The NEAPAC Inaugural Meeting was held in Seoul, Korea from May 25 (Sunday) to 28 (Wednesday), 2003, incorporating Members of Parliaments from four member countries of the regional chapter, namely, Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia.

2. Participants

- The inaugural meeting was participated by 22 former and current MPs in all, including 18 MPs from Korea, 1 from Japan and 2 from Mongolia, out of 28 potential attendees, including 2-3 from China, 18 from Korea, 4 from Japan and 3 from Mongolia. Chinese parliamentarians were not able to attend the meeting due to SARS.
- Also present at the meeting were Mr. John G. Williams, Member of the Canadian House of Commons and Chairman of GOPAC Headquarters, and Ambassadors and Ministers from Japan, Mongolia and Canada in Korea.

3. Agreed Points

- Attendees adopted the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of NEAPAC, incorporating the Preamble and 18 Articles.
- Pursuant to the adopted constitution, attendees elected Mr. Yong Hwan Kim as both the President of Board of Directors and the Chair of Executive Committee of NEAPAC. They further agreed to locate the NEAPAC Secretariat at the office of PFAC, the Korean Parliamentarians' Forum Against Corruption, whose address and contact numbers are as follows:

- **Parliamentarians' Forum Against Corruption (PFAC)**

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- Attendees also agreed that each member nation—Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia—shall elect two Board members and a few Advisors, plus a Vice Chair of the Executive Committee from Mongolia. Each delegation agreed to subsequently inform the NEAPAC Secretariat of the respective officer as determined, upon consultations with other parliamentarians in their nation.

<NEAPAC Board of Directors>

- The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eight (8) members, incorporating two members from each nation. The following is a list of those members as confirmed.
 - **President:** Mr. Yong Hwan Kim (Korea)
 - **Board Members:** Two from the Mongolian State Great Hural (Mr. D. Demberel & Mr. N. Enkhbold), two from the Japanese Diet (TBD), two from the Chinese National People’s Congress (TBD) and two from the Korean National Assembly (TBD)

<NEAPAC Executive Committee>

- The Executive Committee shall be comprised of a Chair (1), a Vice Chair (1), a few Secretaries and a Treasurer (1). The following is those officers as confirmed.
 - **Chair:** Mr. Yong Hwan Kim
 - **Vice Chair:** Dr. S. Oyun (Mongolia)
 - **Secretaries:** Three (3) MPs from the Korean National Assembly (TBD) and one (1) from the Japanese Diet (TBD)
 - **Treasurer:** A Korean MP (TBD)
- **Advisors:** Mr. J. Byambadorj, Vice Chairman of the Mongolian State Great Hural, and MPs from Korea, Japan and China (TBD)
- Additional election of the GOPAC Headquarters Board Members:
 - Pursuant to the GOPAC Constitution Article 8, the official launch of NEAPAC allows for two more board members from the said regional chapter in addition to Mr. Yong Hwan Kim, who is already a member.

As such, attendees agreed that one from both China and Japan shall be newly elected.

- In addition, from a protocol perspective, NEAPAC participants visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in the morning of May 26, and took part in a luncheon hosted by the Vice Speaker of the National Assembly. Subsequently, in the evening of the same day, a dinner was hosted by the Korean Prime Minister in honor of NEAPAC participants.

. Appendix

- The following is the transcript of those speeches delivered at the NEAPAC Inaugural Meeting on May 26, which includes: 1) Welcoming Remarks by Chairman Yong Hwan Kim; 2) Congratulatory Remarks by GOPAC Chairman John Williams; 3) Additional Remarks by GOPAC Chairman John Williams; 4) List of participants in the inaugural meeting; and 5) The Constitution, Rules and Regulations of NEAPAC.

1. Welcoming Remarks, Mr. Yong Hwan Kim

Excellencies, and fellow parliamentarians,

Today marks a significant starting point for all of us, as the GOPAC North-East Asian Chapter is officially launched in Seoul. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the delegation from Japan, Mongolia and Korea for your most valued participation. My particular thanks go to Mr. John Williams, Chair of the GOPAC Headquarters, for gracing today's meeting with even more significance.

Today's globalized world requires transformation and reform of all nations, including those in the Asian region accustomed to Confucian culture. And this is what the Northeast Asian nation's aggressive anti-corruption drive is all about - an effort to adapt themselves to the evolving history. The motivation behind founding the GOPAC North-East Asian Chapter is to stand at the forefront of the change to establish a strong defense line against the worldwide phenomenon of corruption. In this regard, I believe today's meeting is a first step in the right direction.

Corruption is the humanity's common enemy that lived with us throughout the history. This is what makes its eradication even daunting. And this is where our challenge, commitment, passion and dedication comes in. Now more than ever, our courage and conviction is urgently called for.

It has often been said in Korea that May is the 'Queen of seasons'. Let me add another name to the month of May-"the Month of Anti-Corruption" - with a number of international conferences aimed at driving out corruption taking place here in Seoul. I am convinced that, by taking place in tandem with other international anti-corruption conferences on both government and private-sector levels, the inaugural meeting of the GOPAC North-East Asian Chapter, incorporating parliamentarians in the region, would be an excellent opportunity not only to put the GOPAC on the global anti-corruption map, but also to reinforce our commitment towards eliminating corruption.

In closing, I hope your stay in Korea will be pleasant and meaningful. Thank you very much.

2. Congratulatory Remarks, Mr. John G. Williams, Chair of GOPAC

Your Excellencies, Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me say it is indeed a great pleasure for me to join you this afternoon as you start down a new road, hopefully a historic road that we come together as parliamentarians to fight corruption. I acknowledge the two former parliamentarians who are also amid us today. And the reason that the Constitution makes room for former parliamentarians is because the elder statesmen have much to offer in wisdom and guidance. And for that reason we ensured that there was place for them at the table in order for them to provide their knowledge and assistance to us as parliamentarians. And of course the Constitution is also open to those who have been democratically elected but denied their right to take their seat for some political reason, be it dictatorship or whatever, that they also would have a voice at this table as well.

And we're all leaders. We're all leaders because we were elected to represent those who chose us to speak on their behalf in the parliaments of our nations. And we're

also leaders too because we have recognized ourselves that there is a serious role to play collectively to fight corruption. And GOPAC is a vision that wants to ensure that parliament plays its role as the institution of accountability. Because we can all pay lip service to democracy. But what is democracy? Democracy is more than just elections every four or five years. Democracy is more than just choosing someone who goes after the national parliament and does whatever they do and comes back and seeks reelection sometime later. Democracy means accountable government. And how do we keep government accountable? We keep it accountable through parliament. We're all familiar with the standard pyramid of an organizational structure with workers at the bottom, leading up towards the President or the Prime Minister or Chief Executive Officer at the top of the pyramid structure. We all know that one. But who holds the people at the top accountable? And over the centuries we have evolved a system of democratic government that stays above the Prime Minister and the President and the cabinet, sits the parliament. So there is another triangle that is inverted and sits on top of the one that we normally know. And that consists of the parliament, and above the parliament are the people. The people, through being educated and informed, choose their members of parliament. They delegate to us that responsibility of ensuring that the government is accountable.

Now, what has happened over the years is that parliament no longer sits above the President, the Prime Minister and the cabinet, but is somewhere off to the side so that when the President or the Prime Minister wants a piece of legislation, he expects the parliament will deliver. And therefore parliament has lost its supremacy. And now in many countries it is subordinate to the Prime Minister or the President.

And I use three examples. There is the Ukraine, there is Zimbabwe, and there is Peru. All three have elected Presidents. All three have elected parliaments and legislators. And in all three cases the Presidents are implicated in murder. And nothing is happening. Why? It is not a fault of the police, it is a fault of the legislature. Legislature either doesn't have the power or will not use its power to hold the Executive accountable. And that applies not just to murder but also to corruption. And when the money in the billions disappears from the economy, those who have no political power are totally and completely impoverished.

Mr. Wolfenson, the President of the World Bank has pointed out that 1.2 billion people today, almost a quarter of the population of the entire world, live on less than \$2 a day.

And that is because the money is stolen from their economies, and not allowed to develop the infrastructure of clean water, shelter, health care, housing that we take for granted. They don't even know what that is, because they have no political power. And because they have no political power, they can't effect the change.

Parliaments work through openness and accountability. Parliaments work through keeping the people and the population totally informed. GOPAC is an organization to find the parliamentarians. Because there are some in every parliament it doesn't matter how corrupt the parliament is there is always one or more who thinks things should be done properly. And this organization is to reach out to these parliamentarians and let them know that they don't stand alone even if it is difficult in their own countries that they don't stand alone. It's also to educate parliamentarians about what their responsibilities are. The responsibilities of parliamentarians boil down to just basically four simple and fundamental things: 1) We approve the legislation that the government wants. They come to parliament, lay the legislation before us and say may we introduce this program?; 2) They come to parliament to approve the taxation policies, so they can raise the fund to run the country. They ask for our approval; 3) They come to parliament and ask for the authority to spend money through the estimates process; and 4) They account to parliament. We approve the legislation; We approve the taxation policy; We approve the spending; and They account to us. That tells us that we are the institution that holds them accountable. And when we fail, the country fails.

So I'm glad that we are here today. As is said, it's not only how did you say it Mr. Kim May is the queen of months in Korea, but I think today in the month of May is a start of a road that's going to be a long road into history. As we're gathered around this table as parliamentarians, we will be the leaders that the people who elected us expect us to be honest, accountable, working with integrity, ensuring that we put in place the rules of integrity.

And to take on the big challenges: 1) Money laundering We already have a process that we're going to institute towards money laundering; 2) Election finance If people are corrupt before they get to the legislature, will they be honest after they arrive? Perhaps not. So we need openness and transparency and integrity in election finance; 3) We need to think about Codes of Conduct for parliamentarians to ensure that we do act with integrity, that the people who elect us can feel we're acting on their behalf with integrity. And that is why there's much to be done.

But as I said at lunch time today, Chairman Kim, that a journey of thousand miles starts with the first step. And under your leadership today, we're going to take that first step.

Therefore, I would like to thank each and every one of you for coming here today, for making the commitment that there is a better world, that the 1.2 billion people out there can have some hope, because we in this room have that responsibility of delivering that hope and that prosperity to them.

So I wish you well, Mr. Chairman, in your deliberations. And I congratulate you in assembling this group. And I'm sure we're going to go from success to success under your leadership. Thank you very much.

3. Additional Comments, John G. Williams, Chair of GOPAC

Well first, I'm like to congratulate each and every one of you for the big step you have taken here today. And I'm also like to congratulate you, Mr. Kim on the leadership that you've provided today in order to bring this to a successful accomplishment.

And I do understand that our colleague from Japan has an airplane to catch, and as one who flies back and forth across Canada frankly every week, I know what it's like to be running for airplane all the time. But if you can allow me a couple of minutes where do we go from here? Now that we have an organization, now we have some commitment, where do we go from here?

Let me give you a couple of ideas that we've done in Latin America. Latin American Chapter is viable and well financed through the World Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS). The Organization of American States is an institution that was created by the governments of the Western Hemisphere, and has a mandate under the Anti-Corruption Convention by them in 1991 in San Tiago, Chile to fight corruption. But the OAS is a bureaucracy and a technical support organization that has been

working for ten years or more to battle and fight corruption and to promote new ways to enhance transparency of legislators. They now welcome the opportunity of coming together with the Latin American Chapter. So, we have a full-blown organization with a huge budget that has all the technical support and the capacity to analyze legislation, to monitor legislation, to monitor progress right throughout the South and Central America, and to provide that complete technical underpinnings of the organization.

I'm not aware of one similar example here in Asia. But we're also looking at that exactly same concept of the European Union, which again has a huge capacity, unlimited capacity virtually and they have taken upon themselves a mandate to improve governance in Eastern Europe so that Eastern Europe can join the European Union. Africa, again, does not have a clear organization with the same capacity. But Canada, under its NEAPAC initiative, we're decided that we're going to put \$500 million into African development over the next number of years. I think that Canada can be the lead of consortium to provide that technical support. Because parliamentarians by themselves don't have the resources, in terms of capacity and in terms of technical expertise. So we're looking for marriages that will work the EU and the Eastern Europe, Organization of American States, and Latin America. And therefore, we must find a consortium, or an organization of that caliber who is to support the NEAPAC. It is the vision that we have.

And on a global basis, we're looking at global initiatives on money laundering, not to compete with others, but to provide the political support to the initiatives that are currently undertaken by the United Nations, the financial action task force in OECD, Council of Europe, IMF, the World Bank, INTOSAI, which is the organization of supreme auditors institution, and now have decided they wanted to be involved in money laundering all these bureaucratic institutions, technical organizations, will work so much better if they joined forced with the political organizations.

And that's what GOPAC can do. We can be that organization that brings together the huge capacity of intellect and work that has been done by people whose knowledge is better than ours. But we are the ones who are the politicians, and can make it happen. So, make that link in that marriage between those who have the capacity but can't get it achieved and us who can get it achieved but don't have the capacity. If we can bring these two together, we can go a long way.

So, I wish you well. I know you'll do well. And I know you have a plane to catch, so I'll stop right here, and congratulate you all again. Thank you.

4. Participating Members of NEAPAC Inaugural Meeting

From Japan

Mr. Kazuo Inoue(Japan, Democratic Party of Japan)

From Mongolia

Mr. Damdingyin Demberel (Mongolia, Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party)

Mr. Nyamaa Enkhbold(Mongolia, Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party)

From Korea

Mr. Yong Hwan Kim(President of PFAC)

Mr. Byung Yul Choe(Advisor, PFAC)

Mr. Sang Cheon Park(Advisor, PFAC)

Mr. In Koo Lee, ex-mp(Advisor, PFAC)

Mr. Kang Too Lee(Vice President, PFAC)

Mr. Sye Kyun Chung(Vice President, PFAC)

Mr. Kang Rae Lee(Chair of Policy & Legal Research Committee, PFAC)

Mr. Oh Eul Kwon(Secretary, PFAC)

Ms. Jae Hee Jeon(Secretary, PFAC)

Mr. Hee Ryong Won(Secretary, PFAC)

Mr. Young Se Kwon(Treasurer, PFAC)

Mr. Chang Hee Kang(Grand National Party)

Mr. Hun Suk Song(Millennium Democratic Party)

Mr. Boo Kyum Kim(Grand National Party)

Mr. You Chul Won(Grand National Party)

Mr. Ju Young Lee(Grand National Party)

Ms. Bae Sook Cho((Millennium Democratic Party)

Mr. Op Kyo Song ex-mp(Member, PFAC)