



# **Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

## **Secretariat**

### **The Text of the Speech**

**By His Excellency Dr. M.H. Nejad-Husseinian**

**The Distinguished Secretary-General of the APA**

**At the Second Plenary Session of the APA**

**Tehran, November 2007**

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**In the Name of God, The Compassionate, the Most Merciful**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to welcome you all once again and renew my gratitude for addressing this noble assembly. I look forward to listening to your thoughtful speeches and taking part in your lively discussions today and tomorrow.

The program and agenda items which have been prepared for the APA Plenary, are the outcome of unreserved efforts by all distinguished delegates from the Member Parliaments who participated in the September meeting and contributed invaluable to their improvement. I appreciate frequent and the continuous contacts with the Secretariat by the Member Parliaments.

The APA Secretariat also owes the progress of its initiatives and activities to the full support of the esteemed President of the APA, Dr. Haddad Adel, and the vice-Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Abu-Torabi Fard. I am also grateful to all and every one of the Iranian Parliamentarian

delegates and to all my colleagues at the Secretariat for their hard work and a job well-done.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates:

In my statement at the Executive Council session, I briefly touched upon the steps taken by the Secretariat over the past nine months in order to fulfill the tasks assigned to it by the APA President in line with the mandates authorized by the First Plenary of the APA. Here, at the presence of this august Plenary, I would like to address certain challenges facing the APA from a broader perspective and propose certain ways and means to meet them.

The great cause that has brought us all here together is the cause of consolidation of integrative relations among Asian Nations. This is not an illusive but rather a real goal. Like any other goal and objective, achieving the integration in Asia would require certain conditions and face certain challenges.

The conditions for sustainable, stable and integrative relations in Asia may be categorized in two distinct groupings of subjective and objective conditions. The subjective conditions refer to the logic and rationale embedded in our vision for the Asian integration. By contrast, the objective conditions would allude to certain factual circumstances and existing capabilities required for practical aspects of integration.

Regional and international integration is not a commodity that can be imported from outside. It is rather a multi-factor and multi-faceted process which requires prolong and continuous cooperation. To achieve concrete goals in this process, we have to deal with both subjective and objective conditions.

To overcome subjective obstacles, first of all, we need to state out our visions as to the Asian integration in order to move towards further harmony in this respect. All leaders, elites, experts, and intellectuals who care about Asia should be engaged in developing a logical vision for Asian integration. A vision which should contain a convincing rationale

for effective participation in the process of Asian integration and a clear message contributing to the improvement of living standards and prosperity of all in Asia.

Once a viable vision for Asian integration is stated, proper strategies and efficient missions have to be developed for its accomplishment. We should embark then on a campaign for promoting our vision of an integrated Asia through public awareness, thoughtful debates, educational programs, media coverage, inspirational leaders, influential businesses, stimulating art works, and the like.

The objective conditions of the Asian integration point to actual economic, political, cultural, as well as social potentials and capabilities materializing the trends of integration across borders. Fortunately enough, we have immense resources available here. Given its vast geographical span; large population with talented and skillful human resources; enormous oil and gas reserves; impressive economic growth, remarkable social and cultural institutions; efficient networks of communication; and powerful political will to maintain peace and security; Asia is outstanding in every respect. In fact, all the creative initiatives proposed by APA towards the Asian integration rely on this solid infrastructure in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates:

Besides the aforementioned conditions, the challenges facing the Asian integration in general continue to be mainly in the area of practical steps towards its realization and institutionalization. In order to make its role even more effective, the APA Member Parliaments have to undertake a two-fold initiative. On the one hand they need to reach out to their constituencies in public and private sectors and promote awareness as to their vision and mission with regard to the integration in Asia. On the other hand, they are expected to encourage their respective governments to engage in the process of integration and move towards the formulation of regional initiatives which would ensue by tangible gains and benefits for their countries as well as for the entire region.

Governments, as institutions of power, initiated and pursued the cause of regional integration in Europe. Asia should be proud that this positive initiative in Asia is pioneered and led by its Parliaments, as institutions of people. The APA has been quite successful in managing its organizational transformation from a limited international association to a broad-based regional organization representing civil society in Asia. It should continue to take bold steps towards the ultimate goal of transformation into an Asian Parliament with legislative power for the region. At the same time, it should run a constructive campaign towards more interaction and collaboration among Asian government. The more interaction and coordination among Asian States, the closer is the APA in achieving its goal of integration in Asia.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been a privilege for me to be at the service of the APA as the Secretary-General. I do believe that working with the APA is morally rewarding and worthwhile. I thus look forward to contributing to its cause, the cause of serving the people of Asia, even more in the future.

Thank you.