Articles of Association

Article 1: Purpose
An entity called the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health is hereby established (APPFGH or Forum) under these Articles of Association (Articles) for the purpose of strengthening the role of parliamentarians throughout the Asia-Pacific region in promoting and protecting human health and well-being.

Article 2: Principles
The Members of the Forum acknowledge the following core principles:

2.1 Parliamentarians work to strengthen health governance by developing health policy and enacting health legislation; improving health service delivery through financing and reform; facilitating budget appropriation and mobilizing resources; and accelerating progress towards universal health coverage.

2.2 Parliamentarian powers and duties encompass many health issues, including health systems strengthening; health security in management of outbreaks and emergencies; prevention and control of communicable diseases; prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases; health promotion through the life course, including maternal and child health and vulnerabilities, people with disabilities and older people; environmental protection and the health impacts of climate change; and the social determinants of health, such as poverty, violence, gender, and ethnicity.

2.3 Parliamentarians are increasingly responsible for ensuring that national health policies reinforce global health governance. While countries prioritize health interventions according to national capacities, resources and needs, parliamentarians must also consider the international ramifications of these interventions, especially in the area of governance.

2.4 Parliamentarians recognize that solutions for health will require whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that address
that address the concerns of all stakeholders, considering the complexity of the global health landscape and the many factors that impact health, such as trade, industry, finance, education, agriculture and population movement.

**Article 3 : Objectives**

The Forum’s objectives are:

3.1 To provide a platform for Members as well as international partners to exchange ideas for prioritizing health agendas and promoting sustainable action at the community, national and global levels;

3.2 To promote awareness of the Forum and advocate for health among fellow Parliamentarians;

3.3 To encourage mobilization of greater resources for health;

3.4 To continue expanding the scope of the Forum to other health matters as appropriate under the circumstances.

**Article 4 : Members**

4.1 Membership to the Forum shall initially be open to the 30 countries comprising the Member States of the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

4.2 Eligibility of membership may be expanded to additional countries upon decision of the Forum Assembly.

4.3 An eligible country may become a Member by agreeing to these Articles.

4.3 Each Member shall be represented by a committee within the country’s national parliament in the following order of preference:
(a) committee established for this Forum; or

(b) standing committee for health or its equivalent.

4.4 A Member may withdraw from the Forum for any reason by submitting written notice to the Chair. Withdrawal shall take effect immediately upon receipt of the notice by the Chair.

Article 5 : Assembly of the Forum

5.1 The Assembly of the Forum comprises all Members of the Forum.

5.2 The Assembly holds the following responsibilities:

(a) to assemble for Annual Meetings of the Forum;

(b) to elect the officers of the Bureau of the Forum;

(c) to confer powers and duties upon the Bureau, as necessary;

(d) to designate an entity or entities to serve as Secretariat of the Forum; and

(e) to approve revisions to these Articles, if necessary; and

(f) to make recommendations on future actions by the Forum.

5.3 Where consensus on a decision cannot be reached, the Assembly shall vote as follows:

(a) a quorum of at least one-third of the total number of Members shall be present to initiate the voting process;

(b) a Member may abstain from voting;

(c) the decision shall be made on the basis of a simple majority of the Members present; and

(d) a voting tie shall be broken by an additional vote by the Chair.

Article 6 : Bureau of the Forum
6.1 The Bureau of the Forum consists of the following officers:

(a) Chair;

(b) Chair-Elect; and

(c) Vice-Chair.

6.2 At every Annual Meeting of the Forum, the Assembly shall elect a Member to assume the office of the Chair.

6.3 The elected Member shall assume the office of the Chair as follows:

(a) upon election, the Member shall initially hold the office of Vice-Chair for one year;

(b) for the following year, the Member shall then hold the office of Chair-Elect; and

(c) finally, the Member holds the office of the Chair for one year leading up to and through the Annual Meeting of the Forum in the Member’s country.

6.4 During the term of office, the Chair shall undertake the following responsibilities:

(a) to organize the Annual Meeting of the Forum in the Chair’s home country, including the designation and management of an organizing committee for that purpose;

(b) to nominate an Honorary Chair, if appropriate; and

(c) to exercise any other powers and duties conferred to the office by the Assembly.

6.6 The Chair-Elect and Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair as necessary.

6.7 The Member elected as Chair shall nominate a suitable Parliamentarian to represent the office.
6.8 If the elected Member were to become unable or ineligible to assume the office of the Chair, the Member holding the office of Chair-Elect, or Vice-Chair, shall assume the role.

6.9 If none of the previously elected Members were unable or ineligible to fulfill the responsibilities of the Chair’s office, the Assembly shall elect a new Chair.

Article 7: Secretariat

7.1 The Secretariat may consist of any entity or entities deemed by the Assembly as fit to fulfill the responsibilities, including an intergovernmental organization.

Article 8: Meetings

8.1 The Forum shall convene an Annual Meeting to be hosted by the Chair’s home country.

These Articles were agreed upon by the Parliamentary representatives of the following countries: Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea, at the First Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, held on 2–3 July 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.