



台灣地方議員聯盟

Taiwan Councilors Forum

Origin - Asian Councils Forum (ACF)

(This speech was presented by Lin Chin-chang, then TCF President (2010-2019), at the opening ceremony of the 2nd Asian Councils Forum (ACF) on August 26, 2016 in Taiwan.)

Dear Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of all members of the Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum (TCF)¹, I give you a hearty welcome to Taipei for the 2017 2nd Asian Councils Forum (ACF) held by TCF.

The Asian Councils Forum (ACF) was co-founded by the Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum (TCF), the Japanese Local Councilors Alliance (JLCA), and the [Philippine Councilors League \(PCL\)](#) on August 29, 2015 in Taipei, Taiwan. As pledged by PCL, the initial ACF conference has been held by PCL in Manila, the Philippines in December 2016. In addition to the three co-founders attending the first ACF conference, we also invited a new member from the District Councilors of Hong Kong to the meeting.

Today, in addition to members from the aforementioned four countries, we are glad to know that we have attracted new international members, including [Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities \(FSLGA\)](#) President Seyed Ali Zaheer Moulan, City Councils Chairmen from Tuvalu, S. Korea, and Malaysia and Councilors from Mongolia, as well as Taiwan local councilors, college professors, government officers and businessmen from the private sectors, to the 2nd ACF conference. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for your participation.

Founded in 2010, TCF hosted its first international conference in 2014. The conference counted among its honored guests the [Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies \(CALRE\)](#), the [National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\)](#) and the Japanese Local Councilors Alliance. During the conference, each attendee introduced their respective organization and agreed that the Global Councils Forum (GCF) would be a fixture for each hosting organization's annual meeting. Participation in the GCF is subject to a registration fee, and the hosting organization

¹ Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum has changed its name in 2019 to Taiwan Councils Forum (TCF).



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determines the annual topic. It was further agreed that Taiwan's TCF will host the following GCF at the end of August 2015.

After the 2014 TCF Annual Meeting, we are fortunate that the 2014 CALRE chairwoman invited Taiwan's TCF chairman, president Matsuda of Japan, and the president of NCSL of the United States to attend the 2014 CALRE's Plenary Assembly in Spain at the end of 2014. Due to the election at the time, Taiwan's TCF could not attend the CALRE conference. However, it sent its regards via video message.

On August 29, 2015, TCF held its Global Councils Forum as planned. In addition to CALRE, JLCA, and PCL, TCF also invited NPOs from France, Korea, and China. "Public Participation" was the topic of interest for the 2015 GCF meeting.

Following the Forum, a chief delegate meeting was held (August 30, 2015). CALRE Chairman Cattaneo in the meeting announced the partnership between CALRE and NCSL established earlier in August 2015, and he recommended that Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines establish an Asian Councils Forum (ACF) as a first step, and then CALRE, NCSL, and [União Nacional dos Legisladores e Legislativos Estaduais \(UNALE\)](#) could join the ACF to create the Global Councils Forum (GCF).

PLC National President Maybelyn Fernandez volunteered to host the first Asia Councils Forum in December 2016. According to the commitment, PCL hosted a successful first ACF conference in Metro Manila, Philippines, in December 2016.

As an advocate of a global local councils' alliance, TCF hosted the 2nd ACF in 2017 August. Under the theme of "Living Together in Asia," the 3rd ACF took place in Tokyo, Japan in 2018 by JLCA.

After the 2016 ACF representatives meeting, it was also decided that aside from local council members, private sector members are also encouraged to attend future forums. This is to encourage tourism, trade, and international investment in the participating countries. Private sector members are welcomed to attend as observers upon remittance of registration, transportation, and accommodation fees.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is composed of Parliamentary members from all over the world. The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is basically composed of local mayors from around the world. But to my knowledge, there is no international organization whose members are assembly organizations like CALRE, NCSL, or the Japanese Local Councilors Alliance. We hope this will change, which is



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why we are gathered here today to advocate for the GCF's establishment.

“Rome was not built in a day.” We are writing and creating history. Through the GCF, we hope to bring together CALRE, NCSL, [FCM \(Federation of Canadian Municipalities\)](#), and UNALE, and create an international platform for nations to connect and achieve world peace.

Thank you again for your participation. I wish you all an enjoyable and pleasant stay in Taipei.

TCF President Lin Chin-chang

October 14, 2016