

**Phnom Penh Declaration, Phnom Penh,
June 01, 2013**

We, the youth leaders and representatives of Asian Youth Council from 15 nations namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yemen, gathered here in Phnom Penh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia, a charming city on the bank of the mighty Mekong River. Fortuitously, the inaugural meeting this year coincided with the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC), originally known as United Youth Association for National Salvation of Kampuchea, alongside the Kampuchea United Front for National Salvation, liberated Cambodia from the Genocidal Regime of the Khmer Rouge. This coincidence endowed our own deliberations on civil conflict, political evolution and democratic transition with added seriousness and significance.

The event was graciously hosted by Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia, in collaboration with Asian Youth Council, from May 31 to June 01, 2013, under the theme of “YOUTH AND PEACE: Strengthening Peace, Stability and Development through Education”. We hereby declare as follows:

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the intent and spirit of the Asian Youth Council (AYC), a regional youth coordinating body for National Youth Councils (NYC) in Asia, in promoting “ONE ASIA” that will bring about shared prosperity to all people in the Asian region.
2. We emphasize the importance of raising awareness of preserving Asia’s splendid heritage, its cultures and values, to the extent that they do not violate the rights of any individual and group that even under globalization, continue to inspire and to guide our continent’s processes of modernization.
3. We recognize the importance of the United Nations Charter that emphasize democracy, good governance, human security, human rights, dignity, freedom, well-being, the rule of law and coexistence between ethnicities, cultures and faiths. We reiterate our desire to see the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations for the prosperous future of Asian Youth.
4. We believe our plural societies can learn and profit from their immense diversity. We also convince that fair and just society will promote culture of peace, and mutual understanding among people, which then can put an end to the culture of violence.
5. We realize that peace, stability, and social harmony are the catalysts for every nation’s prosperity. We stress our commitment to a significant and pro-active role in building a resilient community with capacity, skills and internal strength, along with the culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution.
6. We acknowledge that peace is hard to acquire and even harder to maintain. We therefore commit to cherishing the values of peace and call for the closest cooperation among Asian

youth to raise the public awareness of the cost, suffering, destruction, tears, bloodshed and the loss of lives that comes with war, instability, and conflict.

7. We praise the efforts made by every nation in building peace and reconciliation. In this context, we have learned from Cambodia experiences in building peace and stability such as liberating the country from genocidal regime and preventing its return, rebuilding the country from scratch to a lower-middle-income nation, and full national unity through win-win policy of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

8. We acknowledge the role of youth in voicing out opinions on issues affecting their future and in promoting youth involvement in development for the sake of peace and stability in Asia.

Adopted unanimously in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, on June 01, 2013.

Dr. Mohamad Khir Toyo

President Asian Youth Council

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President Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia

Brunei
Philippines
Cambodia
Singapore
China
Thailand
India
Vietnam
Indonesia
Yemen
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Korea