

Lin Chin-chang's Speech to 2014 CALRE General Assembly in Spain

November 2014

My name is Lin Chin-chang and I am the founder and President of the Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum. TCF is the abbreviation for the organization. Due to the upcoming vital elections in November in Taiwan, I feel deeply for not being able to attend the 2014 CALRE General Assembly in Spain. Today, taking this chance, I want to express my great appreciation to CALRE President Pilar Rojo Nogurra for her kind suggestion of using this medium. Without her, I could not have had this chance to join this event by sharing this video.

Elections are the bedrock of democracy. The mainstream of democracy is that legislative representatives are elected by the people, including national legislative representatives, as well as regional and cities legislative representatives. We also know that there are many assembly organizations, like CALRE, which are created to gather the regional or cities legislative representatives assemblies, providing services as a platform for the assembly members. These assembly organizations hold meetings annually and invite delegates all around the world to participate in the meeting, like today's CALRE event.

There are also international organizations whose memberships are national parliaments or congresses, like the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the IPU. But to my knowledge, there is not an international organization whose members are assembly organizations like CALRE, NCSL, the Japanese Local Councilors Alliance and the like. That is the reason we started to organize the Global Councils Forum in Taiwan. We call it GCF in short and believe it will be the first such international organization in the world.

TCF was established in 2010. We just finished the 4th annual meeting this June in Taiwan. Following the Opening ceremony was an International Forum session. We invited honorable guests from CALRE, Japan and the NCSL of the USA. Each president made a valuable presentation to share their past, present and future with the attendees.

On the second day of the event, we organized a roundtable meeting, discussing several issues and reached some mutual understandings among us. One of the mutual understandings is about the international forum session. We consider that International Forum session featuring specific topics should be arranged in the program schedule on the occasion of the annual meeting in each organization. In doing so, the international forum could continuously be held annually without taking extra time and money for the session arrangement.

Another mutual understanding at the round table meeting is that a drafted declaration which is seeking support from each president for the GCF organization, has been taken back by three presidents to their organizations members for approval and signature.

We are looking forward to hosting the first annual meeting of the GCF in August 2015 in Taiwan as well as the 5th annual meeting of the TCF. We anticipate that the assembly organizations all around the world, at least from 12 countries, could join the first GCF annual meeting.

I am so glad to hear that CALRE is going to sign the Declaration, as that will be a great inspiration to the others. I salute each and every one of you in the event and I wish you total success in the CALRE General Assembly. Last, I sincerely invite each of you to attend the very first GCF annual meeting next August in Taiwan.