Kitakyushu Declaration 2012
Active Aging Consortium Asia Pacific (ACAP)

Whereas, ten years have passed since the U.N. declaration in Madrid, and the publication of the policy framework for Active Ageing by the World Health Organization (WHO).

And whereas, over the same ten years, almost every country in the world has experienced population aging. In the advanced nations of aging, reaching old age is the norm, not the exception, and older persons no longer comprise a minority of the population. More than ever, older people need to continue to contribute to families, communities and societies, so that all generations can coexist successfully. Citizens of all ages should increase their awareness of ageing and decrease biases against older adults.

And whereas, technical innovation also is progressing rapidly, and technology can assist in promoting independence of and contributions by older people. Countries need to share technological best practices related to universal design, thus creating accessible environments in which all generations can coexist. Technical innovations in transportation systems play an important role in making environments accessible, and these systems need to consider the needs of the young, middle-aged, and old people in the community. For older persons that become ill, disabled, or frail, long-term care policy should favor home and community based options over institutional options. Countries need to "grow" their long-term care workforce with domestic and foreign nationals, and there is a need to increase, standardize and coordinate the multiple levels of training to assure high-quality eldercare and the maximum utilization of the eldercare workforce.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the gathering participants in Kitakyushu, Japan for the 2012 meeting of the Active Aging Consortium Asia Pacific (ACAP) declare as follows, with the goal of helping all generations to coexist in harmony.

- Cities and communities must be designed with technologies for developing comprehensive and integrated systems that encourage older people to remain independent, to engaged socially and to continue contributing to society.
- Transportation systems must be affordable, accessible and include more options for bicycle riding, park and ride, and comfortable waiting stations. Public transport systems should stop near stores, schools and hospitals in addition to residential areas and worksites.
- For older adults that cannot manage on their own, families and domestic and foreign caregivers should receive training in long-term care, and countries should develop cross-national standards for caregiver training and certification.