



**Lin Chin-Chang's Speech at the PCL 2nd Quarterly National Executive Officers  
and National Board Meeting (NEO-NB Meeting) held by Philippines  
Councilors League on June 13-15, 2016  
in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines**

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am Lin Chin-chang, the president of Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum (TCF). As a Taipei City Councilor for 25 years, I know that there has been a close relationship between Manila and Taipei. Not just because they are sister cities, we also visited Manila City Council and the Mayors several times for the past two decades. I am very excited to be able to participate in the PCL NEO and NB Meeting and look forward to learning from and meeting all of you during the meeting.

For this, I would like to sincerely give thanks to PCL National President Maybelyn Fernandez and to all of you, for giving me the opportunity to engage and exchange ideas and best practices about how we can all cooperate to help better the governance in our own countries.

As we know, elections are the foundation of democracy. In the Chinese-speaking world including Taiwan and Mainland China, election systems did not exist until the ROC Government was forced to move to Taiwan in 1949. In the next year, in 1950, Taiwan held its first ever local elections. The election system in Taiwan is two-tier local elections. One is for nation level elections for congressmen. The other is designed to elect mayors, councilors and other elected officials.

In an area of 36 thousand square kilometers with a population of 23 million persons, we elected 22 mayors, over 900 councilors for the first tier of the local government and about 2,300 municipal councilors for the second tier.

As a Taipei City Councilor for 25 years, I have been actively taking part throughout over one third of Taiwan's 65 years of local autonomy. Although the Taiwanese people have been living under a democratic system, there has been a tendency for governments to centralize power over local autonomy. In the Local Government Act, it is easy to see how badly the councilors' powers have been restricted. TCF not only operates as a platform for exchange between the councilors and the government, but is also designed to protect the councilors' legislative power from the national government.



To my knowledge, many countries have their own national or regional legislative assemblies like CALRE in Europe, the Japanese Local Councilors Assembly, the American NCSL, the Philippines PCL, and the South America UNALE. However, it seems that there has not yet been established a global organization with members from Local Legislative Assemblies from different continents.

This is the reason why I want to set up the "Global Councils Forum (GCF)".

In June 2014, there was an International Forum in the TCF Annual Meeting. We invited special guests from Spain, the USA, Japan. In August 2015, we invited several Presidents to the GCF, including National President Maybelyn Fernandez from PCL, President Cattaneo from CALRE, and President Matsuda from Japan.

We also invited international scholars from France, South Korea and Mainland China to attend the meeting, whose speeches were really remarkable and impressive. Since August 2015, I have been involved in numerous international activities regarding legislative assemblies throughout the world, for example, the 2015 CALRE's World Forum in Milan, Italy and 2016 Japanese Local Councilors Assembly in Tokyo.

In Milan I met the representative of PCL, Ms. Maria Leobeth B. Deslate-Delicana. Considering that the Philippines, Japan and Taiwan have already had their own local councilors assemblies, according to CALRE President Cattaneo's proposal, we agree to establish a regional assembly named "Asia Councils Forum", and decided to hold the first meeting in December 2016 in the Philippines.

As we know, CALRE and NCSL have signed a mutual cooperation agreement in 2015. If the Asia Councils Forum, we call it ACF in short, can be run successfully in the area of Asia in the future, I think establishing a real Global Councilors Forum will not be a dream anymore. To recruit new members to ACF, I am planning to visit Malaysia and South Korea to see if these two countries could be our new partners in the future.

When I was in Tokyo this March, President Matsuda told me that the Japanese Local Councilors Assembly has developing a close relationship with the legislative assemblies in India and Indonesia. He suggested that the ACF could try to contact the above-mentioned assemblies to recruit them as new members and invite them to attend the first ACF event in Manila.

I am extremely honored to have been invited to participate in this important meeting and present a short brief to introduce TCF and the activities we had for the past two years. I sincerely hope the mutual relationship between PCL and TCF becomes strong and solid. Most importantly, I look forward to seeing you at the first ACF meeting this December in Manila. Thank you for listening.



(Chinese edition)

1) 我是來自台灣的林晉章，曾擔任台北市議會議員 25 年，台北市與 貴國馬尼拉是為姐妹市，曾多次拜訪馬尼拉市長及議會。目前擔任台灣地方民代公益論壇（英文簡稱 TCF）的理事長。

2) 世界上的華人世界包括台灣及中國大陸，長久以來都沒有民主制度，而在台灣的中華民國在退居台灣後的 1950 才開始舉辦地方選舉，短短 65 年的選舉歷史，台灣除了國會議員以外，地方選舉均屬兩級制，以 2014 年為例，人口 23,465,004 人，在 6 個直轄市及 16 個縣共選出了 907 位縣市議員，而第二級的民選鄉鎮市民代表共 2323 位。

3) 本人擔任 25 年的台北市議員，經歷台灣地方自治 65 年歷史中的三分之一以上，雖然台灣已是一個實施民主制度的國家，但也深知目前地方自治仍偏向中央集權，原因乃是中央立法限制了地方議會所立的法律位階受到嚴重剝奪。因此我在 2010 年成立「台灣地方民代公益論壇」(TCF)之台灣地方民代社團組織，目的就是希望結合地方民代向中央反應爭取地方權限。

4) 我們了解，很多國家都有全國性的地方議員組織可以向他們自己的國家反映意見，如歐洲的 CALRE、美國的 NCSL、南美洲的 UNALE 及菲律賓的 PCL，但迄今世界上仍無一個整合各國區域地方立法機構聯合會的全球性的組織，這就是我發起籌組「全球地方議員論壇」(Global Councils Forum, GCF)的原因。在 2014 年我們邀請 CALRE、NCSL 及日本的「日本會議(全國)地方議員連盟」參加，2015 年邀請 CALRE、「日本會議(全國)地方議員連盟」及菲律賓的 PCL 來參加，也邀請法國、韓國、中國的學者一同出席發言。2015 年 10 月底，我應邀至義大利米蘭參加 CALRE 年會暨世界論壇，遇到代表 PCL 的 Maria Leobeth B. Deslate-Delicana 及日本的松田會長。

5) 在 2015 年 8 月的會議中，CALRE 主席 Cattaneo 先生建議，歐洲的 CALRE 與美洲的 NCSL 在 2015 年 8 月初已達成共識，雙方簽署合作協議，既然亞洲地區已有日本、台灣、菲律賓的地方議員聯盟組織及即將籌組的馬來西亞及南韓，可以亞洲地區先成立「亞洲地方議員論壇」(Asia Councils Forum, 英文簡稱 ACF)，將來「亞洲地方議員論壇」再結合歐洲的 CALRE 與美洲的 NCSL 成立「全球地方議員論壇」。此建議經過與會人員一致同意，決定由 PCL 在 2016 年 12 月 9 日在菲律賓馬尼拉舉辦第一屆 Asia Councils Forum。松田會長也表示希望能在 2019 年世界足球賽或 2020 年東京奧運舉辦「亞洲地方議員論壇 Asia Councils Forum」。我在今年 3 月去日本參加「日本會議(全國)地方議員連盟」會議時，松田會長表示他們已將成立 ACF 這件事傳達給印尼及印度，此兩國也表示興趣。我本人在近期也將訪問韓國及馬來西亞，推動地方議員聯盟組織的成立。



6) 此次我應邀在此重要場合發表演說，除闡揚 TCF 組織理念及簡短敘述過去 TCF 的活動外，也希望藉此機會能夠加強與 貴會的合作關係，更期待 2016 年在菲律賓馬尼拉舉辦的第一屆「亞洲地方議員論壇」能跟各位見面。