



## Asian-African Conference

### Kumakura Haruko

The Asian-African Conference—also known as the Bandung Conference or the AA Conference—was a governmental-level conference held between April 18 and 24, 1955, in Bandung, city in Western Java, Indonesia. The conference was co-hosted by five countries (the Colombo Powers)—Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Burma (Myanmar)—which were participants of the Colombo Conference held in Sri Lanka the year before. A total of 29 countries officially participated: 15 countries from Asia including Japan; 8 from the Middle East, and 6 from Africa. The Ten Principles of Peace (The Ten Principles of Bandung) declaring anti-colonialism and peaceful coexistence were adopted and the Conference remains a highly important gathering where Asian and African countries cooperated to publicly declare anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism. It is also considered the beginning of the Non-Aligned Movement founded in 1961. At a lecture held at the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies in July 1994, Kase Shunichi, who had participated in the Conference as then Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that Japan's participation was greatly appreciated and welcomed in Bandung at the time. However, this statement requires verification from multiple viewpoints. It is also worth noting that the changes in the contents between the speech given at the 50th Asian African Conference Commemoration in 2005 by then Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro and the speech given at the 60th Asian African Conference Commemoration in 2015 by then Prime Minister Abe Shinzo reflect the modification of expressions regarding Japanese government's perception of history.

## Related Links

- Museum of the Asian-African Conference  
<http://asianafricanmuseum.org/en/museum-kaa/>