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Canada - Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
Groupe interparlementaire Canada - Japon

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the 28th General Assembly of the ASEAN
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

**Canada-China Legislative Association
and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

August 18–24, 2007

Report

On the Participation of the Canadian Delegation at the 28th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held its 28th General Assembly from August 18 to 24, 2007, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Canadian Parliament, which has observer status to AIPA, sent a joint delegation of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group and the Canada-China Legislative Association. The Canada-China Legislative Association was represented by the Honourable Senator Joseph A. Day, and the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group was represented by the Honourable Senator Terry Stratton. The Secretary to the delegation was Mr. Rémi Bourgault.

Hosting the 28th General Assembly of AIPA was a double honour for Malaysia as it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the country's nationhood and the 30th anniversary of the AIPO.

Conference activities

The Canadian delegation participated in the First Plenary Session, which began with statements by His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' Seri DiRaja Ramli Ngah Talib, President of AIPA, and the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Statements were made by the leaders of the delegations from the eight AIPA member countries (Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Malaysia) and the two AIPO Special Observer Countries (Brunei Darussalam and Union of Myanmar).

Later, during the First Plenary Session, statements were made by the leaders of the delegations from the observer nations (Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Parliament, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation). The Honourable Senator Joseph A. Day made a statement on behalf of the Canadian delegation, the text of which is attached as Appendix A.

On the second day of the conference the Canadian delegation observed the delegates of the AIPA nations during the meetings of the Committee on Political Matters, the Committee on Economic Matters, the Committee on Social Matters and the Committee on Organizational Matters.

Dialogue meetings were then convened with each observer delegation. The Canadian delegates met with their counterparts from the AIPA nations to discuss a wide range of issues. The agenda for the dialogue meeting included the following topics:

1. Issues of Politics and Security
2. Economic and Trade Co-operation
3. Environmental Issues
4. Development Co-operation and the Breakthrough of the WTO Doha Round

5. Parliamentary Exchanges between the AIPA Member Countries and Observer Countries

The dialogue was chaired by the Honourable DATUK HJ. MD. ALWI BIN HJ. CHE AHMAD, Member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia. His report summarizing the discussion's main points was presented at the Second Plenary Session and is attached as Appendix B.

The Canadian delegation participated in the Second Plenary Session, which took place on the final day of the conference. During this session, all of the reports of the committees and observer dialogues were presented to and adopted by the plenary.

The 29th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) will be held in Singapore in August 2008.

Conclusion

The delegation felt that its participation at the conference gave it a better understanding of the issues facing ASEAN nations. The time spent with their ASEAN colleagues was an excellent opportunity for Canadian parliamentarians to forge and strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations with the nations of Southeast Asia.

The delegation would like to express its gratitude to staff at the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia for their assistance in arranging the visit. The delegation is grateful to Mr. David G. Summers, Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia, for his availability and hospitality during the visit.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Joseph Day, Senator
Co-Chair
Canada-China Legislative Association

Hon. Marie-P Poulin, Senator
Co-Chair
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary
Group

Mr. Bob Mills, M.P.
Co-Chair
Canada-China Legislative Association

Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P.
Co-Chair
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary
Group

APPENDIX A
SPEECH GIVEN BY THE HONOURABLE JOSEPH A. DAY
LEADER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION
TO THE 28TH ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
AUGUST 20, 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Colleagues

On behalf of my colleague, Senator Terry Stratton and myself, please let me tell you how delighted we are to participate in the 28th annual meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We are especially happy to be able to convey our congratulations as you celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of this organization and to Malaysia, congratulations for your 50th anniversary.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to renew our contacts with our parliamentary counterparts from Southeast Asia. These annual meetings give us the chance to catch up on developments in the region and allow us to make the personal contacts that are so important to good relations.

This region is becoming more and more important to Canada with each passing year, and has evolved into a flourishing trade and economic partnership. Indeed, Canada's two-way trade with ASEAN countries now exceeds Cdn\$12 billion per year.

At the same time, nearly one million immigrants from ASEAN countries now call Canada home, and over 2,000 Southeast Asian students come to study in Canada each year.

This increased exchange of people, goods, and services between Canada and the countries of Southeast Asia has led to increased cooperation in a whole range of areas. Not only do we share concerns about the international trading system, we also have common interests in the areas of security, the environment, sustainable development, and information and technology cooperation.

There is no better recent example of the partnership between Canada and Southeast Asia than Canada's response to the devastating December 2004 tsunami. The Canadian government contributed Cdn\$425 million towards disaster relief, rehabilitation assistance and reconstruction efforts, including Cdn\$213 million to match contributions made by members of the Canadian public.

More recently, after the May 2006 earthquake on Java Island in Indonesia, Canada provided Cdn\$11.5 million for humanitarian assistance, recovery and rehabilitation in the region.

As you are aware, Canada's relations with Southeast Asia go back to the years following the Second World War. Our earliest contact was with our Commonwealth partners – Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore. In fact, it was through the Colombo Plan – the Commonwealth's aid initiative of the 1950s – that Canadian co-operation in the region began. As well, during the 1950s and 1960s Canada participated in the International Control and Supervision Commissions in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

In the late 1960s, Southeast Asia – and Indonesia particularly – became a recipient of Canadian aid. Our trade with the region grew during this period, and in 1974 Canada initiated relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). We became an ASEAN dialogue partner in 1977.

Today, this dialogue takes place at the ministerial level through the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference and the ASEAN Regional Forum. In addition, there are two dialogue channels at the senior official level – the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting and a Senior Economic Officials' meeting.

Parliamentarians also have a role to play in encouraging cooperation between us. Through meetings such as this, we keep each other informed of developments in our countries and our parliaments. By getting to understanding each other better, we help reduce the distances between us.

I would like to point out that, as Canadian parliamentarians, we do not set government policy. Nevertheless, we do play a role in international relations, mostly through the work of our parliamentary committees. Our committees conduct studies, during which they solicit ideas from experts and the Canadian public. The reports they issue at the conclusion of these studies can help the government define its policy, and they also help the Canadian public understand the issues at play. They are available on the Internet for all those who are interested.

Canadian parliamentarians recognize that in this day of global integration, security problems in one part of the world can have serious impacts in any part of the world. Regional conflicts, people smuggling, human trafficking, health pandemics, arms and drug trafficking – all these things can have an impact on Canada's security, as well as that of our partners. Consequently, we need to work closely with our partners to address situations that might lead to problems, either here or elsewhere.

As a case in point, Canada has a long history of participating in peacekeeping missions in all regions of the world. It is also a leader in the international movement to ban landmines. As I mentioned earlier, during the 1950s and 1960s Canada participated in the International Control and Supervision Commissions in the Southeast Asian region. More recently, Canadian contributed armed forces personnel to the International Force in East Timor and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs looked at Asia Pacific security issues in 1998 as part of its report on the Asian financial crisis.

Trafficking in illicit drugs is a concern for all countries, and tackling the problem requires a coordinated response. Canada works multilaterally, regionally, and bilaterally on drug issues and promotes a balanced approach that addresses both the supply and demand

of illicit drugs. ASEAN is one of the regional forums in which Canada participates in its efforts to combat drug trafficking.

Canada takes a similar approach to the growing problem of human trafficking. As well as working internationally, human trafficking is a specific offence under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. This Act carries severe penalties, with fines of up to \$1 million and imprisonment for up to life. In addition, Canada has ratified the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*.

Trafficking in illicit drugs and human trafficking are two security issues that Canada is working with its international partners to combat. Other issues include corruption, cyber-crime, money laundering, and terrorism financing. During our meetings here, we are interested in discussing the ways Canada and ASEAN countries can cooperate in the on-going fight against these global problems.

Economic and trade cooperation is clearly a vital part of the relationship between Canada and the countries of Southeast Asia. Canada has always been a trading nation. We believe Southeast Asia presents a significant opportunity for Canada. Your economic progress has been impressive, and between them, the ASEAN countries represent a market of some 560 million people. The recent discussions about a proposed ASEAN Economic Community make the subject of trade cooperation all the more timely.

As your countries increase their cooperation among themselves and with their partners in Asia, Canada would like to increase its presence in the region. Increased trade would also help narrow the development gap in some of the ASEAN countries.

Our parliamentary committees have devoted a considerable amount of time to studying the issue of trade with Southeast Asia. In 2003, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade issued a report entitled *Reinvigorating Economic Relations between Canada and Asia-Pacific*. In 1997, the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs released a report entitled *The Importance of the Asia Pacific Region for Canada*. This year, the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade studied Canada's trade policy, and issued a report entitled *Ten Steps to a Better Trade Policy*.

Investment opportunities are an important aspect of our economic relationship. They are also an important component of economic growth and development in the region. More than that, foreign investment creates important links to Southeast Asia for Canadian companies, consumers, and workers.

Today, Canadian foreign investment in the ASEAN region is worth some Cdn\$9 billion.

These investments represent a vote of confidence in the region by Canadian business people. Of course, in order to invest, companies need to be able to count on sound investment rules that provide stability, transparency, predictability, and protection for Canadian companies. For that reason, Canada has consistently supported a strong, rules-based system.

Environmental issues are increasingly important components of our relationship. Canadians are mindful of the impact natural disasters can have. The tsunami, the

recent earthquakes in Japan and Indonesia, and Hurricane Katrina in the United States remind us how quickly disaster can strike.

By cooperating with each other, there is the chance we can reduce the impact of such events. In our discussions, we hope to learn more about the measures you are taking to prepare for natural disasters and to reduce the impact that human activity is having on the environment.

When it comes to protecting the environment, for example, information and technology will be crucial in mitigating climate change. Clean energy technologies hold great promise for minimizing humans' impact on the environment. Developing alternate sources of energy by using technology such as small hydro and tidal power, solar thermal systems, and biofuel will help developed countries and developing countries alike in their quest for energy self-sufficiency.

On the issue of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round, Canada remains committed to more liberalized trade, the rules-based multilateral trading system, and the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. Like you, we were extremely disappointed when the Round was suspended. A successful outcome of the Round would have advanced the Canadian objectives of increased access to global markets for Canadian producers, manufacturers, and service providers. It would also have been good for developing countries, which stood to gain from further integration into the world trading system and from the reduction in agriculture subsidies. Canada will continue to work with other WTO Members to seek an ambitious conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

Our parliamentary committees have spent considerable time studying the WTO and the international trading system. In May 2002, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade released a report entitled *Building an Effective*

New Round of WTO Negotiations: Key Issues for Canada. More recently, in June 2005,

the Committee released a report entitled *Elements of an Emerging Markets Strategy for Canada*, which included recommendations on the WTO negotiations.

I would like to talk a little bit about the Canadian government's development assistance in the region. The Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program addresses development challenges that affect the region. It is a small, focused program of approximately Cdn\$12 million a year. Its priorities are economic integration, the environment, and governance, security, and the rule of law.

The program helps countries meet the requirements of accession to, and/or membership in, the WTO and to benefit from their rights as members. It has also supported governance and legal-reform projects that have raised awareness and observance of the rights of women, children, ethnic minorities, and migrant workers throughout Southeast Asia.

In addition, Canada has bilateral development programs with Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam – which are included in the group of 25 development partner countries where

the bulk of Canada's bilateral aid program will be focused. It also has a bilateral program with the Philippines.

Finally, on the subject of the exchange of parliamentary visits as means of strengthening inter-parliamentary diplomacy, my colleague and I feel that visits to meetings such as this go a long way to promoting understanding and mutual respect among parliamentarians.

Canadian parliamentarians participate in a number of parliamentary associations and inter-parliamentary groups. Among these are the Canada-Japan Parliamentary Group and Canada-China Legislative Association, which houses the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, to which a number of ASEAN countries belong. Canadian parliamentarians also cooperate with Singapore and Malaysia through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Inter-Parliamentary Union provides another venue for cooperation.

As well, in 2006 parliamentarians from a number of ASEAN nations participated in the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development, which the Speakers of the Canadian Senate and House of Commons hosted in Whistler, British Columbia.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for welcoming us to this gathering. Thanks to the meetings, both formal and informal, we have had with our Southeast Asian counterparts, we have developed a better understanding of the issues you are facing.

We will return home with much to ponder. Please rest assured that we will continue to follow developments in Southeast Asia.

Senator Joseph A. Day, L.L.M., B. Eng

APPENDIX B
REPORT
ON
THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN AIPA AND CANADA

Your Excellency, the President of the 28th AIPA, distinguished Parliamentarians:

1. The Dialogue between AIPA and the delegation from Canada was convened in the Kedah Room, Shangri-la Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on 21 August 2007, between 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

The Chairman of the Dialogue, Hon. Datuk Hj. Md. Alwi b. Hj. Che Ahmad, welcomed the delegates to the dialogue with Canada. Subsequently, the members of the AIPA, observers and the representatives from Canada introduced themselves. Canada expressed its gratitude to the delegates for attending the dialogue. The dialogue was held in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding. All delegates expressed their gratitude to Canada for its assistance to their countries. During the discussion delegates focused on the topics that they considered important to their countries.

The dialogue was attended by the following delegates:

Canada

1. Hon. Senator Joseph A. Day
2. Hon. Senator Terrance Stratton

Malaysia

1. Hon. Datuk Hj. Alwi b. Hj. Che Ahmad – Chairman
2. Hon. Syed Hood b. Syed Edross – Rapporteur
3. Hon. Teng Boon Soon
4. Hon. Wong Nai Chee

Philippines

1. Hon. Reylina G. Nicholas
2. Hon. Pedro Pancho

Vietnam

1. Hon. Nghiem Vu Khai
2. Hon. Nguyen Thi Bach Mai

Thailand

1. Hon. Kamtorn Udomritthruj

Singapore

1. Hon. Inderjit Singh

2. Hon. Seah Kian Peng

Brunei Darussalam

1. Pehin Dato Judin

Cambodia

1. Hon.Chhit Kim Yeat

2. Mr.Kim Sochetra

Indonesia

1. Hon.Abdul Gafur

2. Hon.Sri Kadarwati Aswin

Lao PDR

1. Hon.Dr.Sikhamtath Mitaray

2. Hon.Chanthoum Latmany

3. Mrs.Kaysone Kaomanykhot

2. DISCUSSION

CAMBODIA

- Grateful for CIDA Programme
- Economic and Trade cooperation with Canada is excellent
- Needs help with scholarship for Cambodian students in mining and electrical Engineering as Cambodia has rich natural resources like gold, bauxite and petroleum
- Needs Canada to bring up at WTO the issue of Cambodian farmers who are not able to compete in the free market with countries whose farmers obtain very high agriculture subsidies from their governments

Response from Canada

- Are there any Canadian mining companies in Cambodia?
- If any agreement is made with such companies (eg. Ivanhoe, Kamico) Cambodia must give these conditions
 1. there must be transfer of technology
 2. they must contribute to development of the country and
 3. they must respect the environment
- Cambodian students can study Engineering Technology at Community Colleges in Canada

- Mindset of countries who give very high agriculture subsidies to their farmers cannot be changed. Therefore perhaps Cambodia needs to counter this problem by changing its agriculture products

INDONESIA

- Would like to establish a relationship between the two Parliaments as Indonesia now has a new politically reformed government
- Would like to know what is Canada's role with regards to the Kyoto Protocol

Response from Canada

- Will get back to Indonesia as to where Canada is going with the friendship groups as manning these groups is financially difficult
- Canada could not meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol immediately but can reach certain reduction targets at a later time frame
- Canada is of the opinion that there is mounting pressure within the US to support the Kyoto Protocol

LAOS

- Canada has given Laos a substantial amount of financial aid through NGOs. It is not given directly to the government.
- Very few Laos students are recipients of Canadian scholarships.

Response from Canada

- The NGOs are able to do more with the financial aid as they are internationally recognized bodies
- Canada will look into the matter of awarding more scholarships to Laos students

MALAYSIA

- Why is there an imposition of the visa requirement to enter Canada when Malaysia does not do that to Canadian citizens?
- Can Canada encourage its people to visit Malaysia to boost tourism?
- Could there be a Free Trade Agreement with Malaysia?
- To what extent are MPs in the Canadian Parliament involved in a legislation?

Response from Canada

- As a measure to stop people coming in and then wanting a refugee status

- Both countries have to cooperate on how to facilitate free flow of tourists
- Legislation is developed by the government. The MPs are asked for input but they do not formulate them

PHILLIPINES

- Grateful to Canada for the offer of capacity building
- Phillipines wishes for Canada to plant 1 billion trees to support the Carbon Credit programme of the Kyoto Protocol since it is a millennium development goal
- Phillipines appeals for Canadian support that half of what the country has to pay IMF remain in the country to pump up the economy
- Response from Canada
- There is a reforestation programme in Canada
- Phillipines would not qualify for total debt 'forgiveness' but Canada will follow up on the matter

SINGAPORE

- Canada and Singapore cooperate well in countering terrorism
- More Free Trade Agreements will be good
- Canada to make a more concerted effort to support energy issues because it is a global problem and to play its part in bringing together global efforts to protect the environment

Response from Canada

- Interested in doing more business with Singapore
- On a multilateral level, Canada is serious about issues dealing with security in the region

THAILAND

- Development assistance given through CIDA is appreciated
- Canada has to cooperate on environmental issues as it has advanced nuclear technology. This will save energy in future by making use of nuclear energy as a source of power
- Thailand is also grateful to Canada for help in capacity-building and further assistance is needed in overseeing public spending, combating corruption activities and looking into the court system

Response from Canada

- Canada has an Auditor-General who is an officer of Parliament. Her function is to investigate government spending on behalf of Parliamentarians.
- Nuclear energy is important and is good for the environment

VIETNAM

- For the next 3 years, Vietnam is the Coordinator for the ASEAN-Canadian dialogue
- The relationship between the two countries is developing very well as Vietnam has assistance from CIDA and other NGOs especially in science and technology, building, environment and technical capacity
- Vietnam wants to promote bilateral relations especially in the field of legislative Building

Response from Canada

- Bilateral cooperation is fine but the biggest problem is money especially with the Parliamentary Friendship Group
- Canada is aiding Vietnam through 'Capacity Building'

BRUNEI

- Brunei's bilateral relations with Canada is very good
- Brunei has signed agreements on education with Canadian universities. There are 10 students studying in Ottawa and Toronto
- There is also environmental cooperation between the two countries

There was no response from Canada to Brunei's statements

I now present the Report of the AIPA and Canada Dialogue for the consideration and approval of the 28th AIPA General Assembly.

Thank you.

HON. DATUK HJ. MD. ALWI BIN HJ. CHE AHMAD

Chairman

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-China Legislative Association Canada-Japan Inter-parliamentary Group
ACTIVITY	28 th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
DESTINATION	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
DATES	August 18-24, 2007
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Joseph Day, Senator Hon. Terrance Stratton, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Rémi Bourgault, Secretary to the delegation
TRANSPORTATION	\$25,005.72
ACCOMMODATION	\$165.75
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$539.68
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$343.20
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$9.21
TOTAL	\$26,063.56