



Canada - China Legislative Association
Association législative Canada - Chine



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

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at the 30th General Assembly of
the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

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

**Pattaya City, Chonburi, Thailand
August 2 - 8, 2009**

Report

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held its 30th General Assembly from August 2 to 8, 2009, in Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand. The Canadian Parliament, which has observer status to AIPA, sent a joint delegation of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group (CJIG) and the Canada-China Legislative Association (CCLA). The CCLA was represented by its Co-Chair, the Honourable Joseph A. Day, Senator. The CJIG was represented by its Co-Chair, the Honourable Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P. The Secretary to the delegation was Mr. Philippe Méla.

Prior to the start of the Official program of the conference, Mr. Wilfert attended an exchange of views with a delegation from Burma. He pointed out that ASEAN Countries should do more than simply using words, particularly since democratically elected Burmese MPs were not allowed at the AIPA meeting and since the Burmese Parliament is still not recognized by the military power in Burma.

Mr. Wilfert indicated that countries should express concerns and pass legislation to condemn human rights violation, rape and discrimination of women. Also, the joint statement at the outcome of the Conference should clearly say what everyone is thinking in AIPA. He also pointed out that for all Parliamentarians, there should be a collective responsibility to protect human rights and Canada is at the forefront of this battle as the UN Charter of Rights was written by a Canadian even if in the context of ASEAN, it is more difficult for Canada as Canada is only an observer country. Mr. Wilfert also raised the issue of some investor's country like China and India which continue to do Business as usual with the military regime of Burma regardless of the Human rights violations. One of the problems with solving this situation is the fact that ASEAN countries use a system of consensus and the more countries involved, the more difficult if not impossible to find a consensus.

It was also mentioned, that Indonesia is more open to Burma than some other ASEAN countries and that Jakarta has been chosen to solve this conflict in the region. Mr. Wilfert pointed out that in terms of investing, it is expected that Canadian companies use the same standards they would use in Canada when they are doing business in the region, including Burma.

Conference activities

The Canadian delegation observed the First Plenary Session, which began with statements by H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Prasobsook Boondech, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Mr. Chai Chidchob, President of the Thai National Assembly and President of AIPA. Statements were made by the leaders of the delegations from the nine AIPA member countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand,

Vietnam, Singapore and the latest member Brunei Darussalam) as well as the AIPA Special Observer Country (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, Japan and Russia). Mr. Bryon Wilfert, M.P. and Co-Chair of the CJIG, made a statement on behalf of the Canadian delegation, the text of which is attached as Appendix A. Special Guests of the host Parliament, Timor-Leste and the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union also made statements.

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.

Each observer nation's delegation participated in a dialogue meeting with representatives of the ASEAN member nations. The Canadian delegation met with their counterparts from the AIPA nations on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 and discussed a wide range of issues. The agenda for the dialogue meeting was the following:

Main topic: The Role of Observers Towards ASEAN Community

- Regional and Global Politics and Security
- Economic and Trade Cooperation and Foreign Investments
- Human Security, Strong Society, Public Health, and Threats from Pandemic Diseases
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Information and Communication Technology

The dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Mr. Charoen Kanthawongs, Member of the Parliament of Thailand. 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 as well as the joint communiqué for the conference which is attached as Appendix C.

The 31st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from September 19 to 25, 2010.

Bilateral meetings

The Canadian delegation to the 30th AIPA General Assembly also engaged in bilateral meetings with the delegations from Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Indonesia:

The exchange started on the topic of the participation of women in the central political life of Indonesia as there are only 12 women who have been elected out of 500 elected Members in the House of Representatives. The Canadian delegation also expressed concerns and sadness about the bombing that took place in Jakarta prior to the Conference.

It was indicated by the Canadian delegation that Indonesia is a very important destination for Canadian investors, particularly in the mining industry, however, the participation in the field of Science and Technology could be increased as it is difficult to obtain clean air and clean water in some part of Indonesia, particularly on the Eastern part of the Island of Bali where sea water is used to obtain drinking water at an expensive cost. As Indonesia has an important number of hours of sun and is surrounded by oceans, there is a great potential for the use of renewable energy such as solar or wave and wind power. As well, an exchange of technology or best practices regarding the use of clean coal technology that is mainly developed in Western Canada could be envisioned. In terms of research and technology, the Canadian delegation was told that in the agriculture sector, the Thai government and universities work together to improve method of production and fundamental research.

It was noted during the exchange that the role of Parliamentarians is important as the respect of the rule of law is well established in Indonesia. Parliamentarians from each country could exchange more information and establish best practices allowing businesses willing to work with Indonesia to feel that their investments are very safe in this part of Asia. Still in the discussion on the economy, it was indicated by the Canadian Delegation that it is expected that Canadian companies doing business abroad use the same standards they would normally use in Canada.

Again, the possibility of developing best practices as well as the use of satellite technology to identify offenders and a better share of intelligence was discussed in the fight against marine piracy.

On a more political aspect, the issue of the situation in Burma came on the forefront of the exchange of views as Indonesia is one of the most vocal countries in the region on that subject. It was agreed by both delegations that it is necessary that more ASEAN countries be also more vocal about it.

The Canadian delegation was curious about the Indonesian model when it comes to the religious aspect of life as Indonesia is the 2nd largest Muslim country in the world but yet remain very calm on that front. It was explained that it is mainly based on the education children receive which promotes understanding and acceptance of all belief based on the idea that all people are Indonesian first. Also the Suni Muslim majority is more moderate.

Thailand:

The Canadian Delegation indicated that meetings, bilateral ones or the Annual General Assembly, are excellent venues to exchange information, particularly on Trade, the environment or on the culture of the various countries invited but indicated that it is not enough and that training is vital to the good functioning of any institution hence, would like to see more exchange of students between Thailand and Canada. The Leader of the Thai delegation explained that there are fewer students going to Canada than could be because of the very high academic standards of Canadian universities and of course, it is easier, closer and cheaper to go to Australia. The leader of the Canadian delegation explained that he would look into the possibilities to bring more Thai Students to Canada.

The Canadian delegation asked about the impact of the Burmese situation on Thailand. It was explained that there are about 1 million Burmese people living in Thailand, most illegally and some who have been living for 20 years in camps along the border. Allowing them to stay in Thailand would not necessarily be an improvement of their situation as they have access to clean water and medical aid in their camps due to the international humanitarian aid, things they may not be able to have access to in Thailand.

The Canadian delegation proposed that it would be better to have fewer speeches and more exchanges and discussions to increase the level of shared information as there are only two ways for observers to take part in the discussion, during bilateral meetings and at the dialogue between member countries and Observers. It was also pointed out that an important part of the Annual General Assembly is the adoption of the joint communiqué at the end of the General Assembly but a better tracking of the proposals embedded in the joint communiqué should be put in place.

Vietnam:

The two delegations exchanged views on a few issues. Vietnam is an important partner for Canada as it is part of La Francophonie and an aid recipient from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In April 2004, CIDA approved a Country Development Programming Framework for Vietnam (2004-2009) that responds to the Government of Vietnam's poverty-reduction priorities and focuses on the core sectors of governance, rural and private-sector development, and basic education, with gender equity as a crosscutting theme. Canada is very well regarded in Vietnam, not only for the aid provided but also for the work Canada has done regarding the consequences of the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam war and the positions Canada has taken to help victims recover from the effect of the Agent Orange and how contaminated fields could one day be reused for agricultural purposes.

The Chair of Vietnamese Delegation indicated that it was an honor for several Parliamentary Committees of the Vietnamese Parliament to have been received in Canada in 2008, namely the Social Affairs Committee, the National Defense Committee

and the Environment Committee which contributed to more exchanges of best practices between the two countries.

The delegations also exchanged on education and both agreed that it would be beneficial for the two countries to increase the level of exchange of university students. Parliamentary staff from Vietnam could also come to Canada through some of the existing programs such as the Canada's Parliamentary Officers' Study Program which will introduce the participants to the Canadian legislative process and allow them to reflect on their own practices or training workshops delivered by the Parliamentary Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Candice Hoeppe, M.P.
Vice-Chair
Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-China Legislative Association and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
ACTIVITY	30 th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
DESTINATION	Pattaya City, Chonburi, Thailand
DATES	August 2 – 8, 2009
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Joseph A. Day, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Hon. Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Philippe Méla, Secretary to the delegation
TRANSPORTATION	\$30,440.07
ACCOMMODATION	\$172.35
HOSPITALITY	\$159.64
PER DIEMS	\$791.36
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$670.06
MISCELLANEOUS	\$383.59
TOTAL	\$32,617.07

APPENDIX A

**Address by the Honourable Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P.
at the First Plenary Session of the
30th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

August 4, 2009

Mr. President, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great pleasure to be here today to address this body on the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. This is a time for celebration, it's a time for reflection, and it's a time to move forward in terms of enhancing the role that parliamentarians play throughout ASEAN. We do not represent governments, we represent the people. The people, those who have no shelter, those who have no water, those who have no jobs, and most importantly, those who have no hope. That is the role of parliamentarians, and this organization has an opportunity to address those issues and certainly through the Charter.

On behalf of my colleague Joe Day, we are delighted to be here to again observe. Now Mr. President, when we hear the word "observe," that doesn't mean that we're going to sit back and simply take it all in. We want to be part of what we call the action. Canada has and maintains a very, very strong bond with this region. It is extremely important to Canadians that we share information and that we look at best practices, particularly in dealing with environmental issues, security issues, trafficking of human beings, and of course the issue of human rights. We want to congratulate Brunei Darussalam on its ascendancy as a member – a full member – of this body.

I look forward to the day when my friends from Burma, Myanmar will be able to rightfully take their place, but until issues on human rights and particularly in Burma and the continued incarceration of Aung San Suu Kyi continue, that obviously is of great concern to us. We can't say that we support human rights and say "but there's human rights here which are different than human rights over here" and therefore we have a legally binding Charter now in ASEAN, we need to move forward and we need to help. We need to continue the dialogue, and Canada has always been a different voice on the North American continent.

We are not the United States. We have a British parliamentary system. Our approach is different and we believe that engaging is critical in terms of moving forward with many of the key issues that you are dealing with. Over the next few days and particularly when we do the multilateral discussions with our colleagues on issues such as the environment, investment, trade, et cetera, we not only want to share with you what Canada is doing, we want to know how we can help you. We can't tell you but we want to work cooperatively together because we want to see a strong ASEAN.

A strong ASEAN is good for Canada and it's good for countries around the world, and we've been very fortunate. This is my eighth or ninth time that I have attended these sessions and I can tell you that there's always something new in terms of the

friendships that you build, in what you take back and that sharing of information is absolutely critical. Canada has always believed strongly that in order to advance issues on economic on the economic front on the environment front, we must share information and we've seen issues in Vietnam such as Agent Orange and we have dealt with that issue and we want to share that with our Vietnamese friends. Tsunami – we've experienced situations where we can provide that kind of information in terms of early warning. It is extremely important that we do that, but as parliamentarians, again, we are not government, so as parliamentarians we have a unique opportunity to share information and to advance laws which will in fact benefit this region.

We as a country have over 300,000 people who come here every year, 2,000 students that come. We'd like to see more students come from the ASEAN region to Canada, both in terms of university work, those from national assemblies and parliaments to come and to learn in Canada. We believe that we have the technologies that will advance in a number of cooperative areas, in the areas of agriculture and food, information and communication technologies, service industries, oil and gas equipment, mining and metals.

The adoption of the ASEAN Charter in December 2008 has clearly provided ASEAN with the institutional framework to facilitate and enhance regional integration. More importantly, we are delighted to congratulate the most recent establishment of the ASEAN human rights body, providing a solid framework for the enshrinement of democratic principles and better protection and promotion of human rights which is fundamental – fundamental – in any society.

Canadian parliamentarians recognize that in the era of global integration, security problems in this region affect us, there is a ripple effect, the lives of those in the country affected and we saw what happened regrettably in Indonesia a few weeks ago. That affects us. The sharing of information dealing with international terrorist organizations, the issues of threat to energy security, terrorist financing, health pandemics, arms and drug trafficking – it's a very small world. I flew from Toronto to Hong Kong in fifteen hours and two and half hours to get to Bangkok. Now for some of you flying seventeen and a half hours not including layover might sound a bit staggering, but it really isn't because the world is much smaller and these issues are our issues as much as they are yours.

So Mr. President, we are very interested in the dialogue. We would like to see as a recommendation as I suggested to the Secretary-General last night at dinner that we start to look at specific themes where we can sit down and talk about issues as observer countries. This is because some of us come a long way and we'd like to be more active in working with you in partnership – in true partnership – in enhancing this very important region. So Mr. President we thank you again for the generous hospitality and warmth of the Thai people. We want to say that ASEAN matters greatly to Canadian parliamentarians, we are pleased that we have been an integral part of both ASEAN and certainly AIPA over the years, and we will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that where we can be of assistance on any of those issues, we will. Whether it's through the Canadian International Development Agency, whether it's in the issue of

legal reform, whether it's in the issue of enhancing what we would like to see of course is a free trade agreement with this region, we will be there. So again Mr. President, distinguished delegates, thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX B

REPORT ON THE DIALOGUE WITH CANADA

Chairperson, Hon. Mr. Charoen Kanthawongsa started the Dialogue with Canada at 2.05 pm at Pattaya 12, the PEACH, Royal Cliff Beach Resort on 5 August 2009. The Rapporteur was Hon. Asst. Prof. Rachada Dhnadirek.

The Dialogue Meeting was attended by the following delegates:

Canada

Hon. Mr. Bryon Wilfert

Hon. Mr. Joseph A. Day

Brunei Darussalam

Hon. Mr. Dato Paduka Haji Puasa Bin OKSP Tudin

Cambodia

Hon. Mr. Ouk Damry

Indonesia

Hon. Dr. Hakim Sorumuda Pohan

Laos PDR

Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena

Malaysia

Hon. Mdm. Fuziah Salleh

Philippines

Mr. Robert Raymund M. Estrella

Singapore

Hon. Dr. Ahmad Mohd Magad

Thailand

Hon. Mrs. Sirintorn Rammasute

Hon. Adj. Prof. Virah Mavichak

Hon. Adj. Prof. Pinit Kullavanijaya

Viet Nam

Hon. Mr. Ha Thanh Toan

DISCUSSION

The Chairman invited Canada to give views on the main topic on the role of Observers in the ASEAN community.

Canada concerned that Observers played a small role in General Assemblies of AIPA and wished to engage directly by exchanging views with the perspective of how Observers can assist ASEAN.

Canada suggested to take part in setting a theme of dialogue for the next conference and doing a concrete action instead of reporting in the paper. Canada raised the issue on mutual concerns with AIPA Member Countries and Special Observer on strengthening parliament. To strengthen the parliament, Canada pointed out how weak the ASEAN Parliaments lack in accessible information, mostly concerning the efficient parliament library and the empowerment of parliamentarians or professional staffs to be more effective and efficient through the exchange study programs. ASEAN countries, affected by the financial crisis, need additional funding in order to make it plausible.

Canada stressed the importance of Parliamentary oversight of government work and policy.

Economic Trade Cooperation and Foreign Investment

Canada exported and imported approximately 14.5 billion Canadian Dollars each to ASEAN during the financial crisis. By setting records during the financial crisis, Canada showed sign indicating how ASEAN Community was important to them reiterating their interest in the region.

Canada needed to build a good relationship recognizing ASEAN as a golden opportunity not only for Canada but for ASEAN itself. Canada insists in building Free Trade Agreements, after proving how important ASEAN is to them setting records in trade, for a better future of both sides.

Canada also concerned about corruption and human rights problems within the ASEAN Community. It will be hard to negotiate if ASEAN has the problems of corruption or human rights. Canada also emphasized how ASEAN community needs to know the rules of security concerning foreign direct investment for investors. Canada asked ASEAN countries to identify what their main products would be negotiated in their market.

Thailand

Thailand agreed with Canada's idea but it is difficult to model after Canada because of the lack of funding.

Singapore

Singapore mentioned that ASEAN countries will appreciate if Canada provides financial assistance to pull the ASEAN countries out from the financial crisis.

Other Matters : To Strengthen the Parliament System

Philippines

The Philippine delegate sought Canada's advice on the Library of Parliament in Canada.

Canada Response

The Canadian delegates explained the role of the Library of Parliament and indicated that it also takes part in the training of new parliamentary staff by way of workshops on various topics.

Indonesia

They expressed that they are experts on the bills and shared the best practice in training, aiming to strengthen officials.

Cambodia

There are more people interested to research and learn about the library. Cambodia requested Canada to support a capacity to their staffs related to library and other projects.

Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, there is no congress library but there are two offices which provide the information to members Parliament; a center of information and technology and an institute of policy and strategy. They requested Canada to support training programs for Members of Parliament and officials in the future.

Thailand

Thai Delegates agreed with Canada to further empower Parliamentarians due to the lack of professional staffs and specialists for the standing committees in Thailand. Thailand welcomes the offer of exchanging training programs from Canada. They also agreed having specialized assistants is important but it is difficult to accomplish due to the low income MPs can provide to their researchers. This is the reason why Thailand hires part-time staffs from other departments.

Malaysia

Malaysia agreed with the empowerment of parliamentarians and asked Canada to establish working relationships with Malaysia. Malaysia asked if Canadian Parliament can work with specific standing committees besides inter – parliamentary programs.

Response from Canada

Canada answered their parliaments do work with Foreign standing committees, but only very few, such as with Russia's committee concerning glacier's melt down, increasing sea level.

Lao PDR

Lao PDR shared their experienced that they have a hotline, an office, to collect information for their parliament or ministries from public.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm

The Report of the Dialogue with Canada was presented for the approval of the 30th AIPA General Assembly.

APPENDIX C

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

1 Pursuant to the decision of the 29th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Singapore on 18-24 August 2008, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 30th General Assembly was held in Thailand on 2-8 August 2009.

2 Mr Chai Chidchob, President of the Thai National Assembly, the AIPA President, presided over the 30th AIPA General Assembly.

3 The 31st AIPA General Assembly would be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 19-25 September 2010.

WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

4 In his welcoming address, Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, reiterated Thailand's vision for the ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond to be a 'Community of Action', a 'Community of Connectivity' and a 'Community of People'.

In this connection, he reaffirmed his commitment, as the Chairman of ASEAN, to work closely with AIPA to turn this vision into reality. He also highlighted the important role of AIPA in bridging ASEAN and its peoples together and requested AIPA to continue to work towards harmonization of laws in ASEAN Member States so as to enhance the implementation of various ASEAN agreements and decisions.

WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

5 In his speech, Prof. Prasobsook Boondech, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand, extended his warm welcome to all parliamentarians and distinguished participants attending the 30th AIPA General Assembly at Pattaya City and to Thailand. He was pleased to learn that ASEAN had already welcomed the agreement of the ASEAN and AIPA Leaders in the 14th ASEAN Summit, held in Hua-Hin, Thailand in February 2009 to move ahead on five common fronts to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015. He cited that the outcomes resulting from the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the AIPA Caucus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April and of the 6th AIFOCOM in Chiang Rai, Thailand in May 2009 proved that AIPA had placed an importance on establishing a permanent mechanism to progress common legislative initiatives in countering drugs menace and human trafficking. He stressed that the formal linkages with the ASEAN and the consultations between AIPA and ASEAN would make AIPA move into its fourth decade as the effective ASEAN regional inter-

parliamentary assembly, reflecting the voice of ASEAN people, as well as promoting the principle of democracy, peace and prosperity in ASEAN.

OPENING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF AIPA

6 In his opening speech, Mr Chai Chidchob, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand and President of AIPA expressed his warmest welcome to all participants of the 30th AIPA General Assembly. He highlighted the importance of cooperation between legislative and administrative divisions and referred to the informal meeting between AIPA and the ASEAN Heads of Government during the 14th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am, Thailand, in February 2009 as a significant step of AIPA-ASEAN cooperation. He cited that the role and contribution of AIPA to the ASEAN Charter had been emphasized along the line with the strengthening of democracy and promotion of human rights. He expressed that economic crisis would affect the well-beings of ASEAN citizens and AIPA should raise the issue of early ratification and full implementation of both existing and new ASEAN economic agreements according to the ASEAN Economic Blueprint. Since the Terms of Reference for developing common legislative initiatives had been formulated by the First AIPA Caucus, he highly hoped for the possibility of the harmonization of laws on drug trafficking and human trafficking.

DELEGATIONS

7 The delegations from Brunei Darussalam led by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr) Haji Kemaludin, Speaker of the Legislative Council; Cambodia led by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly; Indonesia led by Mr Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Mr Thongsing Thammavong, President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Philippines, led by Mr Prospero C. Nograles, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Singapore led by Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament, Kingdom of Thailand led by Prof. Prasobsook Boondech, President of the Senate; Viet Nam led by Mrs Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly, attended the General Assembly.

8 Also present were Special Observer Delegation from Myanmar led by Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney General. The Observer Delegations were : Australia led by Ms Annette Hurley, Senator, Canada led by Mr Joseph A. Day, Senator and Mr Bryon Wilfert, Member of the House of Commons; People's Republic of China led by Mr Zha Peixin, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of National People's Congress of China; Japan led by Ms Shimoda Atsuko, MP; and Russian Federation led by Mr Iskuzhin Rudik, MP.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 The General Assembly elected the following as Vice-Presidents : Brunei Darussalam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr) Haji Kemaludin; Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin; Indonesia, Mr Agung Laksono; Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr Thongsing Thammavong;

Malaysia, Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia; Philippines, Mr Prospero C. Nograles; Singapore, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi; Thailand, Prof. Prasobsook Boondech; and Viet Nam, Mrs Tong Thi Phong.

STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

10 The Heads of the Delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People' Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam, Thailand and Myanmar delivered their respective Statements during the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

Brunei Darussalam

11 Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr) Haji Kemaludin, Speaker of the Legislative Council and Leader of the Brunei Darussalam Delegation, expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for the generous hospitality and the excellent arrangement for the 30th AIPA General Assembly. He extended his profound gratitude to the Executive Committee and to all members of AIPA for their support for the full membership of the Brunei Darussalam Legislative Council in AIPA. He also expressed pleasure that the Informal Meeting between AIPA Representatives and ASEAN Leaders held in Hua Hin, Cha-am earlier this year, had signified the recognition given to AIPA as a partner in ASEAN and presented an opportunity for AIPA to contribute to the work of ASEAN. He expressed confidence that AIPA would work hand in hand with other relevant organizations towards achieving and fulfilling the goals and objectives of ASEAN, especially towards building up an ASEAN Community by 2015. He assured the continued support and cooperation of Brunei Darussalam to the work of AIPA.

Cambodia

12 Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Leader of the Cambodian Delegation, noted that Cambodia shared with the Legislative Institution of ASEAN Member Countries concerning the way towards the progression of AIPA-ASEAN cooperation to overcome the common regional and global financial crisis. He stated that AIPA should be an associated institution to ASEAN. Both secretariats of AIPA and ASEAN could keep each other timely informed about any up to date developments and work compatibly and truly esteem each other. The common goal of entire ASEAN people stipulated in the common charter would be accomplished. He cited that AIPA had been a backbone that could bring the ASEAN countries back to its accustomed situation. AIPA should seek to extend cooperation on financial matters which would be the driving force to accelerate economic growth. At the Summit of the ASEAN+3 in Beijing, it was agreed that the tremendous effect to crisis would be alleviated through duly actions and enforcement of the Chiang Mai Initiatives (CMI).

13 Following the ASEAN Charter, AIPA would serve as the roadmap leading toward the real development of ASEAN family. AIPA member countries should not overlook the incident occurred among the member countries. Each country should take part in

preserving, peace, security, safety and harmonizing within the region. He also reiterated that any actions to seek possible preventive approach to the problem of instability in the region did not mean involvement in the internal affairs of any one member country. On the contrary, such action had been good to the dispute settlement and it had been better than doing nothing that might ruin our common attempt to build ONE ASEAN by the three pillars.

Indonesia

14 Mr Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Leader of the Indonesian Delegation, expressed his appreciation for various sympathies and relentless supports kindly offered by AIPA related to the attack of the JW Marriot and Ritz Carlton Hotels in Jakarta on 17th July 2009. He, therefore, called for the need to strengthen our region cooperation on combating terrorism.

15 Following the ASEAN Charter, he viewed the importance of human rights as one of the most fundamental elements of rules-based and people-oriented ASEAN Community and highly appreciated the adoption of the revised draft Terms of Reference for the Establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, which was adopted at the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Phuket, and also a strong commitment from all members of ASEAN countries to promote and protect human rights for ASEAN citizens.

16 He called for supports to the good offices of the UN Secretary General or any other initiatives by ASEAN in assisting the Government of Myanmar to implement the Roadmap to Democracy, in which the concrete measures were the establishment of a favorable atmosphere for national reconciliation and the implementation of a free, transparent and credible general elections in Myanmar in 2010, in accordance with the principles and purposes enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

17 He also cited the issue of women empowerment in political aspects. He noted that there would be an increasing percentage of women parliamentarians from 13 per cent to more than 20 per cent in between 2009 to 2014. This achievement derived from the hard work of the current women parliamentarians on the amendment of national laws governing election and political party.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

18 Mr Thongsing Thammavong, President of the National Assembly and Leader of the Lao PDR Delegation, after congratulating the Thai National Assembly for the warm and generous hospitality, underlined that the 30th AIPA General Assembly was important. It would contribute to significant developments in the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, as well as in the establishment of the three ASEAN pillars. The Lao PDR is trying to promote economic development and to improve the living conditions of the multi-ethnic people under the challenging conditions of the world global economic crisis. In terms of coordination strengthening and partnership between ASEAN countries, he noted with interest that the Lao National Assembly supported the AIPA policies. He welcomed the admission of Brunei Darussalam in the AIPA.

Malaysia

19 Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Leader of the Malaysian Delegation, reiterated that Parliament in any given democratic country had played the role as the guardian of national order, democracy, peace, security and social development. He believed that the spirit and soul of democracy was the freedom of expression of opinion. The definition of democracy was not necessarily confined to the definition of developed nations. He mentioned that as in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, which promoted political development according to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, Parliamentarians should strive to develop a caring society. He urged ASEAN Parliamentarians to work together to suppress the negative elements that could undermine the spirit of regional cooperation in ASEAN against a background of globalization and growing transnational issues. He concluded that each nation in ASEAN should strengthen cooperation further.

Philippines

20 In his speech, Mr Prospero C. Nograles, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Leader of the Philippine Delegation, cited the pivotal role in enlisting public support among our peoples for the ASEAN vision of a strong and united regional community, and an authentic people-oriented ASEAN. He suggested that only through sustained dialogue could we foster mutual understanding and promote sustained collaborative engagements to effectively address national and regional concerns. He said this was the time to strengthen our intra-regional economic linkages. Our region collectively had the purchasing power of over half a billion people-even bigger than that of the European Union; and it could serve as the common market for goods and services that ASEAN countries produce. He also suggested the need for ASEAN integration and called for AIPA to establish some kind of a "Regional Bloc" because we, individually, were small and our services and goods were limited. When the ASEAN countries, however, began to integrate as a single market with a free flow of skilled labor, production, free market and free flow of capital; we would not be left behind because together we would become more attractive to foreign investors.

21 In his speech, he viewed the missile tests conducted by a regional neighbor and the possibility that it might have already developed nuclear armaments as a cause for serious concern. He stated that AIPA needed to strengthen further our systems of regional cooperation to ensure peace, stability and security in the greater Asian region.

Singapore

22 Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament and Leader of the Singaporean Delegation, stated that over the years, the international community had begun to view ASEAN as a central figure in the political, social and economic spheres of the region. For instance, ASEAN had started to engage Asian powers in the regional security and economic architecture and that we were working towards ensuring continued peace and stability in Southeast Asia. It was evident that ASEAN's efforts to keep an open and inclusive approach by reaching out to the major powers of the world and engaging them

had borne fruit. This engagement, however, was only assured through confirmed focus on being responsive to developments around us. Furthermore, ASEAN must continue to seek out opportunities for growth, even as we responded to the immediate challenges which confronted us.

23 He also stated that ASEAN was on track towards the establishment of a single integrated community and AIPA could play an important role in advancing ASEAN's efforts to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015. Parliamentarians constituted an important link between the ordinary men in the street and the respective governments of the region and had a duty to help make ASEAN real and tangible for all citizens. ASEAN would not work if it remained an abstract ideal that bore little relevance or impact to the daily lives of our people. For the wider international community to believe in ASEAN, ASEAN people must also understand and appreciate ASEAN's goals and objectives. He said it fell upon ASEAN parliamentarians to bridge this gap.

Viet Nam

24 Mrs Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly and Leader of the Vietnamese Delegation congratulated Thailand for their excellent organization and wonderful host of AIPA-30 and Brunei Darussalam for its accession to AIPA. She stressed that since its establishment, AIPA has made great progress contributing to the development of ASEAN as it committed to exerting all efforts to build the ASEAN Community by 2015 through the harmonization of legal systems and promotion of cooperation between and among regional countries. Against the current background, she viewed that the international community in general and ASEAN Community in particular should strengthen cooperation to cope with the global financial crisis and economic downturn. Countries should further promote political dialogues and dialogue between civilizations and cultures, enhanced friendship, mutual trust and respect; implement the regional and international cooperation commitments in response to cross-border pandemics.

25 As an active member of AIPA, the National Assembly of Viet Nam had spared no efforts to contribute to the success of AIPA General Assemblies. According to the rotating mechanism of AIPA, the President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam would assume the AIPA Presidency for the period 2009-2010 and Viet Nam would host the 31st AIPA General Assembly in 2010. This would help promote good friendship and cooperation between Viet Nam and other ASEAN parliaments and peoples. Viet Nam looked forward to the support and cooperation of AIPA member parliaments and observers to fulfill our task of Presidency in the spirit of "*Solidarity, Cooperation and Development for Peace and Prosperity of the ASEAN Community*".

Thailand

26 In his speech, Prof. Prasobsook Boondech, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand and Leader of the Thai Delegation, cited that AIPA had supported ASEAN governments' policies on collective security to address traditional and non-traditional threats, and AIPA General Assembly resolutions were adopted to thrust

ASEAN toward ASEAN Political-Security Community. In order to expedite ASEAN integration, he stated that there were numbers of agreements to be ratified and hoped that AIPA would perform actively in facilitating any process to implement various measures with a view to achieve the ASEAN Community. He also reiterated the importance of raising awareness and readiness of ASEAN people in sharing a common goal to the ASEAN Community since they would be an essential force to drive and would be the ones who enjoyed the benefits from this long term efforts.

Myanmar

27 Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney General and Leader of the Myanmar Delegation, expressed his gratification to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Government and the people of Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to the ASEAN Parliamentary Delegations and Myanmar Delegation as well as congratulated the Brunei Darussalam Delegation on its attainment of the membership of AIPA.

28 He noted the work accomplished by AIPA from the meeting of the 29th General Assembly held in Singapore to the Meeting of AIPA Caucus in Malaysia last April which had been milestones in the history of AIPA. He also stated that the Government of Myanmar had always been conscious of the emergence of a democratic nation which was the desire of entire people of Myanmar. The State Peace and Development Council giving priority to the nation and the people outlined the Seven Step Road Map for the step by step and systematic transition towards Democratization in 2003. However, at the Fourth Step, adoption of the Constitution through National Referendum had already been implemented and Myanmar would continue in expediting the implementation of the remaining three Steps, including holding a free and fair election for Hluttaws (Legislative Bodies), convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members and building of the Modern, Developed and Democratic Nation.

29 Concerning the Cyclone Nargis which struck the Ayeyawady delta and Yangon Division on 2nd and 3rd May 2008, he was pleased to share the progress and development made by the Government's unsparing efforts in working together with the United Nations, ASEAN, INGOs and NGOs. The efforts of all parties have proved to be highly successful and Myanmar had owed her thank to all in this General Assembly of AIPA who have rendered every help. In conclusion, he hoped that the 30th AIPA General Assembly would be held in the traditional ASEAN and AIPA spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation with the concept of deliberation and consensus.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MATTERS

30 The Executive Committee approved the draft resolution on the Admission of Brunei Darussalam into AIPA which was signed by the Leaders of AIPA Delegations and adopted at the General Assembly. Referring to the first informal meeting during the 14th ASEAN Summit on 28 February 2009 in Cha-am, Thailand, the Executive Committee approved the scenario of the Meeting between Leaders of AIPA Delegations and AIPA Special Observers and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, as Chairman of ASEAN. The Executive Committee also approved the scenario of the Meeting between AIPA Delegations and Secretary-General of ASEAN which aimed to

pave the way for AIPA and ASEAN to consolidate the AIPA-ASEAN partnership and provide the groundwork for recommendations to ASEAN Leaders on the procedures and criteria for engagement with entities associated with ASEAN.

POLITICAL MATTERS

The Role and Contributions of AIPA to the ASEAN Charter

31 The Assembly urged the implementation of the five point agreements reached at the Informal Meeting of AIPA Delegation and ASEAN Heads of States/Governments during the 14th ASEAN Summit on Saturday, 28 February 2009, in Cha-am, Thailand, and the joint formulation with ASEAN on the procedures and criteria for engagement under the ASEAN Charter on the entities associated with ASEAN. The Assembly also called upon contributions to the realization of an ASEAN Political–Security Community as a rules–based and people–oriented ASEAN Community of shared values and norms. The Assembly supported the provision of parliamentary proposals, experiences, expertise, and international parliamentary networks to ASEAN.

Strengthening of Democracy and Promotion of Human Rights

32 The Assembly agreed to share experiences and expertise and create international parliamentary networks with ASEAN to promote principles of democracy, democratic institutions, gender mainstreaming, popular participation, and voluntary electoral observations. The Assembly supported the joint measures with ASEAN to promote understanding and appreciation of political systems and the rules of law and good governance, and to implement the ASEAN Charter. The Assembly urged the follow-up on the establishment and operational ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and continued the consultations with ASEAN on this. The Assembly also underlined the protection and safeguard of ASEAN Citizens from human rights abuses and human rights violations and the rejection of fundamental freedoms, transparency, accountability and effective governance.

Interfaith Dialogue for Conflict Prevention and Resolution

33 The Assembly agreed to jointly promote with ASEAN the culture of peace and interfaith dialogue and greater interaction among various religious groups as a means to conflict prevention, confidence building, conflict management, conflict resolution and preempting sectarian violence. The Assembly urged AIPA to carry out technical cooperation with ASEAN, international organizations and international parliamentary networks to exchange expertise and experiences in maintaining peace and stability through confidence building measures and interfaith dialogues and interaction.

Global and Regional Security Situations

34 The Assembly supported the positions and actions of ASEAN, the United Nations and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on global and regional political and security issues of common concern and immediate challenges. The Assembly called upon

ASEAN Member Parliaments to provide parliamentary contributions and the good offices of the international parliamentary networks of AIPA to the peaceful settlements of conflicts and post-conflict peace-building. The Assembly agreed to collaborate with ASEAN to build an ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) as a rules-based Community of shared values and norms, a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security, and a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

The First AIPA Caucus

35 The Assembly adopted the Final Report of the First AIPA Caucus, taking into account the proposal raised at the First AIPA Caucus meeting on further enhancing AIPA-ASEAN cooperation and interaction at this juncture as ASEAN moved steadily towards realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015. The Assembly also adopted the draft Terms of References (TOR) of AIPA Caucus.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

Regional Economic Integration

36 The Assembly urged AIPA Member Countries to provide the harmonization of laws to facilitate ASEAN regional integration under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the roadmap and timelines in the AEC Blueprint and ensure an early ratification and full implementation of existing and future ASEAN economic agreements and initiatives. The Assembly supported AEC actions to facilitate flow of goods through ASEAN Single Window, trade facilitation, customs integration, in line with the strategic schedule for AEC elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and standard and technical barrier to trade. The Assembly called on the facilitation of free flow of intra-ASEAN investment and foreign direct investment and contribution to freer flow of capital.

Narrowing ASEAN Development Gap

37 The Assembly agreed to provide parliamentary support to achieve the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and capacity-building assistance on legislative developments to the CLMV and mobilize support and technical cooperation from AIPA Dialogue Partners and international parliamentary sources for effective implementation of the IAI programs.

Food and Energy Security

38 The Assembly supported the policies and measures of ASEAN to ensure food and energy security for the region. The Assembly urged the development of legal and parliamentary means to further ensure ASEAN food and energy security. The Assembly also agreed to ensure early ratification of ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement as agreed upon at the 14th ASEAN Summit in April 2009 and provide legislative and parliamentary support to harmonize regulations on food safety of individual AIPA member nations, promote production of safe and healthy food by

producers at all levels and strengthen food inspection and certification systems in the farms of AIPA member nations.

Global Economic and Financial Crisis

39 The Assembly called upon AIPA to provide parliamentary perspectives and recommendations to implement ASEAN measures to address global economic and financial crisis accountable to the Millennium Development Goals and the human security of the ASEAN Citizens. AIPA should provide parliamentary oversight and good governance to ensure transparent, participatory, speedy and sustainable regional economic and financial recovery. The Assembly supported ASEAN's effort to deal with the crisis as stated in the Press Statement on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis issued at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009, Thailand.

Doha Development Round

40 The Assembly agreed to play an important role by encouraging ASEAN Member Countries to show a sense of urgency and political will to conclude the Doha Development Round when Ministers meet later this year. The Assembly urged members to remain committed to the G-20 pledge and APECMRT by refraining from imposing any new protectionist trade measures in response to the global economic crisis. The Assembly agreed to work with ASEAN to expedite the accession of the Lao PDR to the WTO. Special emphasis was placed on developing collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to enhance capacity-building of AIPA Member Parliaments on multilateral trade and WTO negotiations. The Assembly emphasized the contribution to the governments of the ASEAN Member Countries in their negotiations in the WTO by providing parliamentary perspectives to the issues under negotiations and offered AIPA's parliamentary linkages with the ASEAN constituents and the international parliamentary networks to produce meaningful and beneficial negotiations. The Assembly also agreed to be partner with ASEAN in the people-to-people reach-out programs to bridge an understanding of the ASEAN Citizens of the WTO negotiations and foster their participation in formulating regional position in the WTO.

SOCIAL MATTERS

Building an ASEAN Identity

41 The Assembly agreed to promote an ASEAN Identity among ASEAN citizens which includes raising ASEAN awareness according to Article 35 of the ASEAN Charter. The Assembly also agreed to work closely with ASEAN by organizing people-to-people outreach programs to bring the ASEAN Charter, "The Charter of the Peoples", to the doorsteps of ASEAN citizens.

Health and Social Problems Emerging from Migration

42 The Assembly resolved to work with ASEAN to improve policies and measures to address problems emerging from migration and provide legislative support for

promotion of managed labor migration. This could be done through formal legal channels, by means of nationality identification, health screening before entering the labor market either at the sending or receiving countries, the issuing of health insurance to migrant workers and their family members where applicable. The Assembly also resolved to engage ASEAN External Parties and AIPA Dialogue Partners as well as international organizations and the international parliamentary networks on capacity-building activities for parliamentary officials regarding their function on legislative monitor and oversight. The Assembly proposed the establishment of AIPA Fact-Finding Committee on Migration to comprehensively address the migration issues in ASEAN.

Harmonization of Laws on Seizure and Forfeiture of Assets in Drug Criminal Case and on the Chemicals and Precursors Control

43 The Assembly agreed to contribute proactively to the realization of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015 and recommended the establishment of a working group to study ways and means to harmonize laws in ASEAN countries on drugs with the assistance from international organizations. The Assembly urged AIPA member countries to consider a tax exemption for products from drug related alternative development projects as an incentive to combat the drug menace. The Assembly also adopted the Report of the 6th Meeting of the AIFOCOM, 10–14 May 2009, in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Disaster Management

44 The Assembly agreed to provide parliamentary and legislative support to get the region better prepared and equipped with people-to-people assistance in disaster relief and management. The Assembly also encouraged parliamentary oversight for transparency and accountability in the handling of the issue.

Legal Cooperation to Combat the Trafficking in Persons

45 The Assembly agreed to call a meeting of the AIPA Ad-hoc Committee on Human Trafficking to work out details for its role, and also noted that ASEAN is currently developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons which AIPA should support and provide recommendations to ASEAN in the drafting process.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Sustainable Human Security

46 The Assembly agreed to provide parliamentary and legislative support and recommendations to ASEAN to overcome financial crisis and climate change for the achievement of the MDGs.

Building a Healthy ASEAN Community

47 The Assembly recognized the needs for common and collective efforts by countries in the regions for effective responses to newly emerging pandemic diseases such as H5N1 and AH1N1. The Assembly resolved that access to basic health services as needed should be ratified as a basic human rights and should be clearly mentioned

in the national policies. The Assembly recommended the AIPA member countries to continue to take concrete actions in preventing and controlling emerging communicable diseases at the national and the regional level. The Assembly agreed that AIPA should continue to provide serious parliamentary attention and recommendations on health issues and community health services in order to work together with ASEAN towards a healthy ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The Assembly adopted all the Resolutions as per the Agenda.

48 The Assembly approved the financial report of the AIPA Secretariat for the periods, 1 July 2008 to 30 September 2008, 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 and 1 October 2008 to 30 June 2009, and Estimated Expenditure for 1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009.

49 The Assembly approved the Budget Proposal for the AIPA Secretariat for the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

50 At the end of three-year Term of Office of the Secretary General, Dato Md. Yusoff bin Md. Zain, on 30th April 2010, the Assembly requested the Philippines to nominate the Second Secretary General to be appointed by the President of AIPA. The Assembly also requested the handover of the office of the Secretary General within three months before the current Secretary General completes his term on 30 April 2010 at the Headquarters of the AIPA Secretariat in Jakarta. The new Secretary General should begin his/her term of office at the AIPA Secretariat on 1 May 2010.

51 The Assembly agreed to pay gratuity to Dato' Md. Yusoff bin Md. Zain, the current AIPA Secretary General, in accordance with the Working Agreement of the Secretary General of AIPA, the sum of US\$18,900.00. This should be paid partly from the US\$15,000.00 donation from Brunei Darussalam and should be reflected in the budget proposal for FY 2010. The Assembly also agreed to pay gratuities to future Secretary Generals at the end of his/her term of office based on the Working Agreement.

52 Regarding the evaluation on AIPA's participation in ASEAN activities and its financial implication, the Assembly acknowledged the paper submitted by the AIPA Secretariat on Evaluation on AIPA's Participation in ASEAN Activities and its Financial Implications. The Assembly further acknowledged the discussion the President of AIPA had with the Chairman and the Secretary General of ASEAN at the AIPA 30th General Assembly during which the Chairman and the Secretary General of ASEAN had expressed their strong commitment to the proposals raised in the aide memoir entitled "The Key Points from the Discussion between AIPA Delegation and Secretary General of ASEAN", dated 3 August 2009 and the Statement of H.E. Mr Chai Chidchob to the Chairman of ASEAN, at the Meeting between Leaders of AIPA Delegations and Special Observers during the 30th AIPA General Assembly. The Assembly recommended AIPA to implement the recommendations in all of the aforesaid documents.

53 The Vietnamese Delegation informed the meeting that the 31st General Assembly would be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 19 to 25 September 2010.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

Women in Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

54 The Assembly called for cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries in developing programs for equal access to financial services and credit for the poor and disadvantaged women including the promotion of initiatives for the advancement of women through their participation as leaders in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives which shall strengthen all efforts made to achieve higher goals beyond the MDGs especially to increase the proportion of women in local, national Parliaments, and all levels of administrative authorities in the civil service through the improvement of legislation and administration to give women full and equal access to those positions.

The Roles of Women in Building an ASEAN Community

55 The Assembly recognized that the ASEAN Community which comprises three pillars, namely an ASEAN Political-Security Community, an ASEAN Economic Community and an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, should be established by the year 2015 with ASEAN Charter as the guideline. The Assembly acknowledged the role of women under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural pillar and the people as the center of an ASEAN Community and women could contribute to constructive and active participation in building an ASEAN Community. The Assembly also emphasized that the participation of the ASEAN citizens and the promotion of greater awareness of an ASEAN identity was imperative for building the ASEAN Community.

Strengthening Gender Equality and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children

56 The Assembly supported regional and international cooperation with a view to addressing the protection of the rights of women and children as appropriate means to consolidate the establishment of an ASEAN Community. The Assembly encouraged the ASEAN Member Parliaments to adopt laws, strategies, national policies and programs on gender equality for the advancement of women and children as well as the mobilization of parliaments to be a key mechanism to promote gender equality and ensure that the rights of women and children are undertaken through legislative procedures. The Assembly stressed the need for women parliamentarians to play more active roles in following up all implementations of international agreement in line with the MDGs. The Assembly supported all efforts made for the achievement of the higher goals of the MDGs and urged the women parliamentarians to play vital roles in supporting the enhancement of parliamentary actions on this matter.

The Empowerment and Contribution of Women in Politics

57 The Assembly requested ASEAN Member States to set up activities or programs at national and regional levels for the benefit of women's participation in politics, to share similar situations and challenges with neighbouring countries and to encourage coordination and participation between men and women in politics to promote balanced gender equality and ensure respect for the rights of women in line with the Universal Declaration of Democracy. The Assembly urged ASEAN Member States to introduce and strengthen legislation to empower women and contribution of women in politics. The Assembly also supported all initiatives of ASEAN for the promotion of women participation in politics to follow up the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations and the development of women's skills and knowledge in politics such as public speaking and debate skills, policy and strategy formulation, and election campaigns, to promote women's participation in politics.

DIALOGUES WITH OBSERVERS

58 The Assembly, through its dialogue panels, conducted separate meetings with Observers, namely Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Japan and Russian Federation.

31st AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

59 The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of Viet Nam to host the 31st General Assembly on 19 - 25 September 2010 in Hanoi.

APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

60 The Delegations attending the Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Parliament of Thailand as well as the people of Thailand for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 30th AIPA General Assembly.

ASEAN SPIRIT

61 The 30th AIPA General Assembly was held in traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation, in accordance with the concept of 'musyawarah' (deliberation) and 'muafakat' (consensus).