



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
34th General Assembly of the
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

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

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
September 17-23, 2013**

Report

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held its 34th General Assembly from September 17 to 23, 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. 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 Donald Neil Plett, Senator, and the CJIG was represented by the Honourable Daniel Lang, Senator. The Secretary to the delegation was Mr. Roger Préfontaine. H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Haji Isa Ibrahim, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, presided over the 34th AIPA General Assembly.

The 34th AIPA General Assembly was attended by delegations from AIPA Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam led by H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Haji Isa Ibrahim, Speaker of the Legislative Council; Kingdom of Cambodia led by H.E. Mr. Tep Ngorn, 2nd Vice President of the Senate of the Upper House of the Parliament; Republic of Indonesia led by H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie, Speaker of People's Representative Council; Lao People's Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mrs. Pany Yathotou President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Hj Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Myanmar led by H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw & Pyithu Hluttaw; Republic of the Philippines led by Hon. Pangaliam M. Balindong, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines; Republic of Singapore led by H.E. Mdm. Halimah Yacob, Speaker of the Parliament; Thailand led by H.E. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai, First Vice-President of the Senate; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam led by H.E. Ms. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly.

Observer Delegations were from Belarus led by Mr. Vitaly Busko; Canada led by Hon. Donald Neil Plett; People's Republic of China led by Mr. Chi Wanchun; European Union Parliament led by Mr. Werner Langen; India led by Mr. Viswanathan Perumal; Japan led by Ms. Takagai Emiko and Russian Federation led by Mr. Kalashnikov Leonid.

The Canadian delegation attended the first plenary session which incorporated statements by the leaders of all member countries, followed by those from all observer countries. The statement by Canada was delivered by the Honourable Senator Donald Neil Plett, Leader of the Canadian delegation. The speech highlights may be found in **Appendix A** of this report.

The conference held individual Committee sessions on the following subjects:

- 1) Political Matters
- 2) Economic Matters
- 3) Social Matters
- 4) 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 Friday, September 20, 2013. The agenda for the dialogue meeting was the following:

- 1) Establishing ASEAN Community 2015;
- 2) ASEAN Connectivity;
- 3) ASEAN Parliament;
- 4) More Enhanced Partnership between AIPA and Canadian Parliament

The dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Haji Zulkipli bin Haji Abd. Hamid, Member of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam. His report summarizing the discussion's main points was presented at the Second Plenary Session and is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

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 35th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) will be held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, from September 14 to 20, 2014.

Bilateral Meeting with Japan

During the Assembly, the Canadian delegation met with its Japanese counterparts. The Japanese were represented by Ms. Emiko Takagai, Mr. Naoki Tanaka and Mr. Kiyohiro Araki, and accompanied by Mr. Hiroyuki Togawa and Ms. Yoko Shinokubo.

In a very friendly atmosphere, the Parliamentarians exchanged views and information on female representation in and the composition of their respective Houses. The impending visit to Canada by Prime Minister Abe was discussed.

Senator Lang informed the Japanese delegation on various investment opportunities in Yukon, including in the exploitation of lead, zinc and copper deposits.

Senator Plett reminded his counterparts that Japanese interests have recently bought a pork processing plant in Manitoba. He informed the group that timber and various wood product exports are slightly down but this could be compensated with other products. He reminded that Canada is a world leader in energy and energy supply and that production can be facilitated and accelerated since the environmental assessment process has now been reduced to 2 years.

The Japanese expressed the desire that a Bilateral Meeting between the two countries during AIPA now be a regular event.

Conclusion

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is one of the world's fastest growing economic regions. Collectively, the economies of the ten ASEAN countries are approximately 10% larger than that of Canada and just slightly larger than that of Brazil. Moreover, the ASEAN nations have been identified as one Canada's priority markets. Canada's partnership with ASEAN nations dates back to 1977 and is committed to issues

such as human rights, health, security, trade and investment. In July 2010, the adoption of a new 5-year Plan of Action did much to further cooperation on issues surrounding human rights, counterterrorism, and disaster management. Observer participation by Canada at conferences of this nature are a tremendous opportunity for Canadian Parliamentarians to be apprised of significant issues affecting ASEAN nations and to continue in exercising support while demonstrating Canada's commitment to the prosperous development of this most significant region.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Victor Oh, Senator
Co-Chair, Canada-China
Legislative Association

Mike Wallace, M.P.,
Co-Chair, Canada-Japan
Inter-Parliamentary Group

Appendix A



**THE 34th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
17th – 23rd SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Statement by Senator Donald Neil Plett
Leader of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation**

Mr. President,

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman.

My name is Senator Don Plett and it is a great pleasure to be here with my colleague, Senator Dan Lang, to take part in this very important conference. I have already had the opportunity see parts of this wonderful city.

- Canada has a special and longstanding relationship with ASEAN; a relationship built on friendship, economic ties, mutual security interests, and our shared belief in democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law.
- Canada is a country of the Pacific, and we are one of ASEAN's longest standing Dialogue Partners. 2013 marks 36 years of diplomatic ties between Canada and ASEAN.
- We see our relationship with ASEAN playing a vitally important, strategic role in the helping to secure long-term prosperity of Canadians, just as it does for the 630 million people who live in the ASEAN region.
- Canada has reinvigorated its engagement with ASEAN in recent years. Both Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird, and Minister of International Trade Ed Fast, were in Brunei earlier this year for meetings with their ASEAN counterparts.
- There have also been numerous bilateral high level visits exchanged between Canada and ASEAN member states over the past several

months. Notably, then ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan visited Canada in September, 2012.

- In Brunei in early July, Minister Baird announced millions of dollars' worth of new Canada-ASEAN initiatives which will support connectivity and ASEAN community-building, in areas such as financial regulation, public private partnerships, disaster risk reduction and response, and facilitating trade security by increasing capacity building efforts.
- Our Government strongly supports ASEAN's community building aspirations and their goal of achieving an ASEAN Community by December 31, 2015.
- We recognize the important role ASEAN is playing in shaping the region's architecture.
- We encourage ASEAN to pursue a robust trade and investment liberalization agenda and work toward long-lasting solutions to existing internal challenges. We encourage all ASEAN countries to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to work in concert to address systemic corruption issues.
- Canada continues to be a significant contributor to ASEAN's community building objectives, and we will continue to increase our engagement to its fullest potential.

With regards to trade, ASEAN has been a significant partner for Canada, ranking as our 7th largest trading partner, with a total value of \$ 15.8 billion last year.

- We recently announced the creation of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council to focus on growing private-sector cooperation between Canadian and Southeast Asian businesses.
- Thailand is Canada's largest merchandise trading partner in ASEAN. In 2012, Canada's bilateral trade with Thailand reached to \$3.3 billion. Our *government* launched exploratory discussions with this *very* important trading partner of Canada and also in the region.
- Indonesia is Canada's largest export destination, with \$ 1.6 billion, annually. We are currently negotiating a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.
- Export to Singapore in 2012 was \$908 million, an increase of 12% *over* the previous year.
- And notably, to Brunei, a country of only 400,000 people, Canada's exports in 2011 amounted to \$3.7 million, mostly in machinery. As well, Canada imported in the same year \$8.1 million of organic chemicals, knit apparel and miscellaneous chemical products.

The people to people ties between Canada and the countries of ASEAN are impressively strong

- The ASEAN region represented the top source of permanent residents in Canada in 2010.
- Specifically, 800,000 Canadians of Filipino background are now living and working in Canada. Indeed, for two years now, the Philippines have been the largest source for immigrants to Canada, many of whom have settled in my home province of Manitoba. I have personally had the chance to interact with many Filipino immigrants, and they are truly a great asset for my province and my country.

Over the years, Canada's financial services sector has grown significantly in ASEAN countries. Let me highlight a few Canadian successes:

- Vietnam: Manulife became the first foreign-owned life insurance company licensed in Vietnam in June 1999, and currently maintains over 390,000 policies. Sunlife received a license to operate in January 2013 in Vietnam.
- Indonesia: In 2010, Manulife was named Indonesia's best life insurance company by an industry association.
- Cambodia: In 2012, Manulife became the first wholly-owned foreign life insurer to commence operations in Cambodia.
- Philippines: Sun Life's had record insurance sales in 2012, up 58 % over 2011.
- Canada's top merchandise exports to Southeast Asia were: fertilizers; machinery; cereals; aircraft and aircraft parts; and wood pulp.
- Indonesia and the Philippines are Blackberry's first and second most important market in South East Asia.
- Bombardier, CAE and Viking Air are training Vietnamese pilots, and are very active in the region.

Colleagues, in closing, let me again say it is a great pleasure to be with you and I look forward to the important discussions and dialogue that will take place over the entire week.

Thank you.

Appendix B



**THE 34th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB,
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17th – 23rd SEPTEMBER 2013**

34GA/2013/Dia/Canada

REPORT ON DIALOGUE WITH CANADA

Chairperson of the Dialogue session was presided by Hon. Haji Zulkipli bin Haji Abd. Hamid, Member of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam. The dialogue session began at 2.30 pm, at Indera Samudera Hall 3, The Empire Hotel & Country Club, Brunei Darussalam, on Friday, 20th September 2013.

The dialogue meeting was attended by the following delegates:

DELEGATES OF OBSERVER: CANADA

- 1) Hon. Mr. Donald Neil Plett (HOD)
- 2) Hon. Mr. Daniel Lang
- 3) Mr. Roger Préfontaine

DELEGATES OF AIPA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Brunei Darussalam

- 1) Hon. Mrs. Datin Paduka Hajjah Salbiah binti Haji Sulaiman

Cambodia

- 1) Hon. Mr. Mam Bunneang
- 2) Hon. Mr. Som Savuth

Indonesia

- 1) Hon. Mr. Andi Azhar Cakra Wijaya

Lao PDR

- 1) Hon. Mr. Bounpone Sisoulath
- 2) Hon. Phosy Temmerath

Malaysia

- 1) Hon. Mrs. Datuk Chin Su Phin

The Philippines

- 1) H.E. Pangaliam M. Balindong. (Deputy Speaker/HOD)
- 2) Hon. Mr. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza
- 3) Hon. Mr. Nicanor M. Briones

Singapore

- 1) Hon. Ms. Lee Li Lian

Thailand

- 1) Hon. Dr. Vitthaya Inala

Vietnam

- 1) Hon. Dang Thi My Huong

The Meeting discussed the following issues:

- 1) Establishing ASEAN Community 2015: The Meeting underlines ASEAN Community 2015 that is fast approaching. Therefore, much of the ASEAN's efforts have been focused on implementing regional commitments across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community. The Meeting also views that AIPA as ASEAN's counterpart as well as ASEAN's Dialogue Partners essentially Canada have played important roles in supporting and realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond.
- 2) ASEAN Connectivity: The Meeting affirms the need to enhance the ASEAN Connectivity by synergizing efforts at the regional, sub-regional and national level that will benefit all ASEAN Member States and contribute to ASEAN Community building. The Meeting also underscores the idea of ASEAN's Connectivity that is aimed at leveraging the strategic location of the ASEAN region given that a well connected ASEAN will promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN, contribute to the promotion of deeper ties among ASEAN and connect ASEAN Member States with the rest of the world.
- 3) ASEAN Parliament: The Meeting articulates that AIPA has been studying about the strength of ASEAN for establishing ASEAN Community in 2015. Interestingly, the Meeting poses a question to AIPA Member Parliaments and Canadian Parliament about the possibility of establishing ASEAN Parliament. The Meeting also notes the comparison between European Parliament and the

expected ASEAN Parliament. The Meeting argues that, among others, ASEAN is stronger than Europe in terms of population.

- 4) More Enhanced Partnership between AIPA and Canadian Parliament: The Meeting finds that AIPA works are commendable and notes that ASEAN is the 7th largest trading partners as a group for Canada. The Canadian delegation views that education is an important area of cooperation between Canada and ASEAN. There have been 22 students from Brunei Darussalam studying in Canada this year. On the other side, Canada has received more than 80.000 students from China. Therefore, more ASEAN students studying in Canada is much encouraged. In addition, the Canadian delegation highlights more fields of cooperation, among others, clean energy and aerospace.
- 5) The Meeting also highlights the framework of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that has assisted many programs in ASEAN Member States, among others, agricultural land maintenance and parliamentary capacity building in Cambodia, as well as people capacity building through Public Partnership Program in the Philippines.

As there were no further comments from any of delegates, the Chairperson called the dialogue session to a close at 4 pm.

The Report of the Dialogue with Canada was presented to the 34th AIPA General Assembly.

HON. HAJI ZULKIPLI BIN HAJI ABD. HAMID CHAIRPERSON

CHAIRPERSON

Appendix C



**THE 34th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
17th – 23rd SEPTEMBER 2013**

Doc 34GA/2013/JC/01

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

- 1) Pursuant to the decision of the 33rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Lombok, Indonesia, on 16-22 September 2012, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 34th General Assembly was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 17-23 September 2013 under the theme, “The Role of AIPA in Realising the ASEAN Community”.
- 2) His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, President of the 34th AIPA and Speaker of the Legislative Council presided over the 34th AIPA General Assembly.

WELCOMING ADDRESSES

- 3) In his welcoming address, His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, President of 34th AIPA General Assembly and Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam welcomed honorable delegates and distinguished guests, observers and guests of the host.

OPENING ADDRESS

- 4) His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, officiated the 34th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Thursday, 19 September 2013 and has highlighted the significance of the 34th General Assembly in strengthening "The Role of AIPA in Realising The ASEAN Community". His Majesty believed that it is essential to involve all ASEAN relevant stakeholders, essentially Executive and Parliamentarians, in order to generate a sense of identity and belonging to the community. His Majesty also shared no doubt that ASEAN needs to enhance common desire and collective will to live in region of enduring peace, security and stability, sustain economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress for ASEAN current and future generations. This is the reason why ASEAN places greater emphasis on realizing a truly people-centered ASEAN as a critical element of ASEAN Community 2015. His Majesty also significantly underlined the importance of AIPA to communicate the ASEAN's vision to ASEAN's citizens and call upon ASEAN parliamentarians to continue to promote better understanding and to broaden the network with fellow parliamentarians from ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries, for the building of peaceful and harmonious communities in our respective regions.

DELEGATIONS

- 5) The Parliament Delegations from Brunei Darussalam led by Hon. Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Kerna Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Yaakub Bin Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zainal, Member of Legislative Council; the Kingdom of Cambodia led by H.E. Mr. Tep Ngorn, 2nd Vice President of the Senate of the Upper House; Republic of Indonesia led by H.E. Dr. Haji Marzuki Alie, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Lao People's Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mdm Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by Hon. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw & Pyithu Hluttaw; Republic of the Philippines led by Hon. Pangaliam M. Balindong, Deputy Speaker the House of Representatives; Republic of Singapore was led by H.E. Mdm Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament; the Kingdom of Thailand led by H.E. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai, The First Vice-President of the Senate; and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by H.E. Mdm. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly.
- 6) Observer Delegations that include Belarus was led by Mr. Vitaly Busko; Canada was led by Hon. Donald Neil Plett; People's Republic of China was led by Hon. Mr. Chi Wanchun; European Parliament was led by Mr.

Werner Langen; India was led by Mr. Viswanathan Perumal; Japan was led by Ms. Takagai Emiko; Russian Federation was led Mr. Kalashnikov Leonid.

- 7) The Guests of the Host include ASEAN Secretary General represented by Mr. Danny Lee; Inter-Parliamentary Union represented by Mr. Martin Chungong; ASEAN-WEN/FREELAND/ARREST represented by Mr. Chrisgel Ryan Ang Cruz; United Nations on the Prevention of Genocide represented by Mr. Adama Dieng and Timor-Leste represented by Hon. Mr. Vicente Da Silva Guterres; and the German Delegation represented by Ms. Jessica Engel.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AIPA

- 8) The Executive Committee of AIPA Meeting was convened to prepare the agenda of the 34th AIPA General Assembly with notable agenda the appointment of Vice-Chairperson of the AIPA Executive Committee Meeting, the appointment of Secretary of the AIPA Executive Meeting and deliberated on overall agenda of the General Assembly. The meeting had also agreed to add topics to be discussed during the Committee on Economics Matters Meeting and Committee on Social Matters Meeting.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 9) The General Assembly elected the following as Vice-Presidents: Brunei Darussalam, Hon. Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Kerna Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Yaakub Bin Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zainal; Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Tep Ngorn; Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Haji Marzuki Alie; Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mdm Pany Yathotou; Malaysia, Hon. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia; Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann; Republic of the Philippines, Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong; Republic of Singapore, H.E. Mdm Halimah Yacob; Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai; and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Mdm. Tong Thi Phong.

MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT

- 10) The 34th General Assembly of AIPA received the messages from the following Heads of State/Government:
- 11) H.M. PREAH BAT SAMDECH PREAH BOROMNEATH NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia; H.E. Dr. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, President of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. CHOUMMALY SAYASONE, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; H.E. DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK, Prime Minister of Malaysia; H.E. U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Republic of

the Philippines; H.E. Dr. TONY TAN, President of the Republic of Singapore; H.E. Ms. YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand; H.E. Mr. TRUONG TAN SANG, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

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

Brunei Darussalam

13)In his statement, the leader of Brunei Darussalam, Hon. Pehin Dato Awg Haji Yakub bin Pehin Dato Awg Haji Zainal recognized the importance of stronger ties and working relationship to bring about the common goal of ASEAN Community in 2015 which is reflected in the selected topic "The Role of AIPA in realising the ASEAN Community" that is also in line with ASEAN's theme held during the 22nd Summit Meeting: "Our People, Our Future Together" that further emphasized the role of the people of ASEAN in building efforts and look beyond 2015. The formation of ASEAN in 1967 has inspired parliamentarians of ASEAN member states to be actively involved in the development of the ASEAN Community that resulted in the establishment of AIPO in 1977. It was originally used as a platform for parliamentarians of the member of South East Asian countries to discuss on common issues faced by Member Countries of ASEAN. It later came to a realization that the strength of ASEAN originates from the roots of its societies and AIPO as a parliamentary organization representing people through election is an important organ to help ASEAN in realizing the ASEAN vision not only as a legislator, but also as a grass root leader of its societies and this would result in greater participation by the people of the ASEAN Member Countries. As ASEAN progressed towards the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015, the role of AIPA in supporting all ASEAN programs became important. AIPA needs to find ways to make itself more significant and effective to ASEAN. It is hoped that AIPA could achieve the objective of becoming the legislative branch of ASEAN and it must possess the capability to be the function as a legislature with wide or limited legislative power.

Kingdom of Cambodia

14)The Cambodian head of delegation is really proud of and highly appreciating the great success and achievements that AIPA member country Parliaments have jointly endeavored for years in cooperating with

the Executives to build ASEAN Community in line with the three pillars, Political-Security, Economic, and Social-cultural Community.

Regionally, even though the development gap between the Member countries of ASEAN has been remarkably reduced, the gap is still big. Besides, human rights, human trafficking, drug issue, migrant of workers and poverty still poses great challenges for us.

The basic conditions for establishing common regimes or for harmonizing national legislative frameworks and enforcement practices among ASEAN countries are not yet in place, owing to considerable disparities in technical and institutional capacities, economic development and political priorities.

The AIPA country member parliamentarians need to enhance and encourage the Heads of States, Heads of Governments of ASEAN and concerned authorities to work out necessary policies that shall be enforced before 2015 on the following works:

- (1) custom tariff and non-custom tariff,
- (2) investment liberalization,
- (3) linkage and transports,
- (4) SME development,
- (5) Innovation of ASEAN agricultural integration,
- (6) mutual recognition of professional services and free-flow of laborers,
- (7) institutional building and legal reforms, and
- (8) institutional issue of establishment of ASEAN Economic Community.

One of ASEAN's major setbacks in the implementation of regional integration measure is the slow ratification of ASEAN treaties and agreements by member countries, particularly of ASEAN Economic Community agreements. ASEAN can obviously benefit from AIPA's participation in ironing out concerns or issues and speeding up the process of ratification. We should explore innovative ways to accelerate effective legislative cooperation and harmonization in ASEAN member states as well as ways to identify common legislative initiatives to assess existing legal and constitutional frameworks and harmonize a list of laws in ASEAN to facilitate regional cooperation and enforcement.

Not only parliamentarian carry the voice of the ASEAN people, but also help to ensure that the requisite laws governing ASEAN's norms and goals are legislated. ASEAN parliamentarians should maximize their significant roles in law-making, policy-making, and incorporating the international commitment under the ASEAN community into their respective domestic laws. In order to fulfill this important obligation, we shall be actively performing our roles on representation, legislation and oversight.

Realizing ASEAN Community by 2015 remains a high priority. AIPA shall endeavor to use its potentials to assist ASEAN in speeding up the process of realizing ASEAN Community as planned. Each parliament needs to cooperate with its government in an effort to complete their legal frameworks as set out by ASEAN Charter in order to enhance the

effectiveness of ASEAN institutions both executive and legislative. ASEAN and AIPA cannot be separated and they need to support and cooperate with each other in order to bring peace, stability, security, solidarity, friendship, cooperation, development and prosperity to the region and promote living-standard of ASEAN peoples making it the nations of splendid and dignity.

Republic of Indonesia

15) In his statement, H.E. Dr. Haji Marzuki Alie, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia conveyed his appreciation and gratitude to the host parliament for the excellent arrangements, warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Indonesian Delegation. Indonesia underlined the significant message applied by the theme of the 34th General Assembly of AIPA: the Role of AIPA in Realizing the ASEAN Community. Indonesia viewed the theme is pertinent, considering the limited time remaining and the complex challenges continuing in establishing the ASEAN Community. Hence, Indonesia shares a common view that all stakeholders, including AIPA should continue to lend their commitment and best contribution to fully support the establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015, which requires the ASEAN Community to embrace the values of peace, mutual respect, brotherhood, and collaboration. Indonesia also expressed its appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for selecting the very important topics to be further deliberated in the Committee Meetings on Political, Economic and Social Matters. With the aspire to enrich the deliberation of the General Assembly, Indonesia proposed two additional topics to be addressed in the Committee Meeting of Economic and Social Matters, namely "Promoting the Role of AIPA in Response to the Challenges of ASEAN Economic Community" and "Post-2015 Development Agenda: AIPA's Commitment in Countering the Rising Challenges". In addition, Indonesia also informed the meeting on the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) to be convened in Medan, Indonesia, on October 2013. It constitutes Indonesia's continued commitment to promote the principles of democracy and good governance in the region through the cooperation to prevent and combat corruption. In this connection, Indonesia invited the meeting to participate in and contribute actively to the SEAPAC Meeting in October 2013.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

16) In her statement, H.E. Mrs. Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly of the Lao DPR, expressed the achievements made so far and further collaboration required to realizing ASEAN Community in 2015 which comprises of three pillars: ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Social Cultural Community (ASCC). It has become a common understanding that firm unity and greater harmonization of ASEAN member states will bring about

a large combined market with enormous potentials for the greater benefit for the people of ASEAN. Nevertheless, there are still constraints to be addressed, particularly in the ASEAN Economic Community building, that call for more active involvement from AIPA that have formed stronger ties in recent years. The Lao National Assembly was of the opinion that it is crucial for AIPA to enhance its working style to ensure a greater sense of ownership and a greater effectiveness and efficiency. Cooperation and coordination between ASEAN and AIPA have to be more systemic and well coordinated to bring about desired results. In this sense, the Lao National Assembly has implemented ASEAN's decisions.

Malaysia

17) H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin bin Haji Mulia, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

After thanking the host for the hospitality, he stressed the need for the commitment to meet the deadline for ASEAN Community by 2015. AIPA must be more cohesive to implement the Blueprints with three pillars comprising Political and Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community.

He emphasized AIPA's part and strategic initiatives such as on Competition Policy. It must explain the vision of prosperous and people-centred ASEAN Community to millions of ASEAN peoples with coordinated programmes and stronger partnership with ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN National Secretariat. It must initiate appropriate legislation in respective parliaments.

He concluded with the challenges to create a region of peace with no threats, to deal with the development gap, to standardize and regularize labour, trade and investment regimes and to mould the diverse ASEAN Societies into a region with a strong sense of identity.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

18) In his speech delivered by H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Leader of Myanmar Delegation. H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann stated that it is essential to resolve national reconciliation and national consolidation issues to build a new democratic nation. The Myanmar government has engaged serious negotiations with the ethnic groups to realize peace and reconciliation. However, positive agreements are now emerging. H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann expressed his appreciation for the opportunities to work in AIPA. He believed that all parliaments should effectively support ASEAN Community building efforts in our respective countries by enacting domestic laws in line with ASEAN agreements and commitments. He also believed that AIPA Member Parliaments are able to address important issues such as supporting the ASEAN Political and Security Community, fostering growth and sustainable development of SMEs, nurturing the role of young people to meet the future challenges of ASEAN and advocating better maternal

and child health. The speech was closed by the information about Myanmar's role as ASEAN Chair in 2014 and welcoming Timor-Leste to become a permanent observer of AIPA.

Republic of the Philippines

19) Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Republic of the Philippines, took pride in the proven work and dedication shown by each of the AIPA member parliaments over the years to achieve ASEAN's common goals and objectives and realize an ASEAN Community 2015. AIPA has an indispensable role in advancing ASEAN's economic integration by expediting the process of ratifying ASEAN agreements; and in ASEAN Community building by identifying priority areas for legal harmonization, conducting thematic studies and fact finding missions, providing advice on issues affecting the ASEAN and its members, and facilitating engagement among various stakeholders at the national and regional levels. He called on AIPA Member Parliaments to focus their collective efforts to institutionalize key regional reforms so that the planned ASEAN Community in 2015 shall benefit ASEAN citizens. He cited gains made by the Philippines in fostering sustainable SME development, nurturing youth development, and advocating maternal and child health. He also urged his fellow parliamentarians to a speedy resolution of the threats to the political stability and maritime security in the South China Sea through the expeditious conclusion of a Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, consistent with international law specifically the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which could serve as the ASEAN's guiding principles and standards in managing disputes.

Republic of Singapore

20) H.E. Madam Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Singapore Parliament, believed that since her founding in 1967, ASEAN had been making a steady progress towards her goal of building an ASEAN Community by 2015. Peace and stability had underpinned the economic growth experienced by Southeast Asia over the past 46 years. However, as the international environment became more unpredictable, it was important that ASEAN remained united in recognizing and addressing common challenges, including the transboundary haze. The launching of RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) presented an exciting prospect for ASEAN region. With a combined GDP of USD 21.4 trillion – about 40% of global GDP – and market of about 3.4 billion – over 45% of the world's population – the RCEP was slated to be the largest free trade bloc in the world. The implementation of the MPAC (Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity) had become a significant step in ASEAN's Community-building efforts. ASEAN also needed to work on a closer cooperation dealing with the issues which affected the health, social, and economic

well-being of people in the region. AIPA was expected to play a key role in empowering ASEAN's citizens to take ownership of ASEAN's evolution. It was the role of the ASEAN parliamentarians to work together with each respective government to promote a greater awareness of ASEAN, forge a stronger ASEAN identity and provide a bridge between the rhetoric on ASEAN integration by governments to meaningful policies that would impact the peoples of ASEAN.

Kingdom of Thailand

21) In his statement, H.E. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai, First Vice-President of the Senate, stated that the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand has seen the significance of being a component in building the ASEAN Community. As a legislative body, it supports the administrative works as well as strengthens national laws including existing rules and regulations to facilitate the process of building the ASEAN Community by reducing barriers in connecting ASEAN and AIPA together. AIPA Secretariat is a cooperative mechanism, connecting AIPA Member Parliaments and partners. Thailand acknowledged the complexity and delicate tasks of AIPA in materializing the mission of AIPA and suggested that the creative activities such as at the network and connectivity between officials in the AIPA member parliaments and observers should emerge in the near future. At the end of his speech, he thanks the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, together with all officials that help set up this general assembly and believes that that meeting would bring about fruitful cooperation among AIPA member countries.

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

22) H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, stated that while recognizing the significant achievements of the member states in socio-economic development, maintenance of peace, stability and international integration, ASEAN still faces many challenges in terms of maintaining security, stability and peace in the region, differences in the political systems and development policies of each country and the non-traditional security threats. AIPA-34 under the theme "The Role of AIPA in Realizing the ASEAN Community" - is an opportunity for AIPA and the member Parliaments to make concrete initiatives to bring into full play their roles and responsibilities to solve common difficulties, to assist member Governments in implementing the goals set by ASEAN. At this General Assembly, the Vietnamese delegation proposes an initiative to establish an ASEAN Green Growth Center to be a regional cooperation mechanism to help ASEAN member countries to exchange experience and accelerate the transition toward green growth and to enhance the resilience of the region before climate change while ensuring the continued high economic growth.

STATEMENTS OF THE LEADERS OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND GUESTS OF THE HOST PARLIAMENT

The full text of statements of the Leaders of Observers Countries and the Guests of the Host are attached to the Annex_ and _.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

23)The Committee Meeting was held in the tradition of ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. Members of the Committee on WAIPA agreed on the importance of improving maternal and child health in ASEAN. Therefore, the committee agreed on the adoption of one draft resolution entitled “Resolution on Fostering Maternal and Child Health in ASEAN”.

POLITICAL MATTERS

24)The Committee Meeting was held in the tradition of ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. The Committee on Political Matters meeting discussed a draft resolution on “Supporting the ASEAN Political Security Community” proposed by Brunei Darussalam in a constructive manner. During the elaboration, some countries shared their views on the importance of AIPA’s role in supporting the realization of ASEAN Political Security Community by 2015 and beyond. At the end, the Meeting successfully endorsed the draft Resolution.

25)During the deliberation, the Committee encouraged the AIPA Member Parliaments to fully support the commitment and efforts of the ASEAN Member States in realizing the ASEAN Political Security Community by 2015 by maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region that will create conducive environment for economic growth and prosperity. It further underscores the need of AIPA’s continued commitment to support the ASEAN Community Post-2015. It urges the AIPA Member Parliament to work collectively in addressing the security challenges emerged in the region. It also encourages the Member Parliaments and the AIPA Secretariat to involve more actively in raising ASEAN awareness and a sense of community in the region.

26)The Committee on Political Matters endorsed the Report of the 5th AIPA Caucus held in Da Lat, Vietnam.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

27)The Committee Meeting was held in the tradition of ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development plan has been stipulated in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and implemented in the work of ASEAN SMEs

Working Group. As SMEs are still constrained by their limitation in financial, skill and technological capabilities there is a need to take action that fosters the growth and sustainable development of SMEs. At the end, the Meeting successfully adopted the draft Resolution on “Fostering the growth and sustainable development of SMEs”.

- 28)The Committee also discussed a new draft resolution proposed by Indonesia and Vietnam. AIPA acknowledge the need to promote economic growth and sustainable development as a means to narrow development gap in the region. At the end, the Meeting adopted the draft Resolution on “Promoting the Role of AIPA in response to Challenges of ASEAN Economic Community and Supporting Green Growth”.

SOCIAL MATTERS

- 29)The Committee Meeting was held in the tradition of ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. AIPA Member Parliaments recognized the key role young people would play in addressing the development and sustainability of the region. The Committee agreed to adopt the draft resolution on “Nurturing and Enhancing The Role of Young People to Meet the Future Challenges of ASEAN”.
- 30)The Committee acknowledged the “Report of the Meeting of the 10th AIPA fact finding committee to combat the drug menace (AIFOCOM) held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam”.
- 31)The Committee also discussed a new draft resolution proposed by Indonesia. AIPA Member Parliaments supported ASEAN Leaders’ efforts to speed up their commitments in developing a roadmap on building the post-2015 development agenda. The Committee agreed to adopt the draft resolution on “The Role of AIPA in advancing the Post 2015 Development Agenda”.
- 32)The Committee also discussed a new draft resolution proposed by Thailand. AIPA Member Parliaments recognized that children are the future assets of ASEAN and will be the main factor in building peace, prosperity and stability in our region. It also recognized the importance of implementing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint in promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups, including women and children. The Committee adopted the draft resolution on “Cooperation towards child abuse-free ASEAN”.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

- 33)The Committee Meeting was held in the tradition of ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. The Committee adopted 19 draft resolutions, as follows:
- a) Resolution on Annual Report FY 2012-2013

- b) Resolution on the Adoption of the Workplan of the AIPA Secretariat
- c) Resolution on the Amendments to AIPA Staff Regulations
- d) Resolution on the Financial Reports of the AIPA Secretariat for the periods 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012, 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012, 1 October 2012 to 30 June 2013 and Estimated Expenditure for 1 July 2013 To 30 September 2013
- e) Resolution on the Budget Proposal for the AIPA Secretariat for the period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014 (FY 2013/2014)
- f) Resolution on the Amendments to the Statutes of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
- g) Resolution on the New Organization Charts for the AIPA and AIPA Secretariat
- h) Resolution on the Discharge of Mr Edy Suhardi due to his incapacity in Performing his duties because of ill health
- i) Resolution on Awareness Building Program
- j) Resolution on the Continuation of the Joint Program between AIPA and the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO) through GIZ and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)
- k) Resolution on Accrediting the National Parliament of Timor-Leste as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
- l) Resolution on the Amendment to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Technical Working Group (TWG) of AIFOCOM
- m) Resolution on the Amendment to the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AIPA Caucus
- n) Resolution on Information on the implementation of Adopted AIPA Resolutions
- o) Resolution on the Implementation Cooperation between ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and ASEAN Foundation by Signing Memorandum of Understanding
- p) Resolution on Purchase of an Apartment as Secretary General's Residence
- q) Resolution on Appreciating the Services of His Excellency Pehin Dato Isa bin Ibrahim as President of 34th AIPA from September 2012 to September 2013
- r) Resolution on Appreciation on the Completion of the Service of the Second AIPA Secretary General, Hon. Mr Antonio Veloso Cuenco
- s) Resolution on Date and Venue of the 35th General Assembly

DIALOGUES WITH OBSERVER DELEGATIONS

34)The Assembly, through its dialogue panels, conducted separate meetings with Observer Delegations, namely: Belarus, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Parliament, India, Japan and Russian Federation.

Reports of each of the above discussions are attached.

35th AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

35)The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of The Lao People Democratic Republic to host the 35th General Assembly to be held in Vientiane on 14th to 20th September 2014.

APPRECIATION TO THE HOST COUNTRY

36)The Delegations attending the General Assembly extended their sincere appreciation to the Government and the Legislative Council as well as the people of Brunei Darussalam for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 34th AIPA General Assembly.

APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT OF THE 34th ASEAN INTER PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

37)The Delegations attending the General Assembly extended their appreciation and gratitude to the President of the 34th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, YB Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Hj Awg Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Hj Awg Ibrahim, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, for his excellent leadership and contributions towards AIPA, and in promoting the ASEAN spirit of solidarity, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding.

Hereby all the Leaders of AIPA Delegations and President of AIPA give their signatures as approval of this Joint Report.

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-China Legislative Association and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
ACTIVITY	34 th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
DESTINATION	Bandar Seri Begawan Brunei Darussalam
DATES	September 17-23, 2013
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Donald Neil Plett Hon. Daniel Lang
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Roger Préfontaine
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 23,453.19
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 1,538.04
HOSPITALITY	\$ 1,109.11
PER DIEMS	\$ 649.06
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 179.75
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 26,929.15