



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
32nd General Assembly of the
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

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

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia
September 18-24, 2011**

Report

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held its 32nd General Assembly from September 18 to 24, 2011, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. 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, and the CJIG was represented by Hon. Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis, Senator. The Secretary to the delegation was Mr. Roger Préfontaine. SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI **HENG SAMRIN**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and AIPA President, presided over the 32nd AIPA General Assembly.

The 32nd AIPA General Assembly was attended by delegations from member countries: Cambodia led by H.E. Mr. NGUON NHEL, First Vice-President of the National Assembly; Brunei Darussalam led by H.E. PEHIN DATO HAJI ISA BIN PEHIN DATO HAJI IBRAHIM, Speaker of Legislative Council; Republic of Indonesia led by H.E. Dr. MARZUKI ALIE, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Lao People's Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mrs. PANY YATHOTOU, President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by H.E. Mr. Tan Sri PANDIKAR AMIN MULIA, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by H.E. Mr. KHIN AUNG MYINT, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; Republic of the Philippines led by H.E. Mr. FELICIANO BELMONTE, Speaker of the Parliament; Republic of Singapore led by H.E. Mr. ABDULLAH TARMUGI, Speaker of the Parliament. The Kingdom of Thailand led by H.E. Mr. SOMSAK KIATSURANONT, President of the National Assembly; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam led by H.E. Dr. NGUYEN SINH HUNG, President of the National Assembly.

Observer delegations from Australia led by Hon. Mr. MIKE SYMON, Member of Parliament; from Canada led by Hon. Mr. JOSEPH DAY, Senator; from the People's Republic of China led by Hon. Mr. ZHA PEIXIN, Member of the Standing Committee of the NPC and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC; from the European Union Parliament led by Hon. Mr. WERNER LANGEN, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation for Relations with ASEAN, Member of the European Parliament; from India led by Hon. Mr. NINONG ERING, Member of Indian Parliament; from Japan led by Hon. Mr. SAITO YOSHITAKA, Member of the House of Councilors of Japan; and from the Federation of Russia led by Hon. Mr. ISKUZHIN RUDIK, Deputy Chairman of the Commission for Control of the Activities of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, also participated in the General Assembly.

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 Joseph A. Day, 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 Wednesday, September 21, 2011. The agenda for the dialogue meeting was the following:

1. Cooperation between ASEAN and Observer Countries
2. Integrated of Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development in the region
3. Necessity for ASEAN and the International Community's Commitment to Disaster Management and Emergency Responses
4. Toward ASEAN Free of Land Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

The dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Mr. Ung Huot with the appointment of Rapporteur, Hon. Mr. Chiep Sivorn. 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 33rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) will be held in Mataram, Lombok, Indonesia from September 16 to September 22, 2012.

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

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

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-China Legislative Association and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
ACTIVITY	32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
DESTINATION	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
DATES	18-24 September 2011
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Joseph A. Day Hon. Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Roger Préfontaine
TRANSPORTATION	\$18,755.83
ACCOMMODATION	\$651.10
HOSPITALITY	
PER DIEMS	\$1,353.74
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$614.01
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$1,143.76
TOTAL	\$22,518.14

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN OBSERVER AND MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

- Canada attaches great importance to parliamentary cooperation in its international relations. We have a well-established system of parliamentary associations and inter-parliamentary groups and we greatly value our participation as an observer in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.
- Although we are an observer country in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, we do not consider that the value of our participation in the forum is in any way diminished by this role. As an observer, Canada acquires valuable knowledge of the region, and in turn, Canada shares its experiences on issues of common interest.
- My colleagues and I look forward to the opportunities to meet with our parliamentary counterparts from Southeast Asia. With these annual meetings, we are presented with a unique forum for keeping abreast of events in the region and maintaining personal contacts with our parliamentary colleagues from the region. The relationship that we develop through these contacts is critical to maintaining healthy relations between our countries.
- Parliamentary visits have a crucial role to play in encouraging cooperation between our countries. Meeting our counterparts from other countries plays an on-going part in the work of Canadian parliamentarians to understand issues and influence government policy. They enable us to play a critical role that complements and enhances diplomatic initiatives undertaken by our government, and strengthen our ties to the region.
- The Southeast Asian region is becoming increasingly important to Canada. In addition to being a growing source of immigration to Canada, the region has also become a leading trading partner.
- This increased exchange of people, goods, and services between Canada and the countries of Southeast Asia has led to increased cooperation in a whole range of areas.
- We continue to work collaboratively in areas of common interest including the areas that have been the focus of the dialogue sessions at this gathering.
- As parliamentarians, we continue to play key roles in advancing these common interests domestically and in international forums. Through parliamentary forums such as this one we gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by our respective countries in these areas, and, as parliamentarians who are directly connected to the individuals affected by these challenges (our constituents), we are uniquely positioned to propose solutions to these challenges.
- It has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate in this forum and my colleagues and I look forward to future collaborative endeavours.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

- In general, sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the current context, it might be described as meeting the region's water needs today without damaging the shared waterways to the extent that future generations cannot meet their needs
- The people of Southeast Asia rely on their shared waterways for fresh water, fish (which is the main source of protein), transportation, fertile silt, and recreation.
- The Mekong River, which is about 4,350 km long, is one of the main waterways in the region. It starts in Tibet and passes through China, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Thailand and Cambodia before ending in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.
- The Mekong is one of the most productive rivers in the world. Almost 100 distinct ethnic groups live in the Mekong region, with 60 million people in the lower Mekong Basin depending on the river and its natural resources for their livelihoods. The Mekong provides habitat for numerous species, including Asian elephants and the Irrawaddy dolphin, which are on the brink of extinction.
- The Mekong system is under threat as numerous hydroelectric projects are planned to dam the mainstream and its tributaries, which will impact on the people and ecosystems downstream.
 - China has eight planned or existing dams on the Upper Mekong and has indicated that it will build more dams.
 - Laos is planning more than 30 dams for Mekong tributaries, and considering four more dams for the Mekong mainstream.
 - Vietnam and Cambodia are also building or planning further dams on the mainstream and tributaries.
- In addition, Myanmar (Burma) is planning various dams for other rivers in the area, including the Salween River, which is the region's last major undammed river.
- Climate change is also affecting rivers in the area. Extreme dry weather has led to drought and water level declines.
- One of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals is to "ensure environmental sustainability." The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is working with the OECD and other international partners to "improve the integration of environmental considerations into development planning and decision making, especially through tools like strategic environmental assessments."¹

¹ Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) website, <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/JUD-13181149-HGX>.

- Canada also supports the United Nations Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Programme, which “provides scientifically-sound data and information on the state and trends of global inland water quality required as a basis for the sustainable management of the world’s freshwater to support global environmental assessments and decision-making processes.”²

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- Canada maintains a strong commitment to international efforts for improving policies and practices in the areas of Emergency Management and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Canada works with disaster-prone and affected countries, the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Cross/Crescent Societies and other non-governmental partners, to provide assistance with disaster relief as well as emergency preparedness.
- Canada has provided humanitarian assistance to various countries in recent natural disasters around the world, including ASEAN states, such as: Typhoon Ketsana which caused widespread damage in South East Asia in October 2009, Tropical Cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar (Burma) on 2 May 2008, and the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada has lead responsibility for coordinating the Government of Canada’s responses to disasters and emergencies abroad, such as helping Canadians in distress in an affected country; ensuring that Canadian assistance does not duplicate other international efforts; and facilitating the development of policies on disaster risk reduction in countries vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters. The Canadian International Development Agency may also coordinate the provision of financial assistance, while Canadian Forces’ Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) may offer basic medical assistance and clean water in emergency situations.
- In January 2005, Canada and 167 other states met for a World Disaster Reduction Conference in Japan and adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) a 10-year plan to substantially reduce the negative impacts of disasters by 2015, both in terms of fatalities and social, economic, and environmental losses.
- The HFA requires states to, among other things, prioritize disaster risk reduction; assess and reduce disaster risks; enhance early warning systems; and, strengthen disaster preparedness.
- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction encourages countries to adopt “National Platforms” to coordinate implementation of the HFA and to serve as the main coordinating mechanism for disaster risk reduction and developing policies and programmes. Canada has a National Platform, though most ASEAN states do not.

² GEMS Water website, <http://www.gemswater.org/>

- The United Nations' Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction of July 2011³ reports that though many countries have been strengthening their capacities to reduce the fatality risks associated with major weather-related hazards, many are still struggling to address economic risks such as how lower income communities and households can be seriously affected. This report noted that many regions in ASEAN countries have a high risk of fatalities from cyclones, floods and landslides.
- Several ASEAN resolutions pertaining to disaster management and emergency response have been adopted in order to strengthen regional co-operation among member states, such as through the creation of the Co-ordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (the AHA Centre).

TOWARDS AN ASEAN FREE OF LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDINANCE

- Landmines are explosive devices that are hidden in the ground. Originally designed to stop tanks during battle, a second type of mine was adapted into an anti-personnel device. Typically, they are detonated by pressure.
- UXO stands for "unexploded ordinance," that is, military ammunition (e.g., bombs) that failed to explode when originally fired. Cluster munitions are a particularly problematic subset of UXO. Cluster munitions are canisters, which can be fired from the air or from the ground, that open in mid-air to release explosive sub-munitions which scatter over a wide area. The sub-munitions often fail to explode on impact.
- Landmines and cluster munitions remain potentially explosive long after a war has ended and have the potential to kill civilians and military indiscriminately.
- Many countries have agreed to ban the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions by ratifying The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (1997, in force 1999)⁴ (the Mine Ban Treaty) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008, in force 2010).⁵ Negotiations are currently ongoing on the creation of a sixth protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which would also ban and regulate the use of cluster munitions.
- The "Ottawa process" towards a treaty to ban anti-personnel mines began at a conference in Canada's capital in 1996. Canada played a key role in the treaty-negotiation process, which culminated in the signing of the treaty in Ottawa in 1997. Within ASEAN, Myanmar (Burma), Laos and Singapore, as well as China, India, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States, have not ratified the treaty. (Canada has signed, but not ratified, the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.)

³ See <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/19846>.

⁴ Burma, Laos and Singapore (as well as China, India, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States) have not ratified the Mine Ban Treaty.

⁵ In Southeast Asia, only Lao PDR, the Philippines and Indonesia are party to the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*. Canada, China, India, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States are also non-parties.

- Southeast Asia remains among the most heavily mined regions in the world. Many of the land mines and UXO in Southeast Asia date from the Vietnam War era or, in Cambodia, from the conflict between the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese forces (mid-1970s to early-1990s).
- In Myanmar (Burma) and the Philippines, landmines continue to be used and UXO persist in the context of ongoing armed conflicts with non-state armed groups. The Philippines states that it does not use anti-personnel mines, but non-state armed groups continue to do so. Myanmar (Burma) is one of the only states to acknowledge that it continues to use anti-personnel mines.
- Landmines and UXO continue to take a terrible toll on the civilian population in the region, killing and maiming large numbers of people every year. They also make huge swaths of agricultural land unusable, render forest resources un-exploitable and prevent roads from being built. De-mining must be a priority for development programmes to be effective. Yet, demining activities are extremely expensive and require technical skills that may be lacking in some countries in the region. International and regional cooperation is necessary to make de-mining work a success.
- Eliminating anti-personnel mines and UXO cannot be done by states alone: Parliamentarians, civil society groups and international organizations have an important role to play in sustaining such action.



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

32nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
18 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2011
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

REPORT ON THE DIALOGUE WITH CANADA

Chairperson, Hon. Mr. Ung Huot initially presided over the Dialogue with Canada at 2.00 pm- 3.45pm at Ballroom 2, Lobby level, Inter-continental Hotel, Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia on 21st September 2011 with the appointment of Rapporteur, Hon. Mr. Chiep Sivorn.

The Dialogue Meeting was attended by the following delegates:

DELEGATES OF OBSERVERS

Canada

1. Hon. Mr. Joseph Day
2. Hon. Mrs. Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis
3. Mr. Roger Préfontaine, LL.L.

DELEGATES OF AIPA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Brunei Darussalam

1. Hon. Datin Paduka Hajah Salbiah Haji Sulaiman
2. Hon. Haji Zulkipli Haji Abd Hamid
3. Hon. Haji Jumat Akim

Cambodia

1. Hon. Mr. Nim Chantara
2. Hon. Mr. Chea Kim

Indonesia

1. Hon. Mr. Basuki Tjahya Purnama
2. Hon. Mrs. Wardatul Asriah
3. Mrs. Tri Hanarita

Lao PDR

1. Hon. Mr. Kysinh SINPHANNGAM
2. Hon. Dr. Mr. Koukeo AKHAMOUNTRY
3. Mr. Phetla THANTHAVONGSA

Malaysia

1. Hon. DR. PUAD ZARKASHI

Myanmar

1. Hon. Mr. MAHN MAUNG MAUNG NYAN
2. Hon. Mr. KHUANG LING
3. Mr. KYAW MIN HTIN

The Philippines

1. Hon. Congresswoman Catalina Leonen-Pizarro
2. Hon. Congresswoman Susan A. Yap

Singapore

1. Hon. Ms. Ellen Lee

Thailand

2. Hon. Mr. Charoen Kanthawongs

Vietnam

1. Hon. Mr. Truong Trong Nghia

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

The Meeting discussed the following issues:

1. Cooperation between ASEAN and Observer Countries
2. Integrated of Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development in the region
3. Necessity for ASEAN and the International Community's Commitment to Disaster Management and Emergency Responses
4. Toward ASEAN Free of Land Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

COMMENTS:***Comments and Questions from AIPA Member Delegations and the responses of Canada Delegations:***

Brunei Darussalam : Brunei is interested in third topic (disaster management). It asked a question whether Canada provide capacity building to officers who work in disaster management and emergency response.

Indonesia: Indonesia introduced its delegates. We have a strong cooperation in many fields. It asked a question: What Canada's parliament will do during economic recession? Will cooperation between Asean and Canada be strengthened during the economic recession?

Laos PDR: Laos thanked the Chair. It introduced its delegates. It briefed cooperation between Asean and Canada, between Laos and Canada. Laos expressed its appreciation to Canada for its support for Asean community. Canada is a constructive partner in promoting peace, security and sustainable development in this region. Asean-Canada partnership plays a significant role to effectively develop economic, trade in this region.

Malaysia: Malaysia thanked the Chair. It placed great importance on cooperation with Canada. Canada is the largest trading partner among Asean countries. Malaysia would like to see greater cooperation. Canada has much to offer. In terms of education, Canada is one of destinations for Malaysian students to pursue tertiary education. Malaysia wants Canadian universities and colleges to set up branch there for the benefit of Malaysian students.

Myanmar: Myanmar introduced its delegates. It is now full fledged member of AIPA. We are very interested in cooperation between Asean and Canada. We need to learn a lot from our neighbors from our brothers and sisters. We are quite left behind in the world so we want to have assistance in human resource development. We want to train our people. Myanmar invites participants to come and visit the country and see it for themselves.

Philippines: The Philippines introduced its delegates. The Philippines has had 61 years of friendly relations with Canada in the form of trade, tourism and investment. One of major immigrants in Canada. One of our labor concern there. It was concerned about the status of its immigrants there. It wants Canadian delegation to assist in this matter. In trading relations, we want Canada to explore other avenues such as food processing.

Singapore: Singapore introduced its delegates. Its relationship with Canada is friendly. We have a number of cooperation going on. Singapore's bilateral trade relations with Canada is reasonable. There are Canadian companies in Singapore engaged in financial and insurance services and ITC sector.

Concerning disaster management and emergency responses, Singapore has very good mechanisms in place. It has deployed its personnel in many countries of the world.

Thailand: Thailand appreciated the strong relationship with Canada throughout decades. Thailand also pointed out that in order to reinforce the strong bilateral ties with Canada, increasing of trade and investment between the two countries must be further promoted. On the Mekong River situation, information sharing including best practices from Canada should benefit Thailand and other Mekong River's Countries seeking out appropriate approach to tackle this issue.

Viet Nam: Viet Nam introduced its delegates. The 3 topics: water management, disaster management, and land mines are long-term concern of Viet Nam. We have to work to maintain our water resources. The Mekong river is important for Viet Nam and other countries in the region. Viet nam alone cannot solve this matter so we need to work together with countries in the region.

Disaster management. We are the developing countries and don't have the technology so we need financial and technological support. We need to enhance cooperation. Landmines and UXO is also our concern.

Cambodia: Cambodia introduced its delegates. Water resource management has become very important area of regional cooperation especially in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. As a downstream country, Cambodia is very concerned about the development of the Mekong River System. We want to see stronger cooperation in terms of information sharing, capacity building, technical cooperation and assessment and institutional building.

Disaster management and emergency response: The main natural disasters in Cambodia are flood and drought Thunder storms and lightning are also killing many Cambodians every year. We need more financial and technical support from our development partners.

Canada: Canada thanked all nations that had good relations with it. Canadian delegation would ask its companies to operate in ASEAN countries in the correct manner just as they are operating in Canada. In Canada and the US, government's role is to create atmosphere for business to do there things. They are market-driven economies.

To attract more investment, make sure there are rules in place to protect investment so that Canadian companies would go there. You can trust Canadian companies to be fair.

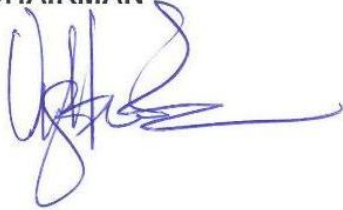
We have exchange programs with a number of countries. Capacity building is something that Canada has been involved for a long time. In Cambodia, we have trained personnel who worked in support of parliament.

CONCLUSION

As there were no further comments from any of delegates, the Chairperson called the dialogue session to be closed at 3:45pm.

The Report of the Dialogue with Canada was presented to the approval of the 32nd General Assembly.

**Hon. Mr. Ung Huot
CHAIRMAN**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke.

**Hon. Mr. Chiep Sivorn
RAPPORTEUR**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, sweeping initial 'C' followed by a long horizontal stroke.



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)
32nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PEACE PALACE, PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
18-24 SEPTEMBER 2011
Doc 32 GA/2011/JC
JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

(1) Pursuant to the decision of the 31st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 19-25 September 2010, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 32nd General Assembly was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18-24 September 2011 under the theme, “The Role of AIPA in Building a Prosperous ASEAN Community”.

(2) SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and AIPA President, presided over the 32nd AIPA General Assembly.

WELCOMING ADDRESSES

(3) In his welcoming address, the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, SAMDECH AKKA MOHA THAMMA PHOTHISAL CHEA SIM, congratulated AIPA for its progress and development. He expected that the General Assembly would produce appropriate and timely measures to cope with issues of common interests for the people of ASEAN to live in peace, harmony and prosperity. He emphasized the efforts to reduce the development gap in the region and encouraged stronger coordination and cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN in order to exert the full potential of the region.

He appealed to the 32nd General Assembly of AIPA to generate effective strategies focusing on cooperative frameworks, exchanges of information, enforcement of existing mechanisms, legal implementation, ratification of agreements, conventions, and other policies in order to prevent and reduce tensions in the region including current issues such as terrorism, trans-national crimes, human and drug trafficking. He also called for the respect and protection of the rights and dignity of migrant workers.

He further appealed to the General Assembly to focus on harmony, mutual trust and joint efforts to solve disputes by peaceful means based on international laws, the UN Charter and the ASEAN Charter in order to realize an ASEAN Community with long lasting peace and prosperity.

(4) In his welcoming address, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN, welcomed honorable delegates and 1 distinguished guests. He appreciated the success of ASEAN over the past 44 years and the continuing important role of AIPA in building an ASEAN Community. ASEAN is on the right track towards building its own community. With the support of dialogue partners, ASEAN has achieved many results in different fields including political security, economic development and integration, and socio-cultural development.

He highlighted a number of achievements of ASEAN, from implementing the ASEAN Charter and the road map for the ASEAN Community 2015, and identified key challenges that ASEAN needs to address in establishing the ASEAN Community and connecting ASEAN to the global community. He was optimistic that ASEAN not only has reached a higher stage in the course of community building, but that it was also capable of transforming itself into a full-fledged, rules-based institution.

He recommended that ASEAN should play a more important role in dealing with global issues such as the global economic crisis, climate change, natural disaster management, prevention of contagious diseases as well as the fight against cross-border crimes, terrorism and other issues.

He stressed the important efforts and role played by AIPA in continuously supporting its activities and mission to enable ASEAN to overcome all challenges in realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015. He appreciated the role of the parliaments of ASEAN member states in coping with the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the global economic crisis in 2008-2009. ASEAN is in great need of the continued support of the ASEAN members' parliaments to establish a real ASEAN community.

In responding to the global economic crisis, Cambodia has provided timely support for the stimulus package policy which not only made the ASEAN economy recover quickly but also enabled it to achieve high growth as well. The Cambodian economy, after falling to nearly a zero growth rate in 2009, has recovered with 6% growth in 2010 and about 7% in 2011 based on a cautious forecast. This recovery will help Cambodia to reduce poverty rate by around 1% per annum.

He expected the 32nd AIPA General Assembly will provide a greater contribution in promoting ASEAN integration and especially the reduction in the development gaps within ASEAN. He urged a collective effort to reduce the development gap, which is necessary and an indispensable factor in ensuring the competition and protection of the ASEAN centrality role towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

OPENING ADDRESS

(5) The President of AIPA and President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN, opened the 32nd General Assembly on 20 September 2011. The President highlighted the significance of the 32nd General Assembly in the Role of AIPA in Building a Prosperous ASEAN Community.

The President called on AIPA Member Countries and dialogue partners to share their views and concerns frankly in order to work together to ensure the harmonization and consolidation of cooperation in the region as well as making an effective contribution to build a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community.

The President proposed the creation of an active oversight committee composed of AIPA and ASEAN members and the appointment of a core group of AIPA parliamentarians to act as a think-tank which ASEAN and AIPA can consult from time to time in the implementation of adopted AIPA resolutions.

Under his leadership, the President has fulfilled the work of consolidating and strengthening cooperation, understanding and trust between the legislative bodies of the ASEAN members. The President emphasized that in observing the recent geopolitical developments in the region and in the world, ASEAN needs to enhance its capacity in order to ensure greater peace, security and stability in the region through effective conflict management and resolution.

He called upon AIPA member parliaments to discuss and find a common solution for emerging regional issues based on the legal obligations and moral duties of all members of parliament. AIPA is mandated with the role and duty to act and bring substantive and sustainable changes to the lives of people.

The President concluded by stating that the 32nd AIPA General Assembly reflected the commitment to strengthen solidarity and cooperative acts with the aims of building peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. He hoped that AIPA will play a more constructive role in promoting cooperative mechanisms towards the future development and prosperity of ASEAN.

DELEGATIONS

(6) The Delegations from Brunei Darussalam led by the Hon. PEHIN DATO HAJI ISA BIN PEHIN DATO HAJI IBRAHIM, Speaker of Brunei Legislative Council, the Kingdom of Cambodia led by H.E. Mr. Nguon Nhel, First Vice-President of the National Assembly; Republic of Indonesia led by H.E. Dr. MARZUKI ALIE, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives; Lao People's Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mrs. PANY YATHOTOU, President of the Lao National Assembly; Malaysia led by H.E. TAN SRI PANDIKAR AMIN MULIA, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia; Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by the Hon. Mr. KHIN AUNG MYINT, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of Myanmar; Republic of the Philippines led by H.E. Mr. FELICIANO BELMONTE, Speaker of the Parliament; Republic of Singapore led by H.E. Mr. ABDULLAH TARMUGI, Speaker of the Parliament; the Kingdom of

Thailand led by H.E. Mr. SOMSAK KIATSURANONT, President of the National Assembly; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam led by H.E. Dr. NGUYEN SINH HUNG, President of the National Assembly.

(7) Also present were Special Observer Delegations from Australia led by the Hon. Mr. Mike Symon MP; Canada led by the Hon. Senator Joseph Day; People's Republic of China led by the Hon. Mr. Zha Peixin, Member of the Standing Committee of the NPC, and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC; European Parliament led by the Hon. Mr. Werner Langen, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation for Relations with ASEAN, Member of the European Parliament; India led by the Hon. Mr. inong Ering, Member of Indian Parliament; Japan led by the Hon. Mr. Yoshitaka Saito, Member of the House of Councilors; and the Russian Federation led by H.E. Mr. Rudik Iskuzhin, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Regulation of the Federation Council activities of the Federal Assembly.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(8) The General Assembly elected the following as Vice-Presidents: Brunei Darussalam, the Hon. PEHIN DATO HAJI ISA BIN PEHIN DATO HAJI IBRAHIM; Indonesia, H.E. Dr. MARZUKI ALIE; Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mrs. PANY YATHOTOU; Malaysia, H.E. TAN SRI PANDIKAR AMIN MULIA; Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. KHIN AUNG MYINT; Philippines, H.E. Mr. FELICIANO BELMONTE; Singapore, H.E. Mr. ABDULLAH TARMUGI; Thailand, H.E. Mr. SOMSAK KIATSURANONT; and Viet Nam, H.E. Dr. NGUYEN SINH HUNG.

ADMISSION OF THE PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR AS A MEMBER OF AIPA

(9) Heads of AIPA member delegations signed the resolution to admit the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be a full-fledged member of AIPA. The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the AIPA Member Witness Resolution.

Acceptance Speech by H.E. Mr. Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

(10) He noted the significant moment of being accepted as one of the full-fledged members of AIPA and thanked Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei **Heng Samrin**, the President of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly and President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, the parliamentary leaders and representatives from ASEAN members, for supporting the membership of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It deeply believes that AIPA can play a complementary and constructive role in establishing a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN community, to be a more just and equitable society and a strong parliament that will safeguard the multi-party parliamentary democratic system, fostering the interest of citizens. As Myanmar has been admitted to be a full-fledged member of AIPA, it solemnly pledged to actively participate in all activities of AIPA and cooperate with other ASEAN members in the spirit of friendship and fraternity with the vision to build a peaceful and developed ASEAN region.

MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT

(11) The 32nd General Assembly of AIPA received the messages from the following Heads of State/Government:

H.M. SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH, SULTAN and YANG DI-PERTUAN of Brunei Darussalam; 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 Viet Nam.

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) Brunei noted that AIPA has grown and expanded in terms of membership, dialogue partners and scope of work. This strengthens the belief in the important role that AIPA has in complementing the work and activities of ASEAN particularly in promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The statement emphasized the outcome of the AIPA-ASEAN meeting on the sidelines of the 18th ASEAN Summit in May 2011. It is important for AIPA to build good and effective relations with ASEAN to achieve the goal of an ASEAN community.

Whilst AIPA is seen to represent the peoples of ASEAN, this is really a significant development as AIPA can greatly contribute to and strengthen mutual understanding and trust, not only among the governments and legislative bodies but also among the peoples of ASEAN. AIPA can greatly help in making ASEAN more relevant to its people by continuing to support ASEAN's initiatives, especially in reaching out to people and letting them know what ASEAN is doing for them in all the three pillars (political-security community, economic community and socio-cultural community).

Kingdom of Cambodia

(14) Cambodia extended its warmest welcome to all delegates and distinguished guests. It was stated that the annual AIPA General Assembly created the opportunity for all AIPA parliamentary members and friends of AIPA to exchange views and experiences and to find common solutions to challenges.

The recent global economic crisis has prompted ASEAN leaders to re-adjust their macroeconomic policies through structural reforms, deepening intra-regional economic integration. Other issues, such as armed and religious conflicts, competition for access to scarce strategic resources, climate change, natural disasters, and pandemic diseases, call for a coordinated effort. International laws, bilateral or multilateral cooperation and negotiations, preventive diplomacy and effective conflict resolution mechanisms, based on mutual trust and understanding, and mutual interests, are the foundations for peace and prosperity for the region.

Cambodia stressed that strong cooperation between ASEAN and AIPA was the key towards the construction of an ASEAN community through legal support at the national level and regional harmonization of laws. It requires compliance with regional and international legal instruments, and respect for agreements and resolutions.

Republic of Indonesia

(15) Indonesia underlined the significant message applied by the theme of the 32nd General Assembly of AIPA: the Role of AIPA in Building a Prosperous ASEAN Community. This theme underlines the key role of AIPA in building the ASEAN Community, with the aim of bringing prosperity and welfare to all the people of ASEAN. Hence, Indonesia shares a common view that AIPA should continue to enhance and expand cooperation with relevant parties in an effort to attain common goals.

Indonesia attached the importance to the role of a civil society. During its chairmanship of ASEAN, Indonesia has continuously encouraged the involvement of a civil society in this very important endeavor. As ASEAN is expected to move from a state-centered organization towards a people-centered organization, the notion carries the meaning that people should be the focus of the effort to build the ASEAN Community through maintaining a safe, secure and conducive environment for the interests of the people. Nevertheless, that aspirational goal carries various challenges that require collective endeavors. The development gap, poverty, unemployment, good governance and democracy, including the respect and promotion of human rights, should be our focus in seeking to achieve the ASEAN Community.

Therefore, it is essential for all parliaments of ASEAN member states to encourage their respective governments to deal with these challenges through meaningful and concrete actions at the national, as well as, the regional level. In this venture, the Indonesian House of Representatives believes that AIPA members, as the representatives of ASEAN people, have a significant role to play by actively involving themselves in raising awareness among people, as their constituents, to achieve the common goal: the ASEAN Community by 2015.

On this very important occasion, and in the spirit of the amendment of the AIPA Statutes to reflect current developments, Indonesia stated that it would like to promote Bahasa Indonesia/Malay as one of the working languages of AIPA. It is a modern language that has been modified and synchronized throughout. It was declared as the official language of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945. Bahasa Indonesia/Malay is the sixth most spoken language in the world after Mandarin, English, Hindi, Spanish and Arabic.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

(16) Lao PDR noted the current positive economic and security developments in the region through cooperation and institutional improvement. It reflected the hard work of the governments and people of ASEAN, the members of the parliament of each country, and AIPA, in contributing to overall ASEAN commitments. However, the region still faces many problems and challenges such as, instability and fluctuation in the global financial markets, energy security, natural disasters, environmental degradation and other natural hazards. The development gap in the region remains the stumbling block of the regional integration process. Without addressing the issue of the development gap, we would not be able to accomplish our aim of a "Caring and Sharing ASEAN Community".

AIPA has contributed in every step that ASEAN has taken and has functioned with a high degree of responsibility. AIPA has continuously made changes to its mechanisms and to the way it functions. AIPA and ASEAN have strengthened their ties and cooperation, and such tradition needs to be further promoted and nurtured.

AIPA and members of parliament need to focus on supporting cooperation between governments in developing and in solving problems for the people, especially in reducing poverty and development gaps while achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It was noted that ASEAN and AIPA need support from the dialogue partners to succeed.

Lao PDR has implemented some of the resolutions adopted at the 31st AIPA General Assembly, especially those fostering solidarity, cooperation, peace and stability in ASEAN as well as the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children. Lao PDR will host the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Conference-ASEP in October 2012 as part of its role in promoting cooperation.

Malaysia

(17) Malaysia welcomed Myanmar as an AIPA member, stating that AIPA, including the Malaysian Parliament, was committed to play its part in realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015.

ASEAN leaders have adopted the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity with greater people-to-people relations as shown by AIPA's annual General Assembly. It emphasized its direct participation in the needs of people, such as strengthening cultural awareness, developing a close and common ASEAN identity and improving social development in the ASEAN region.

To realize the goal of an ASEAN political security community, AIPA must propagate the concept of a free and peaceful region as a catalyst to economic development; hence, it could help to standardize and regularize labor, trade, and investment in each member country.

With AIPA as a platform, parliamentarians could enhance relationships between people and governments through two-way communication. The expectations of the people

must be met so that they would then be less likely to create chaos and crisis through demonstrations and protests.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

(18) Myanmar noted the emergence of the Myanmar parliament with a seven-step road map as the foundation. The seven steps are: First, reconvening the National Convention which was adjourned in 1996; Second, implementation of the process of a genuine and disciplined democratic system; Third, drafting the Constitution in accordance with the basic principles laid down by the National Convention; Fourth, adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum; Fifth, holding free and fair elections for the Hluttaw according to the new Constitution; Sixth, convening of the Hluttaw in accordance with the new Constitution; Seventh, building a modern, developed and democratic nation.

To implement the seventh step of the road map, the executive and legislative bodies are organized by Hluttaw meetings. The new government is elected according to a multi-party parliamentary democratic system by implementing the seven-step road map. The Myanmar Hluttaw is systematically implementing a new modern developing democratic nation and strengthening the multi-party democratic system in cooperation with international organizations. Myanmar promises to participate energetically in the activities of AIPA and cooperate through close relations with ASEAN members for stability and development in the region.

Republic of the Philippines

(19) The Philippines noted the role of AIPA in facilitating the realization of the goals of ASEAN and supporting the establishment of an integrated ASEAN community. It emphasized the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity which guarantees improved intra-regional connectivity within ASEAN through economic integration and especially people connectivity.

It recognized the importance of several regional instruments such as the ASEAN Handbook for International Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons, the provisional ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance in Disaster Management, the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

Constant dialogue and confidence-building measures are the foundations of addressing political and security issues. In order to ensure an integration that can benefit all, there is a need to further discuss the challenges of sustainable development, the distinct capacities of local societies to tolerate and adjust to the effects of integration in every sector. The Philippines is committed to working in cooperation with all members of AIPA in discussing and solving crucial issues, and accelerating the integration of its markets, resources and peoples. Collective efforts can guarantee a regional community for the coming years.

The Philippines joins with other delegates to welcome the full-fledged membership of Myanmar in the AIPA family and expects that the peoples of Myanmar and ASEAN will

make a common journey of a prosperous, peaceful, and stable ASEAN community for all.

Republic of Singapore

(20) Singapore noted the progress and achievements of AIPA, and appreciated the role of Indonesia's leadership of ASEAN this year in a common goal of building the ASEAN Community by 2015. It stressed that ASEAN will continue to make progress, remaining on track in working towards building its community. It is a key vehicle in promoting cooperation and contributing to peace, prosperity and progress in the region.

It observed that despite the international economic and political environment becoming more unpredictable and fluid, members of ASEAN have made good progress on the economic front by strengthening the regional integration process and reducing barriers to trade and investments through agreements such as, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. These efforts will improve competitiveness and the economic resilience of the region. At the same time, ASEAN has also worked to forge a stronger sense of common identity to build a people-centered ASEAN. It emphasized that ASEAN parliamentarians had an important role to play in ASEAN's integration process and they can further support this process by working together through AIPA which is the most appropriate and ideal platform to exchange ideas and best practices in facilitating ASEAN's integration as a community.

Kingdom of Thailand

(21) Thailand stated that AIPA and ASEAN have made significant progress in promoting their roles and contributions in the regional and global community, and that ongoing efforts in developing an ASEAN common platform to address key global issues will strengthen ASEAN's position in the international arena. Under the 2007 statutes, AIPA successfully undertook its mission to reform itself to be a more realistic and effective player in global political, economic and social affairs.

It requested that regional concerns would be tackled by comprehensive solutions from both the executive and legislative branches, expressing the hope that the AIPA and ASEAN Secretariats would find new innovative modalities and practices to further their cooperation. Referring to the earthquake and tsunami in March, Thailand extended its sympathy and condolences for the tragic loss of life and properties in Japan. It expressed the belief that with the country's resilience, and the unwavering support from ASEAN and friends around the world, Japan will soon recover and remain a vital and prosperous nation. Thailand also extended its sincere congratulations and a warm welcome to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on its admission to AIPA as a full-fledged member.

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

(22) Viet Nam extended its greetings to all participants and the people of AIPA member countries, and congratulated the parliament of Myanmar on its membership of AIPA. It concurred with the theme of AIPA-32, which highlighted AIPA's sense of responsibility to meet the expectations of the ASEAN peoples. It underlined the central and

indispensable role of ASEAN in promoting dialogue, cooperation and integration for peace, stability and development in the region. Viet Nam valued the proactive role played by AIPA in the process, especially the outcomes of AIPA activities in 2011, which reflected the substantial participation of AIPA in the process of building peace, stability and prosperity in the ASEAN Community.

It called on all AIPA member parliaments to oversee the effective implementation of the plans under the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community by 2015, promoting dialogue, confidence building, unity and consensus in peacefully settling disputes, and the effective implementation of regional cooperation mechanisms and tools, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ), the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the Guidelines of the DOC, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). It stressed the need for AIPA and ASEAN to work closely to strengthen ASEAN's centrality in the emerging regional architecture for the common goal of peace, stability and development, as well as effectively responding to the emerging challenges. Viet Nam reconfirmed its commitment to join the common efforts to raise the role of AIPA along the path toward an ASEAN community of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.

STATEMENT OF ASEAN SECRETARIAT

(23) The Secretary General of ASEAN apologized for not being able to attend the 32nd AIPA General Assembly. In a statement, he congratulated the progress of AIPA and emphasized the increasingly important role of AIPA in ASEAN community building. The theme of this General Assembly, "The Role of AIPA in Building a Prosperous ASEAN Community", is a timely one. The statement identified the challenges faced by ASEAN such as energy security, food security, disaster management and trafficking in persons, and proclaimed the readiness of ASEAN to discuss a "post-2015 ASEAN" vision as well as ASEAN's role in the global community in a concerted effort to manage and effectively solve specific issues of common concern.

The future of ASEAN mainly lies in closer economic integration. On the whole, ASEAN's growth and prosperity will remain robust relative to other regions. A significant effort toward market integration among all 10 ASEAN member states is the key to success and survival in the competitive global market. On social and political matters, citizens of ASEAN member states expect governments to improve their livelihoods. The statement called upon AIPA, as a group most representative of all the ASEAN institutions, to articulate the ASEAN people's aspirations. It stressed that AIPA is a critical cornerstone of ASEAN's initiatives and provides multilateral efforts in problem solving. It suggested the creation of a focal point of communication between AIPA and the ASEAN Secretariats in coordinating efforts in support of ASEAN community building. By promoting dialogue at the national level and among AIPA members and ASEAN, AIPA can strengthen its role by ensuring the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the attainment of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

STATEMENTS OF THE LEADERS OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES

Australia

(24) Australia greatly appreciated the contribution of ASEAN in providing peace, regional cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia. Australia is committed to deepening good relations with ASEAN. Trade and economic interactions are a part of a comprehensive relationship between Australia and ASEAN which have been working together in a wide spectrum including cooperation to counter terrorism, the promotion of the culture of tolerance among religions and cultures across the region, multilateral cooperation to achieve the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, education exchanges, and building better relationships between peoples. Australia acknowledged the central role of ASEAN in shaping an extended regional cooperation mechanism in the region and wished to see a stronger ASEAN. Australia welcomed the expansion of the membership of the East Asia Summit to include the United States and the Russian Federation, and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).

Canada

(25) Canada attached great importance to parliamentary cooperation in its international relations. Through its participation as a dialogue partner, it acquired valuable knowledge of the region and, in turn, shared its experiences on issues of common interest. Canada also looked forward to the opportunities to meet with its Southeast Asian parliamentary counterparts to maintain personal contacts and develop relationships. This encouraged the cooperation and enhanced diplomatic initiatives by governments. The Southeast Asian region has become a leading trading partner of Canada, which has led to an increasing exchange of people, goods, and services. Canada would like to continue working collaboratively and play a key role in advancing these national and international common interests especially in the areas of integrated water resources management, natural disaster management and demining.

People's Republic of China

(26) China emphasized that AIPA serves as an important link to strengthen communication and contact, and an important platform to seek common development and deepen cooperation as an integral part on building the ASEAN Community. China congratulated ASEAN's achievements and continues to firmly support the ASEAN Community building and integration process, and is ready to make positive contributions to promoting ASEAN community building. China is strengthening infrastructure connectivity between China and ASEAN. China is willing to provide more financial support such as bilateral aid loans, China-ASEAN investment cooperation funds and commercial credits in building infrastructure. China pledged to pursue unswervingly the road of peaceful development and opening up a strategy of mutual benefit. China is ready to work closely with ASEAN countries, deepen communication and pragmatic cooperation, and achieve better and faster common development and prosperity.

European Parliament

(27) The EU wishes to be a political and economic partner of ASEAN. Since the role of parliaments is an essential one, regional cooperation and integration cannot be successful without a strong parliamentary dimension to provide parliamentary oversight, political support and guidance. The EU welcomed the achievements of ASEAN such as the adoption of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN FTA, and the establishment of an Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights. ASEAN will make a substantial contribution to securing peace and stability and raising prosperity in this increasingly important part of the world. The EU wishes to see peaceful solutions to some pending border issues in the ASEAN region. The EUASEAN relationship has been nurtured over the years in different fields especially in economic cooperation. The European Parliament is ready to further discuss with its ASEAN counterpart issues of common concern including the protection of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in order to strengthen their relationship.

India

(28) India expressed its appreciation as an observer at AIPA, and believed such inclusion would facilitate further integration between AIPA and India. India shares common interests and concerns and maintains a stable and consistent relationship with ASEAN. India emphasized the importance of maintaining regional peace and security for growth and development. Sustainable development, while meeting present needs without diminishing the capacity of future generations, is a vital portion of economic policy formulation at national, regional, and global levels. There has also been growing cooperation between India and ASEAN, particularly in economic cooperation and trade related issues. Since India is preparing for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit of 2012, it is necessary for India and ASEAN to work together towards ensuring civilizational strengths and modern capacity building.

Japan

(29) Japan highlighted three main points: peace and stability in the region; reinforcement of cooperation in disaster prevention and security controls over nuclear power; and strengthening of the economic partnership. Regarding the first point, the dispute over the South China Sea, Japan strongly supports the continuation of further efforts for the eventual establishment of a regional code of conduct. As for the dispute between Cambodia and Thailand, Japan highly appreciated the efforts of both countries which are seeking a solution to the problem through the International Court of Justice. Cooperation in disaster prevention and security controls over 10 nuclear power should be strengthened among the governments of ASEAN and Japan. Furthermore, the National Diet would establish a policy to improve the security level of nuclear facilities and the spread of renewable energy. Japan sees the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as a road to the development of high quality economy in infrastructure improvement, technological innovation and human resource development. Japan also recognized the challenges encountered by the members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and therefore it is of the utmost importance that the parliaments continue to provide a driving force for the political and administrative activities and, actively exchange ideas at international conferences such as AIPA.

Russian Federation

(30) The Russian Federation expressed its pleasure in Myanmar becoming a full-fledged member of AIPA. It has been 15 years since the Russian Federation began developing a bilateral dialogue partnership with ASEAN. Since last year, it has brought this cooperation to a higher level by providing a solid legal framework and effective working mechanisms. It has been a fruitful ground for dialogues on many issues including economics, energy, culture, science and technology and the rapid response to natural and anthropogenic disasters. The Russian Federation appreciated its long-lasting participation as an observer of AIPA and its potential partnership with ASEAN. It also expressed its readiness to participate in the implementation of international programs to develop the Mekong River Basin. The Russian Federation called for visits to its country and proposed a session of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Vladivostok in January 2013.

Acknowledging that the drug menace is of global character, it is necessary to cooperate with other inter-parliamentary forums, including Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and particularly with APA's Social Committee that established, on the 14th September in Tehran, a permanent Working Group on Counteraction to Drug Production and Drug Trafficking from Afghanistan.

STATEMENTS OF THE GUESTS OF THE HOST PARLIAMENT

ICAPP

(31) ICAPP urged AIPA to work with the **Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council**, which was established in August 2011 with the objective and commitment to build a society with peace, development, harmony and prosperity. Such a society should be based on the principle of understanding, indiscriminate and acceptance and respect of the pluralities of culture, custom, tradition, religion, and philosophy of each nation and individual. Relations, friendships, cooperation and mutual assistance are aimed at building an Asian community that relies on comprehensive economic development for an "Asia Century".

As far as the global economic crisis is concerned, governments and central banks in Asia should consider diversifying parts of foreign exchange reserves to hold China's currency. There is a need to promote strong middle classes, narrow the income gap and raise the poor out of poverty through quality employment, political stability, economic growth, and cultural progress. ICAPP recommended that regional maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas need to be resolved through peaceful means and international law. AIPA and Asian political parties have to continue assisting governments in other parts of the world with peace building. ICAPP appreciated the efforts of Cambodia and Thailand, the World Heritage Committee and the International Court of Justice in their efforts to resolve the issue of the Preah Vihear Temple. It also encouraged Thailand and Cambodia to immediately accept ASEAN observers in the Provisional Demilitarized Zone.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

Resolution on the Report of the Women of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) Seminar on the Accelerating of the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals– 5, through the Role of Women Parliamentarians.

(32) The meeting adopted the report and recommendations of this seminar, which was hosted by Cambodia in Phnom Penh on March 10-11, 2011. The report urges Member Parliamentarians to promote dialogue, exchange best practices, and develop concrete strategies that will accelerate the achievement of MDG-5 on Maternal Health outcomes. Members of Parliament are urged to redouble their collaborative efforts in resource mobilization and policy development so as to ensure that all ASEAN member states, as well as WAIPA and AIPA parliamentarians participate in, and actively contribute to, the realization of the MDG-5 Maternal Health by the year 2015.

Resolution on Increasing Economic Opportunities for Women as Family Income Earners

(33) In adopting this important resolution, the meeting participants reaffirmed the significant contribution of women to ASEAN economies and households, and recognized the role of women as both agents of change in their communities and pillars of family, social, and economic security. The meeting acknowledged that empowerment and participation programs targeted at women in the agricultural and the informal sectors are crucial to the eradication of poverty, and that improving women's economic status leads to sustainable communities and national development. The meeting appealed to AIPA member countries to continue to adopt measures and programs that create opportunities for women and guarantee access to finance, business opportunities, education, training and skills. This can be done in collaboration with donors and financial institutions and regional development banks. The meeting proposed allocating resources to data collection and dissemination to monitor the success of these strategies and ensure that the information is readily available for further policy development in advancing women's economic and social status.

Resolution on Improving Women's Role in Dealing with the Issues of Environment.

(34) The meeting acknowledged that women are most affected by environmental degradation and destruction, and therefore play a key role in mitigating harmful practices that hinder access to natural resources and destroying livelihoods. AIPA member countries acknowledge the importance of women's participation in environmental policy making, environmental awareness campaigns and in programs that monitor, research and analyze sustainable development. Women's support must also be enlisted to establish and strengthen regional, national, and international mechanisms that tackle environmental problems in order to prevent environmental degradation. Women's inclusion in the pursuit of innovative and alternative technologies, and livelihoods that promote economic growth without harm to natural resources, is also critical.

POLITICAL MATTERS

Resolution on Strengthening the ASEAN Political-Security Community through Intensifying Regional Cooperation and Integration

(35) The General Assembly agreed to urge AIPA member parliaments to request the ASEAN member states to pursue closer interaction and cooperation to forge shared norms and create common mechanisms to achieve ASEAN's goal and objectives in the political and security fields. The AIPA member parliaments encouraged their governments to support ASEAN in strengthening the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its dialogue partners and friends and, by so doing, exercising and maintaining its central and proactive role as the primary driving force in a regional architecture that is open, transparent and inclusive. ASEAN will remain outward-looking and play a pivotal role in regional and international fora to advance ASEAN's common interests. AIPA member parliaments also pledge to support the continuing efforts of ASEAN member states to deepen and broaden cooperation in the political and security fields, including defense, maritime security and trans-national crimes, both within ASEAN and between ASEAN and external partners, in order to effectively cope with both the traditional and non-traditional security issues facing the region.

Resolution on Promoting and Building a Trust-Oriented Community through Consolidating and Strengthening of ASEAN's Solidarity for Prosperity in the Region

(36) The General Assembly expressed AIPA's support for shaping and sharing norms in order to achieve a standard of common adherence to good conduct among members of the ASEAN Community, consolidating and strengthening ASEAN's solidarity, cohesiveness and harmony. AIPA member parliaments agreed to continue to support the efforts of ASEAN member states to bring into full play the existing important instruments to promote peace, stability and security in the region such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the Declaration of the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), with the view to building a trust-oriented community while settling all disputes in a peaceful and amicable manner, in the spirit of the ASEAN Charter, the UN Charter and international laws. The AIPA member parliaments are urged to convince their respective governments that closer cooperation among the respective legislatures will result in strengthening ASEAN's solidarity.

The Adoption of the Report of the Third AIPA Caucus

(37) The Committee meeting agreed to adopt the Report of the third AIPA Caucus held in Manila, the Philippines, between 31st May and 3rd June 2011.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

Promoting Economic Growth and Sustainable Development Toward Narrowing Development Gaps in ASEAN

(38) The Committee recognized the need to support more balanced growth within and across economies, achieve greater inclusiveness in societies, sustain our environment,

and raise growth potential through good governance, innovation, and a knowledge-based economy. It also recognized the contribution of ASEAN-6 in providing technical assistance and capacity building measures to address the needs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV), and that promoting the culture of sharing, paves the way for future growth and reduces development gaps. The committee recognized that sustainable development is closely linked with reasonable and equitable utilization of resources, and welcomed further cooperation among members of ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) and the Mekong River Commission (MRC). The Committee requested developed countries and international agencies to become increasingly involved in funding and supporting development projects in ASEAN member states, especially the least developed countries, with soft loans and/or grants.

Climate Change: Challenges and Adaptation for Economic Growth

(39) The Committee recognized the importance of human resources and skills development in raising productivity, accelerating economic recovery and achieving sustainable growth in the light of the global economic crisis. The Committee expressed concern over the impact of climate change on ecosystems, in particular water resources. Concerns over forestry issues were also considered. The Committee agreed to urge ASEAN member states to ensure food security in the ASEAN region through multilateral and bilateral cooperation. The Committee agreed to encourage ASEAN member states to ensure existing and future policies and mechanisms in coping with the impacts of climate change. It also recommended enhancing capacity building and technology transfers to assist ASEAN member states to promote green growth.

SOCIAL MATTERS

Strengthening Law Enforcement to Combat Trafficking in Persons

(40) The Committee recognized progress, achieved by the ASEAN member states to combat trafficking in persons. It emphasized the ASEAN Leaders 'Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in South East Asia', adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8 May 2011. It also stressed that trafficking in persons is interrelated to human rights and migrant worker issues. The lack of sufficient employment as well as development gaps in ASEAN are the main reason for trafficking in persons. The Committee expressed its concern with the lack of access to education, and inequalities, which makes people, particularly women and children, most vulnerable to trafficking. The committee expressed the need to strengthen regional security cooperation mechanism to combat trans-national crimes. The Committee encouraged AIPA member countries to actively monitor and initiate concrete parliamentary reforms against trafficking in persons.

The Role of Parliamentarians of AIPA Member Countries in Accelerating the Implementation of MDGs by 2015

(41) The committee welcomed ASEAN's commitment to fully address socio-economic disparities and poverty, which persist across ASEAN member states, by developing and implementing an ASEAN road map toward realizing the MDGs. The Committee stressed the need to support least developed and landlocked countries as they face

significant constraints and structural impediments in their development efforts. The Committee expressed its support to encourage their respective governments to conduct oversight of the implementation of their government's programs, policies and budgets and in adopting legislative measures to speed up the achievement of MDGs by 2015. The Committee called for the establishment of MDG Task Forces within their parliaments.

Report of the AIPA Meeting on the Role of Parliamentarians on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in ASEAN

(42) The committee recognized the need to harmonize laws together with ASEAN mechanisms to promote the respect of the rights of migrant workers. It called for the establishment of an adhoc AIPA Expert Working Group to deal with the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. It should be authorized to seek support and collaboration from international organizations and other agencies. The committee expressed its commitment to work more closely with governments and all relevant stakeholders to curb illegal recruitment and placement of migrant workers. It entrusted the AIPA Secretariat to establish an information center on migrant workers and enhance collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat to collaboratively study, share knowledge and seek common solutions to the issues.

Report of the Eighth Meeting of the AIPA Fact-Finding Committee (8th AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace

(43) The Committee expressed its support to contribute to the development of legal frameworks and Action Plans to be implemented in the ASEAN Community by 2015. It also requested ASEAN member states to harmonize laws relating to illegal drugs. It supported the idea of inviting AIFOCOM representatives to attend the ASOD meeting as observer. The ASEAN heads of government were asked to take strong executive action by deploying a task force to neutralize and bring drug offenders to justice. A technical working group composed of MPs, officials, experts, and representatives from UN agencies, would be established to evaluate relevant laws, policies and AIPA resolutions. The Committee supports the concept of the seizure of assets related to drug cases. The committee requested the AIPA Secretariat to develop a plan of action for AIFOCOM to **combat the drug menace consistent with the ASEAN Vision.**

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Statement of AIPA Secretary General

(44) AIPA's activities are increasingly dynamic despite budget and human resource shortages. The AIPA Secretariat has developed its own website with more content, improved its coordination work with each AIPA member country, published at least 12 issues of a magazine to publicize AIPA's activities, revised and improved the AIPA brochure, and assisted and participated in AIPA-related matters. The Secretary General emphasized the need to further implement hundreds of AIPA Resolutions, only a few which have been implemented. He urged all AIPA member countries to increase implementation efforts. There is an urgent need to improve the AIPA Secretariat. He suggested seeking other sources of income and increasing the membership fee so as to

recruit more competent and professional staff. However, the final decision depends on each AIPA Member country.

Secretariat Annual Report FY 2010/2011

(45) The annual financial contribution for 2010/2011 was US\$30,000 for each AIPA member parliament. As of September 2011, the AIPA savings account at Bank Mandiri was US\$110, 070.62.

Financial Report of the AIPA Secretariat for the period 1st October 2009 to 30th June 2011 and Estimated Expenditure for 1st July 2011 to 30th September 2011

The Committee was informed that there the estimated expenditure had increased by some \$12,000 due to an increase in travel expenses and medical costs. The Committee had requested that the AIPA Secretariat for reasons which lead to this increase and was informed by the AIPA Secretary-General that these increases arose due to increased AIPA meetings and a higher incidence of AIPA Secretariat Staff falling ill. The Committee had requested that the AIPA Secretariat look into better financial management systems and made appropriate suggestions on how to achieve this.

Budget Proposal for the AIPA Secretariat for the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012 (FY 2011/2012)

AIPA Secretary-General informed that the Committee that the projected income for the above-mentioned period would amount to \$305,150 and the projected expenditure would amount to \$299,715. This represented a slight increase to the last FY budget and the increase could be attributed to salary increases for locally recruited staff and an increase in the contingency budget. The Committee agreed to the AIPA Secretary-General's proposed budget.

Proposal of the Creation of Co-Terminus Positions at the AIPA Secretariat

(47) This proposal has been dropped due to delegates' views regarding the limited financial resources of AIPA and is to be reviewed later when AIPA has sufficient financial resources.

Creation of a Core Group of AIPA Parliamentarians to act as a think tank with ASEAN and AIPA

(48) Budget considerations and the possible redundancy of the function of this proposed group with the existing AIPA Caucus could occur. In the view of some delegates, the AIPA Caucus could accommodate the function to be carried out by the proposed core group. The Committee agreed to give the AIPA Caucus broader tasks and functions to enable it to accommodate the objectives of the proposal. It referred this matter to the AIPA Caucus to further study the possibility of the creation of the AIPA Core Group of Parliamentarians and come up with recommendations for submission to the next General Assembly.

Proposal to amend the Article 18 of the AIPA Statute to include Bahasa Indonesia/Malay as one of the Working Languages of AIPA proposed by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI)

(49) The Committee noted Indonesia's proposal to include Bahasa Indonesia/Malay as one of the working languages of AIPA. It was agreed to further discuss the draft resolution on this matter at the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA in 2012.

Proposal to Amendment of Preamble and Article 4, Chapter III, of the AIPA Statute by the Brunei Darussalam Legislative Council and the Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

(50) The Committee unanimously approved the resolution on amending the AIPA Statutes on the Preamble and Article 4, Chapter III as requested by the Brunei

Darussalam Legislative Council and the Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It asked the secretariat to prepare the new statute that includes the amendments.

Proposal for Observer Status for the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus at the AIPA General Assembly

(51) The Committee unanimously approved the request from the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus to become an Observer of AIPA. The representatives from Belarus Parliament were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and to convey their gratitude and appreciation to the Organizational Committee.

Project Proposal on "Capacity Building for ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)" to enhance AIPA Parliamentary Skills through a Capacity Building Program, offered by the German Federal Foreign Office of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (formerly Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung GmbH, or InWEnt) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) to AIPA

(52) The project proposal "Capacity Building for ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)" to enhance AIPA Parliamentary Skill through a Capacity Building Program, offered by the German Federal Foreign Office of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (formerly Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung GmbH, or InWEnt) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) to AIPA, was unanimously approved by the Committee without objection.

Representatives from GIZ and HSF were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and to convey their gratitude and appreciation to the Organizational Committee of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly to approve the draft resolution on the AIPA-GIZ/HSF Joint Program.

Visits of the AIPA Delegations to Observer Countries

(53) The draft resolution to visit observer countries was dropped by the Committee due to limited financial resources but is subject to further review when AIPA has sufficient means.

Appreciation of the Services to Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN as President of AIPA from September 2010 to September 2011

(54) The Committee expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN for his excellent service to the organization during his term of office as the President of AIPA.

Date and Venue of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly

(55) The Indonesian Delegation informed the meeting that the 33rd AIPA General Assembly will be held in Mataram, Lombok, Indonesia, from 16th to 22nd September 2012.

Discussions

(56) Members of the Committee emphasized that the AIPA Secretariat should improve its financial report by presenting a better and clearer report that is easy to understand. Members of the Committee proposed the AIPA Secretariat to prepare financial report which shows the comparison between the proposed budget (adopted in the previous GA) and the actual expenditure for a better presentation of the financial report.

Expenditure of every budget item spent by the AIPA Secretariat must comply with each item budget proposed and adopted in the AIPA GA. It was also proposed during the First Plenary Session that for future General Assemblies, all delegates including observers and guests of the host be notified beforehand on the amount of time allowed for their presentation.

DIALOGUES WITH OBSERVER COUNTRIES

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

33rd AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(58) The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of Indonesia to host the 33rd General Assembly to be held in Mataram, Lombok, Indonesia from 16th to 22nd September 2012.

ACCREDITING EXPRESSION

(59) The Heads of the AIPA delegations, observer delegations and Secretary Generals of AIPA and ASEAN were invited to an audience with His Majesty PREAH BAT SAMDECH PREAH BOROMNEATH NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia.

APPRECIATION TO THE HOST COUNTRY


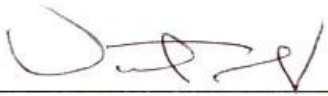
(60) The Delegations attending the Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Parliaments of the Kingdom of Cambodia as well as the


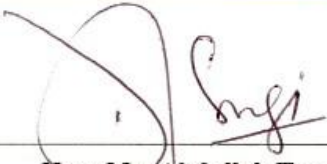
Cambodian people for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 32nd AIPA General Assembly.


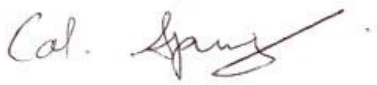
Hereby all the Leaders of AIPA Delegations and President of AIPA give their signatures as approval of this Joint Communiqué Report.



Done in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Twenty-third of September in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven.

 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	 _____ Hon. Pehin Dato Isa bin Ibrahim
 CAMBODIA	 _____ Hon. Mr. Nguon Nhel
 INDONESIA	 _____ Hon. Dr. Marzuki Alie
 LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	 _____ Hon. Mrs. Pany Yathotou
 MALAYSIA	 _____ Hon. Datuk Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar
 MYANMAR	 _____ Hon. Mr. Khin Aung Myint

	
THE PHILIPPINES	Hon. Congressman Victor F. Ortega

	
SINGAPORE	Hon. Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi

	
THAILAND	Hon. Col. Apiwan Wiriyachai

	
VIETNAM	H.E. Mdm. Tong Thi Phong



SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI KATTIPRITTBANDIT
HENG SAMRIN, PRESIDENT OF AIPA