
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary
Delegation to the 32nd AIPA
General Assembly,
September 2011

November 2011
Canberra

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011

ISBN 978-0-642-79581-6 (Printed version)

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website:
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/>.



Contents

Foreword v

Membership of the Delegation.....vi

1 The 32nd AIPA General Assembly 1

 Introduction 1

 AIPA General Assembly – Background..... 2

 Opening Ceremony 3

 First Plenary Session..... 4

 Committee meetings..... 6

 Dialogue Session with Australia..... 7

 Brunei Darussalam..... 7

 Cambodia..... 7

 Indonesia 8

 Laos 8

 Malaysia..... 8

 Myanmar 8

 Philippines..... 9

 Singapore..... 9

 Thailand 9

 Vietnam..... 9

 Delegation comments 10

Second plenary session and closing ceremony 11

 Political matters..... 12

 Economic matters 12

Social matters	12
Organisational matters	13
Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA	13
Observer status of Parliament of India	14
Date and venue of the 33 rd AIPA General Assembly	14
32 nd AIPA General Assembly Joint Communiqué	14
Closing Ceremony	14
Conclusion	15
2 Additional activities	16
Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics	16
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.....	17
Hagar Cambodia.....	17
Appendix A: Date and venue of AIPA General Assemblies	18
Appendix B: Statement by Leader of the Australian Delegation, Mr Mike Symon MP	20
Appendix C: AIPA Report on the Dialogue with Australia	24
Appendix D: 32nd AIPA Joint Communiqué	29



Foreword

The Delegation to the 32nd AIPA General Assembly in Cambodia was an important occasion for AIPA and for Cambodia, and an opportunity for meaningful engagement and discussion between the Australian observer delegation and the countries of ASEAN.

I appreciate the opportunity afforded the Delegation to participate in the General Assembly as an observer country and to discuss the interests and concerns shared with all the countries in our region. The Delegation was very warmly received and it was clear that Australia is held in very high regard by ASEAN members.

The theme of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly was the “role of AIPA in building a prosperous ASEAN Community”, and it is evident that ASEAN member countries are committed to achieving their goal of establishing an ASEAN economic community by 2015. Good progress continues to be made towards this goal, which Australia will support by providing policy advice, research and implementation assistance through the second phase of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program.

As part of the Assembly, a formal dialogue was held between Australia and ASEAN member countries. Fruitful exchanges were made around the main topics of cooperation between ASEAN and observer countries, water resource management for sustainable development, disaster management and emergency response, and land mines and unexploded ordnance.

I would like to thank my Senate colleague on the Delegation, Senator Alan Eggleston, who has a strong interest in the region and provided a valuable contribution to our formal and informal discussions during the Assembly.

I would also like to thank the hosting nation, Cambodia, for their warm hospitality and the professional organisation of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly.

Mr Mike Symon MP
Delegation Leader



Membership of the Delegation

Mr Mike Symon MP (Leader)

Senator Alan Eggleston

Mr Peter Banson (Secretary)

The 32nd AIPA General Assembly

Introduction

- 1.1 The 32nd Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly was held from 18-24 September 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The purpose of AIPA meetings is to address issues of mutual concern to ASEAN member and observer countries.
- 1.2 The General Assembly has been held regularly since 1978. Over 200 delegates attended the 2011 General Assembly, representing ten member countries (including the Union of Myanmar which was admitted as a full member during the Assembly), seven observer countries (plus the European Parliament) and a delegation from the International Conference of Asian Political Parties as guests of the host.
- 1.3 The report of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly, prepared by the AIPA secretariat, is available at <http://www.aipasecretariat.org/general-assembly/the-32nd-general-assembly/>
- 1.4 The following summarises the issues and outcomes arising from the 32nd AIPA General Assembly, with a particular focus on the issues discussed during the dialogue session between ASEAN countries and Australia.

AIPA General Assembly – Background

- 1.5 Ten years after the formation of ASEAN, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation was established by the parliaments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in 1977. It was formed to contribute to the attainment of the goals and aspirations of ASEAN through inter-parliamentary cooperation.
- 1.6 In order to establish a more effective and closely integrated institution, AIPO changed its status from an organisation into an assembly in 2007 and changed its name to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly or AIPA.¹
- 1.7 The Statutes of AIPA were signed in 1977 by the Heads of Parliamentary delegations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The major aims and purpose of AIPA are:
- to promote closer inter-parliamentary cooperation, contacts and understanding among parliamentarians of ASEAN member countries;
 - to promote cooperation and understanding between AIPA and other parliaments and regional and international parliamentary organisations;
 - to facilitate the achievement of the goals of the ASEAN as constituted in the ASEAN Declaration of August 1967 made at Bangkok, Thailand;
 - to study, discuss and suggest solutions to problems of common interests; and
 - to keep all AIPA member parliaments informed of steps taken and progress achieved by each parliament in realisation of the aims and purpose of AIPA.
- 1.8 AIPA comprises the following ten ASEAN member parliaments:
- Brunei Darussalam
 - Cambodia;
 - Indonesia;
 - Lao People’s Democratic Republic;
 - Malaysia;

1 <http://www.aipasecretariat.org/about/background-history/> accessed 13 October 2011.

- Union of Myanmar²;
 - Philippines;
 - Singapore;
 - Thailand; and
 - Vietnam.
- 1.9 As part of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly, AIPA member countries had dialogue sessions with the parliaments of seven observer countries/parliaments comprising:
- Australia;
 - Canada;
 - People's Republic of China;
 - European Parliament;
 - India;
 - Japan; and
 - Russian Federation.
- 1.10 The AIPA Statutes require that a General Assembly of AIPA be held once a year in the country of an AIPA member parliament by rotation in the alphabetical order of the ASEAN countries. The venue and date of previous AIPA General Assemblies is shown at **Appendix A**.

Opening Ceremony

- 1.11 The opening ceremony took place on Tuesday 20 September 2011. Welcome addresses were delivered by the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Samdech Hun Sen³, and the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Samdech Chea Sim⁴. The Prime Minister highlighted the role that ASEAN has

2 Admitted as a full member of AIPA at the 32nd General Assembly.

3 The full text of the speech is available at http://www.aipasecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Welcome-Address-by-Prime-Minister_in-English_.pdf accessed 13 October 2011.

4 The full text of the speech is available at http://www.aipasecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Samdech-Chea-Sims-Welcome-Remark_in-English_.pdf accessed 13 October 2011.

played in the region over the past 44 years, and spoke of ASEAN's achievements in the economic, social and cultural sectors. He noted that reducing the development gap between ASEAN member countries remained a key challenge in ensuring competitiveness and achieving regional integration. The President of the Senate welcomed the actions and mechanisms being implemented by ASEAN member countries in an attempt to bridge the development gap between countries, in order to ensure equal and sustainable development. He appealed to the 32nd General Assembly to generate effective strategies that focus on cooperation frameworks, exchange of information, full enforcement of existing mechanisms, legal implementation and ratification of agreements and other policies to address issues in the region such as terrorism, transnational crimes, human and drug trafficking.

- 1.12 Each General Assembly is presided over by the AIPA President, who is the Speaker or President of the AIPA member parliament hosting the Assembly. The President of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly was Mr Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.
- 1.13 In his opening address, the President of AIPA conveyed his active pursuit of consolidation and strengthening of the cooperation, understanding and trust between the legislative bodies of the ASEAN member countries. He appealed to all ASEAN heads of government to respect the UN Charter, ASEAN Charter and international institutional and regional mechanisms to resolve the ongoing conflicts in the region for the sake of regional security. He also highlighted his proposal to create 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 the adopted AIPA resolutions.
- 1.14 The President welcomed the efforts being made by the ASEAN executive and individual member countries in progressing towards the realisation of an ASEAN Community by 2015, and urged the Assembly to find sustainable solutions through cooperation and coordination to the challenges of achieving this valuable goal.

First Plenary Session

- 1.15 The first plenary session immediately followed the opening ceremony. Following the nomination of Vice Presidents of the 32nd General

Assembly, the next item of business was the admission of the Union of Myanmar as a full member of AIPA. Having had no legislature, Myanmar had been a special observer to AIPA since 1997.

- 1.16 The remainder of the first plenary session consisted of statements by leaders of member and observer delegations, and special guest of the host parliament.
- 1.17 Member countries emphasised the appropriateness of the theme of the Assembly for 2011, 'The role of AIPA in building a prosperous ASEAN Community', noting the key role of AIPA in bringing prosperity and welfare to all the people of ASEAN. Several countries urged member parliaments to encourage their respective governments to deal with challenges such as poverty, unemployment, good governance and the protection of human rights, at national and regional levels. All countries noted the continuing importance of the relationship between AIPA and ASEAN, and also emphasised was the value of the involvement of dialogue partners in the General Assembly.
- 1.18 The Leader of the Australian Delegation, Mr Mike Symon MP, noted the historic adoption of the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN's continued commitment to securing an 'ASEAN Community' by 2015. He conveyed Australia's appreciation of the opportunity to participate in the 32nd AIPA General Assembly and to reaffirm the valuable relationships that Australia has with the countries in the region.
- 1.19 The strength of the relationship between Australia and ASEAN was highlighted in October 2010 when the ASEAN Heads of State and Prime Minister Julia Gillard held an ASEAN-Australia Summit in Vietnam. At this Summit ASEAN leaders expressed their appreciation of Australia's continued support for ASEAN's institutional strengthening and its central role in responding to regional and global challenges.
- 1.20 Trade and economic interactions between Australia and ASEAN continue to grow. ASEAN collectively is now Australia's second largest trade partner, with total trade value of over \$80 billion in 2010, representing 14.6 percent of Australia's total trade. Trade interactions will continue to develop, with the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement expected to make a major contribution to further reducing trade barriers.
- 1.21 Education is a key element of the cooperation between Australia and the countries of ASEAN, with over 109,000 students from ASEAN countries studying in Australia in 2010. In 2011, Australia has awarded 1284 scholarships to citizens of ASEAN countries under the Australia Awards. While ASEAN countries have long been a popular tourist destination for

Australians, it is also worth noting that Australia warmly receives hundreds of thousands of tourist visitors every year from the countries of ASEAN.

- 1.22 Mr Symon noted the importance of the networks of bilateral and multilateral relationships between Australia and ASEAN nations in achieving progress on many common interests, including combating people trafficking, the narcotics trade and terrorism. Mr Symon expressed his confidence that this strong relationship will enable the continued forging of stronger bonds and friendships between the countries and peoples of ASEAN and its neighbours.
- 1.23 The full text of Mr Symon's statement is at **Appendix B**.

Committee meetings

- 1.24 At the conclusion of the first plenary session, the following committees were formed:
- Committee on Political Matters;
 - Committee on Economic Matters;
 - Committee on Social Matters;
 - Committee on Organisational Matters;
 - Committee on Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA);
 - Committee on dialogue panels with Observers; and
 - Drafting Committee on Joint Communiqué.
- 1.25 The committees formed at each General Assembly consider key issues relevant to ASEAN countries. Each committee produces a statement and approves a series of resolutions for adoption by the AIPA General Assembly. Representatives of member countries of AIPA provide the membership of the committees. As an observer nation to AIPA, Australia has no official capacity on the committees.

Dialogue Session with Australia

- 1.26 As part of the General Assembly, time was allocated for a dialogue session with observer nations. The following were set as topics for the 32nd AIPA dialogue session with Australia:
- cooperation between ASEAN and observer countries;
 - integrated water resource management for sustainable development in the region;
 - necessity for ASEAN and the international community's commitment to disaster management and emergency responses; and
 - toward ASEAN free of land mines and unexploded ordnance.
- 1.27 The dialogue session with Australia was chaired by the Hon. Mr Nhem Thavy, a Member of the National Assembly of The Kingdom of Cambodia. The participants in the dialogue session and the AIPA dialogue report are provided at **Appendix C**.
- 1.28 The following section summarises the specific issues raised and comments made by attending nations.

Brunei Darussalam

- 1.29 Brunei Darussalam conveyed its pleasure with Australia's practical cooperation, particularly in relation to capacity building, economic development and trans-national crime assistance.
- 1.30 Brunei Darussalam supported a request by Laos for the relationship between Australia and AIPA members to be expanded, to include a capacity building program and exchange program for parliamentarians.

Cambodia

- 1.31 Cambodia sought technical assistance from Australia in relation to agriculture and livestock practices, and made particular mention of irrigation technology including development of canals, dams and other irrigation systems.
- 1.32 In noting the support received from Australia over many years, including education and scholarship assistance, Cambodia asked that Australia work with Cambodia towards increasing the levels of imports and exports between the two countries.

Indonesia

- 1.33 Indonesia expressed its desire that it be easier for skilled workers to enter Australia. It also highlighted its concerns regarding the treatment of Muslim women in Australia in respect of the wearing of headscarves and other religious practices.
- 1.34 Indonesia noted that with the close proximity of our two countries it is difficult to manage the issue of Indonesians boats fishing illegally in Australia waters. It also conveyed its concern, as a neighbour, that the issue of live exports of livestock be resolved as soon as possible.

Laos

- 1.35 Laos thanked Australia for increasing its aid in the region, and also for assistance with capacity building.
- 1.36 Laos sought Australia's assistance with sustainable use of the environment, noting particularly that it sees good potential for the use of hydroelectric power. In trying to protect its water resources, Laos hoped that Australia could help in developing its legal system in respect of environmental and water management.

Malaysia

- 1.37 Malaysia noted its \$10.6 billion trade with Australia, and many bilateral agreements on matters such as defence, security and intelligence, tourism and science and technology.
- 1.38 In highlighting its good relationship with Australia over many years, Malaysia respectfully asked that Australia observe the ASEAN principle of non-interference in considering the views and positions of other countries.

Myanmar

- 1.39 Myanmar highlighted the need to explore ways to address climate change, noting that their coastal regions are affected by storms and cyclones every year, resulting in destruction of cultivated land and fish farms.
- 1.40 Myanmar thanked Australia for disaster relief assistance and requested assistance with the planning and building of levies and dams.
- 1.41 Myanmar also asked Australia to remind other countries of Myanmar's existence, and requested a review of existing sanctions, noting that the

country is changing and needs foreign investment and technology to help with development and poverty.

Philippines

- 1.42 The Philippines raised the issue of their trade imbalance with Australia, with the Philippines increasing imports from Australia while their exports to Australia are decreasing. Assistance was sought with exporting fruits and other products to Australia.
- 1.43 The Philippines noted that tourism growth from Australia has decreased in recent years, which is a problem that needs to be addressed.
- 1.44 Australia's development plan for the Philippines is close to expiry, and the country hopes that the new plan being considered will be agreed on.
- 1.45 The Philippines have frequent natural disasters, and would appreciate learning best practices from Australia in relation to disaster response, in addition to the continuing provision of resources and development assistance.

Singapore

- 1.46 Singapore noted that, like Australia, it has water resource issues. Singapore thanked Australia for its assistance in the area of sustainable water use, which it hopes can continue.

Thailand

- 1.47 Thailand expressed its support for continued exchanges of knowledge, skills and technology with Australia, and conveyed its appreciation for the opportunity to learn from Australia's experience in many areas.
- 1.48 In recognising the importance of sustainable resource management, Thailand welcomed constructive exchanges with Australia to support the conservation of water in the region.

Vietnam

- 1.49 Vietnam noted its good investment and trade cooperation with Australia, and expressed its appreciation for Australia's help during the economic crisis.

Delegation comments

- 1.50 The Delegation noted that cooperation between Australia and ASEAN is becoming more important every year, as opportunities for trade, services and knowledge transfer continue to expand. The value of being an observer to AIPA was expressed, as Australia is very committed to integration in the region and is pleased to be able to play a role.
- 1.51 The Delegation acknowledged that greater opportunities for parliamentary exchange sought by many countries could assist in addressing the need for capacity building.
- 1.52 In recognising Australia's great need for skilled workers, the Delegation advised that Australia is currently working on reducing barriers which may prevent workers from entering the country. The Delegation noted that the trade in services is underdeveloped, as its value is increasingly being discovered.
- 1.53 The Delegation acknowledged that sometimes Australia's near neighbours have been overlooked in respect of trade opportunities. In response to concerns of the Philippines, the Delegation advised that greater contact and trade between the two countries would be desirable, as there is clearly scope for more cooperation. Likewise, Australia would like to offer Myanmar similar trade opportunities (in addition to aid assistance) as other countries in the region.
- 1.54 The Delegation expressed its confidence that Australia would continue to provide educational support to students of ASEAN countries, while it also hoped that Australian students could be given greater opportunities to study in various ASEAN countries.
- 1.55 In acknowledging the comments made by Malaysia in respect of non-interference, Australia noted that sometimes opinions appearing in the media are taken out of context and treated as fact, when they are often not accurately representing the government's position.
- 1.56 The Delegation noted that as Australia is such a dry country, it faces many of the same issues in relation to water resource management as many ASEAN countries. Water conservation tactics such as water efficiency awareness campaigns, more efficient irrigation practices, and desalination technology were outlined. The Delegation suggested that an integrated water management plan should be developed for the Mekong River among all countries affected, similar to what has been done in Australia with respect to the Murray Darling Basin.

- 1.57 In response to Indonesia's concerns about the issue of fishing in Australian waters, the Delegation advised that Australia needs to protect its fishing coasts, and that there are genuine concerns about potentially diseased animals and birds on boats in areas where quarantine is very important, for example where transport in connection with the live animal trade takes place.
- 1.58 It was noted that, like many countries in the region, Australia is prone to natural disasters such as floods, bushfires and cyclones. As such, Australia is accustomed to dealing with and responding to disasters, and has learned that integrated disaster management plans are essential. The Delegation stressed the importance of educating citizens on evacuation plans and regular re-evaluation of plans, as well as consideration of factors such as emergency communication. The Australian Civilian Corps was recognised as a significant new program, enabling a growing number of experienced people to be sent quickly to disaster zones. The Delegation acknowledged, however, that best practice in disaster management was still a work in progress, and while Australia will continue to provide assistance to other countries as needed, there is also scope for Australia to learn from ASEAN countries.
- 1.59 In relation to land mines and unexploded ordnance, the Delegation acknowledged that this issue is a very significant problem with no simple solution. With a major difficulty being that the placement of neglected active land mines has rarely been recorded, it was suggested that aerial technology developed by Geoscience Australia, which can detect metal in the ground, may be an option to help deal with the issue. Also noted was Australia's involvement in the 5 year mine action strategy to help other countries eradicate land mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance.
- 1.60 The Delegation thanked dialogue participants for their genuine engagement, and expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to hold productive and frank discussions as a dialogue partner with its ASEAN neighbours.

Second plenary session and closing ceremony

- 1.61 The second plenary session and closing ceremony were held on 23 September 2011.

- 1.62 The Chairs of the committees on Political Matters, Economic Matters, Social Matters, Organisational Matters, the meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA), the Joint Communiqué, and the dialogue panels with Observers presented their reports. The reports were approved by the General Assembly.

The following is a summary of resolutions of the committees. The full text of the reports can be found at: <http://www.aipasecretariat.org/general-assembly/the-32nd-general-assembly/>.

Political matters

- 1.63 Resolutions of the Committee on Political Matters on the following issues were adopted by the General Assembly:
- strengthening ASEAN political-security community through intensifying regional cooperation and integration;
 - promoting and building a trust-oriented community through consolidating and strengthening of ASEAN's solidarity for prosperity in the region; and
 - adoption of the report of the third AIPA Caucus.

Economic matters

- 1.64 Resolutions of the Committee on Economic Matters on the following issues were adopted by the General Assembly:
- promoting economic growth and sustainable development towards narrowing development gap in ASEAN; and
 - climate change: challenges and adaptation for economic growth.

Social matters

- 1.65 Resolutions of the Committee on Social Matters on the following issues were adopted by the General Assembly:
- strengthening law enforcement to combat trafficking in persons;
 - role of parliaments of AIPA member countries in accelerating the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;
 - role of parliamentarians on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in ASEAN;

- report of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on the role of parliamentarians on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in ASEAN; and
- harmonisation of illegal drug laws on the capture and seizure of assets used in or possessed from drug-related cases; the control of reactions and precursors and on demand reduction interventions; and the creation of a technical working group.

Organisational matters

1.66 Resolutions of the Committee on Organisational Matters on the following issues were adopted by the General Assembly:

- secretariat annual report;
- financial reports;
- budget proposal;
- creation of a core group of AIPA parliamentarians to act as a think tank with ASEAN and AIPA;
- proposal to amend Article 18 of the AIPA Statutes to include Bahasa Indonesia/Malay as the one of the working languages of AIPA proposed by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI);
- proposal by the Brunei Darussalam Legislative Council and the Parliament of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to amend the preamble and Article 4, Chapter III, of the AIPA Statutes;
- proposal for observer status for the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus at the AIPA General Assembly;
- project proposal on “capacity building for AIPA” to enhance AIPA parliamentary skill through a capacity building program sponsored by GIZ, German Federal Office and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF);
- appreciation of services of President of AIPA; and
- date and venue of 33rd General Assembly.

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA

1.67 Resolutions of the meeting of WAIPA on the following issues were adopted by the General Assembly:

- report of the Women of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) seminar on accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals-5, through the role of women parliamentarians;
- increasing economic opportunities for women as family income earners; and
- improving role of women in dealing with the issues of the environment.

Observer status of Parliament of India

1.68 The Parliament of India, which was represented at the Assembly by a delegation as special guests of the host, was approved as an Observer in the ongoing and future AIPA General Assemblies. The Leader of the Indian delegation expressed his thanks to the General Assembly.

Date and venue of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly

1.69 It was agreed that the 33rd AIPA General Assembly will be held in Lombok, Indonesia from 16 to 22 September 2012.

32nd AIPA General Assembly Joint Communiqué

1.70 The leaders of Delegations of the AIPA member countries signed the Joint Communiqué. The text of the document is at **Appendix D**.

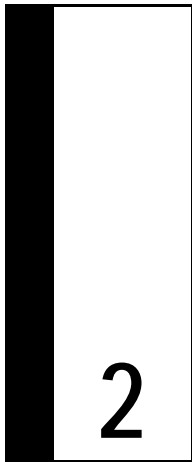
Closing Ceremony

1.71 The President of AIPA and President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Mr Samdech Heng Samrin, gave the closing speech for the 32nd Assembly. He highlighted the spirit in which the business of the Assembly was conducted, resulting in agreement among delegates on solutions and strategies to address many important issues and problems. The President also urged member countries to continue the necessary work in order to achieve the goal of building a strong ASEAN Community. He expressed his gratitude to delegates for contributing to a successful 32nd AIPA General Assembly.

- 1.72 The gavel, symbol of AIPA presidency, was then handed to Dr Marzuki Alie, incoming President of AIPA and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

Conclusion

- 1.73 The Delegation considers that the 32nd AIPA General Assembly presented a valuable forum for the further strengthening of bonds between the parliaments of ASEAN nations, and provided a valuable opportunity for Australia to discuss matters of mutual importance with countries in the region and strengthen friendships with our neighbouring parliamentarians.
- 1.74 It was clear to the Delegation that ASEAN member countries are committed to achieving their goal of establishing an ASEAN economic community by 2015, as reflected in the theme of this year's Assembly: "the role of AIPA in building a prosperous ASEAN Community". The Assembly proved a useful forum for Australia to discuss its important relationship on many fronts with its neighbouring countries, and it was clear that Australia is held in very high regard by ASEAN nations, who expressed their appreciation of the leadership role played by Australia and the aid and support provided throughout the region.
- 1.75 In conclusion, the delegation wishes to thank the hosting nation, Cambodia, for their warm welcome and a well organised and professionally conducted 32nd AIPA General Assembly.



Additional activities

- 1.1 In addition to its participation at the 32nd AIPA General Assembly, the delegation took the opportunity to make three other official visits while in Cambodia - to the Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and Hagar Cambodia. Each visit is discussed in more detail below.

Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics

- 1.2 The Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO) was established in 1994 by the Cambodia Trust. The Australian Government has long been a supporter of the work of the Trust, and has provided approximately US\$400,000 through AusAID since 2007. CSPO produces low cost prosthetic and orthotic devices for Cambodians with disabilities, and trains students from Cambodia and other countries as far away as Iraq and Papua New Guinea to become Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians.
- 1.3 The delegation was given a guided tour of the facility and observed prosthetic and orthotic devices being manufactured, students practising their craft and clients in various stages of rehabilitation, including being fitted with devices.

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

- 1.4 The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) was established in 2001 following the passage of a law by the Cambodian

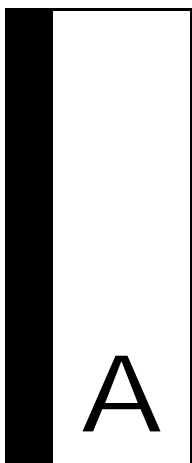
National Assembly to create a court to try serious crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979).

- 1.5 The ECCC, commonly referred to as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, is a Cambodian court with international participation and assistance. This 'hybrid' court is designed to provide fair trials in conformity with international standards, and may apply both national and international law. The ECCC can only try senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge, and only for crimes committed from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979.
- 1.6 The ECCC facilitates the active participation of victims in its judicial proceedings as civil parties. Civil parties are those who have suffered harm directly from the crimes under investigation and are pursuing claims for moral and collective reparation. Civil parties have the right to be represented by legal counsel.
- 1.7 The delegation was given a guided tour of the ECCC and met with senior staff and interns, where it was briefed on the operation of the tribunal and the two cases which have so far come before it.

Hagar Cambodia

- 1.8 Hagar is an international non-government organisation committed to the recovery, empowerment and reintegration of exploited, abused and rejected women and children in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Vietnam. Its first shelter having opened in Cambodia in 1994, Hagar operates recovery shelters, education and empowerment programs, reintegration services and a social business.
- 1.9 The delegation met with staff and observed some of the rehabilitation activities of the centre in progress, including activities designed to build self-confidence and social awareness, and workshops to develop life skills through the creation of artistic items for display and sale.

Mr Mike Symon MP
Delegation Leader



Appendix A: Date and venue of AIPA General Assemblies

Since its inception in 1977, AIPA has held annual meetings of its General Assembly as follows:

- 1st General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 26-28 September 1978
- 2nd General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 27 September – 3 October 1979
- 3rd General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2-6 September 1980
- 4th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-6 February 1982
- 5th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 5-9 April 1983
- 6th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 5-7 October 1983
- 7th General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 2-6 October 1984
- 8th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 22-29 September 1985
- 9th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24-30 January 1988
- 10th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 21-26 August 1989
- 11th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 10-15 September 1990
- 12th General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-23 November 1991
- 13th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 21-26 September 1992
- 14th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 19-26 September 1993
- 15th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 19-24 September 1994
- 16th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 18-23 September 1995
- 17th General Assembly of AIPO in Phuket, Thailand, 16-21 September 1996

-
- 18th General Assembly of AIPO in Bali, Indonesia, 1-6 September 1997
- 19th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24-28 August 1998
- 20th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 19-24 September 1999
- 21st General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 10-15 September 2000
- 22nd General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 2-7 September 2001
- 23rd General Assembly of AIPO in Hanoi, Vietnam, 8-13 September 2002
- 24th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 7-12 September 2003
- 25th General Assembly of AIPO in Phnom Phen, Cambodia, 12-17 September 2004
- 26th General Assembly of AIPO in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18-23 September 2005
- 27th General Assembly of AIPA in Cebu, Philippines, 10-15 September 2006
- 28th General Assembly of AIPA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-24 August 2007
- 29th General Assembly of AIPA in Singapore, 19-24 August 2008
- 30th General Assembly of AIPA in Pattaya City, Thailand, 2-8 August 2009
- 31st General Assembly of AIPA in Hanoi, Vietnam, 19-25 September 2010
- 32nd General Assembly of AIPA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 18-24 September 2011



Appendix B: Statement by Leader of the Australian Delegation, Mr Mike Symon MP

- 1.1 It is a great pleasure and honour to address the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.
- 1.2 The Assembly is taking place at a significant time for ASEAN and for Australia's relations with ASEAN. As it moves past its forty-fourth birthday, ASEAN is continuing to make great progress towards regional cooperation – reflected in its historic adoption of the ASEAN Charter and by its commitment to secure an 'ASEAN Community' by 2015. Our participation in this Assembly provides us with an opportunity to renew our friendships and to reaffirm the very valuable relationships and cooperation which Australia has with ASEAN.
- 1.3 Australia appreciates greatly the contribution which ASEAN has made to peace, regional cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia. The strength and the warmth of our relationship were highlighted on 30 October last year (2010) when the ASEAN Heads of State /Government and Prime Minister Julia Gillard held an ASEAN-Australia Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam. In their Joint Statement, the leaders declared:

We celebrated with appreciation Australia's steadfast friendship, as ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner, over the past 36 years. ASEAN Leaders warmly welcomed Prime Minister Gillard's participation at this landmark meeting and the constructive discussions on the further deepening of ASEAN-Australia relations. ASEAN Leaders appreciated Australia's continued support for ASEAN's institutional strengthening through the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, and for ASEAN's central role in the regional architecture in responding to regional and global challenges.
- 1.4 Australia was the first country to establish a multilateral relationship with ASEAN - in 1974. Australia's commitment to ASEAN and its contribution

to peace and prosperity has been re-emphasised by our accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in December 2005 and by the 'Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership' which our countries signed in Manila on 1 August 2007.

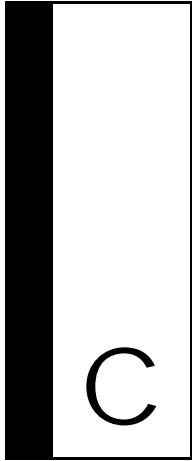
- 1.5 Our peoples and governments now share and develop a very wide range of common interests. A highlight of our recent relations has clearly been the signing of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement at Hua Hin (in Thailand) on 27 February 2009. At a time when all of our countries have had to grapple with the impact and aftermath of the global financial crisis, this agreement opens up a new basis for our relationship.
- 1.6 ASEAN (as a whole) is now Australia's second largest trade partner (after China), with total trade worth over AUD\$80 billion in 2010 accounting for 14.6 percent of Australia's total trade. The new Agreement binds Australia closer together with the more than 600 million people in ASEAN and the ASEAN economies that now have a combined GDP of AUD\$3.1 trillion. The Agreement will make a major contribution to further reducing trade barriers, and will help underpin our peoples' relationships and prosperity into the future.
- 1.7 Trade and economic interactions are a part of a comprehensive relationship between our governments and peoples.
- 1.8 Australia has welcomed the regular dialogues with our ASEAN neighbours through the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences. We have valued highly the opportunity to be able to join as founding members the ASEAN Regional Forum, in 1994 and the East Asia Summit (EAS), inaugurated in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.
- 1.9 Australia looks forward to the continuing evolution of regional cooperation, in which ASEAN has played such a crucial role. We welcome the expansion of the membership of the East Asia Summit to include the United States and Russia. We also welcome the advent of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Eight, which met in Hanoi for the first time in October last year and which brings together the same countries who are in the EAS, being the ten ASEAN members, along with Japan, China, Republic of Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia.
- 1.10 Australia is committed to deepening our relations with ASEAN, and we note with satisfaction that several new initiatives were announced by Prime Minister Gillard in October 2010 at the time of the ASEAN-Australia Summit which will provide further support and funding to ASEAN in three areas:

- Australia is investing AUD \$132 million in infrastructure connectivity related initiatives in the Greater Mekong Subregion, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank
- Australia will contribute AUD\$10 million over four years to the Tripartite Action to Protect Migrants within and from the Greater Mekong Subregion from Labour Exploitation (TRIANGLE) initiative in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation
- Australian funding, through the Australian Human Rights Commission will build linkages with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission in 2011.

- 1.11 Our networks of bilateral and multilateral relations with ASEAN enable Australia to develop and advance the many interests we have in common – including a commitment to peace and security. A commitment pursued in many areas, including opposition to the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and support for the maintenance of maritime security, and the vital efforts underway to eliminate trafficking in people and the trade in narcotics.
- 1.12 In the past decade we have needed to expand our cooperation to oppose terrorism. Australia and ASEAN have been able to develop valuable coordination of our efforts in this area through extensive bilateral cooperation and through avenues including the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism (July 2004), the Bali Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism (co-hosted by Australia and Indonesia in February 2004) and the dialogue on counter-terrorism and crime established between Australia and ASEAN Senior Officials in September 2004.
- 1.13 Australia is seeking to contribute to mutual understanding and tolerance among religions and cultures across the region through the Regional Interfaith Dialogue process, which Australia co-sponsors together with Indonesia, the Philippines and New Zealand. All ASEAN members participate in the Dialogue along with East Timor, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. The Interfaith Dialogue brings together faith and community leaders from countries in the region to help empower moderates and underline the key role of faith and community leaders in bridging differences and building harmony in the region. We appreciate the opportunity to have been able to host the 5th Regional Interfaith Dialogue in Perth in October 2009.
- 1.14 Aid continues to play a valuable role in both humanitarian assistance and in helping to build the infrastructure and capacities which support further growth. From 2006-07 to 2010-11 Australia's annual Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to ASEAN, including bilateral and regional programs, increased by over 48 percent to AUD\$945 million. This

includes Australia's commitment to assistance in recovery from the devastation caused by the tsunami in December 2004. Through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development, we are contributing AUD\$1 billion in assistance and loans over a five year period, both in and beyond tsunami affected areas.

- 1.15 Australia is also seeking to support ASEAN's multilateral cooperation and particularly its programs to achieve the 'ASEAN Economic Community' by 2015. On 13 June 2008 in Jakarta, Prime Minister Rudd announced the inauguration of the second phase of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP, to involve \$AUD57 million from 2008-15), a program through which Australia will provide high level policy advice, research and implementation support to assist ASEAN in key areas of economic cooperation, including harmonisation of standards, elimination of tariffs and reduction of non-tariff barriers. Australia has also made an ongoing commitment to assist ASEAN's less developed members, in line with the Vientiane Action Plan.
- 1.16 While cooperation between our governments proceeds, relations between our peoples are also being expanded and deepened. Education is a key element in our cooperation: for the 2010 year we were glad to welcome over 109,000 students from ASEAN countries to study in Australia. Australia has awarded 1284 scholarships to citizens of ASEAN countries in 2011 under the Australia Awards. ASEAN countries have been a popular tourist destination for Australians for many years. We also continue to welcome warmly visits from our neighbours in ASEAN with over 670,000 tourists arriving from ASEAN countries in 2007.
- 1.17 In reviewing the record of Australia-ASEAN interactions, I am pleased to say that the Australian Parliament has also provided a contribution - through the major report released in June 2009 by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The report provides a comprehensive review of our relations and of the ways in which these can be and are being extended.
- 1.18 The rapidly growing interaction between our peoples underscores the importance of continuing dialogue and cooperation. As ASEAN progresses through its fifth decade, we welcome warmly the opportunity you are providing for us to renew the communication between our parliaments. We are confident that the relationship between Australia and ASEAN will continue to benefit our countries and peoples.



Appendix C: AIPA Report on the Dialogue with Australia

**ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
32nd General Assembly
18-24 September 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

REPORT ON THE DIALOGUE WITH AUSTRALIA

Chairperson of the Dialogue session was H. E. Mr. Nhem Thavy and Rapporteur was Hon. Mrs. Pum Sichan. The session started at 2. 00 pm at Ballroom 1, Lobby Level, InterContinental Hotel, Capital City of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 21 September 2011.

The dialogue Meeting was attended by the following delegates:

Australia

1. Hon. Mr. Mike Symon MP
2. Hon. Senator Alan Eggleston

Brunei Darussalam

1. Hon. Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Ja'afar
2. Hon. Haji A. Ahmad bin Husain
3. Mr. Mahari Sulaiman

Cambodia

1. Hon. Mr. Ouk Damry
2. Hon. Mrs. 1m Run
3. Hon. Mr. Chay Borin

Indonesia

1. Hon. Mr. Anton Sihombing

2. Hon. Mrs. Bokiratu Nitabudhi Susanti
3. Hon. Mr. Ma'mur Hasanuddin

Lao PDR

1. Hon. Dr. Ms. Souvanpheng Boupphanouvong
2. Hon. Mr. Lasanivong Amalathithada
3. Mr. Thanta Kongphaly
4. Mr. Maniso Samountry
5. Ms. Souksakhone Sitthibandith

Malaysia

1. Hon. Senator Dato' Abdul Rahim

Myanmar

1. Hon. Dr. Mr. Aye Maung
2. Hon. Mr. Sti Thee

The Philippines

1. Hon. Congressman Romero Federico S. Quimbo

Singapore

1. Hon. Mr. Ang Wei Neng

Thailand

1. Hon. Mr. Somboon Uthaiviankul

Vietnam

1. Hon. Mr. Le Bo Linh

The Meeting discussed the following issues:

1. Cooperation between ASEAN and Observer Countries

The majority of participating countries offered thanks and appreciation to Australian support over the years as well as expressing other detailed concerns.

Cambodia stated that they have been very satisfied with the cooperation and support they have received over the years from Australia, which has included educational and scholarship support, as well as other human resources. Cambodia also requested that the two countries work towards increasing the import and export consumption between the two.

Laos PDR mentioned a special thanks to Australia for being the very first observer country to have a dialogue with AIPA. Laos PDR specifically requested assistance on utilizing natural resources and sustainable goods such as their mining sector.

Brunei Darussalam greatly appreciates Australia's active participation and positive contribution in the region. Brunei Darussalam support Lao's request for promoting relation between AIPA member countries and Australia, particularly by exploring the possibility of having capacity building training program for parliamentarians as well as an exchange program.

Indonesia raised the problems faced between the two countries due to the close proximity and sharing of coasts, which affect fishing done by the both countries.

The Philippines raised the issue of trade between the two countries. The Philippines had seen an increase of the importing of goods from Australia, yet they have seen a decrease in the exportation of goods.

Myanmar thanked Australia for their disaster relief assistance. Myanmar asked Australia to help remind other western countries of Myanmar's existence and request for help.

Thailand realises that ASEAN member countries and Australia have a long lasting relationship. In addition, Thailand fully supports and welcomes all opportunities to exchange views with Australia with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding on practical cooperation activities.

Australia's Response

The delegates from Australia gave a comprehensive response to all countries. Firstly, Australia mentioned the greater opportunities for parliamentary exchange and increasing trade between the ASEAN countries. Australia mentioned they are in great need of skilled workers. Australia stated their legislation is currently working on removing barriers that may prevent needed technical workers from coming to Australia. Australia mentioned the issue of the close fishing borders brought up by Indonesia. Australia noted the need for protection of its fishing coasts and the fact that fishing boats may contain different animals or birds that may contain different diseases. To Myanmar's request for more support, Australia reaffirmed their enthusiasm to help the country with needs in the future. Lastly, Australia closed with the request that the support for education be a two way street between Australia and ASEAN countries.

2. Necessity for ASEAN and the International Community's Commitment to Disaster Management and Emergency Responses

Australia answered with the importance of implementing evacuation plans and educating citizens on these evacuation plans. It was discussed that these evacuation plans need to be regularly reevaluated. Recent technological dependencies, such as cell phone use as the primary use of communication, and other unusual factors need to be considered when designing emergency responses. Australia noted their involvement in a new program this year, which

helps countries struck by natural disaster, with not only with immediate relief, but also long term recovery.

Myanmar shared their personal struggles dealing with disaster situations due to their 1200-mile coast, which include cyclones, life stock, affected fisheries, damaged agriculture due to the salt water. Myanmar requested support from Australia and their fellow ASEAN neighbours in the building of barriers and dams.

3. Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in the Region.

Cambodia acknowledged that Australia has its own problems pertaining to water resource management, but also requested support from Australia regarding canals, dams, and irrigation systems and development.

Thailand recognizes the importance of sustainable water resources management to ensure adequate and effective water supply to meet the countries' need. Thailand also welcomes positive and constructive exchange with Australia to support the management of water resources in the region.

Laos PDR stated they are currently trying to pass policies, which support use of hydropower along with policies to protect their water resources and forestry.

Relating to the topic Australia stated that they would like to see their own students be able to be given the opportunity to study in the various ASEAN countries.

Australian delegates addressed the fact that since Australia itself is such a dry country it has faced many issues relating to water resource management. Water efficiency campaigns have been implemented in Melbourne in order to increase awareness on using water resources in a wiser way. Another water conservation tactic implemented are the toilet flushing systems (half and full flush) put in homes in order to save water. Australia has also spent a large sum of money in converting open channels of irrigation to pipes, in order to avoid losing water through evaporation. Lastly, desalination plants are being Built in many large city to generate a new source of water, however this has increased the price of water, which has created a problem for lower income families.

4. Toward ASEAN Free of Land Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

Australia admitted there is no easy answer or plan to address the issue of neglected active land mines, since their placement is rarely recorded. The development of aerial technology (by Geo-Science Australia), which can detect metal in the ground, is suggested as an option to deal with this issue. Australia

mentioned their involvement in a 100 million dollar program, which helps to eradicate landmines in various countries.

As there were no further comments from any of delegates, the Chairperson called the dialogue session to a close at 3:50 pm.

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

**NHEMTHAVY
CHAIRPERSON**

**PUMSICHAN
RAPPORTEUR**



Appendix D: 32nd AIPA Joint Communiqué

**ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
32nd General Assembly
18-24 September 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

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 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. Ninong 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 macro-economic 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 EU-ASEAN 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 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 menaces 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, indiscrimination 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 ad-hoc 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.