



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HA NOI, VIET NAM, 19 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2010

Res31GA/2010/Eco/02

**RESOLUTION ON THE ADOPTION
OF THE REPORT OF THE SECOND AIPA CAUCUS**

Acknowledging Resolution No.28GA/2007/Pol/03 on the Establishment of an AIPA Caucus that emphasises on the need for a mechanism to utilize linkages, promote information sharing and exchanges, and develop common legislative initiatives among Member Parliaments;

Noting that Resolution No.30GA/2009/Pol/05 during the First AIPA Caucus reiterated the need for AIPA Member Parliaments to develop common legislative initiatives and the harmonization of laws;

Appreciating the hosting of the Second AIPA Caucus by the Parliament of Singapore from 22 to 25 June, 2010;

Recognizing that the two issues, "Encouraging Clean Energy Initiative" and "Supporting a Multilateral Trading System," discussed during the Second AIPA Caucus are in line with the current priorities of the ASEAN towards the realization of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015;

Hereby Resolves to,

Adopt the Final Report of the Second AIPA Caucus.



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

2nd AIPA CAUCUS

Singapore, 22 - 25 June 2010

REPORT OF THE 2nd AIPA CAUCUS

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd Caucus of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) was held in Singapore, at the Singapore Parliament House, from 23-24 June 2010.
2. The meeting convened in Singapore to discuss the various initiatives proposed or implemented in AIPA Member countries relating to “Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives” and “Supporting A Multilateral Trading System”. These issues are aligned to current priorities of the ASEAN grouping to ensure steady progress towards the realisation of the common vision of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.
3. The meeting also considered the progress made by each AIPA Member country in implementing Resolutions adopted at the 30th AIPA General Assembly in Pattaya, Thailand last year.

LIST OF DELEGATES

4. The 2nd AIPA Caucus was well-represented by Delegations from all AIPA Member countries. Delegates from Myanmar (Special Observer) and a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat also took part in the meeting.
5. The list of Delegates at the 2nd AIPA Caucus is attached as Annex A.

COURTESY CALL ON SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

6. Before the Opening of the 2nd AIPA Caucus, Leaders of Delegations called on Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of Parliament of Singapore, at the Temasek Suite of Singapore Parliament House on Wednesday, 23 June 2010 at 9.30 am.
7. The Leaders extended their gratitude to Mr Abdullah for Singapore’s hosting of the 2nd AIPA Caucus and expressed their belief for a fruitful session

in Singapore that will facilitate the promotion of harmonisation of ASEAN initiatives and the realisation of the AEC. At the same time, the Leaders were certain the meeting in Singapore will help to lay the groundwork for a successful 31st AIPA General Assembly to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in September 2010.

OFFICIAL OPENING

8. The Opening Ceremony of the 2nd AIPA Caucus was held at the Singapore Parliament House on Wednesday, 23 June 2010 at 10.00 am.

9. In his Opening Address, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Singapore Parliament, said that AIPA had always taken a keen interest in issues of common interest within the ASEAN region. He highlighted that the AIPA Caucus could delve into some of these issues and propose areas of cooperation for the mutual benefit of all countries in the region.

10. He said that the 2nd AIPA Caucus had set a fresh direction for itself by choosing to study two new topics -- "Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives" and "Supporting a Multilateral Trading System". Mr Abdullah pointed out that these topics were of crucial importance to ASEAN. He noted that climate change continued to pose a threat to the economic and social well-being of countries in the region and around the world. Noting that energy consumption is growing in line with global economic growth and rapid urbanisation in Asia, Mr Abdullah emphasised that developing renewable and clean energy technologies was the long-term solution to meeting the world's increasing energy needs in a safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner. He stated that ASEAN had given recognition to the importance of collaborative action in developing clean energy initiatives and had adopted an ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015. This was signed by ASEAN Energy Ministers in 2009.

11. Turning to global trade, Mr Abdullah said that the recent global economic downturn had reinforced the importance of an open and rule-based multilateral trading system and emphasised that trade liberalisation could provide further opportunities for countries to fully emerge from the current global crisis. He said the establishment of the AEC is a key initiative undertaken by ASEAN that will take trade liberalisation to a new level by 2015, as it will create a single market and production base within the region that allows for the free movement of goods, services, investment and skilled labour and for the freer flow of capital in the region. This would place ASEAN in a stronger position to benefit from global trade and contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

12. The full text of the Opening Address by Mr Abdullah is attached as Annex B.

FIRST SESSION

13. The First Session of the 2nd AIPA Caucus was held on Wednesday, 23 June 2010 at 10.30 am. It was chaired by Mr Charles Chong, Member of Parliament of Singapore.

14. The meeting considered and adopted the Agenda for the 2nd AIPA Caucus (attached as Annex C). The Programme of Activities for the 2nd AIPA Caucus is attached as Annex D.

Deputy Chairman of the 2nd AIPA Caucus

15. Pursuant to Article I(4) of the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the Chairman of the 2nd AIPA Caucus informed the meeting that Congressman Victor F. Ortega of the House of Representatives, Philippines and Leader of the Philippine Delegation, is the Deputy Chairman of the 2nd AIPA Caucus.

Secretary-General of AIPA as the Secretary of the 2nd AIPA Caucus

16. In accordance with Article I(5) of the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the Chairman of the 2nd AIPA Caucus informed the meeting that Mr Antonio Cuenco, Secretary-General of AIPA, is the Secretary of the 2nd AIPA Caucus.

Presentation of Country Reports on Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives

17. The Chairman next invited AIPA Member countries and Special Observer to present their respective Country Reports on Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives. This was followed by a presentation from the ASEAN Secretariat on the status of sustainable energy cooperation in ASEAN economies.

18. Brunei reported that it had carried out a feasibility study for hydropower, but had found that its viability was dependent on many factors. It was also exploring the potential of solar power since Brunei is located in the equatorial belt and enjoys an abundance of solar radiation throughout the year. Despite its dependence on fossil fuels, Brunei stressed it recognised that the efficient use of fossil fuels was crucial to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and has developed energy efficient initiatives to achieve its national target of reducing energy intensity by 25% (with 2005 as the base year) by 2030. Brunei also shared that its long term development plan, Wawasan 2035,

contained initiatives to implement and enforce regulations to ensure environmentally-friendly practices. It informed Delegates that it had also ratified the UNFCCC in August 2007 as well as the Kyoto Protocol in August 2009.

19. Cambodia reported that it, too, had ratified the UNFCCC in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. In addition, Cambodia said its government, through its policy objectives, places emphasis on the efficient use of energy so as to minimise the detrimental effects of ineffective energy consumption on the environment. To this end, it has put in place laws relating to the environment. Furthermore, it is promoting the construction of hydropower plants and the import of renewable energy equipment. Cambodia said that it was a developing country and highlighted the need for international assistance to build capability to combat climate change.

20. Indonesia said that despite its abundant natural resources and significant energy reserves, it was facing an energy crisis. Energy consumption was rising while energy supply was limited. Indonesia remained heavily dependent on fossil fuel, particularly oil. To reduce the country's dependence on oil, Indonesia shared that it had established a national energy policy that aims to incorporate alternative energy sources into the national energy mix by 2025, with targets set for the level of usage of geothermal, biofuel and other renewable energy sources by 2025. Indonesia has also implemented programmes, policies and regulations to encourage the development of renewable energy and energy conservation.

21. Laos highlighted the opportunities and challenges that it faced in developing clean energy. Laos pointed out that it has natural resources to exploit in the development of renewable energy and that there was strong political commitment to embark on clean energy initiatives. However, Laos said it faced obstacles such as limited national competency, lack of appropriate funding, imbalance in energy supply and lack of regulations, shortage of funds and lack of support from the citizenry. Laos indicated that it was in process of canvassing for broad-base support from both government agencies and the general public for the implementation of its clean energy initiatives.

22. Malaysia reported that it had started to develop the infrastructure roadmap for electric vehicles within the country. In the area of renewable energy, it shared about its efforts to set up infrastructure and create a conducive environment for renewable energy projects. Malaysia has built the Low Energy Office and Zero Emissions Office complexes as demonstration projects in creating energy efficient buildings. It also shared more about its National Green policy, in particular its Green Technology Financing Scheme, plans to develop green townships, as well as green standards and certification procedures.

23. The Philippines reported on legislative action enacted, namely the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 and the Biodiesel Act of 2006, which amongst other things, aimed to increase biodiesel content in petrol blends. The Philippines also provided updates on efforts to increase the usage of natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas and nuclear energy. It also explained the development of the Philippine Energy Plan 2009-2030, which was based on three key policy thrusts: (i) ensuring energy security, (ii) pursuing effective implementation of energy sector reforms and (iii) implementing social mobilisation and cross-sector monitoring mechanisms. It highlighted its efforts to promote the responsible use of energy and to undertake climate change adaptation measures.

24. Singapore shared that due to its small land area, it had limited scope to develop renewable energy on a large scale. Hence its focus was on developing clean energy technology. It provided an insight into its experiences with various governmental funding and research schemes such as the Market Development Fund and the Clean Energy Research Programme, which have resulted in two island test sites and other clean energy projects. Singapore said its strategy was to encourage multinational and local companies to develop their ideas and prototypes, and then test bed and demonstrate their products and solutions in Singapore. This was built around the idea of seeing Singapore as a “living laboratory” for companies to incubate and export green solutions.

25. Thailand emphasised the importance of energy efficiency in order to reduce energy consumption and dependence. On the search for alternative and renewable energy resources, Thailand believed that the answer was in developing clean energy technologies. It said that in order to reduce dependence on oil imports and to ensure national energy supply security and sustainable energy development, Thailand’s energy policy greatly emphasises diversification of energy supplies. It has also set the goal of reducing energy intensity by cutting energy consumption by 8% by 2015. Apart from this goal, Thailand has also drawn up a 15-year plan called Alternative Energy Development Plan 2008 – 2022 for the development of alternative and renewable energy sources. It aimed to increase the share of renewable energy in its fuels to 20% by 2022.

26. Vietnam reported on its current state of energy consumption and production, and pointed out that its energy consumption was growing at a rapid rate. As such, it has an interest to explore alternative energy sources. It also highlighted that it was relatively well-endowed with renewable energy resources and that these presented opportunities for investors to develop hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and biomass/biogas energy solutions in Vietnam. It noted that at present, only biomass/biogas and small hydro plants were used to supply power to the national grid, while other forms of renewable

energy such as solar and wind were used off grid. But Viet Nam said it has put in place national targets for each of the fuel types up to 2030. It also shared its strategies for energy development and planning, such as diversifying energy sources and achieving better energy efficiency.

27. Myanmar affirmed the importance of the ASEAN energy programme. It said that on its part, it was working to achieve energy supply security and at the same time, to encourage energy efficiency and conservation as well as the development of alternative energy resources. It was currently planning to develop biofuel and test plants, and a few small-scale plants are already in operation. While Myanmar was still at the beginning of the process of encouraging clean energy, it stated its willingness to cooperate with other ASEAN countries in the collective efforts for enhancing energy security and developing clean energy.

28. The ASEAN Secretariat representative highlighted that clean energy development was increasingly becoming a high priority for the making of energy policy in ASEAN. He noted that a concerted partnership for clean energy development was crucial to meet energy demand in ASEAN while preventing damage to the environment. He shared that the ASEAN Energy Ministers had adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2010-2015 (APAEC), and presented details of the four programmes of the APAEC that worked towards cleaner sustainable ASEAN energy, namely renewable energy, clean coal technology, energy efficiency and conservation and civilian nuclear energy. The ASEAN Secretariat representative also highlighted that international cooperation on cleaner energy and sustainable growth was crucial for the continued growth and development of the ASEAN economies, and emphasised the need for enhanced collaboration and partnership, especially in light of energy price volatility, the financial slowdown and climate change.

29. The Country Reports and presentations relating to initiatives on Encouraging Clean Energy of all AIPA Member countries, Special Observer Delegation from Myanmar and ASEAN Secretariat, are attached as Annex E.

30. Following the presentations, the Delegates considered the national initiatives and possible areas where harmonisation of legislation can take place. Cambodia noted that traditional coal fired power plants produced large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and asked the ASEAN Secretariat representative if he were able to share the reduction in GHG emissions that could be expected from using clean coal technology. The ASEAN Secretariat representative would share the information if it was available with the AIPA Secretariat for dissemination to members.

31. The meeting urged all Members to share their initiatives on clean energy and emphasised the need to learn from one another on new technology and policies. Delegates were also encouraged by the progress that various Member countries had made in developing clean energy initiatives and legislation.

32. The AIPA Secretary-General noted that while many policies and initiatives had been presented by the various Member countries, there was still the issue of implementation of policies and initiatives at the ASEAN level. He asked the ASEAN Secretariat representative to share details of how clean energy was placed on the ASEAN agenda. The ASEAN Secretariat representative responded that the ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting (AMEM) would be taking place shortly, and clean energy policy and initiatives would be discussed at this forum. Implementation of such policies would take place as part of the overall implementation of the APAEC.

33. Delegates all agreed on the need to have harmonisation of legalisation in order to encourage and develop clean energy. Myanmar suggested that the various initiatives and points that had been raised be collated and put together into a model draft law which will serve as a guideline for Member states. Member countries could then work on harmonising this new law. However, the ASEAN Secretariat representative cautioned that while the harmonisation of the laws was a worthwhile goal, this was a process that would take time given the complexity of legislations and the different stages of development in each country.

34. The summary tables containing each country's initiatives on Encouraging Clean Energy are attached as Annex F.

Presentation of Country Reports on Supporting a Multilateral Trading System

35. The First Session then continued with AIPA Member countries and the Special Observer presenting their respective Country Reports on Supporting a Multilateral Trading System. This was followed by a presentation from the ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of free trade initiatives by ASEAN.

36. Brunei recognised the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the international organisation that deals with the regulation of trade between nations, and provides a framework for the negotiation and formalisation of trade agreements. Brunei has been an active participant in WTO fora and has followed closely discussions at the WTO, and made known their views and concerns to its trading partners. This has enabled the discussion and resolution of issues either bilaterally or at the WTO. Brunei has also strongly encouraged the business community to inform the government of any issues faced with respect to export markets. This was to ensure that the policy approaches

adopted in the negotiations were responsive to business needs and reflective of the business realities on the ground.

37. Cambodia reported that it had fully integrated itself into the international community since becoming a full member of ASEAN in 1999 and of WTO in 2004. It has actively involved itself in the economic and financial initiatives of these organisations. In its view, regional and international cooperation would push the implementation of reform programmes and the modernisation of national economic structures and management systems forward, and strengthen Cambodia's competitiveness based on international standards. Cambodia also said that it had in place laws relating to the multilateral trading system, such as the Law on Investment. Moreover, it has also focused on improving good governance as a further precondition for private investments, and has stepped up efforts to remove obstacles for private sector development. Cambodia also stressed the importance of a continued exchange of views and policies, noting its status as one of the least developed countries.

38. Indonesia remained committed to reaffirming and strengthening global confidence in the multilateral trading system. The Indonesian Law which ratified the Agreement Establishing the WTO underlined that the success of a national economic development would be affected by the country's participation in the international trading system. For Indonesia, its participation in the WTO agreements was not only to enable the opening of wider opportunities in the international market, but also to provide a better multilateral system and forum for national interest in international trade, especially in dealing with trade partners. To manage its national interest in the ongoing Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, Indonesia has set up the National Team for International Trade Negotiations whose main function was to perform coordination for these negotiations. At the regional level, Indonesia participated in supporting APEC's efforts to accelerate the economic growth and the even distribution of development as well as poverty eradication in regions, through the utilisation of the existing resources. Moreover, Indonesia has actively participated in the discussion on the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

39. Laos reaffirmed its commitment to joining the WTO. It has been continuously developing its economic system from a centrally planned economy towards a market-oriented economy in order to integrate it into the regional and global economy. Moreover, a special committee under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Cabinet and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has been assigned, in cooperation with other governments, to support Laos' accession to the WTO. Laos updated Delegates on the current status of its laws regarding regulating the investment and business environment, reducing trade barriers, regulating the financial system and fostering private sector development. Some of the challenges which Laos faced included a narrow production and export base, and human resource

constraints. It stressed the need for sufficient time and technical assistance to bring its domestic systems into conformity with WTO requirements.

40. Malaysia noted that as a trading nation it is highly dependent on international trade and foreign investment and placed great emphasis on the role and function of the WTO in ensuring that the multilateral trading system would continue to contribute towards stability in growth and development. It affirmed its commitment to concluding the DDA and stressed that existing agreements should not be reopened for discussion or new issues be introduced. Although Malaysia has been pursuing bilateral and regional trading arrangements, the WTO would continue to remain relevant. In its view, multilateral trade negotiations would continue to be the most cost-effective way of opening markets. The bilateral and regional trading arrangements would complement and not replace the multilateral trading system.

41. The Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to fair and liberal trade. It has promoted this stance in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. On the multilateral front, it affirmed its support for the WTO DDA negotiations but stressed the importance of taking into account developing countries' interests. It expressed its specific views on the various aspects of the negotiations including agriculture, non-agriculture market access, services, intellectual property rights, special and differential treatment and WTO's dispute settlement mechanism. Apart from its engagement in the WTO, the Philippines continued to pursue bilateral and regional trade relations particularly with ASEAN Member states. The bulk of the Philippines' international economic engagement took place within ASEAN. Bilaterally, the Philippines have taken a cautious approach on FTAs. The Medium-Term Philippine Development plan of 2004-2010 recognised the significant contribution of trade and investment to achieve the government's goal of economic development and job creation.

42. Singapore's trade policy objective has been to promote a free, open, and stable multilateral trading system. Without a sizeable domestic market, Singapore was by necessity outward-oriented. In 2007, the trade to GDP ratio was 348%, the highest in the world. It was in Singapore's vital interest to advance the global trade and investment liberalisation agenda and ensure a strong rules-based multilateral trading system. It highlighted that the WTO and its international trade rules were successful in limiting protectionist tendencies, hence contributing to stabilising the global economic situation. Singapore's principal priority remained the WTO, and the DDA. At the same time, Singapore believed that the success of the global trading system would depend on simultaneous efforts to pursue the maximum possible extent of liberalisation on the multilateral, regional and bilateral fronts. Singapore had by the far the most extensive network of FTAs in Asia with 18 having entered into force. The high-standard, comprehensive bilateral and regional agreements could catalyse further trade liberalisation by binding domestic reforms, and eventually regionalising or multilateralising those liberalisation measures. Singapore saw

the AEC blueprint as a landmark development for ASEAN and was fully committed to the establishment of the AEC by 2015.

43. Thailand's active engagement in bilateral, regional and multilateral economic arrangement reflects the readiness to integrate itself into the world economy. At the WTO, Thailand played a part in launching the DDA, which focused on the development dimension of trade, greater market access and clearer and fairer rules. To support a multilateral trading system, Thailand set up a "Three Rings, Five Doors" strategy. For "Three Rings" or three FTAs, Thailand focused on three main FTAs – (i) ASEAN FTA, (ii) "ASEAN+3" or the ASEAN-China-Japan-Korea FTA; and (iii) "ASEAN+6" or the ASEAN-China-Japan-Korea-India-Australia-New Zealand FTA. For "Five Doors," Thailand's five regions would be developed into special development zones which would facilitate trade with neighbouring countries -- Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Myanmar. To foster regional partnerships and open up new trade and investment opportunities, Thailand established an "ASEAN First Policy" and "ASEAN Awareness". At the same time, efforts were being made intensively and continuously to equip Thai entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills they need to cope efficiently with the increased competition.

44. Vietnam reported that since joining WTO three years ago, it has been fulfilling its commitments. To encourage trade and investment, it has been implementing domestic reforms and ensuring transparent regulations. One example was the banking sector, where Vietnam would subject foreign banks to the same regulations as local banks from 2011 onwards. Vietnam has adopted international standards in the service sectors, improved the legal framework to support intellectual property rights, as well as addressed the need to solve the problem of the shortage of skills in the labour force and to upgrade infrastructure. These efforts were all aimed at creating macroeconomic stability and facilitating investments into Vietnam. Vietnam also stressed the importance of integrating ASEAN markets by establishing the AEC and working towards a trading bloc to advance ASEAN's position at the WTO DDA negotiations.

45. Myanmar reiterated its interest in the WTO and the ASEAN blueprint for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). In addition to recalling the fundamental principles enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, Myanmar noted that the WTO also encourages regional integration to enhance this spirit to preserve the Multilateral Trading System. The objectives of ASEAN were aligned with that of the WTO in promoting the strengthening of the multilateral trading system. In this connection, Myanmar highlighted that within the context of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN would be outward-looking, inclusive and market-driven. The AEC envisaged the following key characteristics: (a) single market production base, (b) a highly competitive economic region, (c) a region of equitable economic development, and (d) a region fully integrated into the global economy.

46. The ASEAN Secretariat representative noted that ASEAN Member States (AMS) participated in the WTO DDA negotiations on an individual basis rather than as regional bloc. This was largely due to the inherent divergences in positions of the AMS. Notwithstanding, ASEAN would exchange information to keep one another informed of their negotiating positions. This was largely done through the ASEAN Geneva Committee (AGC) represented by the AMS Permanent Representatives (Ambassador-level) in Geneva. The ASEAN Secretariat representative drew the meeting to four key points concerning the Multilateral Trading System: (i) need for a strong credible MTS to support regional economic integration, e.g. AEC; (ii) WTO-plus regional economic integration initiatives could be seen as building blocks to a stronger multilateral trading; (iii) need to strengthen political engagement at all levels to bring Doha round to successful conclusion; and (iv) ASEAN was keen to conclude the Doha Round, development dimension of DDA had to be ensured through balanced outcomes.

47. The Country Reports and presentations relating to Supporting a Multilateral Trading System of all AIPA Member Countries, Special Observer Delegation from Myanmar and ASEAN Secretariat, are attached as Annex G.

48. The Delegates then considered the national initiatives and possible areas for the future harmonisation of legislation to support a Multilateral Trading System. The specific problem of US agricultural subsidies was raised, with the example of Cambodian soya beans being priced out of the Japanese market because of US subsidies. The meeting asked the ASEAN Secretariat representative if the ASEAN Secretariat could assist in getting the US and EU to reduce the subsidies. The response was that the Doha negotiations were still ongoing and the Cairns Group – agriculture exporting group of countries – was working on reducing agriculture subsidies.

49. The meeting noted that developed countries had been imposing anti-dumping measures against imports from developing countries, particularly those from Asian economies. It wondered if ASEAN could exert pressure on their trading counterparts on limiting the use of such measures. The ASEAN Secretariat representative suggested two possible ways to address this – first, ASEAN Secretariat could convey this concern to the relevant policy officers in the various Commerce and Trade Ministries of respective ASEAN countries; second, AIPA could convey directly this shared concern to ASEAN leaders directly during the ASEAN Summit. In addition, it was also suggested that ASEAN should work as an economic bloc to have a common voice in the WTO DDA negotiations. Towards this end, there could be a working group consisting of experts. The ASEAN Secretariat representative reiterated the point that ASEAN members currently advanced their interests at the WTO on an individual basis.

50. The summary tables containing each country's initiatives on Supporting a Multilateral Trading System are attached as Annex H.

Consideration of the Status of Implementation of the 30th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions

51. AIPA Delegations were next invited to present their respective reports on the Status of Implementation of the 30th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions.

52. AIPA Member countries and AIPA's Special Observer updated the 2nd AIPA Caucus that they had disseminated the 30th AIPA General Assembly resolutions to their respective government agencies for their information and action.

53. The AIPA Secretary-General expressed concerns that AIPA was passing a large volume of resolutions that were not fully implemented. Following an initiative by HE Nguyen Phu Trong, AIPA President and President of Vietnam National Assembly, a draft memorandum had been submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat on AIPA-ASEAN relations. The AIPA Secretary-General strongly believes that this memorandum would facilitate the implementation of AIPA resolutions. He also informed the Caucus that he was in favour of drafting a proposal for an oversight committee to monitor the implementation of resolutions. The Vietnamese Delegation expressed their agreement with the AIPA Secretary-General's proposal and emphasised that these initiatives would enable AIPA resolutions to be implemented effectively in the future.

54. The summary reports on the Status of Implementation of the 30th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions by each AIPA Member country and the Special Observer Delegation from Myanmar, are attached as Annex I.

SITE VISIT TO MARINA BARRAGE

55. Delegates made a site visit to the Marina Barrage on Thursday, 24 June 2010 at 10 am. The site showcases clean technology for freshwater treatment and the use of solar power as a renewable energy source to power the facilities of Singapore's first reservoir in the city area.

SECOND SESSION

56. The Second and Closing Session of the 2nd AIPA Caucus was held on Thursday, 24 June 2010 at 2.30 pm at the Singapore Parliament House.

Date and Venue of 3rd AIPA Caucus

57. The meeting noted that Philippines will chair the AIPA Caucus from April 2011 to March 2012 and will host the 3rd AIPA Caucus meeting. The date and venue of the meeting will be announced by the AIPA Secretariat in due time.

58. The Delegates expressed their appreciation to the Chairman and Parliament of Singapore for the arrangements made for the 2nd AIPA Caucus.

Adoption of the Report of 2nd AIPA Caucus

59. During the Session, Delegates considered and adopted the Report of the 2nd AIPA Caucus. Upon the adoption of the Report, Leaders of all AIPA Member Delegations and the Special Observer Delegation signed the Report.

Closing Remarks

60. Closing the Session, Chairman of the 2nd AIPA Caucus, Mr Charles Chong thanked all Delegates for their insightful comments and invaluable inputs to the discussions. The Chairman also expressed his gratitude for the Delegates' forbearance and cooperation throughout the duration of the Caucus that enabled frank discussions and contributed to the successful conclusion of the meeting. Finally, the Chairman extended his appreciation to the AIPA Secretary-General and staff of the Singapore Parliament Secretariat for the detailed arrangements made for the meeting.