



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

33RD AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
16 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2012, LOMBOK, INDONESIA

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOMSAK KIATSURANONT
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

**Excellency Dr. Marzuki Alie, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Republic of Indonesia and President of AIPA,
Excellencies, Speakers and Presidents of the Parliaments,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure and honor to be here at the 33rd AIPA General Assembly on this wonderful and rich cultural heritage, Lombok Island. May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Marzuki Alie, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, President of AIPA, and Indonesian AIPA National Group, for the warm welcome, friendliness and hospitality.

From Yogyakarta to Lombok, I am pleased with a significant progress in development of the works of AIPA colleagues during the Executive Committee meeting and the 9th AIFOCOM meeting. Establishing external relations and initiative for the Technical Working Group of AIFOCOM are evidences of AIPA's willingness to step up onto another degree of cooperation.

Moreover, from the top level meeting, the AIPA – ASEAN meeting during ASEAN Summit to the recent AIPA – ASEAN retreat in Bali, to the working level of national secretariats, AIPA has now further its capacity and intensity to extend areas of cooperation. It is aimed to stabilize a cordial partnership in dynamic development and establish a constant, continuing, and beneficial framework with ASEAN at all levels. This is the ultimate goal of AIPA in a community-building process, the ASEAN Community.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Guests,**

Honestly, I admit that there are still lots of works need to be done. However, as shown in eagerness and enthusiasm from member countries, I believe that the finish line is not too far. In fact, it's just around the corner. We have come more than half way together and it will lead us to a brighter day. Only we need is the closer cooperation between us.

The Thai AIPA National Group stands firmly and commits to work together with member countries, observer countries, and AIPA Secretariat in order to tackle challenges and

bring about a new page of AIPA's cooperation. I hope that this year General Assembly meeting will provide us a clearer picture of such rewarding outcomes.

Once again, my gratitude goes to the host Parliament, meeting staff, and AIPA Secretariat in organizing the 33rd AIPA General Assembly. I wish, we, all AIPA members, observer countries, and participants have a successful meeting and take home a productive outcome.

Thank you