

**Opening Speech**  
**by**  
**H.E. Mr. Somsak Kiatsuranont**  
**President of the National Assembly of Thailand**  
**at the Opening Ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus**  
**on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, at 08.30 hrs.**  
**at Queen's Park Room No. 3, the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel**  
**Bangkok, Thailand**

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**Leaders of Delegation,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the National Assembly of Thailand, it is my great pleasure and honoured to host the 4<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus in Bangkok and welcome you all to this important meeting.

AIPA, as one of the entities working closely with ASEAN, has recognized the collaboration among Member Countries for the stability, prosperity and sustainable development of the region. The AIPA Caucus Meeting is the platform for AIPA parliamentarians to develop common legislative initiatives aiming at the harmonization of laws of the region on the areas of common interest and also to enhance the cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN.

In the AIPA Caucus Meeting, the status of the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly will be reported by all AIPA Member Countries. As we are aware, numbers of AIPA resolutions on political, economic and social matters as well as WAIPA issues were adopted in the last General Assemblies and the challenge lies on the matter of actual implementation. Since there is no mechanism to oversee the implementation of those adopted resolutions, the monitor of implementation needs to be seriously undertaken by each AIPA Member Country.

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Meeting mandated the AIPA Caucus Meeting to consider the possibility on the creation of an AIPA Core Group of Parliamentarians to oversee the implementation of the AIPA resolutions and act as the think tank to improve the AIPA's performance. I believe that this issue will be discussed with the recommendations for submitting to the 33<sup>rd</sup> AIPA General Assembly in Lombok, Indonesia.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In recent years, countries in ASEAN have faced with the challenges of several forms of natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes and floods which have occurred more frequently and severely. Therefore, disaster management has become one of the primary concerns in ASEAN.

Thailand was one of the countries affected by the worst flood. It has adversely affected on economy and the well-being of Thai people. This severe incident together with its consequences inevitably impacts the region. Therefore, all sectors concerned should pay more attention and preparedness to prevent any sudden disasters and promptly respond to such event.

All ASEAN Member Countries have shown their concerns on disaster management by establishing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center). These mechanisms have played important roles in enhancing regional capacities on disaster management and mitigation as well as on emergency response.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, the Meeting emphasized on the importance of stronger cooperation between ASEAN Member Countries in developing regional potential on disaster management. The 3<sup>rd</sup> AIPA Caucus Meeting in the Philippines also reiterated the cooperation between AIPA Member Countries to have a disaster response management. The 4<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus will be further discussed and seek the regional concrete measures on this important issue.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have only three years left to move towards to ASEAN Community in 2015. All ASEAN Member Countries are alerted to achieve this goal. Every relevant sector in each country has pushed forward adjusting policies, rules and regulations as well as raising public awareness for the benefit of the ASEAN Community.

AIPA Parliamentarians, as representatives of people, have a crucial role in contributing to people participation towards ASEAN Community. This is not only the responsibility for the Executive bodies, but the Legislative branches to actively involved in building the ASEAN Community for our people.

I do hope that the 4<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus will achieve its objectives with the fruitful outcome by your deliberation under the consensus spirit which will be beneficial to the people of ASEAN.

May I declare, the 4<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus Meeting officially open.

Thank you.

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