



**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL MATTERS**

Mr Chairman

I have the honour to submit the following report on the meeting of the Committee on Political Matters:

2 The Committee on Political Matters met on 21 August 2008 with Dr Teo Ho Pin and Ms Irene Ng as Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, of the Committee. The following parliamentarians from the AIPA member countries attended the meeting:

Cambodia:

- 1 Hon. Pen Pannha
- 2 Hon. Un Ning
- 3 Hon. Nhem Thavy
- 4 Mr Meas Siphandorn

Indonesia:

- 1 Hon. Dr Sutradara Gintings
- 2 Hon. Marzuki Darusman
- 3 Mr. Bindu Marbun

Laos:

- 1 Hon. Dr Koukeo Akhamountry
- 2 Hon. Prof Dr Bounngong Boupcha
- 3 Mr Songkane Luangmuninthone



Malaysia:

- 1 Hon. Senator Dato' Mr Wong Siong Hwee
- 2 Hon. Senator Mumtaz bt. Md Nawi

Philippines:

- 1 Hon. Victor F. Ortega
- 2 Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco
- 3 H.E. Elizabeth Buensuceso

Thailand:

- 1 Hon. Dr. Perayot Rahimmula
- 2 Hon. Pikulkeaw Krairiksh
- 3 Hon. Mr Niramit Sujaree

Vietnam:

- 1 Hon. Ngo Anh Dzung
- 2 Hon. Mr Vu Xuan Hong
- 3 Ms. Ha Thi Ngoc Ha
- 4 Mr. Duong Quoc Thanh

Singapore:

- 1 Mr Hawazi Daipi
- 2 Mr Low Thia Kiang
- 3 Mr Michael Palmer

Brunei Darussalam:

- 1 Mr Sulia Haji Nayan

Myanmar:

- 1 H.E. Dr Tun Shin
- 2 H.E. U Htun Htun Oo
- 3 H.E. Win Myint

3 The meeting was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of cordiality and cooperation. Two resolutions were approved by the meeting and they are:

*AIPA's Role and Contribution to the ASEAN Charter*

4 The Meeting urged the expeditious ratification of the ASEAN Charter with a view to its entry into force by the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in December 2008. The Meeting emphasized the key role of ASEAN parliamentarians in advancing regional integration for the benefit of the peoples of ASEAN. The Meeting supported the implementation of the ASEAN Charter through the formulation and promulgation of national legislation in conformity with the Charter. The Meeting agreed to foster a rules-based regime in ASEAN under the Charter. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

*Strengthening Democracy and Promotion of Human Rights*

5 The Meeting noted that the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body was mandated by the ASEAN Charter, and welcomed the establishment of the High Level Panel on an ASEAN human rights body. The Meeting emphasized that parliamentary democracy could only be truly meaningful if women are provided equal rights and opportunities to be represented in parliament, and strongly urged ASEAN member countries and AIPA Member Parliaments to ensure that such equality is achieved within the Millennium Development Goals Framework. The Meeting also called on all ASEAN Member Parliaments to work for democracy through open, transparent, free and fair elections and to build a knowledge-based society in order to support the practice of democracy. The Meeting also strongly urged all Parliaments to extend their full support to work towards the establishment of the ASEAN human rights body and encouraged the contribution of all relevant stakeholders in this regard.

6 I hereby present the Report of the Committee on Political Matters to the General Assembly.

Thank you.

TEO HO PIN  
CHAIRMAN

IRENE NG  
RAPPORTEUR

