



**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MATTERS**

Mr Chairman

I have the honour of submitting the following report on the meeting of the Committee on Social Matters:

2 The Committee on Social Matters met on 21 August 2008 with Mr Charles Chong and Ms Ellen Lee as Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, of the Committee. The following parliamentarians from the AIPA member countries attended the meeting:

Cambodia

- 1 Ms Ho Naun
- 2 Ms Khuon Sudary
- 3 Mr Uy Visal
- 4 Ms Ty Yemkalyan

Indonesia

- 1 Mrs Saidah Sakwan
- 2 Mrs Yoyoh Yusroh
- 3 Mr Mudaffarsyah

Laos

- 1 Prof Dr Phonethep Pholsena
- 2 Mrs Chanthoum Latmany
- 3 Mrs Vanpheng Keonakhone

Malaysia

- 1 Mdm Fuziah Salleh
- 2 Mr Liang Teck Meng

Philippines

- 1 Mr Raul V Del Mar
- 2 Ms Lorna C Silverio
- 3 Ms Maria Zenaida B Angping
- 4 Mr Nur G Jaafar
- 5 Ms Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz
- 6 Ms Reylina G Nicolas
- 7 Ms Carol Jayne B Lopez
- 8 Mr Manuel E Zamora

Thailand

- 1 Mrs Titima Chaisang
- 2 Mr Tuanabdullah Daudmareyo

Vietnam

- 1 Ms Truong Thi Mai
- 2 Mrs Pham Thi Loan
- 3 Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van

Singapore

- 1 Mr Masagos Zulkifli B M M
- 2 Ms Cham Hui Fong
- 3 Mr Yeo Guat Kwang

Brunei Darussalam

- 1 YB Dato Paduka Haji Puasa
- 2 YB Haji Sulaiman Ahad

Myanmar

Mr Aung Kyaw Oo (from the Embassy of Myanmar)

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

Building an ASEAN Identity

4 The Committee resolved to promote an ASEAN identity among the peoples and leaders through ASEAN-oriented policies, programmes and events relating to the political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN community.

Poverty Eradication

5 The Committee agreed on the need for each country to commit to developing concrete action plans, within appropriate timelines, to aid in poverty eradication.

Racial and religious harmony

6 The Committee resolved to promote peaceful co-existence and shared values of diverse cultural and religious communities. They also agreed to support opportunities for dialogues, as well as engage in co-operation and exchanges at local, national and regional levels so as to advance racial and religious harmony in the ASEAN community.

Environmental Sustainability

7 In the area of environmental sustainability, the Committee recognised that the issues of the environment, climate change and sustainable development are interrelated and complex. The Committee agreed that all AIPA countries should co-operate in the areas of implementing environmentally sustainable practices; combating trans-boundary environmental pollution; improving access to safe drinking water; improving energy efficiency and increasing the cumulative forest cover in the ASEAN region.

Food security

8 In order to mitigate the effect of rising food prices in the region, the Committee agreed to support the commitment of ASEAN Governments in implementing initiatives such as the sharing of experiences and best practices of ASEAN Governments. They agreed that ASEAN Governments should take steps to promote reasonable pricing and to prevent profiteering in times of crisis, through the enforcement of anti-profiteering mechanisms.

Establishment of the AIPA Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons

9 The Committee noted the establishment of the AIPA Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons and agreed that the first meeting of the Expert Working Group would be held at an appropriate time.

Report of the 5th AIFOCOM Meeting on Combating the Drug Menace and Resolution on the Control of Synthetic Drug and Illicit Drug Crop Production

10 The Committee noted the Report of the 5th AIFOCOM. They acknowledged the need for strengthened precursor control through the development of national capacities, resources and enhanced regulatory control. They also agreed that it was important for ASEAN member countries to enhance partnerships among the different sectors of society to develop preventive education and support the rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug addicts into society. The Committee also noted the need to provide support and assistance to farmers to eradicate illicit narcotic crop cultivation and instead, encourage alternative development.

Educational Cooperation in Human Resource Development among AIPA Member Countries

11 The Committee heard the recommendations of the Indonesian House of Representatives-AIPA Working Committee on Educational Cooperation.

Cooperation on Migration and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

12 The Singapore delegation presented to the Committee, their initiatives to ensure the well-being on foreign workers in Singapore. The Committee noted the report.

13 Finally, the Committee agreed to remind the AIPA Member Countries to implement the Resolutions, No.28GA/2007/Soc/04 on Educational Cooperation in Human Resource Development Among AIPA Member Countries and No. 28GA/2007/Soc/06 on Cooperation on Migration and Protection of the Rights of the Migrant Worker, which were adopted last year in Kuala Lumpur and to report to the next General Assembly.

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

Thank you.

CHARLES CHONG
CHAIRMAN

ELLEN LEE
RAPPORTEUR