



**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**31<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HA NOI, VIET NAM, 19 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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**Statement by  
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Second Vice-President of the Senate of Thailand  
Leader of the Thai Delegation to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-  
Parliamentary Assembly  
21 September 2010, Hanoi, Viet Nam**

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Mr. President,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Delegation of Thailand to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, I would like to convey greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Mr. Chai Chidchob, President of the National Assembly and His Excellency Professor Prasobsook Boondech, President of the Senate, to all of you. I am honored to speak before this gathering and to share my views on the role and contributions of parliaments in creating an ASEAN Community. I am grateful for the warm hospitality which our host has accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in Hanoi. And I am earnestly looking forward to a productive Assembly and a renewal of the longstanding friendship between us and cooperation within our AIPA family and our Special Observer and Observers.

Mr. President,

Since our previous General Assembly in Pattaya in 2009, there has been remarkable progress in 2010 in the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community by 2015. The 16th ASEAN Summit in April 2010 and the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2010 in Hanoi had given strong impetus to the efforts of building a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, resilient, dynamic and sustained ASEAN Community and reaffirmed the commitment to expedite the process of ASEAN Community building and maintaining ASEAN centrality in an evolving regional architecture. In furthering these regional goals,

ASEAN had stressed the importance of bringing the ASEAN Charter into full realisation in all aspects while upholding the principles of the Charter and committed themselves to working closely with relevant sectoral bodies in the three Community Councils to improve the working methods and complete a full legal framework for the ASEAN Charter.

There needs no further reminder here that AIPA is the foremost entity with ASEAN in the ASEAN Charter and there are already existing AIPA mechanisms and General Assembly policy guidelines from which AIPA and ASEAN could implement the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community together. Foremost among those AIPA political commitments were the five points agreements reached at the First Informal Meeting of the AIPA Delegation and ASEAN Heads of States/Governments during the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in February 2009 in Cha-am, Thailand which the national parliaments of the ASEAN Member States had formally declared jointly with the ASEAN Leaders their intention and commitment to create an ASEAN Community by 2015 through parliamentary means and the harmonization of laws to facilitate the functioning of the three pillars for an ASEAN Community and the joint formulation with ASEAN on the procedures and criteria for engagement under the ASEAN Charter on the entities associated with ASEAN.

The Informal Meeting between the AIPA Delegation and the ASEAN Leaders at the annual ASEAN summits is a significant mechanism in itself and I am pleased that it has now become a regular summit meeting for the parliaments and governments of ASEAN to dialogue directly on issues benefiting and affecting our region twice a year. Of equal importance to the ongoing ASEAN-AIPA cooperation is the AIPA Caucus which is a permanent AIPA working structure with ASEAN to formulate working methods between the two organizations as enshrined in the AIPA Statute and the Guidelines for the Working of AIPA and ASEAN, and to enhance mutual dialogues on regional issues of concern and interests. I am glad to note that there have been two AIPA Caucus meetings held so far in the last two years which had demonstrated the seriousness of AIPA to participate in the conducts of ASEAN affairs and to contribute to the integration of ASEAN.

Even so, there is much to be desired from AIPA and the national parliaments of the ASEAN Member States, including ASEAN itself as the immediate counterpart of AIPA, to prove a place for AIPA as a foremost entity associated with ASEAN. There are resolutions from AIPA General Assemblies which set directions and tones for AIPA to act on various issues, from different fronts, and with multiple friends and allies. But these resolutions are generally not being critically implemented by the member countries, or through the existing AIPA system and AIPA-ASEAN mechanism which do not auger well for AIPA in the overall political and policy commitments it had self-declared and jointly-announced together with ASEAN at different levels. I support the continual calls from the past host countries of the AIPA General Assemblies including our current host Viet Nam to the AIPA member countries to implement AIPA resolutions.

Mr. President,

Thailand is very pleased on the recent developments and the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for national reconciliation and democracy, including the preparations for the general election, in Myanmar in November 2010. Thailand joins ASEAN in underscoring the importance of national reconciliation in Myanmar and the

holding of the general election which shall contribute to Myanmar's stability and development and enhance the well-being of the people of Myanmar.

Turning to the economy, every region in the world all faces several challenges to human security which are at the top of their economic and social well-beings. The statistical recession might be over but the human recession was not, because unemployment was still climbing and meeting the Millennium Developments Goals are still the daunting tasks in many regions. Wages in poor countries were falling as commodity prices dropped and they are partly hampering world efforts at poverty eradication. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the G20, amongst the international organizations and global policy-makers, are looking to create greater international financial discipline in the face of multilateral resistance to the enforcement of regulations.

Regarding human recession and social security, parliamentarians are at the heart of governance and social transformation. Although in 2009 and so far in 2010 much energy and time had been spent dealing with climate change and the financial crisis, HIV/AIDS and newly emerging pandemic diseases as well as child survival and maternal health remained vital issues globally and which called for a sound global social safety net. The epidemic had been accompanied by growing inequality between the rich and the poor. An appeal was made at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union recently in Bangkok to remove the barriers to medical and social services in the developing world and women's stark choices of choosing between food and treatment and between education for their children and treatment for grave diseases. Parliaments and the entire world should not accept such inequality just because the financial crisis and economic disparities are still influencing the world today.

Mr. President,

The Thai National Assembly had hosted the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 27 March to 1 April 2010 in Bangkok. It was one of the largest Assembly in recent history of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which brought together 1,248 delegates from the parliaments of 124 countries, of-which 621 were members of national parliament and included 36 presiding officers, 47 deputy presiding officers and 178 women which women comprises 28.7% of the total participants at the Bangkok Assembly.

As you may well know, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has a primary goal of promoting the status of women in politics and development and in decision-making and governance. During the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, I had the honor of chairing the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Women Parliamentarians which had deliberated multi-faceted issues concerning women and gender partnership and had innovated plans of actions to strengthen the role of women in these fields and to consolidate their places in governmental leadership. I regarded my parliamentary service at the women's meeting in Bangkok as an honor for all women parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region and I am proud that our sisters from the region had represented our region remarkably and I therefore wish to call your attention to the Bangkok Declaration on Stopping All Forms of Violence Against Women which received a consensus in Bangkok. I sincerely hope that the AIPA would support this Declaration and the national parliaments of AIPA member countries would ensure its implementation.



Mr. President,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having shared my thoughts and ideas with you this morning, I sincerely wish that you would render your resolves to apply them in putting forward the proposals from this General Assembly which benefit us all. And I avail myself to working with you for the successful outcomes of the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.