



**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)
5th AIPA CAUCUS MEETING
Da Lat, Lam Dong, Viet Nam, 12 - 13 May 2013**

Report of the 5th AIPA Caucus

INTRODUCTION

1. The 5th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus was held at the *Sai Gon - Da Lat Hotel* in Da Lat, Lam Dong, Viet Nam on 12 - 13 May 2013.
2. The meeting was convened to discuss the progress made by each ASEAN Member States in implementing Resolutions adopted at the 33rd AIPA General Assembly in Indonesia in 2012.
3. The meeting also discussed the matters of Green Growth and Poverty Reduction for Sustainable Development.

LIST OF DELEGATES

4. The 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting was attended by 62 delegates (36 MPs) from 9 AIPA Member Parliaments¹, ASEAN Secretary General, AIPA Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat officials, regional and international institutions in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific. The complete list of participants is attached as [Annex 1](#).

COURTESY CALL ON VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VIET NAM

5. Leaders of the Delegations of the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting called on H.E. Mme. Tong Thi Phong, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam on Sunday, 12th May 2013 at 19.00 hrs. The Vice-President on behalf of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, President of the National Assembly, offered the warm greetings and appreciation to all delegates and guests, emphasized the important contribution that the 5th AIPA Caucus would make to ASEAN Community Building as well as the development of AIPA. She commended the substantial and realistic experience sharing among AIPA Parliamentarians in AIPA Caucus, provided additional background of the host's implementation of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly's resolutions and expressed her hope that the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting would further uphold the spirit of solidarity, friendship and cooperation of ASEAN and AIPA.

¹ Philippines had submitted request of absence due to the ongoing General Election but sent in all reports as per required.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

6. Hon. **Mr. Tran Van Hang**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Viet Nam, recalled the statutory mandates of AIPA Caucus Meeting and highlighted the productive outcomes of the previous 4 meetings hosted consecutively in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. He expressed the honor for Viet Nam to be the host and the appreciation to all delegates, particularly to the ASEAN Secretary General, at the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting.

The full text of Hon. Mr. Tran Van Hang's remarks is attached in [Annex 4](#)

7. At the opening ceremony on Sunday, 12th May 2013, **H.E. Mme. Tong Thi Phong**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, accorded a warm welcome to all participants to the meeting. She drew the meeting's attention to the context where international community is progressively concluding the attainment of MDGs in 2015. She also concentrated in the commencing discussion on post-MDGs development agenda, while in the South East Asia, the ASEAN Community schedule is only 2 years ahead. Stressing the inter-connection between the two selected topics of poverty reduction for sustainable development and green growth against the context, she highlighted the role for AIPA and AIPA Member Parliaments to play in supporting ASEAN and global efforts in these two areas. She reiterated the important mandates of AIPA Caucus, including to review the implementation of previous AIPA General Assembly resolutions and to recommend possible legislative harmonization in ASEAN. She hoped that the 5th meeting would provide fruitful and effective recommendations to be considered by the next AIPA Assembly.

The full text of the Opening Speech by H.E. Mme. Tong Thi Phong is attached as [Annex 5](#).

8. Chairman of the People's Committee of Lam Dong Province, **Mr. Nguyen Xuan Tien**, after welcoming AIPA parliamentarians and guests to Da Lat, highlighted efforts made in poverty reduction and green economic promotion which contributed in making Lam Dong a fast and green economic growing province.

The full text of the Mr. Nguyen Xuan Tien is attached as [Annex 6](#)

9. **H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh**, ASEAN Secretary General commended AIPA's achievement and contribution towards the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015. He updated the meeting with recent activities taken and efforts made in ASEAN Community Building in all three Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural pillars. He shared ASEAN's perception and its works in the two areas of green growth and sustained poverty eradication, while pointing out the foreseen challenges in the respective matters. The ASEAN Secretary General remained optimistic that the 5th AIPA Caucus would be contributing to the enhancement of related legislative and policy initiatives in the region, as well as to the sharing of best practices in the two aforesaid areas in order to improve the citizens' living quality and sustain the national ecosystems.

The full text of the ASEAN Secretary General's address is attached as [Annex 7](#)

10. By Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the meeting agreed to appoint **Hon. Mr. Tran Van Hang**, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly

of Viet Nam, the chairperson of the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting, and **Hon. Mr. Haji Ahmad Morshidi Haji Abdul Rahman**, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council to the AIPA Caucus, was appointed Deputy Chairman of the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting

Mrs. Ria Rumata Aritonang, Assistant to Secretary General of AIPA, was appointed as the 5th AIPA Caucus Secretary by the meeting's chairman.

The meeting considered and adopted the Programme of Activities and the Agenda for the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting (attached as [Annex 2](#) and [Annex 3](#) respectively).

FIRST SESSION

Consideration of the Status of Implementation of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions

11. The First Session of the 5th AIPA Caucus commenced at 15.30 hrs on Sunday, 12 May 2013. Each AIPA Delegation was invited to present their respective Country Report on the Status of Implementation of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions. AIPA Member Parliaments shared in their Country Reports substantial efforts made to implement all of the resolutions through various effective means, including legislative and institutional development, capacity building, information sharing, incorporating into national socio-economic development plans, international cooperation...
12. The Country Reports on the Status of Implementation of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions by each AIPA Member Parliament are attached as [Annex 8](#).

SECOND SESSION

Discussion on Green Growth

13. The session was chaired by **Hon. Mr. Nguyen Van Giau**, Chairperson of Economic Committee of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, and began with the introductory presentation by the Vietnamese Green Growth expert, **Mr. Pham Hoang Mai**, on the Green Growth Strategy in South East Asia Nations, which outlined the background, viewpoints, solutions and parliamentary role to play to achieve a Green ASEAN.
14. The meeting noted that AIPA Member Parliaments had submitted their Country Report on Green Growth and related summary tables containing their national initiatives and recommendations for possible common legislative harmonization in the regional scale.

The Country Reports and Summary Tables of AIPA Member Parliaments are attached as [Annex 9](#).
15. The meeting discussed the three aspects of green growth, namely (i) the building of Green Growth legislative capacity; (ii) the improvement of the national Green Growth implementation capacity through monitoring, verification and reporting; and (iii) the possible integration of joint Green Growth initiative, in particular the Low Carbon Instruments in the ASEAN region.

16. The meeting shared the ASEAN Secretary-General's views on the challenges confronting ASEAN and its member states in terms of making ASEAN a green community, namely (i) narrowing the socio-economic divide among and within countries of the region, (ii) minimizing the damage caused by natural disasters and reducing man-made disasters, (iii) protecting fresh water resources as well as marine and coastal ecosystems, (iv) reversing proactively the trend of deforestation and loss of biodiversity, (v) improving air quality and reducing the threats from trans-boundary haze, (vi) addressing seriously climate change and global environment issues, (vii) strengthening and streamlining regional institutional arrangements.
17. The meeting noted the suggestion by Viet Nam on the establishment of ASEAN Green Growth Center. In this regard, the meeting requested Viet Nam to provide further information and details on this matter, and proposed to have the issue tabled at the next AIPA General Assembly in Brunei Darussalam.

THIRD SESSION

Discussion on Poverty Reduction for Sustainable Development

18. The session was chaired by **Hon. Mme. Truong Thi Mai**, Chairperson of Committee for Social Affairs of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, and also began with the introductory presentation by **Mr. Biplove Choudhary**, Program Specialist from UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Center, which updated the meeting with uneven MDGs' achievements in Asia Pacific and ASEAN's leading role in the achievement of MDGs in Asia-Pacific region, challenges in achieving health and nutrition targets, and the need for countries lagging behind to have MDG acceleration strategies.
19. The meeting noted that AIPA Member Parliaments had submitted their Country Report on Poverty Reduction for Sustainable Development and related summary tables containing their national initiatives and recommendations for possible common legislative harmonization in the regional scale.

The Country Reports and Summary Tables of AIPA Member Parliaments are attached as [Annex 10](#).
20. The meeting focused the discussion on 5 aspects of the broad topic of Poverty Reduction: (i) poverty reduction policy mainstreaming process, (ii) the coordination in implementing poverty reduction policies/programmes, (iii) the application of multi-dimensional poverty approach in national policies, (iv) international and national resources mobilization for poverty reduction and (v) national coping strategies during economic crisis to support the poor.
21. The meeting commended efforts made by ASEAN as presented in the ASEAN Secretary General's remarks, particularly the productive outcomes of ASEAN Ministers Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE and SOMRDPE) since the establishment of the two mechanisms in 1997. The meeting recognized the proactive cooperation between ASEAN-6 and CLMV to ensure the benefits of the ASEAN integration and narrowing development gap, agreed with the ASEAN's common aspiration aiming to

improve the quality of life of the 600 million plus ASEAN citizens and to sustain the natural ecosystems within which they live.

OTHER MATTERS

22. The meeting proposed that AIPA Caucus Meeting should be conducted with small group discussions, which would bring about more effective outcomes.
23. The meeting recognized the necessity to standardize the formats of the Country Report on the Status of implementation of AIPA General Assembly Resolutions for efficient and focused presentations in the form of summary tables of national initiatives and possible common legislation.
24. As a result, the meeting agreed to recommend to the Organizational Committee to consider the inclusion of the proceedings in the amendment of Terms of Reference of AIPA Caucus in the next AIPA General Assembly and task AIPA Secretariat to formulate and disseminate the proper formats to all AIPA Member Parliaments to be used from the next AIPA Caucus Meeting.

CLOSING SESSION

25. The Closing session of the 5th AIPA Caucus was held on Wednesday, the 13th May 2013 at 17.00 hours.
26. The 6th AIPA Caucus Meeting will be hosted by Brunei Darussalam in April/May 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be announced by the AIPA Secretariat in due course.
27. During the session, Delegates considered and adopted the Final Report of the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting. Upon the adoption of the Report, leaders of all AIPA Member Parliament's delegations officially signed the Report.
28. Hon. Mr. Tran Van Hang, Chairperson of the 5th AIPA Caucus, extended his appreciation to all delegates for their proactive and responsible participation, sharing invaluable experiences and recommendations of the common concerns of the region. The Chairperson also highlighted that the outcome of the 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting to be compiled and addressed at the next AIPA General Assembly, and at the same time to be translated into implementation. Finally, he extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Secretariat of AIPA, staff of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, local authority and the people of Lam Dong province for their contributions to the meeting's success.

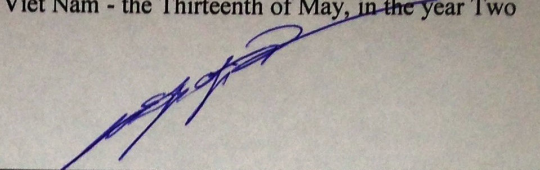
The Closing remarks is attached in [Annex 11](#)

VISIT TO THE ZEN MONASTARY AND EMBROIDERY CENTER

29. Delegates made a visit to the Zen Monastery "Bamboo Forest", the renowned religious meditation center in Da Lat, and XQ Embroidery Exhibition, the traditional handicraft model that offered a means to preserve the precious and traditional profession while offering a means of livelihood for the local women of Lam Dong Province.

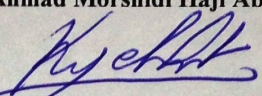
Done in Da Lat, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam - the Thirteenth of May, in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen (2013).

for BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



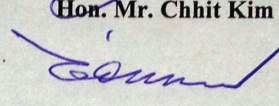
Hon. Mr. Haji Ahmad Morshidi Haji Abdul Rahman

for CAMBODIA



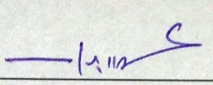
Hon. Mr. Chhit Kim Yeat

for INDONESIA



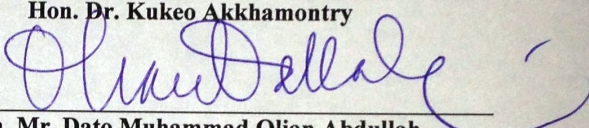
Hon. Mr. Sidarto Danusubroto

for LAO PDR



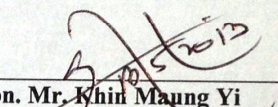
Hon. Dr. Kukeo Akkhamontry

for MALAYSIA



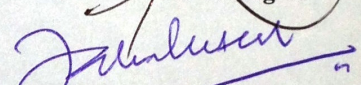
Hon. Mr. Dato Muhammad Olian Abdullah

for MYANMAR



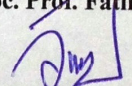
Hon. Mr. Khin Maung Yi

for SINGAPORE



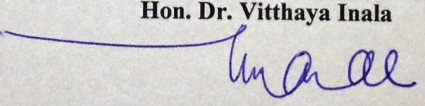
Hon. Assoc. Prof. Fatimah Lateef

for THAILAND

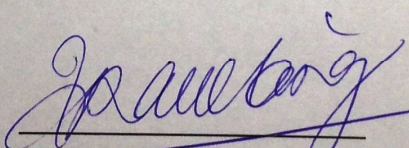


Hon. Dr. Vitthaya Inala

for VIETNAM



Hon. Mdm. Truong Thi Mai



Hon. Mr. TRAN VAN HANG
Chairman
The 5th AIPA Caucus Meeting