



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HA NOI, VIET NAM, 19 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2010

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**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)**

*Your Excellency, the President of AIPA,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the Report of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) which was convened during the 31st AIPA General Assembly on 20 September 2010.

As nominated by His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, President of AIPA, I presided over the meeting and was assisted by Honorable Mdm. Nguyen Thi Bach Mai, a rapporteur.

The following WAIPA delegates attended the meeting:

Brunei Darussalam

1. Ms. Hajah Fauziah Haji Abdul Hamid
2. Ms. Siti Bismi Emzah

Cambodia

1. H.E Mrs. Khuon Sodary
2. H.E. Mrs Ho Naun
3. H.E Mrs. Nin Saphon
4. H.E. Mrs. Krouch Sam An

Indonesia

1. Hon. Mrs. Ida Ria Simamora
2. Hon. Mrs. Vanda Sarundajang
3. Hon. Mrs. Okky Asokawati

Laos

1. Hon. Prof. Dr. Bounnong Boupha
2. Hon. Mrs. Souvanpheng Boupphanouvong
3. Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena

Malaysia

1. Hon. Datuk Rosnah binti Haji Abbul Rashid Shirlin
2. Hon. Sen. J. Usha. Nandini
3. Hon. Mrs. Tan Ah Eng

Philippines

1. Hon. Mylene Garcia Albano

Singapore

1. Hon. Ms. Denise Phua
2. Hon. Assoc. Prof. Paulin Tay Straughan

Thailand

1. H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tassana Boontong
2. H.E. Col. Apiwan Wiriyachai
3. Hon. Srisakul Munsil
4. Hon. Sirintorn Rammasute

Vietnam

1. Hon. Mrs. Truong Thi Mai
2. Hon. Mrs. Le Thi Thu Ba
3. Hon. Mrs. Pham Phuong Thao
4. Hon. Mrs. Pham Thi Loan
5. Hon. Mrs. Ngo Thi Doan Thanh
6. Hon. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien

The meeting was also observed by Hon. Mr. Antonio Cuenco, Secretary General of AIPA and Hon. Mr. Bagas Hapsoro, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Secretariat.

The meeting considered 4 draft resolutions and adopted the following:

1. Resolution on the Report of the Women of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) Seminar on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in the Law-Making Process

The meeting adopted the Report and Recommendations of the Seminar on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in the Law-Making Process hosted by Vietnam in Ha Noi city from 29 November to 3 December, 2009, and urged the Member Parliaments to organize seminars and activities for women parliamentarians to better perform their roles; to earmark resources for those activities; and to adopt laws on gender equality. The Meeting urged the ASEAN Member Countries and AIPA Parliaments to mainstream gender in all activities and to establish or strengthen Women Parliamentarians Caucuses.

2. Resolution on Strengthening Social Welfare and Development for Women and Children

The Meeting acknowledged that women and children are the world is the most vulnerable group to global challenges such as economic crisis, climate change, epidemics, migration, crime, war, energy and food insufficiency. The Meeting recognized that obstacles remain in the world of profound changes to ensuring gender equality, social welfare and development for women and children. ASEAN Member States should, therefore, continue to build and improve the legal systems with the view to ensuring social welfare and the rights for women and children. The Meeting called on AIPA Member States to allocate more resources and to strengthen supervision

on the implementation of all national policies and regional agreements on social welfare and development for women and children, especially to ensure education, childcare services, healthcare for women and children, as well as employment, capacity building, skills training and legal support for women, especially for the poor, disadvantaged and migrant people. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN to consider and bring AIPA recommendations on strengthening social welfare and development for women and children to the agenda and program of activities of ASEAN Commission on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and report to the next AIPA General Assembly. It further encouraged AIPA Member Countries to enhance cooperation and exchange of information and experience in building and implementation of the laws and policies on social welfare and development for women and children. The Meeting expressed its support for the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children.

3. Resolution on the Roles of Women in Economic Recovery after the Financial Crisis

The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the 16th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Viet Nam in April 2010 regarding early and sustainable economic recovery measures as well as guidelines for economic development models after the global financial crisis. The Meeting reaffirmed the roles that women have been playing in economic development and ASEAN Community building process, urged AIPA Member Countries to adopt policies and programs to support women workers, businesses that employ women workers; and to support women entrepreneurs on business administrative skills as well as access to financial services and markets in order to be able to actively contribute to economic recovery and to adapt to similar economic challenges. The Meeting further appealed to AIPA Member Countries to adopt policies and programs to support women in informal sectors regarding access to financial services, job training, and ensuring social security.

The Meeting proposed to create a forum for women MPs to exchange views, experiences and best practices on roles of women in economic recovery in the post-financial crisis.

4. Resolution on the Increase of Women Representation in Politics

Upon proposal of the Laos Delegation, the Committee considered and adopted the Resolution.

The Meeting reaffirmed the resolution of the 17th APPF in Vientiane Lao PDR on gender issues in parliaments, the Beijing plus 10 Action Plan and the third goal of the MDGs to promote gender equality by the year 2015 and to empower women. With the awareness that women parliamentarians are in the best position to support women and children's interest, and their involvement are the key factor to achieve MDG 8, and realization that women are the central agents of change, the Meeting urged ASEAN and AIPA Member Countries to increase women representation in the parliaments; encouraged them to develop women skills and knowledge in politics. The Meeting called for ASEAN and AIPA member countries to develop programs and activities to increase women participation in politics, to develop and strengthen legislative means to women empowerment, to increase their contribution to decision-making process, to share and to learn experiences and good practices among each other. The Meeting called upon ASEAN and AIPA member countries to provide adequate legal tools and enable environment protection, and to ensure appropriate funding to meet the challenges of the achievement of the MDG 3 by 2015.

I hereby present the Report of the WAIPA Meeting to the 31st AIPA General Assembly.

Thank you.

TONG THI PHONG
CHAIRPERSON

NGUYEN THI BACH MAI
RAPPORTEUR