

Statement of the Thai Delegate  
at the Preparatory Meeting of AIPA Delegation to Attend the AIPA – ASEAN Meeting  
During the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit  
on 6 May 2011  
at Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia

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Mr. President,  
Honorable Parliamentarians,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be part of this gathering today and to have an opportunity to contribute in escalating cooperation and partnership between AIPA and ASEAN during this auspicious summit in Jakarta. I also like to express my appreciation to Cambodia under the President of AIPA for hosting this event with a spirit of friendship.

From the first informal meeting between both sides in Cha-Am, Thailand in 2009, AIPA has played its role in facilitating the implementation of ASEAN agreements since AIPA and ASEAN share the same agenda for the interests of peoples in the region. Yet, there are still some aspects to be considered for AIPA and ASEAN to co-build as everyone has set a high hope in an emerging of a rule based and people-oriented community of ASEAN.

There are some points that I would like to draw attention at this meeting for a closer rapport and cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN under the ASEAN Charter:

First, as AIPA is pushing forward to a common legislative initiatives and harmonization of laws through particular mechanisms, among others, the AIPA Caucus at which areas of interests really need the contribution and consultation from the Executive branch. There should be an attendance on a regular basis by ASEAN representative(s) at the AIPA Caucus meetings, whereby the ASEAN representative(s) will report to the respective ASEAN Committees the outcome of the meetings especially on the implementation by the executive of AIPA Resolutions on regional issues adopted

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by the annually AIPA General Assembly. The 3<sup>rd</sup> AIPA Caucus which will be held in Manila at the end of this month will put the issue of Disaster Response Management high on the agenda and I do really hope a contribution from ASEAN.

Secondly, since the key role of AIPA Parliamentarians is to directly contact with the grassroots in educating the peoples of ASEAN on the ASEAN Charter, it is imperative to have the active support from ASEAN in order to run any activities to promote the sense of "ASEAN-ness" as envisaged in the ASEAN Charter and to ensure that the policies and activities of ASEAN would filter down to the people.

Thirdly, let me recall the idea of the ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan as conveyed during the Discussion between AIPA Delegation and Secretary-General of ASEAN at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Pattaya City, Thailand, for a core group of AIPA Parliamentarians to be appointed by the President of AIPA to become "Parliamentarian Friends to ASEAN". This core group of AIPA Parliamentarians would act as a think-tank which ASEAN would consult from time to time in the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and in obtaining the parliamentary perspectives on resolving regional issues.

Mr. President,

As I follow, the Secretary-General of AIPA had presented during the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in Hanoi on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between AIPA and ASEAN which was drafted by AIPA Secretariat and already proposed to both President of AIPA and ASEAN Secretary-General. I acknowledged that the document remains pending the process within ASEAN, however I underline and support the MOA since it will serve as the linchpin for an enhanced interaction between both sides.

I am confident that the meeting between ASEAN and AIPA Delegation led by the President tomorrow will mark another significant step, from our today consensus, in enhancing the good cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN for the benefits of our peoples.

Thank you

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