

**Statement**  
**By Hon. Mr. Surachai Liengboonlertchai**  
**First Vice-President of the Senate,**  
**Leader of the Thai Delegation**

**To the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly**  
**On September 19, 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

---

Mr. President,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand and Thai people, I am pleased and honored to lead the Thai Delegation to attend this 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Brunei Darussalam.

In celebrating this year's grandest and auspicious occasion of His Majesty's 67<sup>th</sup> Birthday, I, joined with the people of Thailand, would like to humbly extend loyal greetings and best wishes of great happiness along with healthiness to His Majesty of Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei has successfully organized conventions in our region, the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summits and related meetings, as well as this 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly today. Your warm welcome and your efforts of hosting this event are greatly appreciated.

Despite the short period of Brunei's membership in the AIPA, I have always felt that Brunei and Thailand have been good old friends for a long time. For that reason, I believe that the working relationship of these nations together with AIPA will always bring out cooperation and union among our parliamentary friends.

I personally view the theme "The Role of AIPA in ASEAN Community," as a journey on which we have come together on the right track. We have worked hand-in-hand for many years and built up channels in order to work more closely for one aim which is, "One sharing and caring ASEAN Community."



Mr. President,  
Distinguished Guests,

The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand has seen the significance of being a component in building the ASEAN Community. As a legislative body, we support the administrative work, as we have a mission of strengthening national laws including existing rules and regulations to facilitate the process of building the ASEAN Community by reducing barriers in connecting ASEAN and AIPA together.

It has become a common knowledge that our mission in AIPA is quite a complex and delicate task that needs more time and closer collaboration. I have seen the AIPA Secretariat as a significant cooperative mechanism in not only connecting AIPA Member Countries but also our partners so that we can overcome obstacles and challenges within our Assembly.

In addition, I value the vision and effort of Brunei on updating our Assembly beginning with restructuring the assembly as the resolution on "Amendment to the Statutes of AIPA" has been selected. Draft resolutions have been lessened; thus, committees gain more time in considering issues of greater significance. This event confirms readiness to become part of ASEAN Community.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Guests,

Another thing that I hope to continually see within the Assembly is the network and connectivity between officials of AIPA Member Parliaments and Observers. One best example is AIPA's cooperation on workshops that have been initialized by Hann Seidel Foundation. I am hopeful that we will see more of these creative activities in the future.

Once again, I am thankful to the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, together with the officials who helped in organizing this General Assembly. I strongly believe that this convention will generate a fruitful cooperation among AIPA Member Countries.

Thank you.

-----

