



Message
from
Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I congratulate the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), which is a key forum for ASEAN parliamentarians to promote cooperation in the region.

AIPA has been a key partner for ASEAN, working closely to achieve the region's shared goal of realizing an ASEAN Community. AIPA can also play a crucial role in aligning domestic laws to regional commitments. Indeed, the Informal Meetings of the Heads of State/Government and AIPA Leaders at previous ASEAN Summits have strengthened AIPA-ASEAN cooperation, reinforcing the collective effort to build a people-centered and rules-based community.

In building the ASEAN Community, we need to enhance connectivity within the region and beyond. ASEAN connectivity would help promote economic growth, narrow development gaps and foster better social and cultural understanding. So connectivity is not only about transportation links but also about bringing peoples closer together. As representatives of peoples, parliamentarians can help promote this people-to-people connectivity.

At the same time, various challenges will continue to confront ASEAN. For the ASEAN Community to be meaningful, it must be able to surmount these challenges. We therefore need to further strengthen cooperation and develop arrangements to deal with these challenges, from the global economic challenges to cultural misperceptions, from natural disasters to problems of food security. ASEAN parliamentarians can play a key role to help mobilize support for such cooperation and arrangements.

When I delivered the Government's policy statement to the Thai National Assembly, I stated that Thailand will promote cooperation in all levels and aspects for the development of our region, as well as to enhance unity among ASEAN Member States so that we can realize a people-centered ASEAN. You will therefore find in Thailand a strong supporter of AIPA and the ASEAN Community.

I wish the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly much success and hope that the AIPA will contribute to a stable, peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia, and a more connected ASEAN Community by 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Shinawatra'.

(Yingluck Shinawatra)
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand