

Intervention
The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of
the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
by Hon. Mr. Thira Suwankul
Member of the Senate
Leader of the Thai Delegation
13rd -14th September, 2011
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Tehran.

- Combating Corruption -

Allow me to draw your attention to the issue concerning problems of combating corruption which becomes more crucial to our region.

The corruption exists in our region and in most countries in the world, in particular, developing countries. It is a serious problem that we have been trying to tackle for very long time. It has penetrated to every corner of our society and a threat to national security - jeopardizing not only the country's financial well-being, but also its socio-economic development efforts and, most importantly, the moral structure of the nation in the long term.

As we all know, a corruption society is like a sick person. Corruption is the tumor that spreads through the body and destroys the human being little by little and lastly, it kills off the prospects of the poor. As a result, it will not be easy to eradicate corruption without cooperative efforts from across civil society. Governmental efforts alone are not enough to curb corruption. Therefore, it is very necessary for us representing legislative actor to pull out the efforts and cooperation to promote honesty and combat corruption.

In Thailand, we have playing an active role in combating corruption and promoting cooperation in regional and international level dealing with combating corruption, as corruption is now regarded as one of the transnational crimes. In this regard, we have already signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) since November 2003 and subsequently we ratified it on 14 November 2010 after Thailand hosted the International Anti-Corruption (IACC). Thailand actively enacts and revises the law to ensure its consistency with the Convention. Moreover, the Thai Parliament has also joined the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and Southeast Asia Parties against Corruption (SEAPAC).

I hope that such Convention will be ratified by all APA Member Parliaments. And any domestic laws of the APA Members will be enacted and revised to harmonize with UNCAC. APA Member Parliaments should increase their roles in sharing of experiences on how to effectively cope with a corruption through enactment of relevant laws and regulations.

- Drug trafficking -

Additionally, I would like to raise our concern on the most serious organized crime problem of drug trafficking which creates tremendous impacts on social security and stability of every country. The Thai Government has prioritized the anti-narcotic issue as an urgent national agenda and continued to strengthen its anti-drug trafficking cooperation with neighboring countries both bilaterally and within the various sub-regional frameworks, for instance cooperation of ASEAN member countries under the framework of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) recommending on the harmonization of illegal drug laws, focusing on the capture and seizure of assets used in or possessed from drug-related cases; on the control of reactants and precursors; and on harm reduction interventions.

Since drug trafficking has become a global threat, no country can solve the problem alone. International cooperation is extremely

essential for an effective control and suppression of drug trafficking and abuse. I urge all APA Members to strengthen cooperation within the APA framework to combat the drug trafficking. This does not only mean strengthening of law enforcement efforts but implementing of appropriate political, economic and social policies as well.

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our discussion and the contributions will be useless, if there is no further action. I strongly believe that we, under the APA framework, in particular, can play a leading role and work in parallel with our respective governments in order to push forward good governance and people's sense of security. Importantly, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Chairperson for giving me the floor.

Thank you for your kind attention.