

**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**33RD AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**16 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2012, LOMBOK, INDONESIA**

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**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY**

**THE HONOURABLE PEHIN DATO HAJI JUDIN HAJI ASAR**

**FOR THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

***BISMILLAHIR RAHMANNIR RAHIM,***

***His Excellency Dr.Marzukie Alie,***

***Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives,***

***Excellencies Head of Delegation,***

***Honourable Members of AIPA,***

***Secretary General of AIPA,***

***Distinguished Guests,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

***ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH***

First of all I would like to convey the Honourable Mr. Speaker’s apologies for not being able to present here today to accept the Transfer of Office of the President of AIPA. He has to return home early to take care of an urgent business. It is indeed an honour for the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam to host the 34th AIPA General Assembly for the first time.

Brunei Legislative Council only became a full member of AIPA in 2009, but our involvement with AIPO (or AIPA) was far back as from 1992 when we were first invited by the host country as an observer to attend the AIPO General Assembly, and this invitation became an annual event and in addition to that we were invited to take part in every Committee and Technical Working Group meetings. Brunei Darussalam, therefore, is more or less able to follow the evolution of AIPA since its inception on 2nd September, 1977. Though our status was only an observer, Brunei Darussalam was treated and accorded with the same privilege as a full member. That is the spirit of AIPA.

Brunei Darussalam is a small country with a population of less than 500,000 people. Its legislative body is unicameral with 33 members, reconstituted in 2004 after it was suspended in 1984. It does not practice Parliamentary system of Government. The function of the Legislative Council is only to advise the Government on the running of the country including enacting laws and regulations. It conducts its meeting in accordance with the practice and procedure of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom. The executive body is headed by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, and Brunei Darussalam's philosophy is Malay, Muslim, Monarchy.

As this is the first time for Brunei Darussalam Legislative Council to hosting regional meeting, it will be a great test to the Brunei Legislative Council members. We are well aware that we are lacking both in experience and manpower in organizing meetings such as AIPA General Assembly, and will not be able to compete with other AIPA member countries in terms of efficiency and hospitality, but with the help of AIPA Secretariat and support from other AIPA member countries, we will try our best to make the meeting a success and prepare the hospitality in a Bruneian way as far as possible.

The present AIPA Secretary General’s term of office will end in February next year and a new Secretary General will take over his place. During his tenure of office, he has been working very hard to make AIPA Secretariat more vibrant and focus and AIPA in general to become one of the progressing organization in the region. Though he leaves the office of AIPA Secretariat, it is hoped that he can still contributes to AIPA as a representative of his counry. We appreciate his contribution to AIPA for the last three years. We came to know that when AIPA was looking for the new Secretary General due to the demise of our first Secretary General from Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Quenco was offered a post as the Philippines Ambassador to Italy and at same time also offered as a Secretary General of AIPA and the he chose instead to become a Secretary General; a post less colourful but more challenging. We salute his dedication to AIPA. We wish him in a very good health and every success in his future endeavour.

In conclusion, may I again quote the Statement of the Speaker of the Legislative Council in the First Plenary, *Insya Allah, by the Grace of Allah, the 34th AIPA General Assembly will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in September 2013 and I sincerely hope all of you will be able to come, not only to attend the Meetings but also to enable Brunei Darussalam to offer its hospitality in a Bruneian way.*We have a short video presentation to show a little about Brunei Darussalam and it wil be shown in a few moments. Thank you very much for your attention and Selamat Menonton.

Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah, Wassalam Mualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.