



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**Remarks of AIPA President
at the Opening Ceremony of the AIPA Executive Committee
and AIPA Fact-finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace
July 9, 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Bismillahirrohmanirrohim

Ngayogyakarta Royal Highness, Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono the Tenth, Governor of Yogyakarta Special Region Province;

**Your Excellency:
Speakers of Parliaments**

**Honorable:
Delegates of AIPA;
Deputy Speakers of the Indonesia House of Representatives;
Chair and Deputy Chairs of the Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Committee;**

And Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

I would like to welcome all the Speakers of Parliaments of AIPA, Heads of Delegations and Members of AIPA Parliamentary Delegations to the Yogyakarta Special Region, we call this region special because of its important history in Indonesia independence struggle. The region has rich cultural heritage that has been considered as world heritage. There are many more reasons that make this city special including its status as the center for education, the outstanding local creativity in art and also the distinctive hand drawn batik art.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the President of AIPA, I decided to convene the Executive Committee Meeting two months before the General Assembly of AIPA and this practice is in concordant with AIPA Statute article 9 paragraph (2) that reads "The Executive Committee may meet at least 3

(three) months prior to the General Assembly to prepare the program, agenda and other relevant matters pertaining to the General Assembly”.

I made this decision to give enough time to comprehend and consider the agenda and various issues that will be deliberated in the 33rd AIPA General Assembly this coming September. In my opinion AIPA should start the tradition of going into a more in-depth comprehension on issues of common interest that will influence the transformation of AIPA together with ASEAN to achieve the goal of establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015.

It is clear that in our capacity as representation of the people, AIPA has important roles and positions to support the transformation process for achieving an advanced, strong, stable, peaceful and prosperous ASEAN. These efforts of course need strong commitment, not only from Executive and Legislative Agencies of ASEAN but also from all stakeholders.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its establishment, AIPA has been showing high enthusiasm through programs and activities that are directed for the strengthening and acceleration of the achievement of ASEAN common goals. Parliamentarians are intermediaries between people and the state administration. In that function, parliamentarians of AIPA have the calling and responsibility to participate in ensuring the achievement of ASEAN goals. I believe that the pro-active measures taken by member parliaments will contribute to the establishment of ASEAN Community 2015.

Distinguished Participants,

The Speakers Consultation Meeting between the Speakers of Parliaments/Heads of Delegations of AIPA and Leaders of ASEAN in ASEAN Summit have been done for five times since the 14th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am, Thailand back in 2009 until the most recent 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia last year. The High Level Meetings between AIPA and ASEAN are critical to ensure the smooth implementation of various policies and decisions made in executive and legislative regional forum. It is vital for AIPA to take a close look at every decisions and policies made by ASEAN. The agreements reached by ASEAN Leaders, especially the strategic ones will need ratification from parliaments and parliamentarians can also support the implementation of those decisions in the grass roots level.

In my capacity as the President of AIPA, therefore, I, with the support of other Speakers of AIPA Member Parliaments, I propose to make this consultation meeting more effective and meaningful to enhance the executive-legislative cooperation. So that the meeting between AIPA and ASEAN can be transformed into a more meaningful dialog, which discuss about actual issues of common concern to promote the welfare in the region. For instance, AIPA can contribute to establish a common legal framework among ASEAN Countries by

harmonizing legislations that have great importance for the stability and development of the region.

The building of an ASEAN Community as stated in ASEAN Charter needs the engagement of all stakeholders. AIPA needs to evaluate its cooperation mechanism with ASEAN since AIPA has produced hundreds of resolutions that need to be implemented by the legislative or executive.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In relation to the agenda of our EXCOM Meeting today, we anticipate that the delegates will discuss several agenda items in preparation for 33rd AIPA General Assembly, we need to decide on the agenda so that the upcoming 33rd AIPA General Assembly can be successful. Indonesia as the host proposed several agenda items to be discussed in the Political Committee, Economic Committee, Social Committee, WAIPA and Organizational Committee.

We also prepared the dialog agenda with the observer countries so as to get the maximum benefit and to expand the cooperation between AIPA and the parliaments of observer countries. Since we believe that inter-parliamentary cooperation contributes to enhancement of government to government cooperation and people to people contact, thus we need ensure that the topics that will be discussed are clear and precise.

Distinguished Participants,

The idea to convene the 9th AIFOCOM in conjunction with the Executive Committee Meeting is expected to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of AIPA Agenda. I sincerely hope that in the future, AIPA can multiply its leverage in regional and international forum. AIPA received many offers to engage more intensively with international institutions and communities, which means that AIPA has gained more recognition and more hopes are put towards AIPA. Within their respective countries, AIPA Members should promote the Spirit of ASEAN, solidarity and sense of ownership of the public as one ASEAN.

I would like to encourage the delegates of this 9th AIFOCOM to come up with effective, workable and innovative ideas to address ever increasing drugs menace and drugs trafficking. Without everyone, including parliamentarians putting serious endeavors, I am afraid that it will be difficult to stop the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. We understand that drugs business involve great amount of money and the brains behind this trans-national crime are not deterred by virtually any law enforcement.

Parliamentarians of AIPA have to seriously assess and address this problem by establishing a common legal framework and well-directed policies to handle and limit the movement of the criminals. Establishment of a task force comprises parliamentarians, academicians, bureaucrats, law enforcers and anti-drugs activists worth to be considered, as one of the ways to overcome the grow of drugs trafficking.

Ngayogyakarta Royal Highness, Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono the Tenth, Your Excellency, Speakers of Parliaments and Distinguished Delegates,

To end my opening remarks, I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my highest appreciation and gratitude, in particular to Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono the Tenth, The Governor of Yogyakarta Special Region for his attendance and willingness to deliver his remarks in this event. I believe that AIPA delegates that will spend the next several days in this beautiful city will enjoy the cultural heritage and the friendliness of its people who are always warmly welcomes all visitors.

Dear colleagues, delegates of AIPA, I hope that we will produce beneficial decisions and resolutions for AIPA in order to strengthen ASEAN and also I wish you a pleasant and memorable visit in Yogyakarta. Thank you.

Terima kasih and Wassalamu'alaikum. Wr. Wb.