

**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY****REPORT THE PRESIDENT OF AIPA ON THE ACTIVITIES OF AIPA****a. The Sixth Ordinary Session of Pan African Parliament in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 January 2012**

President of Pan-African Parliament (PAP) H.E. Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndele conveyed an invitation to President of AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie to attend the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Second Parliament PAP held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-17 January 2012.

The Opening of the PAP Conference took place on 16 January 2012. Aside from President of AIPA attending the event, parliamentary delegation from around Africa whom are members of PAP presented at this occasion. The ceremony was held at the UN-ECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa).

The Sixth Ordinary Session of the Second Parliament of PAP was organized to enhance the organization institutional building, as part of its transformative process to become a strong legislative which equipped with capacity to bring forth all African people's shared vision in achieving better living, peace and prosperity.

The forum significance was in consideration with the latest development in Northern Africa and Middle East, started from Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, countries strive to build democracy in the region. Transformation to democracy also taking place in South East Asia. Democracy manifested in the system of the government and legislature held the goals of bringing fairness and justice to the people. The forum was meant for parliamentarians to exchange and share their experiences to achieve that goals.

Through the presence of President of AIPA at the the sixth ordinary session of the second PAP conference, better relation and cooperation between PAP and AIPA is expected to flourish. President of PAP, H. E. Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndele welcomed the ideas and thoughts conveyed by President of AIPA.

**b. The Meeting between AIPA Delegates and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN during the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh – Kingdom of Cambodia, 3 April 2012**

Prior to the ASEAN Summit and Meeting between AIPA Delegates and the ASEAN Heads of State/Government, an AIPA Preparatory Meeting was held at Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh on April 2, 2012. President of AIPA chaired the AIPA Preparatory Meeting aims to prepare AIPA Statement to be presented by President of AIPA at the AIPA-ASEAN Meeting during the 20th ASEAN Summit

The Statement highlights needs to improve cooperation and coordination between the executive and legislative institutions of ASEAN and to seek new avenues on how to involve and enhance AIPA contribution to the work of ASEAN. AIPA supports all decisions and instruments that have been established by ASEAN. In this light, AIPA and ASEAN need an effective communication and cooperation mechanism.

Parliamentarians who are members of AIPA are also representing constituencies/people, whose sense of belonging and sense of ownership towards ASEAN needs to be enhanced. They can contribute significantly to achieve the 'people-centered' and 'people-oriented' ASEAN. AIPA enthusiastically welcomes the positive development in Myanmar and hopes that this momentum can be maintained and continued in line with the interests of the people of Myanmar, ASEAN and the international community

It is acknowledged of the importance of periodical annual meeting between ASEAN's Leaders and delegates of AIPA for enhancing the ASEAN-AIPA contribution in the promotion of cooperation and regional integration, as well as mobilizing the solidarity and determination to jointly address all the challenges in achieving an ASEAN Community living in peace, prosperity and harmony for all the peoples of ASEAN.

The importance of AIPA's assistance to the enhancement of ASEAN is essential. The ASEAN Charter in particular must be taken into efforts for realization. A more efficient mechanism between ASEAN and AIPA must be built including communication between Chairman of ASEAN and President of AIPA. Also it is important to have better coordination between Secretariats of ASEAN and AIPA. Improved coordination between the two Secretariats will contribute to the efforts to achieve the people-oriented ASEAN.

**c. The Working Visit of President of AIPA to Malaysia, Singapore, and Myanmar, 24 – 30 June 2012**

Aimed to encourage stronger commitment from AIPA Member States in supporting the development of ASEAN Community, the President of AIPA held a series of official visit to Malaysia, Singapore, and Myanmar on 24-30 June 2012.

The President of AIPA highlighted the important role of AIPA in the progress towards ASEAN Community 2015. On this occasion, H.E. Marzuki Alie underlined the schedule of

AIPA Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting and the 9th Meeting of ASEAN Fact-Finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace (AIFOCOM) that will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 8-12 July 2012 and the 33rd AIPA General Assembly that shall be convened in Lombok, Indonesia on 16-22 September 2012. At the EXCOM Meeting, AIPA will discuss the possibilities to establish cooperation with the ASEAN Foundation and the Pan African Parliament. Expecting the participation and active contribution of all AIPA Member States, the President of AIPA strongly encouraged the attendance of the Leaders of the AIPA Member Parliaments at the upcoming events.

During his visit in Malaysia, the President of AIPA held bilateral talks with the Speaker of the Parliament, H.E. Tan Seri Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, and Speaker of the Senate, H.E. Tan Seri Abu Zahar. Both stated their commitment to participate in AIPA's preparation towards the ASEAN integration, particularly in regional economic cooperation as the foundation for ASEAN to compete at the global market. The President of AIPA encouraged the Parliaments to also support other stakeholders in the preparation to regional integration as part of their responsibility which will eventually lead to regional prosperity.

In Singapore, during the bilateral talks between the President of AIPA and the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, H.E. Michael Palmer; the Second Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Lui Tuck Yew; and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, the President of AIPA expressed his attention to Singapore's vast development and strong economies. On the agenda of AIFOCOM, H.E. Michael Palmer confirmed his commitment to support the accomplishment of ASEAN Drug-Free Zone by 2015.

The President of AIPA expressed his sincere welcome to the permanent membership of the Parliament of Myanmar at AIPA in the expectation for Myanmar to be able to contribute to the successful establishment of the three pillars of ASEAN Community which includes the ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and ASEAN Political Security Community. During a Courtesy Call with the President of Myanmar, H.E. U Thein Sein, the President of AIPA deliberated his assurance on the future capacity of Myanmar in the ASEAN integration. The Speaker of the Upper House of Myanmar, H.E. U Khin Aung Myint and the Speaker of the Lower House of Myanmar, H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann on separate bilateral talks confirmed their commitment to provide their best in strengthening the role of AIPA in the region.