



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**Report of the 4th AIPA Caucus
By Hon. Mrs. Pornthip Lowira Chanratanapreeda
on ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Executive Committee Meeting
9 July 2012, Yogyakarta Indonesia**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to present, on behalf of the Thai delegation, the report of the 4th AIPA Caucus hosted by Thailand from 30 April to 3 May 2012. I also would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all AIPA member countries for your valuable cooperation and contribution to the success of the 4th AIPA Caucus. The report of the meeting is as follows:

The participants of the 4th AIPA Caucus comprised 26 delegates from 9 AIPA Member Countries, a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretary-General of AIPA. The meeting discussed progress made by each AIPA Member Country in implementing Resolutions adopted at the 32nd AIPA General Assembly in Cambodia in 2011, matters related to disaster management in AIPA Member Countries and the idea of establishing an AIPA Core Group of Parliamentarians.

Before the opening ceremony, heads of the delegations of the AIPA Caucus called on H.E. Mr. Somsak Kiatsuranont, President of the National Assembly of Thailand, and shared their views on the topic of the meeting, namely “Disaster Management”, which is an important matter to both disaster-affected and non disaster-affected countries.

The 4th AIPA Caucus was chaired by Hon. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives and Former Prime Minister of Thailand. On the same occasion, Hon. Mr. Nguyen Manh Tien, Head of the Vietnamese Delegation, was appointed Deputy Chairman. Hon. Mr. Antonio Veloso Cuenco, Secretary-General of the AIPA also served as the Secretary-General of the 4th AIPA Caucus.

The 4th AIPA Caucus mainly discussed the Status of Implementation of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions, matters related to disaster management and the possibility to establish an AIPA Core group of Parliamentarians.

On the topic of status of Implementation of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions, each AIPA delegation presented its report on the Status of Implementation of the 32nd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions. These Resolutions had been submitted by each Member country to its respective government for information and consideration.

On Disaster Management, each AIPA Delegation presented its report and discussed challenges posed by natural disasters, particularly flooding, which occurred and could occur in AIPA Member Countries. The ASEAN Secretariat representative viewed that disasters in the region may be an obstacle to efforts to improve the livelihoods of ASEAN peoples. Therefore, ASEAN needs to work together to deal with disasters promptly and efficiently to contain the damage. The meeting discussed the possibility to cooperate among AIPA members and render support to their respective governments in responding to natural disasters. Moreover, the meeting also deliberated on the possibility to set up a standby disaster fund in ASEAN, as proposed by the AIPA Secretary General, that can respond timely to natural disasters. However, details on this matter need to be further discussed. The meeting agreed to task the AIPA Secretariat to undertake further studies and submit the results to the next AIPA Executive Committee Meeting and General Assembly in Indonesia for deliberation before raising this initiative during AIPA's consultation with ASEAN leaders at the next ASEAN Summit.

The meeting also discussed the possibility to establish an AIPA Core Group of Parliamentarians. The meeting deliberated and concluded that establishing an AIPA Core Group of Parliamentarians as a stand-alone entity is not necessary because this will create more administrative and financial burdens on members. However, the idea of an AIPA Core Group could be leveraged on AIPA Caucus framework. The meeting agreed that the AIPA Caucus must strengthen its functions as stipulated in its Terms of Reference, notably its role to monitor the implementation of the resolutions as well as to provide the platform for interactions between AIPA and ASEAN. The meeting also agreed to form a task force comprising one representative from each country to discuss how to encourage AIPA countries to implement the resolutions of the AIPA General Assembly and submitted to the Chairperson who would be reporting at the next AIPA General Assembly. The task force was duly formed and agreed to propose to the Chairperson that AIPA Caucus review and report the status of the AIPA resolutions implementation by the government of each country.

During the closing session of the 4th AIPA Caucus, the meeting noted that The Socialist Republic of Vietnam will chair the AIPA Caucus from April 2013 to May 2014 and will host the 5th AIPA Caucus. The meeting adopted the Report of the 4th AIPA Caucus which was signed by leaders of all AIPA Member Delegations.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Fruitful discussions during the 4th AIPA Caucus reflect our traditionally close relationship among AIPA member countries. Thailand will do our utmost to support all the activities and work of AIPA and we look forward to a successful and highly productive meeting, for all of us, at the next AIPA Caucus meeting.

Thank you