



Canada - China Legislative Association
Association législative Canada - Chine



Canada - Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
Groupe interparlementaire Canada - Japon

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation respecting
its participation at the
33rd General Assembly of the
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

**Canada-China Legislative Association
and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group**

**Lombok, Indonesia
September 16-22, 2012**

Report

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held its 33rd General Assembly from September 16 to 22, 2012, in Lombok, Indonesia. The Canadian Parliament, which has observer status to AIPA, sent a joint delegation of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group (CJIG) and the Canada-China Legislative Association (CCLA). The CCLA was represented by its Co-Chair, the Honourable Donald Neil Plett, Senator, and the CJIG was represented by the Honourable JoAnne Buth, Senator. The Secretary to the delegation was Mr. Roger Préfontaine. SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and AIPA President, presided over the 33rd AIPA General Assembly.

The 33rd AIPA General Assembly was attended by delegations from AIPA Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam led by H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Haji Isa Ibrahim, Speaker of the Legislative Council, Kingdom of Cambodia led by H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly; Republic of Indonesia led by Hon. Mr. Priyo Budi Santoso, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives; Lao People's Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mme. Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Hj Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Myanmar led by Hon. Mr. Nyunt Tin, Chairman of the Committee of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw; Republic of the Philippines led by Hon. Mr. Victor F. Ortega, Chairman for the Inter Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy; Republic of Singapore led by H.E. Mr. Michael Anthony Palmer, Speaker of the Parliament; Thailand led by H.E. Mr. Somsak Kiatsuranont, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam led by H.E. Ms. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly.

Observer Delegations were from Australia led by Senator Lisa Singh; Belarus led by Hon. Mr. Viktor Guminsky; Canada led by Hon. Donald Neil Plett; People's Republic of China led by Hon. Mr. Zha Peixin; European Union Parliament led by Hon. Mr. Robert Goebbels; India led by Hon. Mr. Mohammad Asrarul Haque; Japan led by Hon. Mr. Nataniya Masayoshi; Republic of Korea led by Hon. Choung Byoung-gug; and Russian Federation led by H.E. Mr. Iliyas Umakhanov.

The Canadian delegation attended the first plenary session which incorporated statements by the leaders of all member countries, followed by those from all observer countries. The statement by Canada was delivered by the Honourable Senator Donald Neil Plett, Leader of the Canadian delegation. The speech highlights may be found in **Appendix A** of this report.

The conference held individual Committee sessions on the following subjects:

1. Political Matters
2. Economic Matters
3. Social Matters
4. Organizational Matters

Each observer nation's delegation participated in a dialogue meeting with representatives of the ASEAN member nations. The Canadian delegation met with their counterparts from the AIPA nations on Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The agenda for the dialogue meeting was the following:

1. Strengthening human resource development and capacity building;
2. Promote collaborates research and strategy transfer in agriculture, food and forestry procedure;
3. Energy issues and environmental aspects;
4. Strengthening efforts to address climate change adaptation needs;
5. Increasing Parliamentary Cooperation between AIPA Members and Observers

The dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Mr. Ung Huot with the appointment of Rapporteur, Hon. Mr. Chiep Sivorn. His report summarizing the discussion's main points was presented at the Second Plenary Session and is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

The Canadian delegation participated in the Second Plenary Session, which took place on the final day of the conference. During this session, all of the reports of the committees and observer dialogues were presented to and adopted by the plenary as well as the joint communiqué for the conference which is attached as **Appendix C**. The 34th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) will be held Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from September 15 to 21, 2013.

Conclusion

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is one of the world's fastest growing economic regions. Collectively, the economies of the ten ASEAN countries are approximately 10% larger than that of Canada and just slightly larger than that of Brazil. Moreover, the ASEAN nations have been identified as one Canada's priority markets. Canada's partnership with ASEAN nations dates back to 1977 and is committed to issues such as human rights, health, security, trade and investment. In July 2010, the adoption of a new 5-year Plan of Action did much to further cooperation on issues surrounding human rights, counterterrorism, and disaster management. Observer participation by Canada at conferences of this nature are a tremendous opportunity for Canadian Parliamentarians to be apprised of significant issues affecting ASEAN nations and to continue in exercising support while demonstrating Canada's commitment to the prosperous development of this most significant region.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Donald Neil Plett, Senator
Co-Chair, Canada-China
Legislative Association

Mike Wallace, M.P.,
Co-Chair, Canada-Japan
Inter-Parliamentary Group

APPENDIX A



ASEAN Inter-parliamentary assembly

33rd General Assembly

16 – 22 September 2012, Lombok, Indonesia

**Statement by Senator Donald Neil Plett
Leader of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation**

Mr. President,

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman.

Let me repeat what I said earlier; it is truly an honour and pleasure for us to here as part of this very important AIPA assembly.

I would again like to thank our hosts and the people of Lombok for their warm and friendly hospitality. We in Canada always need to learn from the warm Southeast-Asian hospitality.

Canada attaches great importance to parliamentary cooperation in its international relations. We have a well-established system of parliamentary associations and inter-parliamentary groups and we greatly value our participation as an observer in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Although we are an observer country, we do not consider that the value of our participation in the forum is in any way diminished by this role. As an observer, Canada acquires valuable knowledge of the region, and in turn, Canada shares its experiences on issues of common interest.

My colleagues and I look forward to the opportunities to meet with our parliamentary counterparts from Southeast Asia. With these annual meetings, were are presented with a unique forum for keeping abreast of events in the region and maintaining personal contacts with our parliamentary colleagues from the region. The relationship that we

develop through these contacts is critical to maintaining healthy relations between our countries.

Parliamentary visits have a crucial role to play in encouraging cooperation between our countries. Meeting our counterparts from other countries plays an on-going part in the work of Canadian parliamentarians to understand issues and influence government policy. They enable us to play a critical role that complements and enhances diplomatic initiatives undertaken by our government, and strengthen our ties to the region.

The Southeast Asian region is becoming increasingly more important to Canada. In addition to being a growing source of immigration to Canada, the region has also become a leading trading partner.

The ASEAN region was Canada's top source of new permanent residents in 2010.

- Over 43,000 originated in ASEAN countries that year--twice as many as in 2005
- Over 8,200 students from ASEAN studied in Canada in 2010, up by 21% since 2005
- There were nearly 50,000 foreign workers from ASEAN countries in Canada in 2010 that's nearly 18% of the total number of all foreign workers in Canada
- By 2015, the ASEAN economies will become a single market and production base.
- ASEAN has a combined population of 600 million people.
- Its membership forms the third-largest economy in Asia, after China and Japan.
- In 1977, ASEAN and Canada established a dialogue relationship.
- Canada is presently ASEAN's ninth-largest investor (\$1.6-billion) and 13th-largest trading partner (\$9.8-billion in 2010).
- The Canadian International Development Research Centre is funding the ASEAN-Canada Regional Research Program, in which many scholars from each side are engaged in mapping out fields of shared interest.

Canada has been delivering aid and technical expertise in partnership with ASEAN members for more than half a century. In 2009-2010 the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contributed \$144 million to development assistance projects and initiatives in countries of the Southeast Asian region, including ASEAN member states.

This increased exchange of people, goods, and services between Canada and the countries of Southeast Asia has led to increased cooperation in a whole range of areas.

We continue to work collaboratively in areas of common interest including the areas that have been the focus of the dialogue sessions at this gathering.

As parliamentarians, we continue to play key roles in advancing these common interests domestically and in international forums. Through parliamentary forums such

as this one we gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by our respective countries in these areas, and, as parliamentarians who are directly connected to the individuals affected by these challenges, we are uniquely positioned to propose solutions to these challenges.

It has been and continues to be a pleasure to participate in this forum and my colleagues and I look forward to future collaborative endeavours.

Thank you.

APPENDIX B



ASEAN Inter-parliamentary assembly

33rd General Assembly

16 – 22 September 2012, Lombok, Indonesia

REPORT ON DIALOGUE WITH CANADA

The AIPA Dialogue with Canada was chaired by Hon. Mr. Emil Abeng, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives. The dialogue started at 02.00 p.m. at Bima 3 Room, Santosa Hotel & Resort, Senggigi, Lombok, Indonesia, on 19 September 2012.

The dialogue meeting was attended by the following delegates:

DELEGATES OF OBSERVER: CANADA

- Hon. Mr. Donald Neil Plett (Senator/HOD)
- Hon. Ms. JoAnne L. Buth (Senator)
- Mr. Roger Préfontaine (Secretary)

DELEGATES OF AIPA MEMBER PARLIAMENTS

Brunei Darussalam

- Hon. Haji Zulkipli Haji Abdul Hamid (MP)
- Hon. Datin Hajah Salbiah Sulaiman (MP)

Cambodia

- Hon. Mr. Yang Sem (Senator)
- Hon. Mr. Peou Samy (MP)

Indonesia

- Hon. Ms. Harbiah Salahuddin (MP)
- Hon. Mr. Emil Abeng (MP)

Lao PDR

- Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena (MP)
- Hon. Ms. Thatsadaphone Sengsoulyya (MP)

Malaysia

- Hon. Ms. Nancy Shukri (MP)

Myanmar

- Hon. Mr. Nyunt Tin (MP/HOD)
- Mrs. Nan Ni Ni Aye (MP)
- Hon. Mr. Myint Hling (MP)

The Philippines

- Hon. Mr. Jun Omar Ebdane (MP)

Singapore

- Hon. Mr. Ang Wei Neng (MP)

Thailand

- Hon. Mr. Sunai Chulpongsatorn (MP)

Viet Nam

- Hon. Mr. Tran Du Lich (MP)
- Hon. Mrs. Dang Thi My Huong (MP)

The Meeting discussed the following issues:

- **Strengthening human resource development and capacity building.**

Relations between Canada and ASEAN Member States have gained further momentum with more planned collaborations. Energy, agriculture and trade continue to be the main themes of cooperation that also feature human resource development and capacity building through technical and educational assistances, collaboration in research and technology transfer. These strong co-operations have been made possible through combined efforts by parliaments of the respective countries. Education, especially for women, and gender equality are several themes on human rights that ASEAN and Canada have in common.

Furthermore, high level visits have allowed excellent bilateral relationship through various exchanges such as in the field of scientific researches and military trainings. In this regards, visa application is an issue that Canada has to seriously consider to enhance and improve relations with ASEAN Member States to allow for more travel exchange.

- **Promote collaborates research and strategy transfer in agriculture, food and forestry procedure.**

In order to share best practices on forestry, Canada has published Report on Forestry. Through this report, the AIPA Member Parliaments could gain insight into Canadian agriculture and forestry development.

- **Energy issues and environmental aspects.**

ASEAN and Canada are sharing common ground on energy and wish to advance the development of renewable and clean energy sector. ASEAN could learn from Canada on the energy sector, research and development through their Report on Energy since Canada is highly considered on clean water and environmental technologies.

- **Strengthening efforts to address climate change adaptation needs.**

Food security and climate change have become areas of concern for Canada and is now focused on adapting to climate change. Canada is committed to support environmental and climate change programs. Canada has supported some ASEAN Member States in various programs that include technical and financial assistance.

- **Increasing Parliamentary Cooperation between AIPA Member Parliaments and Observers.**

Canada echoes the heartfelt senses of camaraderie and working together to bring Canada and ASEAN Member States closer. In regards to the parliamentary cooperation, AIPA Member Parliaments wish that Canada will share their experience on energy policy drafting. In addition, the AIPA Member Parliaments asked Canada to share their plans and priorities in order to foster more cooperation.

As there were no further comments from any of delegates, the Chairperson called the dialogue session to close at 6:00. p.m.

The Report of the Dialogue with Canada is presented to the 33rd AIPA General Assembly.

SIGNED

HON. MR. EMIL ABENG

CHAIRPERSON

APPENDIX C



ASEAN Inter-parliamentary assembly

33rd General Assembly

16 – 22 September 2012, Lombok, Indonesia

33GA/2012/JC

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the decision of the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18-24 September 2011, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 33rd AIPA General Assembly was held in Lombok, Indonesia, on 16-22 September 2012 under the theme, “Strengthening the Parliamentary Roles towards ASEAN Community 2015”.

H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie, the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives and AIPA President, presided over the 33rd AIPA General Assembly.

WELCOME ADDRESS

In his welcoming address, the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie, briefly mentioned that the 33rd AIPA General Assembly is convened under the above theme to signify the vital roles of the legislatures in the transformation of ASEAN towards the integration of ASEAN by way of the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015.

He noted that it is important for AIPA to understand its position and influential role in the transformation of ASEAN. Therefore, AIPA has always been and will always adapt itself to the development of ASEAN in the forty-five years of its establishment. Consistency of the cooperation between ASEAN and AIPA is one of the aspects that also determine the success of various activities and efforts done by AIPA since the existence of AIPA is directly linked with the goals and existence of ASEAN, especially when it comes to the issues that directly impact the people in the region.

As the current President of AIPA, he shared the concerns of his predecessors on the need to contemplate on how to implement the main resolutions that AIPA produced, especially the ones that are directly linked with the transformation of ASEAN. We need to build an appropriate mechanism so that all the resolutions can be well implemented in both AIPA and ASEAN systems.

In his address as the Chairman of ASEAN, H. E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, extended his gratitude to H.E. Dr. H. Marzuki Alie for the invitation to this important General Assembly and appreciation of the organization of the 33rd General Assembly. The Meeting coincided with the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN and conveyed ASEAN's ongoing efforts toward building the ASEAN Community by 2015.

He mentioned that despite the aforementioned great achievements, ASEAN is still facing many challenges globally and regionally. Global challenges include, among others, fragile economic recovery of developed countries coupled with prolonged crisis in Europe, ongoing social and political turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, high oil prices, food and energy security, climate change, natural disasters, terrorism and international crime.

In addition to providing necessary supports for ASEAN, as the legislative institution representing the people, AIPA can also effectively convey the message to ASEAN peoples about what ASEAN has done for the benefits of our nations so as to inspire the spirit of "We belong to ASEAN".

In his welcoming address, the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Prof. Dr. Boediono, welcomed honorable delegates and distinguished guests. The Vice President highlighted the important roles of AIPA as the frontline institution to strengthen the position of ASEAN as a people-oriented organization. Parliamentarians, as representatives of their constituents, could disseminate the ASEAN vision, mission and development to their constituents in order to solidify the integration of ASEAN.

He noted the support extended by the AIPA toward the realization of Drug Free ASEAN 2015. It is expected that AIPA could implement the resolutions of AIPA Fact Finding Committee to Combat the Drugs Menace, adopted in Yogyakarta in July 2012.

He pointed out that the key to achieve the common goals of ASEAN is synergy between different components within ASEAN. It is expected that AIPA-ASEAN relationship and cooperation will further be developed as reflected through annual meetings between the Head of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Leaders in the ASEAN Summits. The strong commitment of AIPA and ASEAN has been shown through, inter-alia, the attendance of ASEAN Chair H.E. Hun Sen in the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA.

The Vice President concluded his remarks by extending his expectation that the results achieved in the AIPA meetings could be conveyed regularly to the Chairman and Leaders of ASEAN to ensure that the results receive attentions from all ASEAN's stakeholders.

OPENING ADDRESS

The President of AIPA and Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie, opened the 33rd General Assembly on 17 September 2012. The

President highlighted the significance of the 33rd General Assembly in Strengthening the Parliamentary Roles towards ASEAN Community 2015.

DELEGATIONS

The Delegations from **Brunei Darussalam** led by H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Isa Ibrahim, Speaker of the Legislative Council, the **Kingdom of Cambodia** led by H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, Speaker of the National Assembly; **Republic of Indonesia**, led by H.E. Priyo Budi Santoso, Vice Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives; **Lao People's Democratic** Republic led by H.E. Mme. Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly; Malaysia led by H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Hj Mulia, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by Hon. Nyunt Tin, Chairman of the ASEAN Political Security Community Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw; Republic of the Philippines led by Hon. Victor F. Ortega, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy; Republic of Singapore led by H.E. Michael Anthony Palmer, Speaker of the Parliament; the Kingdom of Thailand led by H.E. Somsak Kiatsuranont, Speaker of the National Assembly; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam led by H.E. Mrs. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly.

Also present were Special Observer Delegations from Australia led by Senator Lisa Singh; **Belarus** led by Hon. Viktor Guminsky; **Canada** led by Senator Donald Neil Plett; People's **Republic of China** led by Hon. Zha Peixin; **European Parliament** led by Hon. Robert Goebbels; India led by Hon. Mohammad Asrarul Haque; **Japan** led by Hon. Nataniya Masayoshi; **Republic of Korea** led by Hon. Chung Byoung-gug; and the **Russian Federation** led by Hon. Iliyas Umakhanov.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee Meeting was convened to review the agenda items of the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA, adopted in the AIPA Executive Committee Meeting in Yogyakarta in July 2012. In conjunction with the issue of South China Sea, the Meeting agreed to change the agenda item of "Solution to the South China Sea Problem" to "Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Region".

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As stipulated in article 8 of the Statutes, the heads of delegations of other National Parliaments shall sit as Vice-Presidents. In the event that the President of the AIPA is unable to preside at the General Assembly for any reason whatsoever, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside over the Assembly.

MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT

The 33rd General Assembly of AIPA received the messages from the following Heads of State/Government: H.M. SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH, SULTAN and YANG DI-PERTUAN of Brunei Darussalam; H.M. PREAH BAT SAMDECH PREAH BOROMNEATH NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia; H.E. Dr. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, President of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. CHOUMMALY SAYASONE, President of the Lao People's Democratic

Republic; H.E. DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK, Prime Minister of Malaysia; H.E. U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; **H.E. Mr. BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Republic of the Philippines**; H.E. Dr. TONY TAN, President of the **Republic of Singapore**; H.E. Ms. YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA, Prime Minister of the **Kingdom of Thailand**; H.E. Mr. TRUONG TAN SANG, President of the **Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**.

STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

The Heads of the Delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly.

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed the point made by His Excellency Prof. Dr. Boediono, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia. Among other things, Brunei Darussalam stressed the important role that AIPA can play, and reiterated its support and cooperation with ASEAN towards achieving ASEAN Community by 2015.

It is incumbent upon AIPA to continuously support ASEAN's Initiatives towards the realization of the ASEAN Community, based on the three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by 2015. Since the transformation and renaming of AIPO to AIPA, this Assembly has approved and adopted over 700 resolutions. Those resolutions must be endorsed for implementation. Indeed, the meetings between ASEAN Heads of States/Governments and AIPA Leaders in previous ASEAN Summits have strengthened AIPA-ASEAN and indirectly the Executive-Legislature cooperation, reinforcing the collective efforts to build people-centered and rules-based community.

The year 2013 will be a historic year for Brunei Darussalam. For the first time, Brunei Darussalam will be entrusted with the Chairmanship of the 34th AIPA next year. In the same year, Brunei Darussalam will also receive the mandate of chairing the ASEAN Summit. Brunei Darussalam views this Chairmanship as a great honour and is certain that this will foster stronger cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN towards ASEAN Integration.

Kingdom of Cambodia

Cambodia stated that the existence of parliaments stems from elections in which their members are elected by citizens. Therefore, they are very important organs that represent the voice of people, to bring forward the common goals of people and to take into account and to seek agreed solutions to promote human rights, and democracy, as well as to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity in our region. Cambodia strongly believed that in maintaining our initiatives of transforming AIPA into a more effective and closely integrated institution, working side by side with ASEAN will spearhead more cohesive implementation of AIPA's internal policies and work towards the realization of AIPA's common and strong future.

According to the report of the AIPA Caucus, it is noted that the Governments of the ASEAN Member States have been actively working towards the goal of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015, in line with the common goal of AIPA, through adopting a number of resolutions serving the common interests and benefits of the peoples in our region.

Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia highlighted the consistency of AIPA in playing its roles and efforts as the constructive partner for ASEAN to materialize a more peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asian region. Indonesia realized that peoples of ASEAN are still facing several challenges. The issues of money laundering, challenges over implementation of green economy, poverty alleviation, development gap and initiatives to increase the role of women parliamentarians in the South East Asia. Recognizing the different stages of development in different ASEAN Countries, Indonesia emphasized the importance of working collectively to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Indonesia also highlighted the need to strengthen the key roles of the women parliamentarians of AIPA. Gender aspects must be mainstreamed in all parliamentary legislative, oversight and budgetary functions. Furthermore, the role of parliamentarians of AIPA in all aspects of regional cooperation should be enhanced.

In terms of current development of regional and international stability, Indonesia underlined the demonstrations occurred in some diplomatic objects in the Middle East that were caused by a provocative film entitled "Innocence of Muslims". Indonesia deplored this provocative action by the producer of the film and, at the same time, requested all peoples of ASEAN to maintain peace and harmony in responding to this development.

In addition, Indonesia extended her utmost gratitude to Myanmar that had provided comprehensive clarification on the issue of Rohingya. Indonesia is confident that the Parliament and Government of Myanmar will conduct their best endeavors to seek solution of this issue.

To conclude the statement, Indonesia expressed high expectation that the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA will be of benefits to ASEAN and produce concrete resolutions that are to be manifested into policies in each AIPA Member Parliaments.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lao PDR stated that AIPA has played an important role in building trust and understanding between the parliaments and the peoples of ASEAN, and has actively contributed to the promotion of peace, friendship and cooperation for sustainable development. AIPA had expanded its cooperation with many ASEAN organizations; and dialogue between AIPA and ASEAN is being strengthened in both horizontal and vertical dimensions toward the realization of ASEAN Community by 2015. This is a community of "Caring and Sharing", and therefore, it requires us to enhance solidarity and capacity of self-reliance striving to improve the living conditions of the people.

However, AIPA is facing challenges which require its Member Parliaments to maintain strong bond of solidarity, aiming at economic growth with social harmony and the protection of environment.

Lao PDR is now in its half way of the implementation of the 7th five-year national social-economic development plan ; strategies set out in this plan are well integrated with the goals of AIPA and ASEAN, namely the promotion of economic development which is balanced with social development and sustainable protection of natural environment, ensuring political stability, accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals and active integration with the region and the world.

Malaysia

Commenting on the host's effort to choose this beautiful place and to make the Assembly successful, the Speaker emphasized on achieving ASEAN Community by 2015 and deep involvement of the peoples. Besides widening networking by inviting representatives from Pan African Parliament, ASEAN Parliamentarians must play important parts.

We inculcated the meanings of the Community among the public, through civil society organizations, extensive travels, mutual understanding and closer ties.

ASEAN must close the economic gaps among ASEAN communities, such as sharing economic ties, increasing trade and economic cooperation in the context of modern economy.

ASEAN should learn from the successes and failures of regional communities such as the EU health programmes to reduce health inequality, housing and education policies. Malaysia recognized the pitfalls of EU monetary union without fiscal union, resulting in crisis.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar briefly described the current development in its parliament, in which they have abolished and amended twelve laws deemed unsuitable for the new democratic society. In addition, the Myanmar parliament has enacted and promulgated sixteen new laws which will be more appropriate for the new system and society. Myanmar parliament has also strengthened its budgetary role and given special preference to the social sector, including education and health.

The unfortunate misunderstanding that occurred in Rakhine State, the western part of Myanmar, a few months ago was also explained in brief. The communal unrest between the ethnic Rakhines (Buddhist) and Bangalis (Muslim) was not a racial or religious issue but merely a violence between two races of different origin and religious beliefs due to non-discretionary manner. The issue of Rohingya has also been clarified, in which that race does not exist in the History of Myanmar. The Union & Rakhine State Governments took great care in controlling the situation, without any discrimination of race and religion. Thus, the situation has become conducive. Now the government is making efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction of settlements. To conclude the remarks, Myanmar reiterated its commitment to AIPA.

Republic of the Philippines

The Philippines pointed out that setting up an ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary cooperation to address many shared socio-economic and political problems was a formidable task, but with the supports of different parliaments through AIPA, this is achievable and could

contribute to the attainment of the goals of ASEAN. In fact, the robust economic performance of the South East Asian region is the cause for celebration.

The roles of SMEs in attaining sustainable economic development cannot be overemphasized. The SMEs are the key drivers to ASEAN's economic resilience in the face of the ongoing global economic slowdown. The Philippines wishes that this General Assembly would prioritize strategies towards SME development and further advance reforms so that SMEs can have better access to technology, financing and global marketing.

The 33rd General Assembly is an opportunity to exchange knowledge and propose appropriate and timely solutions to issues relating to poverty reduction, sustainable development and environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, women empowerment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development. AIPA reflects the voice and demands of the peoples of ASEAN ; therefore, a stronger partnership between ASEAN and AIPA is imperative. On peace and security, the Philippines reiterated that it is fully committed to peaceful and rules based resolutions to territorial disputes. The Philippines called on AIPA to contribute meaningfully to finding a diplomatic solution to the dispute in the West Philippines Sea. AIPA is in a position to support and create the environment for the early conclusion of a legally binding agreement that will govern the conduct of parties in the disputed territory, consistent with the principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Republic of Singapore

Singapore pointed out that ASEAN has fostered peace and stability in the South East Asia and this has become a vital strategic imperative for the region. With peace and stability comes economic development. By 2015, ASEAN is envisioned to be a highly competitive region that is firmly plugged into the world economy. In creating an ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN must continue to press on with removing unnecessary regulations and barriers to trade as well as liberalization of services.

The implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity is indeed an ambitious initiative. Thus, ASEAN needs to work closely with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to fully realize the implementation of this initiative. ASEAN must also continue to enhance ASEAN's external economic linkages. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) would be a significant improvement in enhancing market access to the region.

Singapore finally noted that, for establishing the ASEAN Community, peoples of ASEAN must increasingly internalize a sense of ASEAN citizenship. In order for wider international community to believe in ASEAN, then our peoples of ASEAN must also understand and appreciate its common goals and objectives. ASEAN Parliamentarians can do more to promote greater engagement among ASEAN citizens. What is important is that ASEAN focus on the commonalities, and not let the differences tear it apart. Singapore hoped that ASEAN Member States work together in the spirit of mutual cooperation to further the interests of ASEAN and its peoples.

Kingdom of Thailand

Thailand noted a significant progress in the development of the works of AIPA colleagues during the Executive Committee meeting and the 9th AIFOCCOM meeting. Establishing external relations and initiative for the Technical Working Group of AIFOCCOM are evidences of AIPA's willingness to step up onto another degree of cooperation.

A relationship between AIPA and ASEAN from the top level, the AIPA – ASEAN meeting during ASEAN Summit to AIPA – ASEAN retreat in Bali, and the working level of national secretariats, has now furthered the AIPA's capacity and intensity to extend areas of cooperation. It is aimed to stabilize a cordial partnership in dynamic development and to establish a constant, continuing, and beneficial framework with ASEAN at all levels. This is the ultimate goal of AIPA in a community-building process, the ASEAN Community.

Thailand also admitted that AIPA still has a great number of works to do. However, it is believed that, with political will and enthusiasms from member countries, as shown in the 33rd AIPA General Assembly, there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

The Thai AIPA National Group committed to work together with the other Member Countries, observer countries, and AIPA Secretariat in order to tackle challenges and bring about a new page of AIPA's cooperation.

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Viet Nam stated that, given the complicated developments in the international economic-political-security landscape in 2012, ASEAN countries should continue to accelerate efforts in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community by 2015, while strengthening solidarity, integration and preserving ASEAN's central role in the regional cooperation processes, effectively addressing emerging challenges, especially threats to regional peace, security and stability.

Viet Nam also stressed that AIPA needs to continue to promote its strengths as a supporting institution and important consultative channel for ASEAN in all three pillars of the ASEAN Political-Security community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. At the same time, AIPA must hold high unity and consensus in addressing common challenges to regional peace, security and stability, including the South China Sea issue. The 33rd AIPA General Assembly has built upon its continuous efforts in maintaining regional peace and security, promoting economic integration and development to lay firm foundation for the ASEAN community 2015. From parliamentary perspective, Viet Nam expressed its view that there is a need to enhance the culture of compliance, perfect and harmonize legal systems in the region, monitor the effective implementation of programs and plans contained in the roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2015 as well as to mainstream this objective into national development plans of each member country.

While confirming that Viet Nam is always a pro-active, positive and responsible member who has been working closely with other fellow ASEAN members towards the goal of successfully establishing the ASEAN community by 2015, Viet Nam has pledged to continue to make effective contributions to common efforts aimed at further enhancing

the AIPA's role in the process towards an ASEAN Community of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.

STATEMENTS OF THE LEADERS OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND GUESTS OF THE HOST

The full texts of statements of the Leaders of Observer Countries and the Guests of the Host are attached to the ***Appendix M and N.***

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

The WAIPA Meeting discussed three draft resolutions, proposed by Indonesia in a constructive manner. During the elaboration, some countries shared their best practices on the women-related issues. At the end, the Meeting successfully adopted the draft Resolutions. The elaboration is as follows:

Resolution on Supporting the ASEAN Member States in Strengthening their Collaboration in Implementing the MDGs Roadmap to Narrow Development Gaps within and among ASEAN Member States

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA state their full supports to ensure the implementation of government's programs that provide better access in financing small and medium enterprises with gender-sensitive approach to accelerate the achievements of MDGs.

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA reaffirms their commitments to continue taking collective actions at keeping regional and national stakeholders focused on the attainment of MDGs and shall conduct annual joint meeting among MDGs task forces within each AIPA Member Parliament and share MDGs progress in ASEAN Member States to determine necessary actions towards the timely and effective achievement of MDGs.

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA shall continue raising public awareness on the importance of obtaining higher education and building healthy and strong families in their respective constituencies.

Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Enhancing Pro-Women Policies in the Sectors of Economics, Health and Education

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA confirm that economy, health and education are substantial sectors in the development of countries and pro-women policies must be ensured in each sector to improve

the quality of life of women, and further consider that economic pressures often become the cause of violence against women; therefore, women have to be given equal opportunity in building state economic security.

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA are entitled to give continuous supports to their respective governments, by optimizing their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions on pro-women policies, which promote gender mainstreaming and equality in all sectors, particularly in respective parliaments and in the public administration such as economy, health and education.

Women Parliamentarians of ASEAN Member States are urged to play active role to increase women representatives in parliament, and to inspire, develop and mentor young women in their respective countries as well as to encourage them to participate in political activities.

Resolution on Enhancing Capacity Building by Training Relevant and Specific Skills for Women in the Rural Areas

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA consider that women in rural areas play significant role in poverty reduction, in enhancing rural economic development, in supporting proper education in rural areas, in ensuring the sustainability of children's food and nutrition;

Women Parliamentarians of ASEAN Member States shall enhance the capacity and skills of women in rural areas to increase their income level and to ensure the access to health care and economic empowerment as well as to raise awareness to maintain a good quality of life;

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA shall support their respective governments in combating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and in promoting gender equality in rural areas as well as exercising gender mainstreaming in policy-design and projects implementation.

POLITICAL MATTERS

Resolution on Encouraging ASEAN Member States to Actively Enhance Public Awareness and Promote Greater People Participation including Civil Society in ASEAN Community Building.

The Committee encourages the AIPA Member Parliaments to support the efforts of Government of ASEAN Member States and relevant bodies in ASEAN in facilitating the active and constructive participation of the people, including Civil Society Organizations affiliated with ASEAN in ASEAN Community Building. It recommends the effective utilization of the Information Communication Technologies to extend dialogue and communication between ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders and CSOs. It also encourages the ASEAN Foundation to support the works of CSOs involvement in the promotion of ASEAN identity and awareness and people-to-people interactions, not only within ASEAN but also between ASEAN and its friends and partners.

Resolution on Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Region

The Committee fully supports the commitment and efforts of ASEAN Member States in maintaining peace and stability in the region. It further requested AIPA Member Parliaments to fully support and encourage ASEAN Member States, in the spirit of solidarity, partnership and unity, to intensify consultations in finding peaceful resolutions on regional issues consistent with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (1976), the ASEAN Charter (2008) and the Statement of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on ASEAN Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, issued on 20 July 2012 in Phnom Penh.

Report of the 20th ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Committee Meeting agreed to adopt the Report by the Cambodian Delegation on the outcome of the 20th ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. All delegations support the idea of adopting the Report of the 20th ASEAN Summit.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

Resolution on Regional Efforts & Cooperation against Money Laundering

The Committee calls upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislative measures and other necessary parliamentary actions against money laundering to promote robust anti-money laundering regimes in their respective countries. It also called on ASEAN Member States to strengthen cooperation among their judicial and law enforcement agencies through bilateral mutual legal assistance and extradition treaties and/or through effective implementation of the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters. Further, the Committee urges the ASEAN Finance Ministers, the Heads of ASEAN Central Banks and related institutions to promote comprehensive domestic and regional regulatory and supervisory regimes that could deter and detect money laundering in all its forms.

Resolution on the Creation of a Green Economy to Promote Sustainable Development

The Committee calls on ASEAN Member States to recognize that green economic policies may further enhance their regional commitment to achieve their sustainable development measures and to actively respond to global climate change based on the Common-but Differentiated Responsibilities principle of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). It recommends ASEAN Member States to promote bilateral and multilateral exchanges to improve the implementation of green economic policies, and to take policies and coordinating actions to ensure that they benefit from the use of green economy, and at the same time, to promote sustainable development. It also encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to take more active roles to ensure that the implementation of green economy shall help to reduce poverty and promote social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and at the same time, help to promote sustainable development.

Resolution on Adopting Strategies for Poverty Eradication and an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

The Committee calls on ASEAN Member States to expedite the comprehensive implementation of ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015), to help eradicate poverty and encourage the creation of self-reliant rural communities, in order to stimulate empowerment of poor peoples. Further, it calls on AIPA Member Countries to revive the spirit of “ASEAN help ASEAN” by providing supports to development projects in ASEAN Less Developed Countries (LDCs) with soft loans and/or grants, transfer of related knowledge, skills and technology on poverty eradication, and including financing for sustainable development. It also encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to be involved in adopting necessary legislation, formulating policies, providing appropriate budget and supervising the implementation of poverty eradication programs, as well as requesting respective

government's reports on budget use and progress made in achieving poverty eradication.

Resolution on Better Access to Technology, Market and Especially Financing, for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

The Committee supports the full implementation of ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SMEs Development 2010-2015. It requires AIPA Member Parliaments to disseminate information on regional and international economic development as well as opportunities and challenges, including FTA-related information on the liberalization of trade and investment within ASEAN, as well as among ASEAN and its partners for the benefits of SMEs, through the roles of parliamentarians as public figures in their respective constituencies. It calls upon the AIPA Member Parliaments to enhance parliamentary supports to provide SMEs, including women-owned SMEs, better access to technology, markets and financing to strengthen their competitiveness in the global market.

SOCIAL MATTERS

Resolution on Enhancing Public Awareness and Promoting Public Participation in Programs Related to Disaster Risk-Reduction and Emergency Response to Promote Community Resilience to Disasters

ASEAN Member States are exposed to extreme climate change and natural disasters. These challenges pose threats to ASEAN Members. Hence, enhancing public awareness and promoting public participation as a foundation to minimize risk of disasters, including promoting the inclusion of disaster-risk reduction efforts and climate change in educational curriculum in the effort to build public capacities to adapt to climate change. ASEAN Member States are encouraged to strengthen regional cooperation in providing assistance and resources for emergency response, in support to the government and people of affected country. Furthermore, AIPA Member Parliaments are requested to create and develop relevant legislation and policies that promote and provide necessary guidelines for public participation in disaster-risk reduction and emergency response.

Resolution on Promoting the Development and Transfer of Low-Carbon and Environment-Friendly Technology Research

The Committee urges the AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to take efficient and effective measures to address the adverse effects of climate change and to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by promoting low-carbon development policy and environment-friendly technology. Furthermore, it is imperative for the AIPA Member Parliaments to develop and improve laws and regulations on the distribution of finance and human resources for promoting the development and transfer of low-carbon and environmentally-friendly technology research, in harmony with the climate change adaptation programs and objectives being implemented in AIPA Member Parliaments. It also urges the AIPA Member Parliaments to continue to develop the diversification of energy with the use of alternative fuels other than petroleum, and to promote energy conservation by improving energy efficiency.

Report of the Ninth Meeting of AIFOCOM held in Indonesia and Proposed Format of Country and Parliamentary Progress Report as Mandated by the Ninth Meeting of AIFOCOM

The Committee Meeting agreed to adopt the Report of the Ninth Meeting of AIFOCOM held in Indonesia and proposed Format of Country and Parliamentary Progress Report as mandated by the Ninth Meeting of AIFOCOM

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Secretariat Annual Report FY 2011/2012;

The Committee approved the Secretariat Annual Report for FY 2011-2012 submitted by the Secretary General.

Secretariat's Financial Reports for Period of 1st July 2011 to 30th September 2011, 1st October 2010 to 30th September 2011, 1st October 2011 to 30th June 2012 and Estimated Expenditure for 1st July 2012 to 30th September 2012

The Committee approved four Financial Reports of the AIPA Secretariat for the periods, 1st July 2011 to 30th September 2011, 1st October 2010 to 30th September 2011, 1st October 2011 to 30th June 2012 and the estimated expenditure for 1st July 2012 to 30th September 2012. The Committee has urged the AIPA Secretariat General to operate with surplus budget rather than deficit budgets unless it is necessary.

AIPA Secretariat's Budget Proposal for the period 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013 (FY 2012/2013)

The Committee approved the budget proposal for FY 2012-2013 in the amount of USD 382,877.50 (US Dollars Three Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy Seven and fifty cents), which is an increase of USD 83,162.50 (US Dollars Eighty Three Thousand and One Hundred Sixty Two and Fifty Cents). The Committee requested the AIPA Secretary General to exercise prudence in managing the finance and to stay within the budget.

The Secretary General's Term of Office

The Committee acknowledged that the three-year term of office of the second AIPA Secretary General, Antonio Veloso Cuenco, from the Philippines, will end on 5 February 2013, according to the Working Agreement of the Secretary General. Accordingly, the Committee requested Singapore to nominate the Third Secretary General to be appointed by the President of AIPA. The term of office of co-terminus position will also end on 5 February 2013. The new Secretary General should begin his/her term of office on 1 March 2013.

The Committee has suggested that the term of office of the Secretary General should well be defined in the Statutes of AIPA, as to when it will begin and end.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Hon. Antonio Veloso Cuenco for his leadership during his term of office. The Committee also expressed its confidence for Singapore to effectively fulfill the mandates of the office of the 3rd Secretary General of AIPA.

Report of the 4th AIPA Caucus held in Thailand

The Committee adopted the Report of the 4th AIPA Caucus hosted by Thailand in Bangkok from 30 April to 3 May 2012. The committee congratulated the National Assembly of Thailand for successfully hosting the 4th AIPA Caucus. The Committee also noted that the National Assembly of Vietnam will host the 5th AIPA Caucus.

Establishment of Technical Working Group of AIFOCOM

The Committee agreed to establish the proposed Technical Working Group mandated to support and assist the work of AIFOCOM and to enhance the AIPA contribution to the regional efforts in addressing the menace of illicit drugs and realizing a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015. The Committee agreed that the host country will bear the expenses of the Technical Working Group and AIPA Member Parliaments will bear the travel expenses.

Establishment of Cooperation between AIPA and the ASEAN Foundation

The Committee agreed to establish cooperation between AIPA and the ASEAN Foundation with the purpose of supporting ASEAN Community building by promoting greater awareness of the ASEAN identity, people-to-people interaction and close collaboration among ASEAN stakeholders.

Relation and Cooperation between AIPA and Pan African Parliament

The Committee expressed unanimous approval on the establishment of relations and cooperation between the AIPA and the Pan-African Parliament to promote solidarity, understanding, cooperation and close relations among parliamentary organizations.

Proposal of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network and Freeland Foundation for a Technical Cooperation with the AIPA to Develop a “Green Legislative Agenda” to Save from Further Decline ASEAN’s Bio-diversity

The proposal of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network and Freeland Foundation for a technical cooperation with the AIPA to develop a “green legislative agenda” to save from further decline of ASEAN’s bio-diversity was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Date and Venue of the 34th AIPA General Assembly

The Brunei Darussalam Delegation informed the meeting that the 34th General Assembly will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 15 to 21 September 2013.

Appreciating the Services of H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie as AIPA President from September 2011 to September 2012

The Committee expressed its appreciation and gratitude to H.E Dr. Marzuki Alie for his excellent leadership of AIPA during his term of office as the President of AIPA.

DIALOGUES WITH OBSERVER COUNTRIES

The Assembly, through its dialogue panels, conducted separate meetings with Observer Parliaments, namely: Australia, Belarus, Canada, People’s Republic of China, European Parliament, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation.

34th AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of Brunei Darussalam to host the 34th General Assembly to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 15-21 September 2013.

APPRECIATION TO THE HOST COUNTRY

The Delegations attending the Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the Indonesian people, and also the local authorities and the people of Mataram Lombok for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 33rd AIPA General Assembly.

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-China Legislative Association and Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
ACTIVITY	33 rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
DESTINATION	Lombok, Indonesia
DATES	September 16-22, 2012
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Donald Neil Plett Hon. JoAnne Buth
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Roger Préfontaine
TRANSPORTATION	\$25,381.94
ACCOMMODATION	\$1,131.50
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$1,521.71
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$358.98
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$14.69
TOTAL	\$28,408.82