



**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
10 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2006 ▲ CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

**PRESENTATION ON**  
**THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE**  
**TRANSFORMATION OF AIPO INTO A MORE EFFECTIVE AND CLOSELY**  
**INTEGRATED INSTITUTION**

**BY**

**HON. dr. H. ABDUL GAFUR**

**Honourable Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr,**  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, President of AIPO**  
**Distinguished Delegations**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great honour and a distinct privilege for me, as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Closely Integrated Institution, to take this opportunity to present the report of the outcomes of its meetings.

As mandated by the 26<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly in Vientiane, Laos, September 2006, the AIPO Ad-Hoc Committee undertook fundamental tasks to develop a transformation process of AIPO toward ensuring its effectiveness and relevance. Such transformation is indeed a prerequisite for AIPO to better perform as an organization that could address opportunities and challenges in line with the dynamic in the South-east Asian Region, particularly toward the attaining the ASEAN Community.

Pursuant to this mandate, the Ad-Hoc Committee has met twice on March 2006 in Bali and on July 2006 in Jakarta. In between these meetings, Technical Working Group meeting was also convened to undertake specific tasks mandated by the Committee.

**Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before presenting the report, allow me first to provide you with historical background of a long journey to the idea of transforming AIPO:

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly held in Jakarta, 26 years ago, the Philippines delegation had proposed the strategic idea of the establishment of ASEAN Parliament. Since then, this proposal had become the topic under discussion of AIPO General Assemblies.

The 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1982 in Kuala Lumpur had recognized that the Establishment of an ASEAN Parliament was a long term objective and required a thorough study.

The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur in 1988 accepted to discuss the idea of establishing ASEAN Parliament with a view to bring the nations of ASEAN closer together.

To follow up, the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1991, in Jakarta, entrusted Thai AIPO National Group to conduct an in-depth study of the merits and demerits of an ASEAN Parliament.

The 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur in 1993 noted the report submitted by the Thai AIPO National Group and realized that the establishment of an ASEAN Parliament in the model of the European Parliament is not viable proportion at that time.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 2001 in Bangkok has proposed to undertake a study on the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN Parliament. The feasibility Study had conducted by an AIPO delegation at the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg March 2002.

The 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2003 in Jakarta noted the Philippines' report and realized that ASEAN is not ready for its consideration at that point of time. In addition, it resolved to leave the matter to individual member Parliaments to further study the matter and report to the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly .

At the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia resolved to set up a study Committee with a clear mandate to explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Parliament.

In this context, the 25<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly in 2004 marked the new start for bridging the revitalization of this idea. The meetings of this study committee in Chiang May and Bangkok respectively, have determined the roadmap to establish the ASEAN Parliament as the long term goal and therefore resolved to proceed with the transformation in advance.

In this regard to proceed with the transformation process, the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Vientiane, Lao PDR had mandated the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Closely Integrated Institution and mandated Indonesia as the host of its two meetings.

Let me therefore present the outcomes of the Ad-Hoc Committee before the distinguished delegates and observers of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

If we are to ensure that AIPO could be functioned more effective and as a closely integrated institution, the only option available is to amend the 1977 AIPO Statute. For that purpose, some essential elements to be amended as follows:

**First**, to strengthen the organizational structural of AIPO consisting of General Assembly, Presidency, the Executive Committee, Committees and Secretariat as stated in the Article 5.

**Second**, to strengthen the function of the General Assembly as envisioned in the article 6 and 7.

**Third**, to empower the AIPO President to among others, attend ASEAN Summits and provide the authority to take initiative of convening the Executive Committee meetings upon request by the members Parliaments of AIPO to discuss urgent matters. (article 8, chapter 9 article 3)

**Fourth**, the Secretary General should be permanent and appointed by the General Assembly for a three years term on rotational basis in alphabetical order (article 13). The Secretary General should reside at the country where the AIPO Secretariat is located.

**Fifth**, to establish national secretariat or designate a representative by respective members of the AIPO (article 14)

**Sixth**, Indonesia considers the need to change the name of AIPO in order to adequately reflect the transformed AIPO. In this regard, Indonesia proposes to change the name of AIPO into AIPA (in the preamble), while the Philippines proposes to change it into ASEAN Parliamentary Council and some other proposes to keep it as is. Since there is no consensus on this issue, the committee agreed to forward this matter to the General Assembly for its decision.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Ad-hoc Committee meetings also deliberated and approved the following draft resolutions to be considered and adopted by the General Assembly.

**First**, Resolution on the Common Legislative Initiatives on the Pandemic Diseases as the first test case and Draft Resolution on Common Legislative Initiatives on Improving the Quality, Standard and Quantity of the Agriculture Product.

**Second**, the Guidelines for a Regular Reciprocal Attendance in AIPO General Assemblies and ASEAN Summits by AIPO and ASEAN Leaders and its draft resolution.

**Third**, draft resolution on the Guidelines and criteria of the appointment of the Secretary General of AIPO. In the amended Statute, the Secretary General will be elected by the General Assembly. In this context, the Ad-Hoc Committee prepared a draft resolution to recommend to the General Assembly to empower and give a mandate to the incoming AIPO President from Malaysia to appoint a Secretary General within three months after the adoption of the amended Statute. The Secretary General should fulfill some requirements such as high qualification and experiences in parliamentary diplomacy as well as excellent administrative skill.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Those are some important outcomes that the Ad-Hoc Committee have submitted to the AIPO Secretariat for further discussion and adoption by the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

It is hoped that the General Assembly could task the related committees to discuss and adopt the drafts resolutions. Most important thing is the discussion on the amendment of AIPO Statute. If this can be discussed and adopted as well as signed by each Head of Delegation, it will become part of the AIPO's fundamental turning point. This, Mr. President, reminded all of us on a historic moment that happened 26 years ago in Jakarta. The head delegation of the Philippines came with an idea on a possibility to establish an ASEAN Parliament and today I am delighted to bring the message of the Ad Hoc Committee on the transformation of the AIPO into a more effective and closely integrated institution from Jakarta. The message delivered here in the beautiful city of Cebu, the Philippines, provides a solid roadmap toward a possibility of establishing an ASEAN Parliament. Based on this roadmap, one day, probably in the next 20 to 30 years from now, our idea and dream to establish an ASEAN Parliament will come true.

With this report, Mr. President, I declare the task and mission of the AIPO Ad-Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Integrated Institution is accomplished.

Thank you.