



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2006 ▲ CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

1. The 27th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) was held on 10-15 September, 2006 in Cebu City, Philippines pursuant to the decision of the 26th General Assembly of AIPO held on 18-23 September 2005, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPO.
2. The Assembly was attended by delegations from eight (8) member countries, namely: **Cambodia** headed by **H.E Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Indonesia** headed by **H.E. H.R. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Laos** headed by **H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, President of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia** headed by **Hon. Datuk Lim Si Cheng, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives of Malaysia, the Philippines** headed by **Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco, Chairman, 27th AIPO Organizing Committee and the Committee of Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore** headed by **H.E. Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of Singapore, Thailand** headed by **H.E. Suchon Chaleekure, President of the Senate and Acting President of the Thai Parliament** and **Vietnam** headed by **H.E. Nguyen Phu Trong, President of the National Assembly**; as well as two (2) special observer countries, namely: **Brunei Darussalam** headed by **Hon. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Haji Kemaludin ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yassin, Speaker of the Legislative Council** and **Union of Myanmar** headed by **H.E. Dr. Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney General.**

Also present were delegations from parliaments of nine (9) observer countries, namely: **Australia** headed by **Hon. Peter Slipper, Canada** headed by **Hon. Joseph Day, People's Republic of China** headed by **Hon. Wang Yingfan, European Parliament** headed by **Hon. Hartmut Nassauer, Japan** headed by **Akio Koizumi, Republic of Korea** headed by **Hon. Kim Young-Sun, New Zealand** headed by **Hon. Dr. Richard Worth, Papua New Guinea** headed by **Hon. Bob Dadae, and Russian Federation** headed by **Hon. Boris Plokhotnyuk.**

Also present were **H.E. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General, ASEAN, and Hon. Manuel M. Garcia, Mr. AIPO.**

3. The Women Parliamentarians of AIPO (WAIPO) met on 10 September 2006 prior to the Opening Ceremony of the 27th General Assembly.

4. H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines, in his capacity as President of AIPO presided over the 27th General Assembly.

OPENING CEREMONY

5. H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., President of AIPO and Speaker, House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines welcomed the delegates and guests to the 27th AIPO General Assembly.

In his opening statement, Speaker de Venecia highlighted that in a year of breakthrough, the ASEAN has decisively moved towards a closer union in response to economic and security imperatives and in this movement towards a regional community, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) has played a crucial role inasmuch as only AIPO could provide the parliamentary and constituency support for ASEAN's vision of transforming the ten (10) member states into one caring and sharing community. He stressed that AIPO has been helping raise awareness of the ASEAN among the peoples of the region through its interaction with civil society groups with regard to the draft ASEAN Charter, educating young people in ASEAN civics, and initiating instruments for counter-terrorism and disaster management. He further stressed that as a member of AIPO, the Philippines has sought the creation of an *Interfaith Council* in the United Nations system and has advanced a debt for Millennium Development Goals (MDG) proposal. In conclusion he maintained that with all these vital initiatives, the AIPO is increasingly regarded as the precursor of an ASEAN Parliament.

6. A video keynote address was delivered by H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President, Republic of the Philippines.

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed everyone to the Philippines, congratulated Speaker Jose de Venecia and the Philippine House of Representatives for organizing the 27th AIPO General Assembly; and conveyed her gratitude to the ASEAN friends for the support in bringing a just and lasting peace to Mindanao.

The President emphasized ASEAN's central role of peace and order, political and social stability and economic growth in each respective countries at a time when there are lingering doubts about the ability of the WTO to manage global trade and the United Nations to maintain peace around the world.

She highlighted the Philippines' hosting of various ASEAN meetings including the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006, with the theme "One Caring and Sharing Community". And that for a year, the Philippines will lead ASEAN in the pursuit of closer cooperation in ASEAN energy, security, counter-terrorism, the welfare and protection of migrant workers, and the formation of an ASEAN Charter.

She urged AIPO member countries to consider adopting national legislation on energy and security that would be in harmony with similar laws of other member countries. She also proposed that AIPO agree on collective development on a large scale of alternative and indigenous energy source that are available in the region.

She informed the body that a comprehensive environmental blueprint for the Philippines is on its developing process and she's calling it "Green Philippines."

She called on all ASEAN member countries which have not yet acceded to the agreement on information exchange in counter-terrorism to consider doing so, and for those who have adopted it to expedite ratification of the accord; likewise, the agreement on disaster management and emergency response and on AIPO's contribution to the process of drafting the ASEAN Charter.

Lastly, she wished that the 27th AIPO General Assembly discussions would be guided by a common interest in a peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia.

7. H.E. Manuel B. Villar, Jr., President, Senate of the Republic of the Philippines delivered his remarks.

He stated that AIPO has emerged as an important vehicle for peace, unity and prosperity. He highlighted that an ASEAN economic community can pave the way for the easier flow of inter-regional investments, and if it becomes easy for an investor to put money, technology and other resources in any place in ASEAN under the context of regional economic liberalization, then greater growth and expansion of the region's economy can be achieved.

8. H.E. Noli de Castro, Vice-President, Republic of the Philippines delivered his statement.

He stressed that ASEAN has made great strides in the establishment of several milestones: The ASEAN free trade area, the Vientiane action program, the Bali Accord II, and other agreement and declarations. And yet, much work still needs to be done to realize its goal of building a people-centered community of caring societies.

He stated that AIPO is giving life to parliamentary diplomacy in a manner that truly benefits the ASEAN community and can be a key mechanism for building friendship, mutual cooperation as well as regional peace and prosperity.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

9. A video statement was delivered by Hon. Dr. Alberto G Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines and Chairman, ASEAN Standing Committee.

In his statement he stressed that through regional economic integration and broader multilateral linkages with trade partners, ASEAN has the collective strength to compete with the rest of the world.

He expressed enthusiasm that as Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee from July 2006 to July 2007 and host for the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu in December 2006, the Philippines commits to usher the region towards one ASEAN community, and to highlight people-centeredness in ASEAN, the Philippines has chosen the theme – “One Caring and Sharing Community”.

He expressed hope that with initiatives geared towards people-centered approach for regional integration, closer understanding and cooperation among ASEAN member countries will be achieved.

10. The General Assembly welcomed and appreciated the written messages from the Heads of State/Government of AIPO Member Countries and Special Observer Countries.
- a. **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni**, King of Cambodia
 - b. **H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono**, President of the Republic of Indonesia
 - c. **H.E. Choummaly Sayasone**, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
 - d. **H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi**, Prime Minister of Malaysia
 - e. **H.E. S.R. Nathan**, President of the Republic of Singapore
 - f. **H.E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
 - g. **H.E. Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet**, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
 - h. **His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam
 - i. **H.E. Senior General Than Shwe**, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Union of Myanmar

STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATION

11. The Heads of Delegations of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar, the Heads of Delegation from Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Parliament, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly. H.E. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General, ASEAN, and Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Mr. AIPO, also delivered their statement.

Full text of their statements are attached to the final report.

12. During the First Plenary Session, the General Assembly discussed and adopted the Program of Activities for delegates and special observers, Agenda for 27th General Assembly, Topics for Dialogue with observer countries and Committee Membership.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

13. The General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolutions on Political, Economic, Social, Organizational and WAIPO matters as well as the reports on Dialogue.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL MATTERS

A. Report by the Malaysian Delegation on the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

14. The Assembly welcomed the report on the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held on July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia submitted by the Malaysian Delegation.

15. The Assembly unanimously expressed sincere thanks and approved the comprehensive Report prepared by the Malaysian Delegation.

B. Report by Thailand on the Results of the Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians from South East Asia and the Asia-Pacific Region in Security Section Reform in the National and Regional Contexts, 1-2 September 2006, Phuket, Thailand

16. The Assembly recognized the crucial role of parliament, as the key link between the government sector and the people, in determining the mandate of the security services and in scrutinizing their activities so that the aims of the security establishment are transformed to make it more effective and efficient in accordance with society's priorities.
17. The Assembly expressed awareness of the new thinking on security and the need for a comprehensive approach to security, including human security to address specific instances of parliamentary challenges in South East Asia and the Asia-Pacific Regions.
18. The Assembly resolved to encourage parliaments of ASEAN countries, and AIPO through the joint efforts of the Political Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a Closely Integrated Institution, as well as the parliamentary standing committees on defense and foreign affairs in the national parliaments, to engage in broader and deeper discussions of the Phuket seminar results and devise parliamentary oversight of security sector reform for the Region.

C. Human-Centered Approach to Counter Terrorism: The Role of Interfaith Dialogue

19. The Assembly recognized the imperative of ASEAN and the responsibility of ASEAN and AIPO member countries to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace and a total rejection to the use of violence for whatever reasons.
20. The Assembly acknowledged the importance of freedom for all individuals and peoples to hold, develop and preserve their faiths and religions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, human rights, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect.
21. The Assembly resolved to call on the leaders of ASEAN to promote Interfaith dialogue; to encourage all AIPO and ASEAN member countries to consider enacting laws and measures incorporating interfaith studies in the curricula at the post-elementary level; to call on all ASEAN member countries to acknowledge and respect the differences within and among the religions and faiths, and to call on ASEAN media to play a constructive role in promoting interfaith dialogue.

D. Cooperation in Fighting Cyberterrorism

22. The Assembly recognized the serious ramifications of an attack via cyberspace to critical infrastructures on the security of the people and the economic wellbeing of countries in the region. The Assembly resolved to enact and implement effective laws on cyber crimes and cyber security in line with their national interests and by referring to relevant international entities, recommendations and guidelines for the prevention, detection, reduction and mitigation of

attacks. The Assembly also resolved to collaborate and cooperate with international and regional agencies for cyber investigation, collection and sharing of cyber information and effective management of resources for mutually beneficial partnerships, and to prevent the exploitation of technology, communications and resources in furtherance of terrorist acts.

E. Regional Maritime Security and Anti-Piracy Cooperation

23. The Assembly expressed concern that piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea and the potential terrorist attacks on vulnerable sea lanes continue to threaten the growth of the region and disrupt the stability of global commerce.
24. The Assembly expressed further concern with the massive incidents of marine pollution, smuggling and contraband of drugs, illegal fishing and trafficking in persons.
25. The Assembly resolved to adopt a strict and effective implementation of relevant national, regional and international laws, instruments, recommendations and guidelines for the suppression of piracy and armed-robbery against ships at sea and affirm the responsibility to prosecute acts and foster bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation among member countries.

F. Middle East Crisis: Lebanon and Palestine

26. The Assembly expressed its concern over the deteriorating situation and escalation of violence in the Middle East particularly in the Palestinian occupied territories and in Lebanon. It also supports the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah and urges Israel to withdraw all of its forces from Lebanon and to immediately and unconditionally release all Lebanese and Palestinian detainees particularly the Speaker and Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers. It urges all the parties to release all present detainees.
27. The Assembly also welcomes the extension of mandate of the United Nations Interim force in Lebanon in order to carry out its mission under the UNSC Resolution 1701. It also urges all parties to strictly respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon. It further urges all parties to desist from any action that could destabilize the situation and to take immediate steps of resuming peace negotiations and restarting the peace process.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

G. Achieving Energy Security in ASEAN

28. The Assembly noted the continuing significance of Resolution 26GA/2005/ECO/04 adopted by the 26th AIPO General Assembly in September 2005 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which collectively called for an “ASEAN Renewable Energy and Development” and realized the importance of energy security to ASEAN economic development amidst rising oil prices and the adverse effect of too much dependency in oil importation for energy requirements.
29. The Assembly resolved to promote the production and utilization of renewable energy and alternative energy suitable for each country, create an environment conducive to greater participation of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local communities in

the development of both traditional and renewable energy sources, promote cooperation and sharing of relevant technology and best practices and promote effective legal, regulatory and technical frameworks that will address the need for adequate, affordable and accessible energy sources while at the same time preserving the delicate ecological balance.

H. Accelerating the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

30. The Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) for the promotion of the integration of new member states into the ASEAN. To attain the common goal of an ASEAN Economic Community, the Assembly stressed that it must enhance internal cooperation through initiatives like the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) and the proposed ASEAN Charter, while, at the same time, strengthen cooperation with external partners such as the US and Europe, the Middle East and Russia, Japan and Korea and the phenomenal growth areas of China and India.
31. The Assembly resolved to accelerate further the pace of ASEAN integration through enhanced trade, technology and investment linkages, complementarities of each country strengths, opening up of more economic sectors, removal of non-tariff barriers, reduction of costs of doing business and provisions for greater regional connectivity.

I. Debt for the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Fight Poverty

32. The Assembly was aware that ASEAN countries incurred massive foreign debts that required increasing taxes for debt service rather than economic and social development. The Assembly recalled that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) adopted by the United Nations during the Millennium Summit in September 2006 affirmed the commitment to reducing poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation. The Assembly is alarmed by the debt-burden of the least developed countries that undermine their economic progress.
33. The Assembly resolved to call upon developed countries to provide more affordable debt relief services to enable borrowing countries to pay their debts, to encourage creditor countries, multilateral institutions and large commercial banks to reinvest in the economies of the debtor-countries fifty (50) percent of the agreed-on portion of the debt-service payments due them in the form of equities or other kinds of financial assets towards MDG programs such as reforestation, mass-housing, safe water systems, hospitals, infrastructure or micro-financing, and to support the creation of International Conference for the Conversion/Investment of foreign debt of poor countries which will create social, political and legal framework and mechanism that shall serve as a platform in which the debt servicing of the poorest 100 countries shall be converted to tangible values based on MDG and consequently that AIPO be a permanent member of the international conference.

J. Promoting Regional Centers of Growth (BIMP-EAGA, Mekong River Development)

34. The Assembly recognized the contributions of sub-regional arrangements, such as the Mekong River Development and the Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines – East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) towards reducing development gaps within the ASEAN region and the strengthening of ASEAN integration. The Assembly also recognized the main thrusts of these

sub-regional initiatives, which are to accelerate the development of sub-regions which are remote and less economically developed relative to their national capitals (BIMP-EAGA), and the promotion, through equal cooperation, of the economic, socio-cultural and ecological activities of the people in the riparian states (Mekong River Development).

35. The Assembly resolved to pursue the BIMP-EAGA Roadmap to Development and the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, to support the various collateral initiatives on the Mekong River Development and consolidate the active support of the private sector in the BIMP-EAGA, with government as catalyst.

K. Common Legislative Initiatives on Improving the Quality Standard and Quantity of Agricultural Products

36. The Assembly realized that majority of AIPO member countries are basically agrarian societies requiring the need for strengthening regional cooperation to enhance the competitiveness of AIPO agricultural products. The Assembly likewise recognized that in the common effort to increase the production and quality of agriculture, ASEAN member countries need to foster cooperation and sharing in the development and adoption of new technology; the adoption and the harmonization of legislations to improve the quality standards and yield of agricultural products.
37. The Assembly resolved to request the President of AIPO to submit his resolution to the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee to promote cooperation among ASEAN member countries in improving quality, standards and yield of the agricultural product, to initiate the development of ASEAN agreement for the improvement of quality standards and yield of the agricultural product in ASEAN and for AIPO member countries to ratify the aforesaid agreement in their respective national parliaments.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MATTERS

L. Adopting the Report on the AIPO Meeting on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Women and Minors

38. The Assembly approved the Report on the AIPO Meeting on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Women and Minors presented by Hon. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bach Mai of Vietnam.

The report provided a comprehensive discussion of the views of member countries of the problem, providing for the definition of terms related to trafficking, the different responses thereto, and the call for effective legal frameworks to ensure compliance of laws against trafficking. The report also presented how trafficking has affected Vietnam and their recommendations on how to address the problem.

39. The Assembly resolved to establish an AIPO Working Group consisting of representatives of AIPO members, special observers and other relevant parties, and promote the effectiveness of combating trafficking in persons through strengthening cooperation between AIPO and ASEAN. The Assembly advised AIPO members, Special Observers and Observer Parliaments to review their legal frameworks, to advocate for their governments to accede to the UN

Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, to monitor the implementation of laws and regulations and strengthen cooperation among legislative bodies at a national level in promoting the effectiveness of combating trafficking in persons. The Assembly also resolved to call on UN agencies and international organizations to provide technical support and funds to implement AIPO cooperation activities among legislative bodies to combat trafficking in persons.

M. Cooperation in Fighting Pandemic/Infectious Diseases Like Avian Flu and HIV/AIDS

40. The Assembly recognized the need for common legislative initiatives on the prevention and control of pandemic diseases such as avian flu HIV/AIDS. This was emphasized in the draft resolution on Common Legislative Initiatives on the Pandemic Diseases as the First Test Case proposed during the meeting of the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee held last July 2006 in Indonesia. Thus, the Assembly resolved to call for the AIPO President to submit the said draft resolution to the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee. Further, the Assembly urged member countries to monitor their national legislations on common vital concerns such as the prevention and control of pandemic diseases such as avian flu and HIV/AIDS with the aim of identifying possibilities for common legislative initiatives. The Assembly encouraged the member states to develop common legislative initiatives with the objective of harmonization of AIPO legislation.

N. Disaster Management and Emergency Response

41. The Assembly emphasized the need for commitment of the ASEAN and the international community on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, and resolved to urge active and effective participation in the implementation of the provisions stipulated in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and to promote the need for national preparedness of ASEAN countries as a vital factor in effectively participating in disaster management and emergency response program in the regional and international level.
42. The Assembly also urged all AIPO member countries to prioritize the creation of a study committee on the feasibility of establishing a Standby ASEAN Disaster Relief Fund based on humanitarian contribution for rescue, relief and reconstruction in the aftermath of natural calamities befalling countries of Southeast Asia.

O. Environmental Protection: Planting One Billion Trees

43. The Assembly called on AIPO member countries to strengthen their cooperation in promoting and implementing environmental laws, agreements and treaties among member countries, encourage all AIPO member countries to continue formulating responsive and sustainable environmental programs and ensuring the effective implementation of the same. The Assembly further urged all AIPO member countries to promote and encourage the planting, maintaining and monitoring survival rates of one billion trees in their countries as part of their reforestation program and to promote wildlife conservation as part of their reforestation program and to promote wildlife conservation through strong and effective law enforcement network in member countries.

P. Migration-Social-Health Matters

44. The Assembly acknowledged that migration is not only a political matter or of security consequence, but also involves labor problems, illicit trafficking of narcotics, criminal matters, domestic, workplace and other forms of violence and abuse, epidemic and emerging diseases, population explosion, subversion and terrorism, poverty, education and socio-economic related matters.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Q. Secretariat Annual Report FY 2005-2006

45. The Assembly approved the Annual Report of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization for 2005-2006.

R. Secretariat Annual Financial Report FY 2005-2006

46. The Assembly approved the audited financial report for financial year 2005-2006.

S. Secretariat Budget Proposal for the AIPA Secretariat for the Period 2006-2007

47. The Assembly approved the estimated expenditure for the AIPO Secretariat for the Period 2006-2007.

Copies of the reports mentioned are attached to the final report.

T. Expression of Gratitude to Brunei Darussalam

48. The Assembly expressed its appreciation to the government of Brunei Darussalam for its donation of US\$10,000.00 to AIPO.

U. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Closely Integrated Institution

- a. **Resolution on Amendments to the Statutes of AIPO including the change of name to ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly or AIPA (Amended Statutes attached)**
 - b. **Resolution on the Guidelines for the Establishment of Regular Reciprocal Attendance in AIPA General Assemblies and ASEAN Summits by AIPA and ASEAN Leaders**
 - c. **Resolution on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Appointment of the Secretary General of AIPA**
49. The Assembly, after discussing in detail the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Closely Integrated Institution adopted the

Resolution approving the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and its attached Resolutions. The amendments to the of AIPO included the change of its name to AIPA, the appointment of a permanent Secretary-General, provisions on partnership with ASEAN and the power of the General Assembly to propose legislative initiatives on issues of common concern. Correspondingly, the Assembly adopted the aforementioned resolutions.

V. Establishing More Dialogue Partner Relationships with Other Countries and Organizations

50. The Assembly realizing AIPO's need to pursue more outward-looking strategies to enhance its international standing, adopted the Resolution which recommends the establishment, through the Secretariat, of regular dialogues with other countries as well as regional and international parliamentary organizations. The Assembly also urged AIPO parliamentarians to join and participate in the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank.

W. Appreciation of the Work and Leadership of H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., President of AIPO

51. The Assembly noted that the term of H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr. as AIPO President would expire at the conclusion of the 27th AIPO General Assembly and adopted the Resolution which expressed its gratitude for his invaluable work for the Organization and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

X. Appreciation of the Services of Hon. Josefina D. Azarcon, the outgoing Secretary General of AIPO

52. The Assembly realized that the term of Hon. Josefina D. Azarcon as AIPO Secretary General would end at the conclusion of the 27th AIPO General Assembly and adopted the Resolution expressing its appreciation of her excellent services as Secretary General and wished her the best in all her undertakings.

Y. Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of AIPO

53. The Assembly recommended to the AIPO members to initiate celebration activities at the national level on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of AIPO establishment in 2007, and to commemorate the event at the 28th General Assembly of AIPA in Kuala Lumpur in 2007, and also to award individual/institution/or group of persons who have made outstanding contributions to AIPO work through selection by Executive Committee at the recommendation of respective members of AIPO.

COMMITTEE ON WAIPO

Z. Enhancing Women's Role and Access to Values-Oriented Education

54. The Assembly acknowledged that education is a basic human right and is a powerful mechanism in the fight for women empowerment. It was recognized that illiteracy has reached global proportions, especially among women who comprise two-thirds of the world's illiterate

population. The Assembly believed that a strong system of value-based education is urgently needed. Hence, the Assembly resolved to urge ASEAN governments and parliaments to build a system of education which inculcates respect for women, to raise the consciousness of key resource persons such as teachers and parents by enhancing their competence, to create a social order committed to gender equality, and to promote the development and creation of exchange programs for value orientation education.

Z-1. Role of Women Parliamentarians in the Use of Mass Media to Focus on Issues Affecting Women and Children

55. The Assembly recognized the importance of mass media and new technologies of communication as powerful tools of global communications network that have an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behavior, especially for children and young adults, and has the potential to make a greater contribution to the advancement of women. The Assembly resolved to call on all ASEAN member countries to enact and implement appropriate legislations against pornography, gender stereotyping and the sensationalized projection of violence against women and children in the media.

Z-2. The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Achieving Millennium Development Goals

56. The Assembly recalled the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 and stressed that gender equality and women's empowerment are relevant to achieve said goals by 2015. The Assembly agreed that women parliamentarians are in the best position to advance women's interests since they are the ones who work directly with governments and the civil society to introduce and implement measures to alleviate the plight of women all over the world. Thus, women parliamentarians as a unified group can influence and guide development planners in their respective countries to understand and resolve the issues and problems that stand in the way of attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Finally, the Assembly resolved to urge ASEAN governments and AIPO member parliaments to support and fairly distribute their resources with women parliamentarians in integrating gender consideration in all policy making activities, to stimulate discussions, monitor progress and provide adequate legal framework and funding provisions for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Z-3. The Role of Women Political Leaders in the Globalized Era

57. The Assembly recognized that globalization has presented humankind with both opportunities and challenges and emphasized that managing globalization to ensure a more equitable and sustainable path to national and regional development is the task of policy makers especially women leaders, since women are the most affected and marginalized by the uneven distribution of globalization gains. The Assembly further discussed that women's participation and influence are factors in ensuring that the downside of globalization is minimized, its benefits maximized and the search continued for alternative models of globalization. It was also reiterated that a Study Committee be set up as suggested during the 24th General Assembly to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power situations. The Assembly resolved to encourage the ASEAN government and AIPO member parliaments to build a more coherent and democratic architecture for global governance, to mobilize partnerships within and between countries to determine the key concerns, to actively increase the participation of women in politics for a clearer view of the impact of globalization in women, and to implement the creation of a Study Committee.

DIALOGUE WITH OBSERVER COUNTRIES

58. The Assembly established separate AIPO panels to conduct dialogues with Observer Countries, namely: Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Parliament, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation. In general, eight (8) topics were discussed, namely:
- a. Regional Security Matters
 - b. Economic and Trade Cooperation
 - c. Investment Opportunities
 - d. Environmental Issues
 - e. Information and Technology Cooperation
 - f. Strategies to Create Breakthroughs in the World Trade Organization (WTO) "Doha Round"
 - g. Exchange of Parliamentary Visits as Means of Strengthening Inter-Parliamentary Diplomacy
 - h. Cooperation in Fighting Pandemic/Infectious Diseases Like Avian Flu, HIV/AIDS

28th AIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

59. The Assembly accepted the kind offer of Malaysia to host the 28th AIPO General Assembly which will be held on the third week of August, 2007.

APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

60. The various Delegations attending the Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Congress of the Philippines as well as the Filipino people especially those from Cebu and Bohol for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 27th AIPO General Assembly.

ASEAN SPIRIT

The 27th AIPO General Assembly was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood, cooperation and mutual understanding.

Done in Cebu City, Philippines, the Fourteenth of September, in the year
Two Thousand and Six (2006)

For CAMBODIA



SAMDECH HENG SAMRIN

For INDONESIA



SOETARDJO SOERJOOERITNO

For LAO



THONGSING THAMMAVONG

For MALAYSIA



DATUK LIM SI CHENG

For the PHILIPPINES



ANTONIO V. CUENCO

For SINGAPORE



ABDULLAH TARMUGI

For THAILAND



SUCHON CHALEEKURE

For VIETNAM



NGUYEN PHU TRONG

For BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



PIM PENGIRAN
ANAK KEMALUDIN AL-HAJ

For MYANMAR



TUN SHIN



JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
PRESIDENT

ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION