



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

Acceptance Speech

HON. YB DATUK LIM SI CHENG
*(Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament Malaysia)*

H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., President of AIPO and Speaker, House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines and President of AIPO,

Distinguished Heads of AIPO Delegations, Special Observers and Observer Delegations

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of our AIPO members, Special observers and Observer delegations, I would like to take this opportunity to express our warmest appreciation to **H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., President of AIPO and Speaker, House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines** in driving the 27th AIPO General Assembly to a successful conclusion.

I think also I might interject on behalf of all of us, our thanks and sincere appreciation to His Excellency **Hon. Josefina D. Azarcon**, Secretary General, all staffs of the AIPO Secretariat and to Cebu city for their dynamic contribution to the success of this important assembly.

With a deep awareness of the responsibility conferred by your trust I, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' Seri DiRaja Ramli Ngah Talib, accept the presidency of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO). I am humbled by this great mandate that is entrusted to Malaysia.

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the founding fathers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines signed the Bali Concord I as the basic framework of cooperation among the countries, at the ASEAN Summit in Bali 2003, the leaders of the now 10-member grouping signed the Declaration of the Bali Concord II, which envisages the realization of an ASEAN Community by 2020. The signing of the Bali Concord II clearly states the unwavering commitment of the ASEAN member countries in shaping a prosperous, secure and stable region. Leaders at the Ninth ASEAN Summit in Bali adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II), which stipulated the establishment of an ASEAN Community resting on three pillars: an

ASEAN Security Community, an ASEAN Economic Community and an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

It is my fervent hope that to be a community by 2020, the ASEAN states should recognize and address the demands of their peoples either collectively or nationally. The action plans spelled out under the three pillars should be executed pragmatically and continuously because without taking a concrete action the hope of building an ASEAN Community will remain a hope. In our characteristic of a step-by-step manner, I am certain that we would be able to proceed on realizing an ASEAN Community with a strong people agenda.

WE...the regional parliamentarians have a very big role to play in our mission to create an ASEAN community.

*Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Before I end the speech, allow me to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all the delegates because your presence today further reiterate AIPO's aim to promote cooperation among member countries since 1977. We must work harder to ensure the relevance of this organization in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

It is my pleasure in extending the invitation to you all on behalf of the Malaysian Parliament to the 28th AIPO General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur next year. In fact next year will be a special year for Malaysia because we will be celebrating our nation's 50 years of Independence. Various celebrations will be held throughout Malaysia, making 2007 one of the best times to visit our country. It will be an honour and privilege for us to celebrate our 50 years of nationhood with fellow ASEAN parliamentarians. "Jumpa di Malaysia tahun depan... Terima kasih"

Thank you.