AIPO

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

Message

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADIN WADDAULAH
(Sultan and Yang Di--Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam)

Your Excellency,
The President of the AIPO,
Honourable Delegates,

Once again, it is with great pleasure that I extend my best wishes to the host country, as well as to all the delegates of the AIPO on the occasion of the 27th Annual General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) held in Cebu City, the Republic of the Philippines.

I wish to thank the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines for inviting Brunei Darussalam to send a delegation and to participate in this distinguished gathering.

During your presidency this year, I note that a number of important Committee Meetings have been held, including a meeting of the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee on the transformation of AIPO into a more effective and closely integrated institution, which aims to lead to the establishment of an ASEAN Parliament.

While it may not be possible to establish any such parliamentary body in the near future, the ASEAN community nevertheless has a common aim towards further future harmonisation including that of legislation on issues of common concern.

The Committee on Legal Cooperation to Combat Human Trafficking in Women and Children hosted by Vietnam has also conducted much important work. The deliberation on this topic is most timely, as human trafficking has become a serious problem and is a serious violation of human rights.

Brunei Darussalam view this problem very seriously and has further enhanced its efforts to combat human trafficking by bringing into force, legislation which criminilises any form of human trafficking and imposes heavy penalties upon offenders.

It is hoped that every ASEAN member country will enact laws against human trafficking and that we in ASEAN will continue to work together against these deplorable acts against humanity.

Finally I wish the 27th General Assembly of the AIPO every success in its deliberations.