



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

**Message**

**H. E. CHOUMMALY SAYASONE**

*(President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic)*

*His Excellency Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines and President of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization;  
Excellencies, Honorable Delegates and Observers;  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and cordial congratulation to all delegates of member parliaments, special observers and observers of AIPO attending the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Cebu City, the Republic of the Philippines.

As ASEAN and AIPO's inception in 1967 and 1977 respectively, the both bodies have gone through various stage of dynamic development and recorded important achievements, in spite of difficulties and challenges. AIPO has now become the successful regional parliament grouping, thus contributing to the promotion of peace, stability, cooperation and development in South East Asia and the world at large.

Since becoming a full-fledged member of ASEAN and AIPO, the government of Lao PDR and the National Assembly of Laos have done its utmost to ensure the further to the ASEAN and AIPO development, as demonstrated by the successful hosting of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, the 38<sup>th</sup> AMM and AIPO Meetings in Vientiane.

The harmonious combination of national interests and community interests would be much important to the ASEAN integration into the process of building the ASEAN Community. Especially, in the economic context of globalization and economic interdependence. To this end, ASEAN has adopted the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and other Plans of Action which are currently underway and yield some preliminary results. One of our immediate priority is to expeditiously narrow the socio-economic development gap within ASEAN and that between ASEAN and other regions.

That is why, the strong support from ASEAN member parliaments are very much necessary and needed in order to reach ultimate goal of building the ASEAN Community in 2020.

With that, I firmly believe that the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AIPO will provide a good opportunity for attending parliamentarians to exchange views on important issues facing ASEAN and AIPO so as to work out cooperative solutions, making over the agreements and resolutions of ASEAN and AIPO into a tangible outcome and translate plans of action into priority projects in order to transform AIPO into more effective and impetuous in the process of ASEAN integration.

May I wish the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AIPO a great success with a new step in addressing new challenges on the road towards an ASEAN-AIPO's ultimate goal.