



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

Message

H.E. SENIOR GENERAL THAN SHWE
(Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar)

*Honorable President of the AIPO,
Distinguished delegates,*

It is my pleasure and honour to extend, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar and on my own, my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Mr. Jose de Venecia Jr., President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines and all distinguished delegates on the occasion of the convening of 27th General Assembly of the AIPO in the Cebu City, the Philippines.

The success of the AIPO in the past year has been very impressive. The General Assembly of the AIPO has been an important forum in finding common ground on wide-ranging issues such as political, economic, social, and organizational matters as well as Women's affairs among its members as well as special observers and observers. The AIPO could also deliberate on transforming itself into a more effective and closely integrated institution. In transforming the AIPO, I am sure that the AIPO will take into consideration the progress of ASEAN integration towards the ASEAN Community by the year 2020.

It is timely that AIPO has taken the significant step towards transformation. Since 1977, AIPO has proved to be a very progressive organization. I am confident that significant steps will be taken in amending the Statute of AIPO to be in line with present day realities and taking into consideration developments in ASEAN.

I am also heartened to note that the inaugural consultation of the Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee and the President of the 27th AIPO has taken place on 13 April 2006 in Kuala Lumpur. It is a very significant step forward in implementing the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action adopted by ASEAN. I do hope that such consultations will be held regularly in the future.

As much as AIPO has been moving forward, my country has been striving towards democratization in accordance with the Seven-step roadmap to democracy. After three sessions, we have achieved progress at the National Convention which has been deliberating on the detailed basic principles of the new Constitution of Myanmar. We have been able to reach consensus on the most delicate and sensitive issues on sharing legislative power between the Central Government and the States and Regions in the Constitution. The fourth session of the National Convention will resume before the end of this year and I am confident that we will be able to reach consensus on the remaining detailed basic principles of the Constitution in the near future and move forward to the next step in our roadmap to democracy. I wish

to reaffirm that the Government of Myanmar is committed to bring about not only the smooth transformation to the democratic society but also to integrate fully into the ASEAN Community.

I do wish that the AIPO would progress towards creating a legislative environment conducive to the ASEAN Community based on ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-cultural Community. I also wish the AIPO all the success in its endeavors.