



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

Statement delivered by

H.E. AGUNG LAKSONO

(Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of Indonesia)

*Honourable President of the Republic of the Philippines,
Honourable President of the AIPO,
Honourable Speaker of Parliaments,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to our generous host for its warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to our delegates since our arrival at this beautiful city of Cebu. I also wish to commend the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines for its excellent arrangement of this very august gathering.

Our meeting at the 27th General Assembly is indeed timely and strategic in our collective effort to better place the organization into a more effective and closely integrated institution to support the ASEAN integration toward an ASEAN Community. In its 29 years of existence, the AIPO has been able to progress into an organization with an essential role to achieve our common goals and objectives.

*Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

In addition to the dynamic nature of the region, we recognize that ASEAN is also transforming itself from an association into a legal personality in which the ASEAN Charter would serve as the bedrock in achieving its objectives and goals.

Having that progress taken into account, I wish to reiterate our strong commitment to also transform the AIPO into a mechanism that is more effective and closely integrated with ASEAN. For that purpose and as mandated by the 26th General Assembly of the AIPO, the Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting on the Transformation of AIPO under the wise and able leadership of Honourable dr. H. Abdul Gafur, has undertaken substantive work and successfully concluded their second meeting in Jakarta, July 2006.

I should, therefore, commend the hard work of the Ad-Hoc Committee to transform AIPO into a more effective and closely integrated institution that would better place its self in a dynamic of the region and to enable it to respond to the opportunities and challenges AIPO is facing today and in the future. The transformation is indeed a prerequisite to the organization to effectively function and to work in tandem with ASEAN to promote sustainable peace, security and prosperity in the region. AIPO should also able to provide concrete contribution to help achieving the establishment of ASEAN Community and

its three pillars so as to enable ASEAN to grow strong and solid in the process of developing regional architecture. Endorsing the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee is therefore, will serve as turning points of AIPO.

In addition, I wish to reiterate Indonesia's proposal to change the name of AIPO so as to reflect the spirit of the transformation process. To change the name is not merely about changing the name but also to signify the important nature of the transformation process as well as to enable it to effectively function as an effective mechanism to help promote the establishment of the ASEAN Community.

*Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

The enhanced interaction between AIPO and ASEAN as demonstrated in the inaugural consultation between the Chairman of the 38th ASEAN Standing Committee and the President of AIPO indeed represent collective commitment to pursue common goals and objectives. I am also delighted to note the interaction between AIPO and Eminent Person Group of the ASEAN Charter and to propose a similar dialogue between AIPO and the members of the High-Level Task Force of ASEAN Charter.

Furthermore, my delegation would like to congratulate the successful meetings of both the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting both recently held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The outcomes of those meetings have managed to lay a more solid foundation of the ASEAN integration and the establishment of the ASEAN Community. ASEAN should continue maintaining sustained peace, stability, security and prosperity to the fullest benefits of its people and playing a determinant voice on human rights protection, democratization, good governance, and combating corruption.

I wish also to express our hope that the upcoming ASEAN Summit in Cebu could also lay further solid basis for ASEAN 2020 and beyond. The AIPO stands ready to continue dialogues and develop ways and means to facilitate the ASEAN integration.

While noting the completion of the Mutual Legal Agreement of Legal Matters and Visa Exemption Agreement, ASEAN cooperation in other fields as envisaged in the Vientiane Action Programme could be further enhanced. Cooperation to combating corruption, establishing various legal instruments on counter terrorism, extradition and ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers should be accorded high priority in this context. I am confident that AIPO will be able to contribute and add value to this initiative.

On the economic field, I welcome the efforts in implementing various measures to realize ASEAN Economic community and efforts in relation to deepening the economic integration of ASEAN to sustain and boost regional economic growth. On the socio-cultural community, I share the objective of bringing ASEAN closer and making it more relevant to the people.

We could also underline that ASEAN integration process towards ASEAN Community should not merely fall under the responsibility of governments of ASEAN Member Countries. Active involvement of Parliamentarians from the ASEAN member countries as well as other civil society organizations is also essentials. For the AIPO, promoting the common legislation initiative with the objectives of developing national legislation of ASEAN Member Countries that supportive to the common objectives of ASEAN is also one of the concrete ideas toward that direction. Each and every parliament members of AIPO

should also exert its pivotal legislative role domestically in facilitating various ratification processes of the agreements already reached at the ASEAN level.

*Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Allow me also to address the situation in the Middle East. In this vein, we in Indonesia keenly follow developments in the Middle East and strongly condemn the Israeli military aggression in Lebanon that caused deaths and injuries of Lebanese and Palestinian innocent civilians and the destruction of properties and infrastructure. I therefore support to the cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon based on UNSC Resolution 1701.

On the issue of Myanmar, I would like to express my concern over the slow pace of the democratization as well as the lack of progress in the national reconciliation process. In this regard, Indonesia would like to see Myanmar honouring its commitment to implement the Roadmap to Democracy. I believe that it is to our best interest to have Myanmar demonstrating its good faith by, among others, showing concrete progress in the implementation of the Roadmap to Democracy as well as the early release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD members.

To conclude, allow me to reiterate our commitment to assist the President of the AIPO toward successful conclusion of our Assembly meeting. I believe that under your able leadership and professional skills we will be able to transform this organization into a more effective and closely integrated institution.

Thank You.