



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

Statement delivered by

H. E. MR. SUCHON CHALEEKURE

*(President of the Senate, Vice President and Acting President of the Thai Parliament,
Thailand)*

*Excellency Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr., President of the AIPO,
Excellencies, Speakers and Presidents of the Parliaments
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to represent the Thai Parliament at this august gathering, the 27th AIPO General Assembly.

I, on behalf of the parliamentary delegation from the Kingdom of Thailand, wish to express our warmest appreciation to Excellency Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives and President of the AIPO, for hosting our annual meeting and also our sincere gratitude to the Philippines National Group and people of the Philippines for their warmest welcome and generous hospitality.

*Mr. President,
Dear Colleagues,*

First of all, let me convey my gratefulness to the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), held in July, which showed us that the ASEAN is steadfast in fostering greater regional integration together with enhancing external relationship with cross-regional partners. I am certain that the work of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter will streamline altogether ASEAN mechanism and process to reach the accomplishment of an ASEAN Community. In fact, I am pleased to learn that the EPG has engaged AIPO into its consultative and inclusive approach for strengthening of the ASEAN and its institutional framework. This bold and visionary idea implied that the ASEAN has already revised its recognition towards the status of AIPO from an “NGO” in Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) of the 10th ASEAN Summit in 2005 to “a pertinent stakeholders in ASEAN”.

As you all know that the AIPO also has successfully undertaken a significant mission to transform itself to be more realistic legislative institution. This year, the First and Second Meetings of the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a More Effective and Closely Integrated Institution, including best endeavors from the Meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG), brought us about vital process for the way to consolidate cooperation and engagements among member Parliaments to provide legislative oversights of the future of ASEAN and for the stronger role of legislative institution in the region of South East Asia.

With regard to the amendment of the AIPO Statutes which is one of the keys to achieve our transformation, I am delighted that we are reaching the final state of the amendment at this General

Assembly. The new draft of the AIPO Statutes adjusted and restructured functions and working process within our organization to meet our new standard. This draft will provide new guideline and criteria of the AIPO Secretary General appointment for 3 - year term in order to professionalize its performance. It also provides us to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee at least 3 months prior to the General Assembly, which, I believe, is more effectiveness comparing to our previous practice.

Furthermore, I also believe that the initiative of our friend from the Philippines, on a new additional Chapter of the AIPO Statutes regarding the Partnership with Funding Institutions and Donor Countries, another pending matter of the Statutes as well as the change of the name of AIPO shall be broadly deliberated among our distinguished delegates for the final conclusion of the Draft Resolution regarding the amendment of AIPO Statutes, here, at this General Assembly.

*Mr. President,
Dear Colleagues,*

We are, indeed, apparently moving a step forward on the common legislation among the AIPO member nations. The Second AIPO Ad Hoc Committee Meeting approved suggestion from the TWG meeting to launch out the first case, a Draft Resolution on Common Legislative Initiatives on the Pandemic Diseases. Meanwhile, it also adopted a Draft Resolution on Common Legislative Initiatives on Improving the Quality, Standard and Quantity of the Agriculture Product, a productive proposal initiated by Malaysia. For us Thailand, we truly support the recommendations resulting from both Draft Resolutions to submit to the relevant ASEAN Standing Committees for their future implementation.

Thus, I strongly convince that this General Assembly is going to welcome the matrix from the TWG together with the formulation of the roadmap of the transformation, which mandated as significant task of the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee as the prior tasks in the Work Program for the Second Year of Operation of the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a more effective and closely integrated institution for the AIPO Fiscal Year 2007.

*Mr. President,
Honorable Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,*

Coming to my last point, the formal linkages with the ASEAN, the consultations between the AIPO and the ASEAN from the First and the Second Ad Hoc Committee Meetings together with the TWG meeting showed us that both the executive and the legislative branches are willing to leverage their cooperation and coordination to find common path and work together for the integration of the region. Dialogues and discussions made among our members of Parliaments and together with the ASEAN representatives during the meetings bring about notably consequence. The Draft Resolution on the Guideline regarding Regular Reciprocal Attendance of the AIPO President will reinforce our both the executive and the legislative partnerships and formulate a formal direct interactions towards all appropriate channels between the AIPO and the ASEAN.

In conclusion, I therefore confident that the recommendations, proposals, and resolutions from the AIPO Ad Hoc Committee Meetings including one from the TWG will be considered here, for the further progressive implementation. Finally, I do wish that the 27th AIPO General Assembly will contribute with all our efforts for a fruitful concrete step to transform the AIPO to a realistic legislative institution working together with the ASEAN for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity progress in the region.

Thank you very much.