



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

**Statement delivered by**

**H.E. NGUYEN PHU TRONG**  
*(President of the National Assembly, Socialist Republic of Vietnam)*

*Your Excellency Mr. Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, President of the AIPO,  
Distinguished parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the National Assembly and people of Vietnam, I would like to extend to all of you the best regards and warmest friendly sentiment. We would like to sincerely thank the Congress, Government and people of the Philippines for their cordial and friendly welcome as well as the excellent arrangements for our General Assembly.

*Your Excellency Mr. President,*

Our General Assembly takes place at a time when the world political and security landscape sees complicated developments. Though the conflict in Lebanon is easing down thanks to the ceasefire agreement between the parties, the danger of fighting recurrence is still latent. In the Korean Peninsula, the concerned parties are yet to reach an appropriate solution for detente. International terrorism continues to be a threat to development and security of various regions and countries. Furthermore, countries are likely to allocate additional resources to cope with non-traditional security threats such as religious and racial conflicts, secessionism, transnational crime, natural disasters and epidemics.

In that context, we are happy to note that the Southeast Asian region in general remains stable with considerably high economic growth rate. Peace and cooperation for development remain the mainstream. ASEAN is now endeavouring to implement programmes and action plans to realise the goal of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2020. Our solidarity and intra-regional cooperation have been basically strengthened and promoted. ASEAN's role and status have been enhanced at both regional and global levels.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The building of an ASEAN Community that rests on the three pillars of the Security Community, the Economic Community and the Socio-Cultural Community is an uphill task requiring huge efforts from all member countries. In this endeavour, our executive and legislative bodies have a pivotal role to play. The AIPO is bringing into full play its important role in the region's political life. Against the backdrop of increased cooperation between inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organisations such as

the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations (UN), the relationship between regional institutions such as ASEAN and AIPO also experiences new development. The 26<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly decided to establish the Ad hoc Committee on the Transformation of AIPO into a more effective and better integrated institution. We applaud the high working spirit of the Ad hoc Committee and endorse the initiative of closer involvements between the executive and legislative branches through the invitation of leaders of ASEAN and AIPO to the major political events of each respective organisation. We believe that this is a meaningful endeavour to implement the 23GA/2002/Pol/01 Resolution on the strengthening of the cooperation between AIPO and ASEAN advocated at the 23<sup>rd</sup> AIPO General Assembly.

*Distinguished colleagues,*

Just like ASEAN, AIPO is now facing demands for reform in regard to its structure and working modality. Recommendations made by the Ad hoc Committee on AIPO Transformation such as amendments to the AIPO Statutes, common legislative initiative in a number of areas as well as principles and criteria for the AIPO Secretary General are good ideas that need further discussions at this General Assembly.

In short, it is our common desire to make AIPO activities more and more substantive to bring its resolutions into each nation's political life.

*Your Excellency Mr. President,*

Since joining AIPO in 1995, the National Assembly of Vietnam has always received the precious support and cooperation of the member parliaments and friends. On our part, we have also been actively engaging and making practical and concrete contributions to turning AIPO into a more effective and better integrated institution. We would like to reaffirm that we will continue to carry out at best the responsibilities and commitments of an AIPO member which we solemnly declared at the admission ceremony in Singapore in 1995.

Attending the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in the beautiful and hospitable country of the Philippines is my great honour. This is also the first AIPO General Assembly that I ever attend in my new capacity as the President of the National Assembly of Vietnam. On this occasion, allow me to extend my warmest salutation to all ASEAN colleagues, special observers and guests. I look forward to having your close cooperation during my term for the realisation of AIPO's noble goals.

*Finally, May I wish the 27<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly a great success.*

*Thank you for your attention.*