



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

Rep.27GA/Com/Panel/Aus

REPORT
ON
THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE AIPO AND AUSTRALIA

Mr. President,

It is my great honor to submit the following Report on the Dialogue of AIPO with the Delegation of Australia.

1. The dialogue was held in the afternoon of 12 September 2006 from 2:40 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.. The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri.
2. The Dialogue Meeting was attended by the following delegates:

Australia

1. Hon. Peter Slipper
2. Dr. Anna Dacre

Cambodia

1. Hon. Mr. Keo Remy
2. Hon. Mr. Chea Kim
3. Mr. Kim Sochetra

Indonesia

1. Hon. Marzuki Darusman
2. Hon. Trisanti Mitayani

Lao People's Democratic Republic

1. Hon. Prof. Dr. Bounngong Boupoua
2. Hon. Mrs. Chantoum Latmany
3. Mr. Amphay Chimanon

Malaysia

1. Hon. Senator Tay Puay Chuan
2. Hon. Dato' Samsiah Samsudin
3. Hon. Chiw Tiang Chai

Philippines

1. Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri - Chairperson

Singapore

1. Hon. Lee Bee Wah
2. Hon. Michael Palmer
3. Hon. Charles Chong

Thailand

1. Hon. Tarnthong Thongsawasdi (Advisor)

Vietnam

1. Hon. Mai Anh
2. Hon. Chau Thi Le

Brunei Darussalam

1. Hon. Yunos Noh

3. The Meeting focused its deliberation on the following issues.

a. Regional and International Political Matters

Australia appreciates the increasing security-related dialogue and cooperation in regional bodies which complement the work of the ASEAN Regional Forum, including APEC, the ISS ASIA Security Conference and the proposal for an ASEAN Security Community which underlines ASEAN's commitment to a peaceful region. To this end, Australia welcomes the evolution of the ARF from the region's principal forum for security, into a body with the institutional and operational capacity to respond to regional security developments. Accordingly, Australia strongly encourages efforts to enhance the role of the ARF Chair, as agreed by ARF Foreign Ministers in 2005.

b. Economic and Trade Cooperation

Once the Free Trade Agreement that Australia with New Zealand is negotiating with ASEAN, the Australia's economic integration with the region will be consolidated and the same will complement existing FTAs with Singapore and Thailand, and the FTA under negotiation with Malaysia.

c. Investment Opportunities

Economic and trade cooperation growth promises increase in investment opportunities. Australia believes that increase in investments, continued cooperation and trade negotiations will open opportunities. Australian companies with ASEAN equity investment are predominantly in manufacturing/construction sectors, with some interests in telecommunications.

d. Environmental Issues

Australia is taking positive action, on domestic, regional and international fronts, to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Although Australia has not sign the Kyoto protocol, Australia is one of the few countries which successfully meet the target set under the said Protocol. Further, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6), of which Australia is a founding member, brings together key emitters on practical, pro-growth and technology driven efforts.

e. Educational and Cultural Cooperation

Education is a key element in the cooperation of Australia. Australia has served 69,000 students from ASEAN. Australian institutions have also established many centers in the ASEAN region including the RMIT campus which has been established in Ho Chi Minh City; the private research and teaching university in Singapore being established by the University of New South Wales, and the medical college to be opened by Monash University in Malaysia next year.

f. Scientific and Technological Cooperation

Australia supports efforts such as the 2001 G-15 Jakarta Declaration which urges the promotion of information and technology cooperation to bridge the “digital” gap between countries.

g. Exchange of Parliamentary Visits

Australia emphasized the enormous benefits gained from inter-parliamentary visits. The Australian parliament participates in several international cooperation dialogues on a regular basis like the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (which includes two ASEAN members, Singapore and Malaysia), the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary fellowship, and of course, AIPO.

4. Adjournment

Delegates concluded that the dialogue was conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality, in the spirit of ASEAN accommodation and solidarity, served to strengthen ASEAN-Australia cooperation. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.



HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Chairperson