



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Rep.27GA/Com/Panel/PNG

REPORT ON
THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE AIPO
AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mr. President,

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

1. The dialogue was held on the 12th of September 2006 from 4:25 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.. The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Catalino V. Figueroa.
2. The Dialogue Meeting was attended by the following delegates:

Papua New Guinea

1. Hon. Bob Dadae
2. Mr. Lalai Vali

Cambodia

1. Hon. Chea Kim
2. Her Highness Princess Sisowath Santa
3. Mr. Kim Sochetra

Indonesia

1. Hon. Untung Wahono
2. Mr. Bindu Marbun

Lao People's Democratic Republic

1. Hon. Mrs. Bang On Sayarath

Malaysia

1. Hon. Mr. Chiw Tiang Chai
2. Hon. Dato' Hajah Samsiah Samsudin

Philippines

1. Hon. Catalino V. Figueroa - Chairperson

Singapore

1. Hon. Dr. Fatimah Lateef
2. Hon. Chan Soo Chen

Thailand

1. Hon. Pensak Chagsuchinda
3. The Chairperson of the Dialogue Meeting, HON. CATALINO FIGUEROA, firstly invited the Delegation of Papua New Guinea to introduce their delegates. The AIPO member and special observer delegations were also invited to introduce themselves.
4. After introduction, the Chairperson invited all delegates to consider and discuss the five topics that were approved at the first Plenary Session in a free flow manner with the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding. The following five topics were discussed:

a. Regional and International Political Matters

Papua New Guinea emphasized the need to cooperate with each other in combating serious threats in relation to terrorism and the need to share intelligence and information and establish an anti-terrorism mechanism in the region and other parts of the world.

While Papua New Guinea is greatly encouraged by the future economic prosperity of the ASEAN region, it is equally concerned with the unresolved global issues that continue to threaten its security. There can be no doubt that without sustainable peace and security there cannot be any economic prosperity. So it is important that all AIPO and non-AIPO members fully consider all conceivable measures that lend themselves towards the protection of all countries. The lack of resources coupled with acute shortage of skilled manpower makes Papua New Guinea, one of the Pacific Island countries surrounded by vast expanse of unprotected water, more exposed to vulnerable transnational crimes (terrorism, drugs trafficking, human smuggling, money laundering). This is the reason that Papua New Guinea, along with the members of the Melanesian Spearheads Group (MSG) - Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, are actively pursuing the proposition to establish the “Melanesian Security Intelligence Concept” (MELSIC) through which any information gathered can be disseminated to National Intelligence Organizations of the respective members of MSG.

b. Economic and Trade Cooperation

Hon. Bob Dadae reported that Papua New Guinea proudly continues to forge and expand its bilateral trade and investment relations with individual AIPO member countries. Papua New Guinea is equally keen to enter into economic and development partnership arrangements with the future ASEAN Economic Union. Like AIPO member countries, Papua New Guinea is excited about the prospects offered by ASEAN Economic Union (AEU) as it is believed that benefits under the overall framework of AEU would be unprecedented.

c. Investment Opportunities

Economic and trade cooperation growth promises increase in investment opportunities.

d. Environmental Issues

Hon. Bob Dadae explained that in the Papua New Guinea government there is a department resolving environmental issues such as illegal logging causing deforestation. There are laws and policies regarding this issue but illegal logging remains a problem of the Papua New Guinea government.

e. Exchange of Parliamentary Visits

Believing in the benefits of parliamentary visits for both the host and the visiting parliament, Papua New Guinea encourages more exchanges with other countries.

The meeting ended with a note of optimism about the continuing harmonious relations between the AIPO and Papua New Guinea.



HON. CATALINO V. FIGUEROA
Chairman