



ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization

# JOINT COMMUNIQUE

24<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7-12 SEPTEMBER 2003  
JAKARTA, INDONESIA



## **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization**

**24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**7 – 12 September 2003, Jakarta, Indonesia**

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24GA/2003/JC

### **JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) held on 8 – 13 September 2002, in Hanoi, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPO, the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was held on 7 – 12 September 2003, in Jakarta with the participation of eight member countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam; two special observer countries: Brunei Darussalam, and Myanmar; and seven observer countries: Canada, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and the European Parliament.
2. The Women Parliamentarians of AIPO (WAIPO) met on 7 September 2003 prior to the opening ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.
3. H.E. Akbar Tandjung, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in his capacity as President of AIPO, presided over the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly.
4. The Leaders of AIPO Member Delegations, Special Observers, Observers and the Secretary General of ASEAN as Guest of Honor paid a courtesy call on the President of AIPO.
5. All participants to the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly were cordially invited to a dinner hosted by H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Hon. Taufiq Kiemas.
6. AIPO delegates and their spouses also attended dinner receptions hosted by Hon. Soetardjo Soerjogoeritno, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Hon. Sutiyoso, Governor of the Special Province of Jakarta, and Hon. Akbar Tandjung, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives.

## **INAUGURAL CEREMONY**

### **Inaugural Speech by President of AIPO**

7. In his Inaugural Address, H.E. Akbar Tandjung stated that new challenges have arisen in the region. These include the threat of international terrorism and transnational crime. There is, therefore, a need for the countries in the region to increase security co-operation by establishing a new common security arrangement. This will not be a military alliance but a firm commitment among the regional states to take full collective responsibility for addressing the security issues in the region. Thus, the ASEAN countries will be able to more effectively address the problem of international terrorism and other transnational crimes. By establishing an ASEAN Security Community, we the countries of Southeast Asia will also be giving a boost to our efforts to become an ASEAN Economic Community in the years ahead.
8. He also reminded us that we must also confront another global threat to security and that is the threat of unilateralism --a threat that has in recent months tended to diminish the role of the United Nations in global security affairs. Recent events have proven that unilateral action does not solve the problems it seeks to solve, and that in the long run a world dominated by unilateralism will not be able to achieve the peace that we are all aspiring for. That is why we must restore the United Nations to its rightful place in international affairs so that it can serve as the instrument of our collective security and as the principal tool for the attainment of world peace. Only through multilateral approaches within the UN framework, with strict compliance with international law, particularly the UN Charter and Conventions, can we solve the global security problems besetting the world today.
9. He further underlined that multilateralism embodied in the United Nations can be successfully replicated at the regional level, with the support and cooperation of the United Nations itself, as stipulated in its Charter.
10. Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives in his capacity as President of AIPO was, therefore, confident that ASEAN could play such a role in Southeast Asia -- ensuring and sustaining cooperation for peace, stability, and equitably shared prosperity. For that to be possible, we must all work hard together to attain the security and socio-economic development goals stipulated in ASEAN Vision 2020.

### **Address by President of the Republic of Indonesia**

11. H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in her address to the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2003, read for her by the Indonesian Coordinating Minister of Political and Security Affairs, Hon. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, welcomed all participants to the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly. She noted that each government of respective ASEAN countries has been closely cooperating to realize the region's stability, peace and growth and has resulted in gratifying progress and prosperity. The cooperation has steadily grown, particularly when we jointly confronted

the threat of terrorism and the spread of the SARS epidemic. These were all made possible due to a clear and strong political support. Everyone is fully aware that in the absence of a common perception on the confronting challenges, and of a firm political support, a quick and accurate resolution would not be achievable, particularly in addressing those complicated issues.

12. She acknowledged the profound understanding and intuitive political instinct of the ASEAN Member Parliaments and the encouragement of their respective Governments to take prompt actions.
13. The President appreciated the attempt to strengthen institutional and procedural aspects aimed at fortifying the golden bridge that we have named ASEAN.
14. She believed that, with the ASEAN solidarity and friendship as the cementing factors, the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly would conclude with fruitful results for prosperity of the ASEAN people.

#### **WRITTEN MESSAGES FROM THE HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT OF AIPO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND SPECIAL OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

15. The General Assembly welcomes and appreciates the written messages from the heads of states/governments:
  1. His Royal Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia
  2. H.E. Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
  3. H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia
  4. H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines
  5. H.E. S.R. Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore
  6. H.E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
  7. H.E. Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
  8. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam
  9. H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Union of Myanmar.

The full texts are attached as Annexes.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

16. The delegations were led respectively by:
  - a. **H.E. Cheam Yeap**, Representative of the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
  - b. **H.E. Soetardjo Soerjogoeitno**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia
  - c. **H.E. Samane Vignaket**, President of National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic

- d. **Hon. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. SULAIMAN bin Haji Daud**, Representative of the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat of Malaysia
  - e. **H.E. Jose de Venecia**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of The Philippines
  - f. **H.E. Abdullah Tarmugi**, Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Singapore
  - g. **H.E. Uthai Pimchaichon**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand
  - h. **H.E. Nguyen Van An**, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
17. Also present were Special Observer Delegations from: Brunei Darussalam led by **Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin bin Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yassin**, and Myanmar led by **H.E. U Aung Toe**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and Observer Delegations from Canada led by **Hon. Bryon Wilfert**; People's Republic of China led by **Hon. Wang Yunlong**; European Parliament led by **Hon. Hartmut Nassauer**; Japan led by **Hon. Ms. Akiko Santo**; Republic of Korea led by **Hon. Lee Hee - Kyu**; New Zealand led by **Hon. Dave Hereora**; Russian Federation led by **Hon. Ilyas Umakhanov**. The meeting was also attended by **Hon. Ong Keng Yong**, Secretary General of ASEAN.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

18. The General Assembly elected the Leaders of AIPO Member Countries as Vice-Presidents.

#### **STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATION**

19. The Heads of Delegations of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

##### **Cambodia**

20. H.E. Cheam Yeap, Representative of the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia conveyed the congratulations on behalf of the parliamentary delegation and the President, His Royal Highness Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, who unfortunately could not be present today, but expressed his deep gratitude to the Parliament of Indonesia for hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly and for the excellent leadership of this organization.
21. He further said that Parliaments are instrumental in working for the inclusion of all the people in South East Asia and fulfilling the promise that all will be educated, healthy and living in peace as this will strengthen and enrich the life of family and society.

22. The Cambodian Delegation is looking forward to a future of continued cooperation, friendship and mutual understanding between the respective parliaments, as we grapple with new and bigger challenges.

#### **Indonesia**

23. H.E. Soetardjo Soerjogoeritno, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, in his capacity as Leader of the Indonesian Delegation, urged ASEAN member countries to *unite their stance in the efforts to overcome all the problems commonly faced by the member countries in all aspects*. He mentioned several critical issues, such as transnational crimes, maritime cooperation, illegal labor, and the declining role and function of the United Nations as a legitimate body to settle international disputes.
24. In the area of economy, he argued that the region is beginning to recover economically, although the trade liberalization moves rather slowly. He therefore suggested that a standardized and common legislation on trade and investment be established to expedite the implementation of AFTA. In his view, if not well prepared, AFTA has a potential to create tension among ASEAN member countries.
25. He also noted that SARS has become another issue that needs addressing as it has caused considerable loss to the region. He even argued that SARS could cause serious negative impacts on the economy and security of the region. Therefore, he called for the need to integrate and enhance comprehensive cooperation among ASEAN countries not only in the prevention of the spread of the diseases but also in raising the awareness of the ASEAN communities of the importance of health

#### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

26. The President of the National Assembly, H.E. Samane Vignaket expressed his congratulations and appreciation for the efforts made by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in organizing the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia.
27. He further reiterated that his delegation highly values the success of the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh that affirmed the basic principles of the Bali Treaty concerning peace and security safeguarding and in the gradual realization of a steady cooperation in combating terrorism, drugs, human trafficking, especially women and children, etc.
28. He stated that the Lao People's Democratic Republic would do its utmost to strengthen cooperation and relations to integrate into the international community, support every effort of ASEAN in building the Southeast Asia region into a region of peace and sustainable development. He informed the Assembly that the Lao National Assembly would host the Ad-hoc committee on ASEAN University in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from 25 – 28 January 2004.

## Malaysia

29. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. Sulaiman Haji Daud, Leader of the Malaysian Delegation said that in these turbulent times as epitomized by globalization, terrorist attacks, September 11, the Iraq War and the North Korean nuclear issue, the international community continued to grapple with the fall-out of this military intervention and its cost to multilateralism, international law and interstate relations.
30. He supported just causes and condemned all acts that threatened peace and security as crimes against humanity. But he reiterated the need to understand the root causes of terrorism, with their hearts and minds, and strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation. He would like to see the eradication of piracy and money laundering.
31. He suggested that competitiveness should be enhanced through greater economic integration and exchange of information in ASEAN for a fairer trading system and every effort should be made to ensure the success of AFTA.
32. Tan Sri Dr. Sulaiman insisted on the democratization of the international system and the entrenchment of the values of law, democracy, and human rights on national and international levels. He emphasized the principles in the UN Charter for the common interest of humanity and the importance of adherence to international law.

## The Philippines

33. H.E. Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, stated in his opening statement that the Philippines is submitting two reports for consideration by the General Assembly – the Report on the ASEAN Anti-Poverty Fund and the Report on the feasibility of transforming AIPO into an ASEAN Parliament.
34. He said that the ASEAN Anti-Poverty Fund which was envisaged to help create a new middle class from the rural and urban slums – is attracting support. He mentioned that the ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed its support in its meeting in Brunei. Likewise, the ASEAN Finance Ministers expressed its support in its meeting in Manila in August 2003 and will bring up the matter in the World Bank/IMF meeting in Dubai in late September 2003. And the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) composed of 38 countries, in its meeting in Manila on September 1-4, 2003 declared that the Funds is a practical way of building up the Asian middle class.
35. H.E. de Venecia further stated that AIPO has come of age, and its graduation from a “talk shop” is an idea whose time has come. He said that the vision of constituting AIPO into the functional legislature of one Southeast Asian community has been in AIPO’s agenda since 1980; that experience now pushes us to consider elevating AIPO to the next level of its historical evolution.

36. He also urged AIPO to add its voice to those in the world calling for a dialogue of faiths and cultures – a dialogue of civilizations – to restore the global order shattered by the September 11 terrorist attacks.
37. He emphasized the need to reduce political, religious and economic tensions throughout the world – so that our nations can live together in harmony – and people everywhere can realize the fullest possibilities of their lives.

### **Singapore**

38. H.E. Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of the Singapore Parliament, stated that the regional landscape had been altered dramatically over the last few years by a series of events including the 1997 financial crisis and more recently, SARS and terrorism. While these events have brought about increased cooperation between members of ASEAN, some of these events also had a negative impact on the economic dynamism that characterized South-East Asia during the 1990's. A great challenge ahead for ASEAN would be to determine how to make the group competitive and attractive to foreign investors, especially in the face of competition from other countries and regional groupings.
39. He stressed that at this time of uncertainty, ASEAN must continue to display its solidarity, cohesiveness and economic competitiveness to the international community. To this end, members had to come together, to maintain their global outlook and work closely to tackle the challenges ahead. The annual meetings of AIPO General Assembly provided a good opportunity for interaction between Parliamentarians so that each member country could keep abreast of developments, achieve a clearer understanding and respond effectively to the challenges currently facing them.

### **Thailand**

40. His Excellency Mr. Uthai Pimchaichon, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand, thanked His Excellency Mr. Akbar Tandjung, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, for hosting this conference and the Indonesian National Group and the Indonesian peoples for the warm welcome and hospitalities. He was confident that the general assembly will enhance further AIPO spirit of friendship and cooperation and come up with new and practical ideas for the prosperity of the region.
41. The President congratulated AIPO on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 and noted that AIPO had relentlessly faced countless challenges during those years in trying to secure a better future for the people it represents. But the strong will and determination of AIPO to do what was right for the peoples and the region had enabled ASEAN to overcome even the greatest obstacles. He noted that AIPO continued to join forces to meet the crises and faced challenges together.



42. The President underscored the fundamentals of multilateral cooperation to AIPO. He appreciated various AIPO meetings aimed at giving AIPO members the opportunities to share experiences and views that foster regional reconciliation and the venues to promote agreements among parliaments and produce policies that are necessary for the development of the region. He further stressed the importance of friendship and cooperation for ASEAN at the time of great uncertainty in the world of globalization that created not only opportunities for but also posed challenges to every country. He nevertheless believed that ASEAN can effectively face globalization and resolve them by enforcing AIPO resolutions and improving AIPO mechanisms to implement them.
43. The President observed that ASEAN cooperation is expanding in scope and stronger in strengths as the region evolves. It was the duty of parliamentarians to ensure that governments enjoy support from parliaments. He remarked however that in the last 25 years, AIPO was far behind the government in enlarging its scope of works and it was now high time to seriously address this shortcoming. He believed that the idea of an ASEAN Parliament was forward-looking. But it needed gradual moves and more time for the national parliaments in the region to think about. He, hence, called upon the members to empower AIPO and transform it into a regional parliamentary organization with an effective parliamentary oversight later on.
44. In conclusion, he wished the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly every success and hoped that AIPO would be able to provide practical solutions for the region, deepening AIPO friendship, understanding and prosperity for today and tomorrow.

#### **Vietnam**

45. H.E. Nguyen Van An, President of the National Assembly, conveyed warmest greetings of friendship and solidarity and best wishes for happiness and prosperity to the State and people of Indonesia.
46. The President stressed that owing to the escalating spiral of violence the world public believed that terrorism in any form must be eradicated from the life of mankind and for this all nations as well as regional and international organizations need to work together in order to address the root causes of terrorism.
47. He further stated that globalization is an inevitable trend, which has both positive and negative impacts, including the widening gap between the rich and the poor. However, globalization is a positive factor for those countries that are able to seize opportunities and overcome challenges. And on a global scale, sustainable development will be ensured if all nations enjoy equal opportunities for development so that they can contribute to humankind the quintessence drawn from the depth of their cultures.

### **Brunei Darussalam**

48. Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin bin Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yassin, conveyed his appreciation and thanks: first to the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Megawati Soekarnoputri for her excellent address, which sets forth the direction for the discussions at this 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization General Assembly, further to His Excellency Akbar Tandjung for the invitation, and third to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the excellent arrangement made for this Meeting.
49. The conference this year is held against the backdrop of many challenges, both externally and internally. It also has to face the challenge to narrow the development gap in the region.
50. Therefore, ASEAN member countries have to work even closer together to address the many challenges and obstacles that lie ahead. As thus ASEAN should continue to show strong commitment and resolve to address them and to continue to be a relevant and significant organization for the people in the region and respected by the international community.

### **Union of Myanmar**

51. In his statement, H.E. U Aung Toe, the Leader of Myanmar Delegation, thanked the Government of Indonesia for its warm hospitality and hearty welcome. He acknowledged that this meeting is taking place at a time when the world is facing difficult and complex issues and at the same time noted that ASEAN has responded to these challenges by closer cooperation and coordination. He further assured his country's commitments and obligations to ASEAN.
52. He also said that now Myanmar is enjoying peace and tranquility. Therefore, it is now able to concentrate on national development endeavors. He also reported that Myanmar is placing priority to combat narcotic drugs. In this regard, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) reported in its report that since 1996 the opium production in Myanmar fell by 50 percent.
53. The General Assembly conducted committee meetings in the fields of Political, Economic, Social, Organizational and Women Parliamentarians of AIPO (WAIPO) Matters as well as the Dialogues Matter.

### **POLITICAL MATTERS**

#### ***The Report on the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting***

54. The Assembly took note with appreciation the report on the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in June 2003, submitted by the Cambodian Delegation, which mainly focused on the theme of "Towards an ASEAN Economic Community Integration and Outward-Looking". The Assembly noted to pay serious attention to the Joint Communiqué of the

36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting which consisted of 56 important issues related to ASEAN Integration, Political and Security Cooperation, Functional Cooperation, External Relation, International and Regional Issues, and Institutional Matters.

#### **The ASEAN Maritime Cooperation**

55. The Assembly welcomed the idea of Maritime Cooperation in ASEAN proposed by the Indonesian Government to the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in June 2003. The Assembly also encouraged the ASEAN countries to promote regional maritime cooperation by, inter alia, considering the establishment of a forum to deal with maritime-related issues as well as to discuss their impact and implications in a comprehensive manner and coordinate existing approaches on and take up new issues in maritime cooperation in the region. The Assembly also encouraged the ASEAN Leaders to positively address the idea of ASEAN Maritime Cooperation in their deliberations during the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in October 2003 in Bali.

#### **Ways and Means to Combat Transnational Crime**

56. The Assembly encouraged the respective ASEAN member countries to strengthen the existing networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations dealing with transnational crime to further information exchange and dissemination. The Assembly also encouraged the ASEAN member countries to explore ways to work more closely with relevant agencies and organizations in Dialogue Partners countries, other countries, as well as regional/international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, ASEANAPOL, Interpol and other related agencies to combat transnational crime. The Assembly emphasized the importance of cooperation in law enforcement and institutional capacity building, exchange of experience, and holding workshops, human resource development, resources exchange and access to technology that will allow for advance methods to combat transnational crime.

#### **Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in Maintaining International Peace and Security**

57. The Assembly called on the United Nations to ensure its effective and timely role and functions as the international body with the prime responsibility of maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The Assembly also called upon the United Nations to discourage any country from taking unilateral actions to solve regional crises and disputes. The Assembly also called on the international community to enhance cooperation in the efforts of strengthening the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security through revitalizing, restructuring, and democratizing the United Nations system, including its Security Council. In addition, the Assembly urged the ASEAN Governments to step up their efforts aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations as the only legitimate body in maintaining international peace and security.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP III)**

58. The Assembly expressed its support for Vietnam's initiative to host the third Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting in the first quarter of 2004.

### **ECONOMIC MATTERS**

#### **The Need to Create an ASEAN Common Legislation on the Realization of the Implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)**

59. The Assembly called for the active participation of each AIPO Member Parliament in promoting and formulating common legal frameworks to facilitate trade and investment pursuant to the various relevant ASEAN Agreements and to undertake economic reforms, including tax and customs framework as well as to promptly re-formulate trade and investment for accelerating the implementation of AFTA, AFAS and AIA.
60. The Assembly urged all ASEAN member countries to implement the various economic agreements with a view to reforming trade and investment regulations towards the realization of ASEAN Vision 2020.
61. The Assembly called for closer cooperation among ASEAN in working towards a better, fairer and more balanced international economic and trade regime within the framework of WTO.

#### **Economic Cooperation and Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN Plus Three**

62. The Assembly welcomes and supports the joint commitments, agreements and active efforts, in the past and the present, by the Leaders of ASEAN+3 to enhance closer economic co-operation for comprehensive mutual benefits between the two regions with a view to further realizing an East Asia economic integration in the future.
63. The Assembly called on ASEAN member countries to focus on the two pillars of economic development and cooperation in order to narrow the development gap, especially the digital divide between ASEAN and Plus Three.
64. The Assembly urged ASEAN member countries to consistently reaffirm ASEAN's economic co-operation and comprehensive partnership with Plus Three in East Asia and particularly welcome their support aimed at accelerating for internal exchanges, especially in trade by applying equal treatment as well as bilateral FTAs with Plus Three.
65. The Assembly called on each ASEAN member country to commit to the implementation of the initiative for ASEAN Integration plans and projects aimed at realizing the bridging of development gap between the older and newer members of ASEAN and ASEAN's integration conducive for the following-up of economic co-operation and comprehensive partnership agreements with Plus Three.

66. The Assembly called for ASEAN member countries to actively welcome and support East Asia countries' support for the IAI work plan and projects, Japan's Initiative for Development in East Asia (IDEA), and Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP) between ASEAN and Japan, the Republic of Korea initiated-the East Asia Vision Group and the East Asia Study Group, and the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN-China aimed at increasing trade and investment.
67. The Assembly urged ASEAN member countries to consistently commit that the need to enhance economic co-operation and comprehensive partnership with Plus Three shall not weaken intra-ASEAN economic co-operations notably through AFTA and other areas of economic co-operation.

#### **Cancun Ministerial Conference in the Doha WTO Round**

68. The Assembly also appreciated the presentation on the Cancun Ministerial Conference in the Doha WTO Round and agreed on the need for a fairer and more balanced global trade, especially for developing countries. It expressed support for the expeditious accession of newer ASEAN member countries to WTO.

#### **SOCIAL MATTERS**

##### **AIPO Fact Finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace**

69. The Assembly urged the ASEAN governments to set up an information network, to harmonize the national legislation of the ASEAN member countries related to penalties for illegal drug traffickers and money launderers, including the forging of an ASEAN extradition treaty of drug related and money laundering offenders, and to enhance cooperation in sea, land and air transportation and border security control.

##### **The Report of AIPO Study Committee Meeting on the Establishment of an ASEAN Anti-Poverty Fund**

70. The Assembly unanimously adopted the report. The Assembly agreed to recommend to the respective governments to seek and discuss cooperation to alleviate poverty and discuss in various ASEAN fora.

##### **Establishment of a Special Committee on the Golden Triangle**

71. The Assembly welcomed the idea of the Establishment of a Special Committee on the Golden Triangle proposed by Malaysia. The Assembly agreed to set up a Committee to study the current situation of the plants used for addictive materials in the Golden Triangle and to visit the area if necessary.

66. The Assembly called for ASEAN member countries to actively welcome and support East Asia countries' support for the IAI work plan and projects, Japan's Initiative for Development in East Asia (IDEA), and Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP) between ASEAN and Japan, the Republic of Korea initiated-the East Asia Vision Group and the East Asia Study Group, and the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN-China aimed at increasing trade and investment.
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### **ASEAN University**

72. The Assembly also welcomed the idea of the ASEAN University proposed by Thailand and agreed to set up a Special Committee to evaluate the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN University Network with a view to considering the possibility of establishing an ASEAN University in the future.

### **Protection of Migrant Workers**

73. The Assembly urged that ASEAN Governments work towards the standardization of practices for the protection of migrant workers with comprehensive, coherent, and effective policies based on a spirit of partnership and common understanding. On the other hand, the Assembly encouraged that every migrant worker should be familiar with and should respect the prevailing laws of the hosting country.

### **ASEAN Cooperation for the Prevention on Pandemic**

74. The Assembly encouraged respective ASEAN member countries to strengthen regional solidarity, in the wake of globalization, for healthcare policies and their better development through the sharing of knowledge and best practices particularly in the prevention of epidemic and pandemic diseases, health policy and health system development.

### **Ensuring Access to Healthcare for the Poor and Vulnerable Groups**

75. The Assembly urged the governments of respective member countries to ensure that legislation and national policies should not allow economic and political interests to override the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups in gaining access to acceptable essential good healthcare.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **Report of the Secretary General**

76. The Assembly approved the report of the Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) for Financial Year 2002/2003.

### **Financial Report of AIPO Secretariat**

77. The Assembly approved the Audited Annual Financial Report of AIPO Secretariat for the period: (a) 1 July 2002 to 30 September 2002, (b) 1 October 2002 to 30 June 2003 and Un-audited Financial Report for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 September 2003.

### **Budget Proposal for AIPO Secretariat**

78. The Assembly approved the estimated expenditure of US\$ 107,738.45 proposed in the budget proposal for AIPO Secretariat for period 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004. The Assembly also approved a sum of US\$ 110,000.00 from AIPO Saving's account be transferred to a time deposit account with an appropriate bank as decided by the President of AIPO.

### **Donation of the Government of Brunei Darussalam**

79. The Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for its donation of US\$ 10,000.00 to AIPO in 2003.

### **Appreciation of the services of the President of AIPO**

80. The Assembly noted that the term of office of His Excellency Akbar Tandjung as President of AIPO would end at the conclusion of the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly. The General Assembly expressed its sincere appreciation of his services.

### **Appreciation of the services of the Secretary General of AIPO**

81. The Assembly noted that the term of office of Honorable Sitti Nurhajati Daud as Secretary General of AIPO would end at the conclusion of the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly. The General Assembly expressed its sincere appreciation of her services.

### **The Amendment of the Statutes of AIPO**

82. The Assembly approved the amendment to Article 21 of the Statutes of AIPO. Article 21 shall henceforth read as follows:  
"The expenses for all meetings of AIPO incurred in the host country shall be borne by the host country, *except for the expenses of the AIPO Study/Ad-hoc Committees and experts' research on AIPO matters which shall be partly borne by AIPO's operating surplus fund which will be decided by the General Assembly.*"

### **Appreciation to Indonesian Parliament**

83. The Assembly approved the appreciation to the Indonesian Parliament in Publishing and Launching the book on "*The 25 Years of AIPO*".

### **Report on the Feasibility of the Establishing an ASEAN Parliament**

84. The Assembly appreciated the Philippines' hard work in the preparation of the report on the Feasibility of Establishing an ASEAN Parliament. It resolved to leave the matter to individual member countries' Parliaments to further study this matter and to report the results thereof to the General Assembly in the near future.



## **WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPO (WAIPO) MATTERS**

85. The Assembly noted the important of the following three topics, namely: (1) Gender Equality in the ASEAN Region, and the Role of Women Political Leaders in a Globalized Era, (2) The Role of Media, and (3) The Role of Women in Accelerating Sustainable Development.

### **Equality in the ASEAN Region, and the Role of Women Political Leaders in a Globalized Era**

86. The Assembly agreed on the principles of gender equality, and urged governments to enhance and nurture the roles of women political leaders with a comprehensive strategy, in order to achieve fundamental changes. The Assembly also agreed to promote the enabling conditions in order to increase the number of women parliamentarians and enhance the quality of women in Parliament as a commitment of the ASEAN member countries.
87. The Assembly further agreed to set up a Study Committee in order to discuss the strategic efforts to realize justice and gender equality, especially in the political sphere; and more specifically to identify a pilot project aimed at promoting women's participation in political leadership and especially in legislative bodies for region-wide action by AIPO Parliaments.

### **The Role of Media**

88. The Assembly appealed to all AIPO Member state to be aware of the responsibility of media in realizing a better and more just society.
89. The Assembly called actions to be consistently carried out by the governments, media bodies and the international organizations with freedom to express for women.

### **The Role of Women in Accelerating Sustainable Development**

90. The Assembly agreed to realize policies and activities reflecting the increased development of women within the sustainable program, through a number of comprehensive strategies, in order to enable the realization of fundamental change.
91. The assembly further agreed to improve the quality of life for women as a commitment of the ASEAN member states in order to secure a sustainable development as well as to improve the roles and quality of life for women within the frame of sustainable development.

## **DIALOGUE MATTERS**

92. The AIPO Dialogue Committees conducted separate discussions with seven Observer Countries: Canada, People's Republic of China, European Parliament, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Russian Federation. Five topics were discussed:
- a. Regional Security and Political Matters
  - b. Trade and Investment and Economic Cooperation
  - c. Environmental Issues
  - d. Educational, Cultural, Scientific and Technology Cooperation
  - e. Enhancing Bilateral Relations between AIPO and Parliaments of Observer Countries.

## **DATE AND VENUE OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> AIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

93. The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia to host the 25<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly from 12 to 17 September 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

## **APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY**

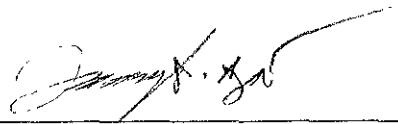
94. The Delegations attending the Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Parliament of Indonesia as well as the people of Indonesia for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly.

## **ASEAN SPIRIT**

95. The 24<sup>th</sup> AIPO General Assembly was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation, in accordance with the concept of '*musyawarah*' (consultation) and '*mufakat*' (consensus).
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Done in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Eleventh day of September, in the year Two Thousand and Three (2003).

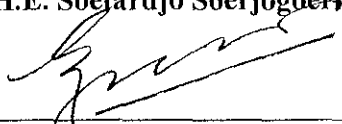
For CAMBODIA

  
H.E. Cheam Yeap

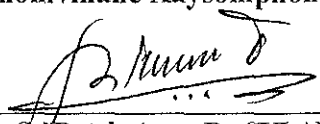
For INDONESIA

  
H.E. Soefardjo Soerjogoeritno

For LAO PDR

  
H.E. Phomvihane Xaysomphone

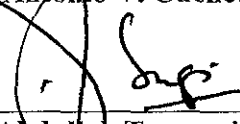
For MALAYSIA

  
H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. SULAIMAN  
bin Haji Daud

For The PHILIPPINES

  
H.E. Antonio V. Cuenco

For SINGAPORE

  
H.E. Abdullah Tarmugi

For THAILAND

  
H.E. Uthai Pimchaichon

For VIETNAM

  
H.E. Nguyen Van An

For BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

  
Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin bin  
Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yassin

For MYANMAR

  
H.E. U Aung Toe

PRESIDENT OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION

  
H.E. AKBAR TANDJUNG