



38TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

14-20 September 2017
Makati Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines

"AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change"



REPORT ON THE 38th AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 29 September – 03 October 2016, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 38th General Assembly was held in Manila, Philippines on 14-20 September 2017 with the theme, *"AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change"*.
2. His Excellency Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines and President of AIPA presided over the 38th AIPA General Assembly.

DELEGATIONS

3. The 38th AIPA General Assembly was attended by delegations from the following AIPA Member Countries: **Brunei Darussalam**, led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council; the **Kingdom of Cambodia**, led by H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly; the **Republic of Indonesia**, led by Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon (Deputy Speaker); **Lao People's Democratic Republic** led by H.E. Madame Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly; **Malaysia** led by Hon. Dato' Sri Haji Ismail Bin Mohamed Said, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; the **Republic of the Union of Myanmar** led by Hon. T. Khun Myatt, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; the **Republic of the Philippines** led

4. by Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives; the **Republic of Singapore** led by Hon. Lim Biow Chuan, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament; the **Kingdom of Thailand** led by H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly; and **the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam** led by Hon. Mdm. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam.
5. It was also attended by delegations from the following Observer Countries: **Australia** led by Hon. George Christensen (MP); the **Republic of Belarus** led by Hon. Doctor Dmitry Shevtsov (MP); **Canada** led by Hon. Senator Tobias C. Enverga, Jr.; the **People’s Republic of China** led by Hon. Li Lianning (MP); **European Parliament** led by Hon. Neena Gill (MP); the **Republic of India** led by Hon. Ganesh Singh (MP); **Japan** led by Hon. Masahiro Ishii (MP); **Republic of Korea** led by Hon. Oh Jaesae (MP); and **Russian Federation** led by Hon. Olga Epifanova, Vice-Chairman of the State Duma.
6. The following **Guests of the Host** also attended: the **ASEAN Secretariat** led by Mr. Achmad Kurnia Prawira Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General; the **ASEAN Supreme Audit Institution (ASEANSAI)** led by Mr. Hendar Ristriawan, Head of Secretariat; **Economic Research Institute For Asean And East Asia (ERIA)**, led by Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President; the **German Delegation/GIZ** led by Mr. Timo Goosmann; the **Parliament Institute Of Cambodia (PIC)** led by Mr. Dararith Kim-Yeat, Executive Director; and **USAID Wildlife Asia/Freeland** led by Mr. Brian V. Gonzales.

*The list of delegates from AIPA Member Parliaments, Observer Parliaments and Guests of the Host is attached as **Annex A**.*

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7. The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Executive Committee (EXCOM), comprising of the Heads of Delegations from AIPA Member Parliaments and their delegations convened on Friday, 15 September 2017

at 9:30 a.m. **Hon. Lim Biow Chuan**, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore as host of the next General Assembly was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, while **Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua**, Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and the Chairperson of the AIPA House Organizing Committee, was designated as Rapporteur.

8. The Executive Committee adopted the recommendation of Hon. Isra Sunthornvut, AIPA Secretary General, on the referral of the Reports on AIPA related meetings that took place prior to the 38th General Assembly to the appropriate committees.
 - a. The Report on the Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) during the 38th ASEAN Summit held in Manila on 29 April 2017 was referred to the Committee on Political Matters;
 - b. The Report on the 13th Meeting of the AIPA Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace held also in Manila on 4-8 July 2017 was referred to the Committee on Social Matters;
 - c. The Report on the 9th AIPA Caucus held in Jakarta, Indonesia was referred to the Committee on Political Matters.
9. The Executive Committee approved the Program of Activities and Topics for Dialogue with Observer Countries. It likewise approved the Agenda for the 38th General Assembly; however, despite extensive deliberations and discussion, the Executive Committee failed to reach a consensus on the approval of the agenda of the Committee on Political Matters.

*A copy of the Program of Activities is attached as **Annex B**.*

*A list of Agenda Items is attached as **Annex C**.*

*The Report of the Executive Committee Meeting is attached as **Annex D**.*

MEETING OF THE WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

10. The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) was chaired by Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica. Hon. Lucy T. Gomez served as Rapporteur.
11. The Committee discussed and approved the Resolution on Promoting the Health of Women Migrant Workers:

CALL ON H.E. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT OF AIPA AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

12. Heads of Delegations of AIPA Member Countries, representatives of Observer Countries and Guests of Host paid a courtesy call on H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, AIPA President, on Saturday, 16 September 2017.

WRITTEN MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF STATES/GOVERNMENTS

13. Written Messages were received from the following Heads of States/Governments of Member Countries:

<i>Heads of States/Governments</i>	<i>Country</i>
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah	Brunei Darussalam
His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni	Cambodia
H.E. Joko Widodo	Indonesia
H.E. Bounnhang Vorachith	Lao PDR
Hon. Dato' Sri Muhammad Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak	Malaysia
H.E. U Htin Kyaw	Myanmar
H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte	Philippines
Mr. J.Y. Pillay	Singapore
H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha	Thailand
H.E. Tran Dai Quang	Vietnam

The Messages from the Heads of States/Governments of AIPA Member Countries are attached as Annex E.

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 38th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14. The Opening Ceremony of the 38th General Assembly of AIPA was held on Saturday, 16 September 2017. It included a cultural presentation featuring musical and dance numbers performed by well-known Filipino artists, depicting the ASEAN brotherhood, strong family ties, and desire for peace in the region.

Opening Remarks of H.E. Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

15. H.E. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, President of the Senate of the Philippines delivered the Opening Remarks.
16. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III traced the roots of AIPA and considered ASEAN a “modern miracle” that can be traced to “TEAMWORK” - respecting each other’s sovereignty, talking to each other, meeting and working with each other, cooperating with each other, consulting each other, and a policy of non-interference in local issues.
17. Sen. Pimentel identified two challenges facing ASEAN: the large gap between the richest and poorest nations and inequality within the individual nations; and, the transfer of ownership of ASEAN from governments to the peoples, from Ministries to communities. Sen. Pimentel expressed confidence that with TEAMWORK between and among AIPA Member Parliaments, there should also be TEAMWORK between AIPA and its Dialogue Partners.
18. Sen. Pimentel then proposed five key issues for AIPA’s study and consideration: the problem of illegal drugs; the presence of terrorism; the region’s state of disaster preparedness; the issue of human

trafficking; and, the inequality in the level of economic development of our various regions.

*The full text of Senate President Pimentel's Opening Remarks is attached as **Annex F**.*

Message of H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez

19. Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez of the House of Representatives welcomed the delegates to the 38th AIPA General Assembly in the Philippines. He noted that his term as AIPA President coincided with the commemoration of two historic occasions – the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the 40th Anniversary of AIPA.
20. Given the changing regional context, he underlined that AIPA's role will be both crucial and necessary. The theme of this year's General Assembly – **"AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change"** – is reflective of the need of ASEAN parliamentarians to have more voice in the regional process, a domain which has been traditionally exclusive to the Executive branch. ASEAN's major bottleneck in the implementation of regional integration measures has been in the slow ratification of agreements by Member States, particularly commitments from the ASEAN Economic Community.
21. The Speaker emphasized that AIPA's participation can result in fully harmonizing the legal frameworks of the ASEAN Member States, and building common standards by promulgating domestic laws in line with ASEAN agreements and commitments. Through parliamentary cooperation with ASEAN, AIPA has pushed for an active role in the evolving regional architecture by highlighting issues through the discussion platforms of the AIPA-ASEAN Interface and the AIFOCOM.

22. Under the Philippine stewardship of the 38th General Assembly, he stressed the need for inclusive representation and participation. The capacity to take into consideration and be responsive to the needs of marginalized sectors in ASEAN Member States is an important aspect of the legitimacy of a representative and inclusive assembly.
23. Over the years, AIPA has welcomed the diversity in the views of its members and those of some members of the broader public and international organizations. However, it needs to show more in terms of its own engagement with various civil society organizations in the region and in taking up the needs of the marginalized.
24. As the region moves forward to post-2017, AIPA and ASEAN need to recognize the path to greater prosperity by increasing regional cooperation and interdependence. Also, the Speaker noted that mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States has fostered a positive environment in the region.
25. In conclusion, he highlighted the importance to change the way ASEAN operates and communicates. To be truly people-oriented and inclusive as is the vision of ASEAN Community, the development process must be made open, inclusive and participatory right from the beginning – not at the end.

The full text of the Message of AIPA President Pantaleon D. Alvarez is attached as Annex G.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

26. The First Plenary Session of the 38th AIPA General Assembly was held on Tuesday, 16 September 2017.

Nomination of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

27. Pursuant to AIPA tradition, the Heads of Delegations of AIPA Member Countries were designated as Vice-Presidents of the 38th AIPA General Assembly.

Statements of Heads of AIPA Members Delegations

28. The Heads of AIPA Member Delegations of Observer Countries and Guests of the Host delivered their respective statements.

Brunei Darussalam

In his statement, H.E Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, stated that AIPA has exerted a concerted effort ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and that the issues they raised are considered by their respective Governments. He noted that since joining AIPA, Brunei Darussalam has given and will continue to give support for the enhancement of its engagements with AIPA. He observed that AIPA has been focused and detailed through the formation of AIPA Caucus and AIFOCOM in discussing regional and international issues. It is clear that AIPA has become mature and more sensitive to its surroundings where significant political, economic and social issues, including WAIPA, are addressed. I hope the proposed resolutions that we are going to discuss can be deliberated effectively and efficiently and bring ASEAN closer to AIPA which reinforces the goal of people-centered, people-oriented ASEAN. He expressed hope that we will be able to push forward our desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress to forge forwards toward ASEAN 2025.

Additionally, he also recognized the dialogue partner countries of AIPA who have provided AIPA with support and cooperation in the effort to share opinions and assistance in the perspective of regional and international cooperation. This is a perfect platform and opportunity for AIPA to learn and

study their experiences, as well as to exchange ideas that focus on political, economic and social integration proliferation. These have resulted in unprecedented growth that benefits AIPA greatly.

He observed that the atmosphere of our uncertain world forces us to face the skewing of our climate, uncertainty of economic production, and political unrest, all of which fortifies the importance of inclusive development in achieving our 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

Cambodia

In his statement, H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, expressed that the theme “AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change” is very crucial and relevant to the current regional and global context. It is also a reflection of the fundamental role of AIPA in partnering with ASEAN towards the harmonization of the whole ASEAN Community. He stressed that face-to-face discussion between the leaders of AIPA and ASEAN provides a valuable opportunity to exchange recommendation and to tackle challenges for the progress and prosperity of all ASEAN nations.

He proposed that: (1) AIPA should continue its adherence to the principle of consensus in adopting all resolutions towards the realization of one ASEAN Community; (2) AIPA shall unveil its vision, together with organizing a master plan, which aim at realizing the common objectives in cooperation with ASEAN and concerned institutions; and (3) AIPA and ASEAN shall make the dissemination of their objectives to peoples more effective so peoples are able to get better knowledge about the future mission of the two regional bodies. He suggested referring to ASEAN consensus principle and mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs in ASEAN, UN Charter and the Vienna Convention.

Indonesia

In his statement, H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, expressed his appreciation to the House of Representatives of the Philippines for hosting the 38th AIPA General Assembly. In accordance with the theme of the 38th AIPA General Assembly, he addressed that the partnership between legislative and executive is critical. AIPA and ASEAN as the two prominent institutions in Southeast Asia should respond to the numerous internal and external challenges by continuously building and evolving the partnership approach. Further, a collective action plan involving legislative and executive should be pursued in an unprecedented scale. He was convinced that AIPA and ASEAN could improve their partnership by involving more actors. He stated that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia pledges to continue fostering its involvement in AIPA and reaffirms its support for the achievement of the ASEAN Community 2025; on the ASEAN Political Security Community pillar, they remain committed to maintain regional peace and stability as the key for sustainable development.

Indonesia expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in the region and urged all parties to respect the rule of law, exercise maximum self-restraint and stop the on-going violence against the Rohingya in Rakhine State. Based upon the ASEAN spirit of solidarity and unity, Indonesia supports the effort of the Government and Parliament of Myanmar to restore peace and stability, and provide security and assistance to all those in need irrespective of ethnicity, race, religion and belief. Further, Indonesia encouraged Myanmar to implement the recommendations of the UN Advisory Commission on Rakhine State as well as to open their country to humanitarian assistance and to be observant of international humanitarian law in addressing the refugee crisis.

In the attainment of ASEAN Economic Community, he recommended that AIPA and ASEAN promote the involvement of SMEs in the regional supply chain and advocate rural development by providing access to ensure that no

one is left behind. In regard to the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, he recognized ASEAN's effort on building a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community. H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon stated that the interest of the people should be at the heart of AEC Blueprint, since there will be no community without the people.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

In her statement, H.E. Madame Pany Yathotou, the President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, expressed her sincere thanks to the AIPA President and commended the Parliament, Government, and people of the Philippines for the excellent preparations and arrangements for the 38th AIPA General Assembly.

H.E. Yathotou noted the historicity of the 38th AIPA General Assembly, as it coincides not only with the 50th founding anniversary of ASEAN and the 40th anniversary of AIPA, but also the 20th anniversary of Lao PDR's accession to both ASEAN and AIPA. She mentioned the achievements during the 50 years of ASEAN, as well as the complex changes in the regional and international landscapes that present both opportunities and challenges.

She observed that AIPA Member Parliaments play an important role as a constructive driving force of change, and encouraged them to strengthen and consolidate cooperation for the realization of the Vision and Objectives of the ASEAN Community, and to enhance the effectiveness of AIPA's work under the institutionalized mechanisms. She said both AIPA and ASEAN must work together, and more efforts should be exerted to enhance people's awareness and regular access to AIPA information.

She declared the support of the Lao National Assembly and people for the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration issued on 08 August 2017, and emphasized the commitment to foster the ASEAN Economic Community. She recounted that the Lao National Assembly and Government have actively participated in the work of AIPA and ASEAN. The Lao National Assembly has also supported and worked – and will continue to support and work – with its Government in

implementing the various initiatives and plans, as well as objectives, of ASEAN and the ASEAN Community. She stated that with the partnership between AIPA and ASEAN, and with contributions from all sectors of society and ASEAN's external partners, ASEAN Member States will achieve their common aspirations.

Malaysia

In his statement, Honorable Dato' Sri Haji Ismail Bin Mohamed Said, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia, spoke on the diversity of ASEAN, the need for inclusion, and the harnessing of forces and resources, peace, respect and dialogue.

He emphasized the three pillars of ASEAN, political-security, socio-cultural and economic, such as the promotion of lifelong learning and the development of small and medium enterprises.

Recent events like nuclear threat, ethnic and religious sensitivities should be solved by dialogues.

Myanmar

In his statement, Hon. Mr. T Khun Myatt, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Myanmar, highlighted that 2017 is a major milestone for the 40th Anniversary of AIPA and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the ASEAN, and attached great importance to the partnership of AIPA and ASEAN for inclusive change in the community and the ASEAN unity, aiming at its thematic priorities.

He briefly apprised that Myanmar leaders are striving with concerted effort for Democratic Reforms together with Myanmar people despite the challenges such as national reconciliation, peace, rule of law, threats of extremist terrorism, economic growth and human resources development. He also shared that Myanmar Democratic Transition Forum was successfully organized in August

2017 in Nay Pyi Taw and open discussion on certain important topics was made during the forum.

He reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to the full and effective implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025. He expressed that fruitful discussions from 38th AIPA General Assembly would bring constructive outcomes to promote regional and international peace, stability, prosperity and progress.

He informed the Plenary that there will be a State of the Nation Address by State Counsellor on 19 September 2017 in Myanmar and a meeting between ASEAN Foreign Ministers in New York on 23 September 2017 during the ongoing United Nations General Assembly to deal with the issue in the Rakhine State.

Philippines

In his statement, Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, welcomed the delegates to the 38th AIPA General Assembly. He noted that this gathering marked yet another significant occasion towards shaping a people-oriented and people-centered' ASEAN community. Even as the regions celebrates these historic events, ASEAN itself has taken significant steps to become a more integrated regional community with a common identity, vision, and sense of purpose through the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

He recognized the many challenges that both ASEAN and AIPA face to remain as relevant organizations that can contribute to the promotion of peace, progress, and stability in the region. The impact of global security, social and economic issues is keenly felt in the Southeast Asia region. Non-traditional security threats such as transnational crime, drug trafficking, and disaster relief and recovery, are issues that have taken on new salience.

These are stark reminders of the fact that in an increasingly globalized world, the challenges we face have repercussions across national borders, and each of us has a stake in the security and well-being of our people in the region.

Many resolutions of the AIPA General Assembly have found their way into the legislation of member countries. Over the years, AIPA Member Parliaments have intensified their work towards fully harmonizing the laws of the Member States, and building common standards of conduct consistent with ASEAN agreements and commitments.

He stressed that AIPA has been the most important partner of ASEAN and that AIPA, as an inter-regional, inter-governmental organization, he underlined that it should enjoy a higher status than other organizations accredited or associated with ASEAN. He argued that AIPA should not be viewed as merely an “associated entity” but rather as a “strategic partner” in the regional integration process.

As ASEAN consolidates and builds on its efforts at regional integration within the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, Hon. Fariñas urged the executive and legislative institutions of the ASEAN Member States to collaborate at a more intensive level to strengthen and consolidate the foundations of a single political, economic and socio-cultural integrated community of the ten nations.

Lastly, he congratulated H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez for his exemplary leadership and performance as this year’s AIPA President. He acknowledged the Speaker’s many contributions to strengthen the organization and to enhance AIPA-ASEAN cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and mutual understanding.

Singapore

In his statement, Hon. Mr Lim Biow Chuan, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, emphasized that ASEAN is the collective effort, vision and identity of each and every citizen in our Member States. He emphasized that ASEAN must remain united and resilient to challenges amidst increasing geopolitical complexities. As AIPA is a unique organization that directly represents our people and provides the fundamental links between the peoples and the governments of ASEAN, he encouraged parliamentarians to play a key

role in raising awareness of ASEAN and translating the benefits of ASEAN's community building to the man in the street.

Thailand

In his speech, H.E. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, felt an honor to attend the 38th AIPA General Assembly and congratulates the Philippine Congress in hosting this august meeting of AIPA. He mentioned that this year marks an auspicious occasion of AIPA celebrating its 40th anniversary. In this occasion, the Thai National Assembly conducted a seminar under the topic on "Four Decades of AIPA and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand" and issued a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the event.

He emphasized that AIPA must take action and play effective roles in supporting ASEAN in three means. Firstly, carrying on the mission of implementing agreements and regulations regarding the aspirations of the ASEAN vision 2025. Secondly, maintaining its commitment to accomplish the goal of raising people awareness of ASEAN Community. Finally, continuing to seek common understanding on comparative law and legal procedures to acknowledge and respect our differences and similarities.

Viet Nam

In her speech, H.E. Mdm. Tong Thi Phong, First Vice President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, mentioned that ASEAN now plays a key role in the region, and is working towards the vision of being a "peaceful, stable, and resilient community with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges." She expressed that AIPA has asserted its role and voice as the facilitator of cooperation among organizations and to represent the will and aspiration of the ASEAN people. She also stated that AIPA and ASEAN need to raise awareness of the people at the national and regional level about the activities and the abilities as a way to contribute to the ASEAN Community building process.

She urged that AIPA needs to play its role better in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy among ASEAN Member States along with ASEAN partners by providing practical solutions. She emphasized that AIPA should uphold ASEAN principles and standards of conduct in strengthening and utilizing ASEAN's centrality. She recommended to improve the effectiveness and substance of the annual meeting between AIPA Representatives and ASEAN Leaders to strengthen interaction, innovate the forms of exchange, thereby promoting the close cooperation between the legislative bodies and the government of ASEAN Member Countries. She encouraged enhancing its effectiveness by improving the coordination between the AIPA Secretariat and other national secretariats, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.

The full texts of the Statements of Heads of Delegations of AIPA Member Countries are attached as Annex H.

Statements of Heads of Observer Delegations

29. Representatives of Observer Delegations and Guests of Host likewise delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session:

Russian Federation

In her statement, Hon. Olga Epifanova, Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed her appreciation to the host parliament for the hospitality and wonderful organization of the 38th AIPA General Assembly. She congratulated ASEAN for its 50th anniversary. She mentioned that Russian Federation has been a dialogue partner of ASEAN since 1996, actively contributing to the process of ASEAN integration.

She informed the meeting that Russian Federation has opened their permanent mission to ASEAN this year, following the agreement reached at the ASEAN-Russia Summit in Sochi in May 2016. She underscored that today's cooperation covers issues of terrorism, fight against organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as development of economic investment ties. She also

informed the meeting that in December 2017, an international conference on “Parliamentarians against Drugs” will be convened in Moscow. She explained that the key topics of today’s dialogue emerged in the cooperation agenda are cyber security and disaster management. She concluded her statement and hoped for a fruitful discussion in the meeting.

Australia

In his statement, Mr. George Christensen expressed his sincere appreciation to the AIPA President and the Filipino people for the warm hospitality extended to the Australian delegation.

He said the 38th AIPA General Assembly provides an opportunity for the renewal of friendships and reaffirmation of valuable relationship and cooperation between Australia and ASEAN. He noted that Australia was the first country to establish a multilateral relationship with ASEAN in 1974.

Australia’s commitment to ASEAN has been reaffirmed in various accessions, the appointment of a resident ambassador to ASEAN, and the entry into a new Strategic Partnership in Myanmar last year. Next year, Australia will host the first ASEAN-Australia Summit in Sidney which will be both a Business Summit and a Counter-Terrorism Conference.

ASEAN is Australia’s third largest trading partner. The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed in February 2009, binds Australia closer to the ASEAN peoples and their economies.

Australia has also engaged in regular foreign security policy dialogues with its ASEAN neighbors, and actively participates in the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus. These ASEAN-led institutions ensure a rules-based regional security order.

On disaster management, Australia's assistance to developing ASEAN member states is expected to reach almost A\$800 million in 2017-2018. This will include a strong focus on reducing disaster risk, building community resilience, and strengthening regional humanitarian responses.

Also expanded is the cooperation to combat terrorism, counter violent extremism, and fight transnational crime. Australia is providing \$50 million over five years to combat trafficking in persons.

People-to-people ties are exceptionally robust through education links, two-way tourism and migration such as the New Colombo Plan. The Australia-ASEAN Council generates opportunities for Australian business, education, science and innovation, and arts institutions to work with their partners across Southeast Asia.

As ASEAN enters its sixth decade, Australia welcomes the opportunity to renew cooperation between the parliaments.

Belarus

In his statement, Mr. Dmitry Shevtsov thanked the AIPA President for the invitation to be present at the 38th AIPA General Assembly and represent the Belarus Parliament. He congratulated ASEAN on its 50th Anniversary and cited it as uniting the 10 most dynamically developing industrial countries which laid the foundation of integration processes in the Pacific region. He expressed his conviction that the role of ASEAN will only increase from year to year.

He cited the visits of various Speakers of AIPA Member Parliaments to Belarus in 2012-2017, and noted that Belarus has adopted many acts of ratification of treaties with ASEAN countries. He said the Belarusian Parliament considers deeper engagements with AIPA as a key priority of the Belarusian foreign policy, noting that the current century will become the century of Asia. He said Belarusian MPs

will make all efforts to make a substantive contribution to the development of bilateral relations.

For better economic relations between Belarus and the ASEAN, it is necessary to establish direct links between countries and pursue opportunities in industrial and agricultural cooperation and scientific researches, and to develop trade. He said that Belarus has many things to share with ASEAN, and that it will welcome businessmen, scientists and experts from ASEAN countries.

He then mentioned that Belarus, being in the center of Europe, has toughened up on transnational crime, human trafficking, illegal migration, drug traffic, terrorism, and other challenges. He said they seek to enrich their experience in the fight against these threats and share with Southeast Asia partners to overcome such challenges, which will require reciprocal efforts at parliamentary and at government levels.

Canada

In his statement, Hon. Tobias C. Enverga, Jr., after greeting the AIPA President and his fellow parliamentarians, noted that 2017 marks two significant milestones: the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, and the 40th anniversary of Canada becoming a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

He cited as achievements of the partnership the opportunities to exchange views on a wide range of political, economic, social and security issues, and the steps taken in the last several years to expand bilateral and multilateral frameworks for collaboration, including the ambition to accede to such fora as the East Asia Summit and the Asian Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. Examples are the appointment of a Canadian ambassador to ASEAN in 2009 and the adoption of the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership.

He touched on the value of people-to-people ties between Canada and ASEAN. Today, over one million people from Southeast Asia make Canada their homes, including the 850,000 people of Philippine origin in Canada.

He mentioned Rey Pagtakhan as the first Filipino-Canadian to be elected to the House of Commons in 1988 and held several Cabinet positions. He said with pride that he himself is here as the first Filipino-Canadian Senator.

Economy-wise, he said ASEAN stands out as particularly and increasingly important to Canada. ASEAN stands as Canada's sixth largest trading partner. Efforts to deepen commercial ties and promote more open markets are of particular interest. In 2016, the Canada-ASEAN annual trade policy dialogue was launched. And Canada is committed to exploring the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between Canada and ASEAN.

He noted, though, that the ASEAN region continues to suffer from various sources of instability. In addition, developments in the South China Sea are worrisome to Canada. He said adds his voice to the call for restraint and renewed efforts to peacefully manage and resolve the dispute.

He extended his thanks to this year's host, the Congress of the Philippines and expressed the hope that the fifth decade of Canada-ASEAN partnership sees the commitment and enthusiasm for stronger link translate into increased presence and even more meaningful engagement.

People's Republic of China

In his statement, Hon. Li Lianning, extends warm congratulations on the convening of the 38th Assembly of a special significance and expresses heartfelt thanks to the Philippines as the host country for the thoughtful and exquisite arrangements of the meeting.

ASEAN, as an important regional organization in Southeast Asia, has grown to strength steadily in the past 50 years. This year, the theme of ASEAN is partnering for change and embracing the world. ASEAN has proposed to be an example of regionalism and a participant in international affairs. This is a vivid example of ASEAN's lofty ambitions and the general expectations of all parties concerned.

China congratulates the development of ASEAN, supports the ASEAN integration, the ASEAN's centrality in regional affairs and more important role in international affairs. China and ASEAN are good neighbours connected by mountains and rivers as well as people-to-people, and are good partners committed to mutual respect, understanding, trust and support, political trust and cooperation have been strengthened and fruitful. Since the establishment of dialogue relationship in 1991 when China became an observer of AIPA, the National People's Congress of China sends delegations to AIPA Assemblies almost every year, and has received a number of AIPA delegations.

Both sides believe that the relationship between China and ASEAN has become the most substantial and dynamic relationship between ASEAN and all its dialogue partners. The 15th anniversary of the establishment of strategic partnership between China and ASEAN will be celebrated in 2018. China has always regarded ASEAN as the priority of neighbouring diplomacy and is more than willing to plan the long-term development in the future with ASEAN member states. Friendly exchanges have happened between the National People's Congress of China and AIPA member parliaments as well as ASEAN member states that promote mutual understanding and trust between both sides.

The plan to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road has been introduced in 2013 and well received by the international community. The core of the Belt and Road Initiative is to

promote infrastructure construction and connectivity, to synergize development strategies and policies of countries along the route, to deepen practical cooperation and to pursue a coordinated and connected development for common prosperity.

In the context of the complicated international situation and the sluggish recovery of the world economy, China has put forward and promoted the Belt and Road Initiative, creating unprecedented historical opportunities. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing in May 2017. The Belt and Road Initiative is in convergence with the ASEAN Master Plan 2025 on Connectivity. Both sides should synergize their development strategies, to enhance infrastructure connectivity, to promote the progress of the RCEP. Hon. Li Lian Ning Member of the National People's Congress of China wished to witness greater development of ASEAN in the next five decades, and to make greater contributions to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

European Parliament

In her speech, Hon. Neena Gill, after thanking the AIPA and its President, noted that 2017 is a year of celebrations for both ASEAN and the European Union (EU). ASEAN is on its golden jubilee while the EU celebrated its 60th anniversary last March. 2017 also marks the 40th anniversary of EU-ASEAN dialogues.

She stated that the EU-ASEAN partnership has grown in leaps and bounds. But a lot still needs to be done, including the pursuit of a region-to-region free trade agreement. The European Parliament believes there is a need to build on the economic foundations to tackle the other challenges such as the implementation of the Paris agenda on climate change, among others.

The European Parliament is open and ready to share its experiences in institution-building, creation of an internal market, regulatory convergence, and many other areas. Particularly cited was the challenge of a humane management of migration and the questions it raises.

Parliamentarians should be vanguards and speak up for their citizens and their rights, and hold the executive to account when such rights are trampled upon. The European Parliament is not always popular and is sometimes blamed for too much focus on human rights, democracy and rule of law, but this marks the level of its commitment to these principles. It was assured that the European Parliament is equally demanding within the EU as externally.

A resolution on the Rohingya was passed last week. A call was made on ASEAN partners to help ensure a peaceful resolution and an end to the violence and atrocities against them, and the implementation of the Kofi Annan recommendations.

Concerning Brexit, the EU and the Parliament has been clear to ensure the separation is well managed and does not have a negative impact on EU and the ASEAN.

The bonds between the European Parliament and its ASEAN counterparts are strong, and both the EU and the Parliament will actively work to reinforce these ties. The Parliament will formally adopt a report on EU-ASEAN relations, which contains a call for an education program to allow young people from both regions to study together. The EU-ASEAN friendship will also be celebrated with a young leaders' exchange programme to commence next year. There is also a new EU Mission to ASEAN and a new 200-million euros budget for cooperation.

She stated that a call will be made on the Presidency of the European Parliament

to invite an AIPA Delegation to visit Brussels, as well as for a full-blown region-to-region EU-ASEAN parliamentary assembly.

India

In his statement, Hon. Ganesh Singh stated that the relationship of India and ASEAN is a convergence of civilizational, cultural and historical linkages. Peace and stability in the region are pre-requisites to move on the road of development and for the progress of humanity.

He remarked that India and ASEAN relations have rapidly grown over the years and proved to be mutually beneficial. But there is still potential for enhancing our cooperation in some areas like tourism, telecom, information technology, culture, etc. India and ASEAN share deep economic ties. ASEAN is India's 4th largest trading partner, while India is ASEAN's 7th largest trading partner. Investment flows are robust both ways. The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area in Goods, Services and Investment has been in place since July 2015. Deeper economic integration with the dynamic ASEAN region is an important aspect of India's engagement with ASEAN.

The ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Committee met for the first time in April 2016. To encourage investment by Indian companies in ASEAN, the Government has proposed a Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in CLMV countries and has announced a US\$1 billion Line of Credit for undertaking projects to enhance physical and digital connectivity.

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) has provided some very valuable inputs to policy makers in India and ASEAN through workshops, seminars and conferences on various cross-cutting issues and undertakes regular networking activities with relevant public/private agencies, organizations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN and EAS countries.

Hon. Singh noted that India and ASEAN cooperation has been expanded to include human resource development and other projects funded by the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF) and ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF). The ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity 2016-2020 adopted in August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur paves the way for cooperation in these areas. India is actively contributing through Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDC) and the Centres for the English Language Training (CELT) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

To promote people-to-people contacts, annual events are organized.

Japan

In his statement, Hon. Masahiro Ishii, leader of the delegation of the National Diet of Japan, first congratulated the opening of the General Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of AIPA.

He condemned North Korea for conducting its 6th nuclear test on September 3rd, stressing that the act seriously undermines the peace and security of the region and the international community, and urged the delegates to strengthen effective pressure against North Korea.

He continued by commending ASEAN for its endeavor towards regional integration, despite many differences among its members, and underlined the important role of AIPA in offering parliamentary contributions, adding that the House of Councillors is committed to its participation in AIPA and introduced the Japan-ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Group in the House that promotes parliamentary exchanges between Japan and ASEAN.

He further explained that the first Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting was convened 40 years ago in 1977, where Japan's then Prime Minister Fukuda

announced Japan's three diplomatic principles for ASEAN, the "Fukuda Doctrine", which proclaimed that ASEAN is an equal partner of Japan. He continued that the doctrine has strengthened Japan-ASEAN relationship in various fields to this day, and as a result, he explained, around 10,000 Japanese companies moved into the ASEAN member states, contributing the economy by creating jobs and transferring technologies.

He referred to the theme of the Assembly, emphasizing that inclusiveness is also advocated together with sustainability and resilience in Japan's "Development Cooperation Charter", as essential component in achieving "Quality growth", and stressing that development policy must be inclusive, and that it must not leave anyone behind.

Republic of Korea

After introducing himself and thanking the President of AIPA and the Congress of the Philippines, Mr. Oh Jaesae recounted that relations between Korea and ASEAN started 1989. He noted that 2017 also marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement, and that ASEAN has become Korea's 2nd largest trading partner since then.

He cited the active cultural exchanges between Korea and ASEAN, and that Korea has opened an ASEAN Cultural House in Busan just in September this year. People-to-people exchange is a prominent feature of the cooperation between Korea and the ASEAN. He expressed hope that these interactions will continue.

He said that parliaments have a very important role in strengthening cooperation and providing support for the joint prosperity of Korea and the ASEAN. He maintained the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation fund for the implementation of various projects, the creation of a fund for supporting developing countries in preventing and eradicating diseases, and Korea's experience in transforming an aid-recipient country to a donor country.

But, he said, the prosperity can be maintained on the precondition of peace in the Korean Peninsula, referring to the North Korean nuclear issue. He expressed the condemnation of and warned North Korea against provocative missile launches and nuclear tests which threaten peace and instability in the Korean Peninsula and ASEAN, as well as grave security concerns around the world, and strongly urged the DPRK to immediately cease all provocative military actions and take the path toward dialogue.

He said the Korean National Assembly will also seek all-out efforts including working with the international community to maintain peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. He then called for the ASEAN parliaments' active participation and support for the efforts of South Korea, and said that a show of support will serve as a great encouragement to South Korea.

*The full text of the Statements of Heads of Delegations of Observer Countries are attached as **Annex I**.*

Statements of Representatives of Guests of Host

30. Representatives of the Guests of the Host likewise delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session:

The Heads of the Delegations of the Guests of the Host, namely Mr. Achmad Kurnia Prawira Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat; Mr. Hendar Ristriawan, Head of Secretariat of the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institution. As the Head of Delegation; and Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), likewise delivered their respective statements during the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

ASEAN Secretariat

In his statement, H.E. Mr. Achmad Kurnia Prawira Mochtan, Deputy Secretary

General of the ASEAN Secretariat, underlined that ASEAN has persevered and prospered to become an indispensable player and major contributor to peace, security and prosperity in Southeast Asia and beyond. In the four decades of its existence, AIPA has proven to be our key partner in encouraging policy harmonization and streamlining regulations in the region. As lawmakers, parliamentarians are responsible for the ratification and/or internalization of ASEAN agreements and initiatives into national laws of each ASEAN Member State.

Being the people's representatives, AIPA is well placed as intermediaries to reach out directly to the peoples of ASEAN and bridge the divide between people and policymaking. We noted with appreciation AIPA Secretariat's initiatives to engage ASEANSAI Secretariat and pave the way to develop cooperation between the parliamentarians and the supreme audit institutions in the region. With AIPA's streamlined structure and re-energised branding, we are convinced that the time has come for AIPA to play a bigger role in the ASEAN ecosystem. The ASEAN Secretariat, which in its daily work assists and facilitates the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives, believes that a working cooperation between ASEAN CPR and AIPA Members will further enhance AIPA's role in ASEAN's community building efforts. Consonant to the theme of this GA, "AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change," we believe that AIPA, along with our trusted partners and entities, could bring about the spirit of inclusivity, peace and prosperity in ASEAN region.

ASEAN Supreme Audit Institution (ASEANSAI)

In his statement, Mr. Hendar Ristriawan, Head of Secretariat of the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institution, conveyed the importance of ASEANSAI for the region. ASEANSAI is the organization of 10 Supreme Audit Institutions of the ASEAN Member States. Established on November 16, 2011, ASEANSAI serves

to encourage and promote good governance within the ASEAN region, with a focus on capacity development and technical cooperation in audit-related issues through sharing and exchanging knowledge and experiences in methodologies in public sector audit.

Supreme Audit institutions (SAIs) have a prominent role to promote good governance and transparency in the public sector. The auditing of government and public sector entities by SAIs has a positive impact on trust throughout society. An independent, effective and credible SAI is therefore an essential component in a democratic system. Transparency and integrity are indispensable parts of a stable democracy. This is how public sector auditing is an important factor in making a difference to the lives of citizens. Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) can accomplish their tasks, however, only if they are independent from the audited entity and are protected against outside influence. To achieve this critical objective, it is indispensable for a healthy democracy that each country have a SAI whose independence is guaranteed by law.

Good cooperation between Parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions is essential to promote good governance and public sector transparency. The benefits of ensuring SAI independence, as well as ensuring Parliamentary oversight, are sustainable benefits that ultimately serve as a safeguard of the bountiful future all wish to pass on.

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

In his statement, Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), presents the development of Memorandum of Understanding signed on 16 December 2016 between ERIA and AIPA. In order to Develop AIPA's Capacity on Matters Concerning ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Economic Integration in Various

Areas, ERIA proposed a joint-workshop for “Fostering ASEAN’s Quiet Revolution for Good Governance: Addressing Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Engendering Seamless Trade Facilitation and Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) for Dynamic and Inclusive Integration in ASEAN”

The problem of rising incidence of NTMs affects the ASEAN economics, especially SMEs that are burdened by the cost of satisfying NTM requirements. However the increase number of NTMs does not always mean bad effects for the society (the total number of NTMs in ASEAN has increased from 1,500 to 6,000 during 2000 to 2015, based on ERIA research), it is important to manage NTMs not to be unnecessary regulatory burdens. ERIA emphasized that since parliaments have oversight roles over the implementing agencies like customs and commerce ministries in such matters, they can improve their services and seamless trade facilitation especially for SMEs.

ERIA suggested AIPA to advocate national parliaments’ review of laws and support of regulatory impact analysis and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. Joint workshop in early 2018 to promote the mutual interests of ASEAN among AIPA Member Parliaments is planned. The Committee Members welcomed ERIA’s invitation.

*The full text of the Statements of Representatives of the Guests of the Host are attached as **Annex J**.*

31. The General Assembly considered and adopted the following items:

- Program of Activities of the 38th General Assembly;
- Agenda Items for the 38th General Assembly;
- Topics for Dialogue with Observer Delegations;
- Committee Membership

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

32. The meetings of the Committees on Economic Matters, Social Matters, and Organizational Matters were held simultaneously on Sunday, 17 September 2017.

33. In view of the failure of the Executive Committee which met on 15 September 2017 and again on 16 September 2017 to approve the agenda for the Committee on Political Matters, the Committee was not able to convene.

34. The Committee on Joint Communiqué met on Monday, 18 September 2017.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

35. The Second Plenary Session of the General Assembly was held on Friday, 19 September 2017

WAIPA

36. The General Assembly adopted the report of the WAIPA on the Resolution on Promoting the Health of Women Migrant Workers.

37. The Resolution recognized that women migrant workers increased vulnerability to health risks and exposure to potential hazards at all stages of migration whether before departure, while in transit, at their place of work, or upon return from overseas employment. It also recalled importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the gender equality agenda as stated in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and other relevant international instruments to which ASEAN member states are parties.

38. The Resolution urged the AIPA member countries and their parliaments to further improve their health care financing policies in order to provide women migrant workers with access to health care services regardless of their financial capability and be mindful of the

plight not only of women migrant workers but of all migrant workers and be signatories to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

39. It also called upon all AIPA member countries and their parliaments to develop effective policy options, strategies, and measures for improving health outcomes to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 target of universal health coverage for all, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, class ethnicity, nationality, migration and social status or political affiliation.

40. The Committee agreed to the draft proposed resolution and also requested the AIPA Secretariat to monitor the implementation of this resolution and regularly submit progress report to the General Assembly of the AIPA.

The Report of WAIPA is attached as Annex K.

Committee on Economic Matters

41. The Committee on Economic Matters was chaired by Hon. Arthur R. Defensor, Jr. Hon. Ana Cristina Siquian Go served as Rapporteur.

42. The General Assembly adopted four (4) Resolutions.

□ Developing Policies and Strategies to Address Problems on Regional Food Security

Following up on previous ASEAN efforts to establish various mechanisms of cooperation, notably, the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS), which was established in 2009 in line with the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS), the Committee on Economic Matters resolved to: (a) call on ASEAN Member-States to: (a) implement effective food security strategies through policies and regulations that address the free flow of inputs, technology, and products;

(b) encourage ASEAN Member States to actively implement and continually establish the necessary legal framework to implement the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework of 2009 and the Matrix of Key Areas of Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition of 2016; and

(c) call on the governments of ASEAN Member States to develop and promote financial resilience and credit mechanisms to address market volatility and institutionalize financial response to natural and man-made disasters.

□ **Supporting the Implementation of Financial Inclusion Programs in ASEAN**

In the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, financial inclusion was considered as one of the important characteristics and elements of the ASEAN Economic Community. In the ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference that took place in Yangon Myanmar on October 29-30, 2014, it was noted that the addition of pro-active financial inclusion programs can accelerate growth in the ASEAN region with greater equity since financial inclusion can support a broad-based inclusive growth. Thus, it was resolved to: (a) **encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen the legal framework for the effective delivery of financial products and services to a wider community; (b) **enhance** the financing ecosystem in the region; (c) **urge** ASEAN central monetary authorities to apply a set of rules distinct from those applied to commercial banks; (d) **encourage** ASEAN Member States to expand financial accessibility by intensifying financial education programs and consumer protection mechanisms; and (e) **call on** the ASEAN Member States to include financial resilience mechanisms to address market volatility and institutionalize financial response to natural disasters.

□ **Promoting an Inclusive and Innovation-Led Growth for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)**

During the 37th AIPA General Assembly in Myanmar, a Resolution on *“Strengthening the Growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Entering and Optimizing the Global Value Chains by Improving Access to Finance and Technology, and Enhancing Productivity and Innovation”* and AIPA Resolution on *“Parliamentary Support for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Implementation”* was adopted. Following up on such effort, the committee resolved to: (a) **call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to review their national laws and regulations to support the distribution of technological infrastructure across every sector and region; (b) **call upon** ASEAN Member States to support innovation performance through regulatory and institutional reforms; and (c) **encourage** ASEAN Member States to foster innovation by advocating public investments in science and technological research, among others.

□ **Intra-Regional Economic Cooperation for Equitable Development and Inclusive Growth in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)**

The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 envisioned (i) a Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) a Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) a Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centered ASEAN; and (v) a Global ASEAN. Pursuant to this, it was resolved to: (a) **encourage** the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects and ensure a comprehensive and inclusive development for all members; (b) **promote** reforms, increase institutional readiness, enhance national governance capacity, develop infrastructure and human resources, advance science and technology, and improve productivity, with particular focus on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); (c) **strengthen** cooperation and experience sharing among AIPA Member Countries; and (d) **consider**

the establishment of frameworks to institutionalize the ASEAN Economic Community and the integration of AEC issues in domestic legislation of each member state, among others.

*The Report of the Committee of the Economic Matters is attached as **Annex L.***

Committee on Social Matters

43. The Committee on Social Matters met in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation.

44. The Committee on Social Matters was chaired by Hon. Romero S. Quimbo, Jr. and Hon. Sol Aragonés served as Rapporteur.

□ **Adoption of the Report of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace.**

The resolution recommends the adoption of the report of the 13th AIFOCOM to combat illegal drug trade in the region. During the meeting, member countries adopted two (2) resolutions that will strengthen the efforts to combat the drug menace in the ASEAN region, to wit: “Resolution on Transforming AIFOCOM into AIPACODD and Strengthening its Role and Mandate as a Parliamentary Tool to Combat Dangerous Drugs” and “Resolution on Forging Inclusive Partnership towards a Drug-Free ASEAN Community.”

□ **Adoption of the Resolution on the Terms of Reference (TOR) by the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD)**

The resolution calls for the adoption of the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) on the transformation of the AIFOCOM into the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) submitted by the Philippines at the 13th AIFOCOM Meeting in Manila, Philippines. As stipulated under the resolatory clauses, the role and mandate of the new AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) as a parliamentary tool to

fight dangerous drugs will be strengthened and the AIPA Secretariat has been tasked to ensure legal and mutual cooperation and the sharing of information and best practices among AIPA Member Parliaments to fight the drug menace. Moreover, the AIPA Secretariat has been mandated to consolidate the comments of all AIPA Member Parliaments on the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the consideration and adoption of the AIPACODD in its first meeting.

□ **Combatting Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics**

The resolution urges AIPA member parliaments to develop and strengthen national legislation to support the integration of marine debris issues into national strategies dealing with waste management in the marine environment. It also encourages AIPA governments to promote a more resource-efficient use and sound management of plastics, up to the level that allows for the restriction of single-use plastic products.

The Report of the Committee on Social Matters is attached as Annex M.

Committee on Organizational Matters

45. The Committee on Organizational Matters was chaired by Hon. Rose Marie J. Arenas as Chairperson and Hon. Lorna Silverio served as Rapporteur.

46. The General Assembly adopted fourteen (14) Resolutions and deferred action on six (6) draft Resolutions:

□ **Resolution on Corporate Rebranding of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

The Committee approved the adoption of the new logo and flag intended to project AIPA itself as a strong, tough, modern, and relevant organization – responsive to the demand of the historical context when AIPA will be called to play bold and decisive roles to facilitate the implementation of ASEAN integration.

□ **Resolution on Amendments to the Statutes of the AIPA**

The adoption of the new logo and flag request the amendment of the Statutes of AIPA which come into force on 19 September 2017.

□ **Resolution on Communication Master Plan of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

The AIPA Communication Master Plan intends to provide an increased overall awareness of AIPA. It also designed a framework for communicating the vision, purpose, messages, work, and the achievements of AIPA.

□ **Resolution on the Publishing of the “40 Years of AIPA” Commemorative Book and Appreciation to the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Publishing and Launching the Book**

The book is a special commemorative publication to mark the journey of AIPA in celebrating its 40 years of anniversary.

□ **Resolution on Appreciating the Federal Republic of Germany for the Cooperation and Implementation of the Project of Capacity Development for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly**

The AIPA Member Parliaments express its appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany in its help to strengthen the capacity of AIPA Member Parliaments to support the ASEAN integration process by expanding cooperation with regional and international partner. Since 2012, three phases of the project have been implemented with Deutsche

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as shown by Resolution No.32GA/2011/Org/07, No.34/2013/Org/10, No.36GA/2015/Org/11.

□ **Adoption of the Resolution on Financial Report of the AIPA Secretariat**

The Secretary General of AIPA clarified queries on the subject.

□ **Adoption of the Resolution on Estimated Budget for the AIPA Secretariat**

The Secretary General of AIPA clarified queries on the subject.

□ **Adoption of the Resolution on the Workplan 2017 of the AIPA Secretariat**

The Workplan 2017 of the AIPA Secretariat included programs, projects, and activities it seeks to undertake.

□ **Resolution on Formulating and Implementing Project Based Initiative on Strengthening Legal Framework to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism**

It was recognized that there was a need for AIPA to create a new mechanism to address regional situation by mandating the AIPA Secretariat to formulate and implement project-based initiatives, including region-wide research on the subject.

□ **Resolution on Human Capacity Development as a Framework in Improving Capacities of Secretariat Personnel of AIPA Member Parliaments**

It recognizes that the capacities and competencies of the Secretariats of the Member Parliaments need to be effectively enhanced, by adopting Human Resource Management Plans to develop the technical expertise and management of their secretariat personnel. AIPA Secretariat and National Secretariats are entrusted to draft the implementing guidelines and establish monitoring and evaluation system.

□ **Draft Resolution on Developing AIPA Capacity**

This resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to develop a Human Capacity Development Framework for their Secretariats to help AIPA raise people's awareness on ASEAN, realize the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, strengthen ASEAN member states' integration by adopting ASEAN Economy Community 2025, and forming the smaller discussion forum among AIPA Parliamentarians through focal point. It also recommended for AIPA Secretariat to review the Statute and propose at amendments to enhance capacities.

□ **Resolution on the Amendments on Criteria and Guidelines for AIPA Distinguished Award.**

The amendments adopted include the criteria that a nominee must demonstrate a record of steadfast commitment to the promotion and strengthening of best practices of AIPA, particularly in consensus building; and for the nominating parliament to bear the cost of the nominees' travel expenses to and from the venue of the AIPA General Assembly.

□ **Resolution on Commending His Excellency Pantaleon D. Alvarez for His Outstanding Performance as President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).**

The Organizational Committee recognized the contribution of the AIPA President in enhancing and advocating people participation in the ASEAN building process and in hosting the ASEAN-AIPA Interface in April 2017 and the AIFOCOM in July 2017. It likewise commended the leadership of AIPA President from September 2016 until September 2017.

□ **Resolution on the Date and Venue of the 39th AIPA General Assembly**

The Parliament of Singapore confirmed its hosting of the 39th AIPA General Assembly which will be held from 3 to 7 September 2018.

The Report of the Committee of the Organizational Matters is attached as Annex N.

Committee on Dialogue with Observer Parliaments

47. Simultaneous dialogues with AIPA observer countries were conducted to discuss the following topics:

- a. Strengthening Cooperation in Disaster Management; and
- b. Strengthening Cooperation in Combatting Transnational Crimes, Particularly on Cybersecurity, Combatting Terrorism and Violent Extremism, Trafficking in Persons, Illegal Drugs and Fuel Smuggling

The Report on the Dialogue with Observer Delegations is attached as Annex O.

Committee on Joint Communiqué

48. The Committee on Joint Communiqué was chaired by Hon. Ferdinand Hernandez.

Signing of the Joint Communiqué

49. AIPA President Pantaleon D. Alvarez and Heads of Delegations of AIPA Member Countries signed the Joint Communiqué.

The full text of the Joint Communiqué is attached as Annex P.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Message of the AIPA President

50. Unlike in past conferences, the ceremony to mark the closing of the 38th General Assembly was witnessed by the President of the Philippines.

51. In his Message, outgoing AIPA President Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez congratulated and thanked all the AIPA delegates for their enthusiasm, support and contribution to the success of the 38th AIPA General Assembly. He noted that General Assembly has allowed delegates to

gain broader perspectives on the challenges and goals ahead as the region embarks on the next phase of regional integration in accordance with ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

52. Despite the diversity in culture and history among the nations, ASEAN parliamentarians have been able to find consensus over a wide range of issues as shown by several areas of cooperation agreed upon by the AIPA General Assembly in its various Committees.

53. Consensus and unity in diversity are the core principles that make the ASEAN identity. In the 40 years of its existence, consensus has helped AIPA maintain internal unity in dealing with critical and sensitive issues—as we have done in this Assembly—and ensure equal rights and responsibilities.

54. By firm adherence to these principles, this Assembly has set new precedents. The outcome of the General Assembly was a result of the strong faith of AIPA Member Parliaments to the core principles that has sustained cooperation and mutual trust among these countries. Yet this should serve as a lesson for all; of the need to adapt to new situations and opportunities. Additional mechanisms to supplement the consensus principle will help maintain AIPA's unity in an increasingly complicated geo-political landscape.

55. The Speaker called upon the AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Countries to put more efforts into raising awareness on the outcomes from this General Assembly, as well as those of previous ones, with the aim of incorporating them into your legislative agenda priorities.

56. In conclusion, the Speaker Alvarez expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all AIPA Member Parliaments, the AIPA Secretariat, and all relevant parties both local and international as his term as AIPA

President comes to a close. Moreover, he thanked the House of Representatives-National Organizing Committee and members of the House of Representatives' delegation for their tireless commitment and excellent work in ensuring the success of this General Assembly. Finally, he wish the incoming AIPA President – the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore – all the best for the next General Assembly.

*The Message of the AIPA President is attached as **Annex Q**.*

Acceptance Speech by the Incoming President of AIPA

57. In his acceptance of the leadership of AIPA on behalf of the Parliament of Singapore, the Honorable Deputy Speaker Lim Biow Chuan, described the 38th General Assembly held in the Philippines as unique and special, citing the vigorous participation of the Delegates in the discussions held. He recalled that he attended his first AIPA General Assembly in Cebu, also in the Philippines, in 2006, and noted that the same outstanding hospitality extended to the AIPA Delegates by the Philippine House of Representatives was displayed in this year's General Assembly. He thanked the Members of the Philippine House of Representatives and its hardworking staff for the generous hospitality accorded to everyone.

58. He stated that after each General Assembly, AIPA delegates return to their respective countries with a better understanding of the work to be done, and in tandem with their respective Governments, endeavor to find solutions to the problems faced by each country. As representatives of each country's people, AIPA parliamentarians can use their influence to improve the lives of fellow ASEAN citizens. But finding solutions to the problems of society will always be a work in progress, he said. What is important is that with every issue or challenge that needs to be hurdled, AIPA Member-Countries work with one another with mutual respect, kindness, care, and love.

59. Deputy Speaker Lim Biow Chuan expressed his deepest appreciation for the able and steady leadership of Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez as President of AIPA. He especially noted his wise discernment of the issues that marked this year's gathering and the gentle way he handled them.

60. He noted that when the AIPA meets next year, it will be using the new logo that it had just launched in this Assembly, marking the beginning of a new chapter for AIPA. He conveyed his good wishes for the health and happiness of the delegates of the 38th General Assembly, and looked forward to meeting them anew in Singapore.

*The text of the acceptance speech is attached as **Annex R**.*

Transfer of Office of the AIPA President

61. There was a turnover of the Office of the President of AIPA from H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez to H.E. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore.

*A copy of the signed Instrument of Transfer of Office of the President of AIPA is attached as **Annex S**.*

Message of Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

62. Prior to introducing the President as the Keynote Speaker, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, congratulated the AIPA delegates for their active participation during the sessions and activities of the 38th General Assembly. He stated that their spirited contributions embody the spirit of ASEAN solidarity and ensure the continuing relevance of AIPA especially amidst the growing perception of an unstable world. He underscored that Members of Parliaments strive to make their respective communities peaceful and prosperous, likewise, ASEAN parliamentarians aim to create inclusive change in the region, change that will truly uplift the lives of those still living in poverty.

63. He also noted that in the last forty years, AIPA has evolved to become a cohesive body that today is respected by the parliaments of the world as evidenced by their continuing interest and desire to become AIPA Dialogue partners.
64. He averred that ASEAN parliamentarians are intermediaries between people and state administrations, and that AIPA exists to achieve the ASEAN goal of promoting regional peace & prosperity. He called on AIPA to continually strive to speak as one united voice, and to rely on and use “teamwork” to help bring ASEAN closer to all people.
65. In conclusion, he expressed his sincerest congratulations to AIPA president, Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez for the success of the 38th General Assembly and conveyed to Parliament of Singapore his best wishes for a successful hosting of the 39th General Assembly in Singapore next year.

The text of H.E. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel’s Speech is attached as Annex T.

Keynote Address of H.E. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

66. After witnessing the turnover of the Office of the President of AIPA, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines delivered his Keynote Address.
67. President Rodrigo Duterte noted the ASEAN has created its own brand of regional multilateralism - one that looks after the welfare of its Member States through community building. In dealing within ASEAN and with the rest of the world, it is important to uphold ASEAN centrality at all times so we will always bear in mind the best interest of ASEAN and its peoples.
68. The Philippines’ Chairmanship theme – “**Partnering for Change, Engaging the World**” – called on ASEAN to strongly commit to move

ahead as one united organization working for positive change for the ordinary peoples. As a mature regional organization, ASEAN has been able to solve its differences peacefully and amicably in the spirit of unity and solidarity. ASEAN must always be relevant and should maintain its central role in the evolving regional architecture. In the process, ASEAN will be able to firmly position its place in the world.

69. Last November 2015, through a Declaration at its 27th Summit, the ASEAN was proclaimed a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. This is one of the most important turning points in the history of the ASEAN since 1967.

70. Looking forward, President Duterte emphasized that the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 was simultaneously adopted to chart the path for ASEAN Community building over the next ten years. It is a forward looking roadmap that articulates ASEAN goals and aspirations to realise further consolidation, integration and stronger cohesiveness as a Community.

71. In this context, AIPA should be able to play a greater role in ensuring the success of the ASEAN Community. For 40 years now, AIPA been partnering with ASEAN in promoting and ensuring regional peace, stability and prosperity. Over the years, AIPA has worked vigorously to support the work of ASEAN's three community pillars. It has helped to speed up the ratification of ASEAN agreements.

72. The President acknowledged the strength of the ASEAN emanates from the roots of society. AIPA – as the legitimate representatives of the people – can help bring ASEAN closer to the people. The stronger partnership between AIPA and the ASEAN therefore demands regional reforms and policies that genuinely reflect the voices and hopes of our people.

73. In closing, President Duterte expressed his appreciation to all the delegates at the 38th AIPA General Assembly. He expressed optimism that the ASEAN Community, which is taking shape just as the center of global economic gravity is shifting towards Asia is like a “a rising tide that could lift all our boats up”, making each and every ASEAN member state partake in broader, region-wide wealth creation activities.

*A copy of the Keynote Address of the President is attached as **Annex U**.*

Closing of the 38th AIPA General Assembly

74. AIPA President Alvarez declared the 38th General Assembly closed.