

PRESS RELEASE

Model General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Jakarta

Jakarta, 7 August 2018.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) kicked off the Second Model of AIPA General Assembly (Model AIPA) on August 6, 2018 at Aryaduta Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

This Model of the AIPA General Assembly is an awareness and educational program involving the participation of students of ASEAN Member States. This event features an educational simulation exercise of the General Assembly (GA) of AIPA, where participating ASEAN university students will play the roles as delegates of different AIPA member parliaments in a typical AIPA GA. Through role-playing exercises, these participating ASEAN university students are expected to learn diplomacy, international relations and current events in the ASEAN region.

This event was participated by 73 students from 7 ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. It was opened by the Deputy Secretary General of AIPA, Mr. Mario Pandu Dewono, and three topics were discussed by involving experts as resource persons.

The first topic “Feasibility of Establishing the ASEAN Parliament” was presented by Dr. Clarita Carlos of the University of the Philippines where she discussed the model of regional integration of the European Union and European Parliament, and the issues surrounding the limitations of AIPA and her proposal of transforming AIPA into an ASEAN Parliament with formal legislative powers.

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The second topic “Narrowing Development Gap in ASEAN by Engaging Youth in Entrepreneurship” was presented by Ms. Dayu Nirma Armuwanti of Binus University, Indonesia. She discussed the concept to provide entrepreneurial opportunities to the youth of ASEAN by supporting them to engage in entrepreneurship, such as ICT-related enterprises which will bring multiplier effects to narrow the development gap among developing countries of ASEAN.

The third topic “Risk to Children Safety from the Development of Tourism in ASEAN” was presented by Ms. Umi Farida from ECPAT Indonesia where she tackled the current trend of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) in the region which threatens children safety, and also the gap between the existing legal frameworks and the international and regional instruments such as UNCRC and ASEAN RPA on EVAC. She encouraged the participating students to understand the gravity of the issue and encouraged them to contribute inputs on how to combat SECTT in the region from the youth perspective. The topic was chosen as part of the campaign of AIPA’s project based initiative on the same subject. A kick-off workshop which involved parliamentarians, experts, NGOs, as well as ASEAN bodies was convened recently in Bali, as the first component of the project initiative.

Upon the conclusion of this Model AIPA General Assembly, the students reached a consensus on the resolutions of the three topics. This year’s AIPA Model was organized by the AIPA Secretariat together with BINUS University, Al-Azhar Indonesia University, and Passage to ASEAN (P2A) and supported by the AIPA for ASEAN Integration Project funded by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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