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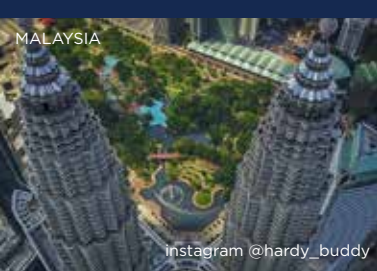
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ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

TO BECOME THE TRUE
VOICE OF ASEAN
PEOPLES

A SHORT GUIDE



image by parliament.vic.gov.au



Established on 2nd September 1977, ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) is the sole regional parliamentary organization associated with ASEAN. It promotes the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN.



Members

AIPA membership is open to the National Parliaments of ASEAN Member States. AIPA is home to around 3,500 parliamentarians of 10 National Parliaments, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. AIPA staffing and programs are financed by the annual contribution of its members and funding from partners on a project basis.





General Assembly



As the highest policy-making body, General Assembly allows the representatives of AIPA Member Parliaments to propose parliamentary initiatives and inputs for policy formulation to the respective governments of ASEAN countries, to work together on the common regional concerns. To discuss specific matters and formulate decisions aligned with the aims and purposes of AIPA, the General Assembly established six standing committees; Political, Economic, Social, Organizational, WAIPA (Women Parliamentarians of AIPA) and Dialogue with Observers. The resolutions produced by the General Assembly are considered as a policy recommendation and aimed at accelerating the realization of ASEAN community.

The General Assembly is held annually, and the venue rotates among the ASEAN Member States in alphabetical order.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of three members from each AIPA Member Parliament, one of whom shall be the Speaker of the Parliament or Head of Delegation. The Executive Committee members meet before the General Assembly to prepare the program, agenda and other relevant matters of the General Assembly.





Women ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA)

Recognizing the critical role played by, and the significant contributions of, women at national, regional and international levels, a Women ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) was formed at the 19th AIPA General Assembly in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WAIPA Committee mostly focuses on women and children-related issues. WAIPA is the only standing committee that governs its own rules of procedure.



Ad-Hoc/Study Committees

AIPACODD (AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs) convened its first meeting in June 2018 in Singapore as the newly elevated version of its predecessor; AIFOCOM (AIPA Fact-Finding Committee on Drug Menace). AIPACODD aims to work beyond fact-finding, which is to develop mutual understanding, exchange information and enhance the coordination among AIPA Member Countries in tackling drug menace in the region.

AIPA Caucus was created during the 28th AIPA General Assembly in 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yet conducted its first meeting in 2009. AIPA Caucus aims to create a platform for laws harmonization in the region through; 1) promoting information sharing to develop common legislative initiatives, 2) monitoring the implementation of resolutions adopted in the previous General Assembly, and 3) providing dialogue mechanism between AIPA and ASEAN. AIPA Caucus also discusses specific issues throughout several working groups to produce more effective outcomes.







Parliamentarians not only carry the voice of ASEAN peoples, but also govern ASEAN's norms and goals through legislation.

As an associated entity and legislative branch, AIPA has a close relationship with ASEAN. It is seen from the involvement of ASEAN in AIPA's activities and vice versa. One of the notable joint operations is the AIPA-ASEAN Interface Meeting. Initiated as an informal meeting during the 14th ASEAN Summit in Thailand in 2009, the ASEAN-AIPA Interface has been an avenue for the ASEAN Heads of States/Governments and Speakers of the AIPA Member Parliaments in deliberating shared common issues in the region. Although the interface meeting has yet to obtain any official status, it is now part of the ASEAN Summit agenda and viewed as an acknowledgment for AIPA's important role in supporting ASEAN to achieve its goals.



Observer Members

Observer status is a privilege granted by AIPA to non-members to give them the ability to participate in AIPA's activities. Their participation is regulated in the AIPA Statutes and Guidelines for Observers. AIPA currently has 12 Observer Members; Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, European Parliament, India, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Russia and Timor Leste.





Partners

AIPA is engaged with various regional and international organizations, governments and parliaments that support AIPA as well as its aims and purposes. The partnership between AIPA and externals is bound by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and officiated through the resolution adopted at the General Assembly. The MoU is valid for the period of three years, and can be renewed for another three years based on mutual agreement. AIPA is currently partnering with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Freeland, Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC), Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (implemented by GIZ), ECPAT International and UNICEF.



AIPA's Awareness Program

Awareness program is essential for dissemination of information on how AIPA works and its role within the process of ASEAN integration. AIPA Secretariat has been implementing several educative and awareness-raising programs such as internships, Model AIPA General Assembly, and parliament visit.

The internship program offers eligible students the opportunity to acquire direct practical experience of AIPA and AIPA Secretariat's works. A partially paid internship is possible.





Model AIPA General Assembly is an educational simulation of the AIPA General Assembly, where students can learn about diplomacy, regional relations and AIPA itself as a regional parliamentary organization.





The parliament visit offers students a better knowledge of the political system and parliamentary diplomacy, as well as to give immersive experience. The visit is not limited to the Indonesian Parliament where AIPA Secretariat is located, but also to other AIPA Member Parliaments.





For further info on AIPA's awareness program,
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