



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

2nd AIPA CAUCUS

Singapore, 22 - 25 June 2010

**ADDRESS BY MR ABDULLAH TARMUGI, SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT
AT THE OPENING OF THE 2ND AIPA CAUCUS, DELIVERED ON
WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2010, AT 10.00 AM, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
SINGAPORE**

Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning.

First of all, let me extend a very warm welcome to all delegates and officials attending the 2nd AIPA Caucus. You may recall that the AIPA Caucus itself was first established through a resolution tabled at the 29th AIPA General Assembly held in Singapore in 2008. It is therefore a special pleasure for us to host this meeting of the 2nd AIPA Caucus.

AIPA has always taken an active interest in issues within the ASEAN region that are of common interest to our respective countries. The AIPA Caucus can assist AIPA by exploring some of these issues and proposing areas of cooperation that will be of mutual benefit to all the countries in the region.

With this aim in mind, the 2nd AIPA Caucus has set a fresh direction for itself this year by choosing to study two new topics – “Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives” and “Supporting a Multi-Lateral Trading System”.

Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives

Both these topics are of crucial importance to ASEAN. Climate change, for instance, continues to present a threat to the economic and social well-being of all countries, including those in this region.

The only long-term solution to this challenge is to develop renewable and clean energy technologies to meet our energy needs in a safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner. Developing reliable and readily available sources of energy is also important in meeting the growing global demand for energy, which is driven primarily by Asia’s urbanisation and economic development.

While widespread adoption of clean energy may take time, we can explore and put in place frameworks for collaboration on clean energy initiatives within the region.

ASEAN has also recognised the importance of collective action in developing clean energy initiatives through the adoption of an ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015, which was signed by ASEAN Energy ministers in 2009. This, and other similar initiatives for collaboration, will help us take advantage of opportunities for sustainable development in the future.

Supporting a Multi-Lateral Trading System

On the topic of Supporting a Multi-Lateral Trading System, the recent global economic downturn has reinforced the importance of an open and rule-based multi-lateral trading system. During the recent downturn, international trade rules played a crucial role in limiting protectionist tendencies and contributed to the stabilisation of the global economic situation. Trade liberalisation can provide further opportunities for countries to emerge from the global crisis.

The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is a key initiative that is currently being undertaken by ASEAN. It takes trade liberalisation to an entirely new level. The AEC aims to establish a single market and production base within ASEAN by 2015, with the free movement of goods, services, investment and skilled labour and the freer flow of capital in the region. Through the establishment of the AEC, ASEAN will be in an even better position to benefit from global trade as well as contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

Your discussions here will help advance ASEAN collaboration on these two crucial areas. I wish you all a fruitful and productive round of deliberations. It is now my pleasure to declare the 2nd AIPA Caucus open.

