

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Welcome Remarks by

His Excellency Post Dr. Cheam Yeap,

Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly
of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Chairman of the Cambodian National Group of
AIPA and a permanent Vice-chairman of the Organizing Committee the
32nd AIPA General Assembly at the Welcome Remark of the AIPA Seminar
on "**the Role of Parliamentarians on the Protection and Promotion of
the Rights of Migrant Workers in ASEAN**"

(Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh Capital, April 04, 2011)

My high respect to:

- ***Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAM RIN***, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Lok Chum-teav, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Distinguished Guests!

Today, I have great pleasure and honor, and on behalf of the organizing committee of the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and on my own behalf, I would like to express my profound thanks to ***Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAM RIN***, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia to be honoring and presiding over the opening ceremony of the AIPA Seminar on "**The Role of Parliamentarians on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in ASEAN**".

I would also like to extend my warmest welcome and deepest thanks to Your Excellencies, Lok Chum-teav, Ladies and Gentlemen, and honorable delegates of the AIPA member countries, AIPA Secretariat, speakers, national and international experts, national and international organizations for their participation in this important AIPA Seminar.

The commencement of the Seminar today is reflecting the active participation of the Parliaments of ASEAN member countries to debate on "**the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in ASEAN**" and to foster the opportunity for migration legally and to seek for harmonization of laws through partnerships and dealing with common challenges in the region in order to achieve the ASEAN Community by 2015.

***Samdech* President of the National Assembly,
Lok Chum-teav, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

ASEAN has the total population of approximately 600 millions, which is equivalent to 8.8 % per cent of the world's populations. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 1.8 trillions of US dollars ⁽¹⁾ and the total labor forces is more than 263 million people. Labor migration is not a new phenomenon of the region. The Geographic, Demographic and Social and Economic situations are the reasons that are leading to labor migration. The World Bank revealed that migration in ASEAN Region amount to 9% per cent of migration worldwide. The United Nations, in 2005, estimated that migrant workers in ASEAN Region constituted about 13.5 Millions, about 40% per cent or 5.3 millions of those migrated within the region.

Labor Migration has contributed to social and economic development within the context that migration is appropriately managed. The sending countries have received in return with remittance, knowledge and technology transferred ⁽²⁾; and the receiving countries have fulfilled their labor market demand of employment and skills to enhance their economic activities.

The World Bank estimated that the flow of remittance of migrant workers in ASEAN region reached 29 billion US dollars in 2006, is about 16 times higher than 1986, which the amounted to only 1.8 billion US Dollars. Compared to GDPs, the remittance of migrant workers of the Philippines amounted to 13% per cent, Indonesia amounted to 7.9% per cent, Cambodia amounted to 4.1% per cent and Malaysia is 1% per cent of the respective GDPs. The increase of transnational migrant workers is the sign of development and the extension of labor market which contribute to the regional integration.

***Samdech* President of the National Assembly,
Lok Chum-teav, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Although, migrant workers have significantly contributed and are essential components for economic growth and ASEAN Society development, however, migrant workers are still falling into vulnerability. While the tendency of migration has increased, there are also reports of abuses on migrant workers' rights. Issues of illegal migration are still remained the challenges. In addition, trafficking in person is often occurred in the context of unlawful migration. As result, many of those migrant workers have been exploited and forced to work in the worst and difficult conditions and illegality; and these are excluding rapes of domestic workers in some households.

Migration is the transnational issues. The protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers requires participation of all parties concerned. Recently, ASEAN has introduced various Initiatives and Action Plans for protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers such as ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crimes (1997), ASEAN Vision 2020 (1997), Hanoi Action Plan 1998, Bangkok Declaration on Illegal Migration 1999, Bali Agreement 2003, ASEAN Declaration Against Human Trafficking, particularly Women and Children 2004 and Vientiane Action Plan 2004. The 12th ASEAN Summit in January 2007 in CEBU in Philippines, the Heads of ASEAN Governments adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. This Declaration has been considered as a pillar of efforts for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the region.

***Samdech* President of the National Assembly,**

