The President of the
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

MESSAGE BY H.E. MR. CHOUMMALY SAYASONE, PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PDR
TO 32nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
18 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2011

SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of AIPA,

Your Excellencies Speakers of Parliaments, Heads of AIPA Member, Special Observer and Observer Delegations,
Honourable Members of Parliaments,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the great pleasure and high appreciation to be informed about the proceedings of the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to be held in Phnom Penh, the Capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia. On behalf of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Lao people, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and congratulations to all delegations of AIPA members, Special Observer and Observers participating in this important event.

In 2008, all parliaments of ASEAN countries have ratified the ASEAN Charter, and now we are towards the realization of the spirit of the ASEAN Charter. In general, I believe that we have achieved considerable results and achievements. The three ASEAN communities translated the ASEAN Charter into detailed plans of action. The cooperation within dialogue partners of ASEAN has been outstanding and taken more concrete approaches. The international community has been interested in ASEAN forums wherein many countries evidently took part and were interested in the accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), and these countries have accredited their ambassadors to ASEAN. These actions reflected the confidence of the international community towards policy, performance, consolidation, potentials, role and influence of ASEAN in resolving problems and challenges of the region as well as the world. The global economic and financial crisis that confronted us for the three last years has tested the capacity of the ASEAN in its response and finding solutions. Although all ASEAN countries have been affected by the said crisis, the ASEAN economy as a whole, has seen further growth.

Parliaments have their significant roles in contributing to the implementation of ASEAN Charter is critical. Through legislative and representative functions,
Parliaments have to coordinate with Governments and other organizations to come up with a harmonized approach to discuss necessary mechanisms and measures in pushing forward the ASEAN integration. Contents as well as resolutions approved by AIPA should materialize into policies and legislations of member states through parliamentary working mechanisms.

I am greatly pleased to acknowledge that in the last three years, high-ranking leaders of ASEAN and AIPA have met and exchanged on a more regular basis. This has proven the willingness of both sides to jointly build a better future for an ASEAN Community. In addition, at the committee level, task forces and officers have also worked and coordinated jointly. Together, AIPA and ASEAN are formulating a Memorandum of Agreement as a principal document to outline a more improved mutual coordination to better serve the rights and benefits of the ASEAN people.

I believe that the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly will also provide an opportunity for our regional parliamentarians, in particular the members of the Lao National Assembly, to share their views and seek joint resolutions in addressing common concerns of the region and their respective countries as well towards achieving the goals of a caring ASEAN Community by 2015.

May I extend my best wishes of good health to all distinguished delegates present in this gathering, and wish the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly the utmost success.

Choummaly Sayasone
PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PDR