



First Plenary Session: Statement of AIPA Secretary General

**THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASEAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)**

(FINAL)

H.E. AR. SITI ROZAIMERIYANTY DATO HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN
Secretary-General of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Date:

Monday, 7 August 2023

Venue:

Grand Ballroom, Ground Floor, Fairmont Hotel
Jakarta, Indonesia

Time:

13.30-15.15 (GMT+7)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warrahmatuallhi Wabarakatuh

Her Excellency Dr. (H. C.) (*Doktor Honoris Causa*) Ibu Puan Maharani, President of AIPA, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia;

Excellency Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the AIPA Member Parliaments;

His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of the ASEAN;

Distinguished Parliamentarians of AIPA Member Parliaments and AIPA Observer Parliaments, Guests of the Host, Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. It is with immense pleasure and honor that I stand before you today for the first time as the 6th Secretary General of AIPA. The theme of this year's General Assembly is (Pause) “*A Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN*”, resonates very closely to all of us here as a shared commitment to enhance the capacity of AIPA to become more responsive in facing various regional and global challenges as well as to strengthen our cooperation to realize **ASEAN as the Epicentrum of growth that leaves no one behind.**

2. In the face of unprecedented challenges such as climate change, transnational crime, gender inequality, and economic uncertainty, the need for responsive parliaments has become even more critical. As representatives of the ASEAN peoples, it is our collective duty to ensure that our national legislatures are adaptive to address these challenges and provide strategic solutions in supporting ASEAN to become a more robust epicenter of growth and resilience.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The AIPA Secretariat remains committed in supporting and facilitating the strengthening of AIPA Member Parliaments towards **responsive Parliaments** for ASEAN. It is imperative that AIPA continue to serve the needs and aspirations of the ASEAN peoples. In view of achieving this, the AIPA member Parliaments must build synergies and work hand-in-hand with respective governments, as highlighted by Bapak President Jokowi in his opening remarks and Ibu Puan Maharani in the AIPA message to the leaders during the AIPA-ASEAN Leaders' Interface earlier this year.
4. Furthermore, AIPA Member Parliaments need to strengthen partnerships and collaboration through capacity building

programs, exchanges of knowledge and experiences. Thus, we aim to strengthen and empower the role of Member Parliaments with the skills, tools and networks in enhancing parliamentary diplomacy to remain relevant and continue to play a crucial role in region to preserve political stability consistent with the spirit of ASEAN solidarity and one community.

5. **Stable** reflects ASEAN and AIPA's strong commitment in maintaining stability and security in the region through facilitating dialogue and cooperation in the region which is crucial in the midst of various political and security challenges. In tandem, as ASEAN remains a peaceful region will create a **prosperous ASEAN**.
6. As ASEAN member states have been collectively working towards realizing an ASEAN Economic Community, AIPA Member Parliaments can help to advocate for policies that promotes inclusive growth to narrow the development gap, thereby creating a sustainable and equitable ASEAN.
7. This year AIPA's activities have been closely build on the momentum of "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" and also aligning with AIPA's remarkable milestone as the AIPA member Parliaments have successfully formulated the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030 for the first time. This signifies the

shared commitment of AIPA in shaping the future of the region including **developing the 2045 ASEAN Agenda**.

8. The AIPA Secretariat remains committed to maintain close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat. And I would like to commend the ASEAN Secretary General, Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, under his steadfast leadership, the two Secretariats have been actively cooperating even closer than in the past.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. It is evident that we foresee AIPA to evolve and transform into a broader and more integrated institution as we have received growing interests from the international communities. Hence, enhancing mutual understanding and trust between the legislative bodies and people of ASEAN countries and between ASEAN and the international community as well as building such collaboration is therefore crucial.
10. Finally, let us continue to make AIPA to stay relevant and responsive as the key player in the regional and global community. May this General Assembly **serve as a catalyst for transformative change**, leading us towards a responsive parliament for a stable and prosperous ASEAN. Thank you and may our deliberations throughout this assembly be fruitful and impactful. *Wassalamualaikum warrahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*