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MAY HIGHLIGHTS

6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue



Upon the invitation from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the AIPA Secretariat attended the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue from 1-2 May 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Under the theme of "Dialogue for Peace

and Global Security: Cooperation and Interconnectivity," the forum aimed to foster intercultural dialogue and cooperation to address global challenges. In the margins of this forum, an inter-parliamentary conference on the Role and Best Practices of the Legislature in the Protection of Cultural Heritage was organized by the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan. Two AIPA Member Parliaments; Malaysia and the Philippines, participated in the event. The conference highlighted the great significance of the legislative processes in safeguarding cultural heritage and represented a platform for exchanging useful ideas on parliamentary cooperation.



On the sidelines of the two events in Baku, the AIPA Secretary General had courtesy meetings with high ranking officials of Azerbaijan. The AIPA Secretary General had the opportunity to engage with **H.E. Sahiba Gafarova**, the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Hon. Hijran Kamran Ghizi Huseynova**, Chair of Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, **H.E. Bahar Muradova**, the Chair of State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs.



AIPA Roadshow in Baku, Azerbaijan



The AIPA Secretariat extended the reach of the AIPA Roadshow beyond Southeast Asia with a visit to Baku State University in Azerbaijan on 3 May 2024. This Roadshow aimed to raise awareness among international youth on ASEAN as a leading model for regional cooperation, and the role of AIPA in addressing regional challenges through parliamentary diplomacy.

The Fifth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies and 3rd Policy Dialogue on the Protection of Religious Sitesm Symbols, and Objects

At the invitation of the United



Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the AIPA Secretary General, accompanied by the Deputy Secretary General, attended the Fifth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies and the Third Policy Dialogue on the Protection of Religious Sites, Symbols, and Objects, held from May 8-9, 2024, in Istanbul, Türkiye.



While the coordination meeting focused on discussing regional terrorism trends and reviewing Counter-Terrorism/Preventing Violent Extremism (CT/PVE) initiatives addressing associated challenges, the parliamentary policy dialogue focused on enhancing defenses against increasing terrorist threats to religious locations and symbols. In this regard, the AIPA Secretary General took the opportunity to share AIPA's collective endeavor in countering terrorism and violent extremism and its contribution to the implementation of Bali Work Plan 2019-2025.

16th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community



AIPA Secretariat participated in the 16th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) on 7 May 2024 in ASEAN Headquarters, Jakarta. The conference invited representatives of ASEAN SOM Leaders, Chair of ASEAN SEOM, Chair of ASEAN SOCA, representative of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, and relevant ASEAN entities.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of AIPA, the Senior Officer of AIPA Secretariat shared AIPA's contributions towards the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 and provided insights related to the development of the APSC Strategic Plan under the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

Photo Credit: ASEAN

The 8th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN



The AIPA Secretariat participated in the 8th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN on 14 May 2024 at the ASEAN Headquarters, Jakarta. Hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat, the annual event serves as a platform for all associated entities listed under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter, along with other ASEAN centers/bodies, external partners and stakeholders, to foster collaboration and partnership.

The event involved interactive interface sessions with the newly appointed Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for Political-Security Community, **H.E. Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz**, and DSG for Community and Corporate Affairs, **H.E. Nararya S. Soeprapto**. During the forum, the AIPA Secretariat, along with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR)

and ASEAN Foundation also had the opportunity to deliver a joint presentation to share experiences of collaboration between ASEAN institutions, as well as the modalities for cooperation with other entities. The forum was wrapped with a speed networking session, allowing participants to connect directly and explore avenues for collaboration.

Photo Credit: ASEAN

The Asia-Pacific Financial Forum & ASEAN-BAC Southeast Asia Conference 2024



On 17 May 2024, upon the invitation from the Thai Bankers' Association, the AIPA Secretary General virtually attended the APFF & ASEAN-BAC Southeast Asia Conference 2024 on Creating a Digital, Sustainable, and Resilient Regional Ecosystem to Empower MSMEs. The conference served as a platform for key stakeholders to address various critical areas relevant to Southeast Asia's economies.

The discussions focused on empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through four major areas: the end-to-end digitalization of trade and supply chain finance, the financial infrastructure for expanded financial access, financing sustainable transition of enterprises, and creating resilient ecosystems that MSMEs need for continued growth through disaster risk financing.

Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the 10th World Water Forum



On the occasion of the 10th World Water Forum, the Indonesian House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) co-hosted a Parliamentary Meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali, from May 20-21, 2024. The meeting arrived at a critical time as the world is facing a looming water crisis with billions already experiencing shortages. Under the theme “Mobilizing Parliamentary Action on Water for Shared Prosperity”, the meeting gathered parliamentarians, international organizations, and civil society organizations to enhance parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy on expanding access to safe water and mobilize action on water for global security and prosperity.

Coordination Meeting with Chairperson of AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD)



On 28 May 2024, the AIPA Secretariat organized a virtual briefing with the Chairperson of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD)

The meeting was attended by **Hon. Amphay Chitmanonh**, Chairperson of AIPACODD, **Hon. Chanthavong Senamatmontry**, and the AIPA National Secretariat of the National Assembly of Lao PDR. The meeting comprehensively discussed various substantive and technical aspects of the

AIPACODD meeting, preparing the National Assembly of Lao PDR for hosting the 7th AIPACODD Meeting in August 2024.

Stakeholder Consultation with ASEAN Centres and Entities on the Development of the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC) Post-2025 Strategic Plan



The AIPA Secretary General participated in the Stakeholder Consultation with ASEAN Centres and Entities on the Development of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Post-2025 Strategic Plan in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 28 May 2024.

This Consultation served as a platform for the ASEAN's Ad-Hoc Working Group to exchange views with ASEAN Centres and Entities on the development of the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan. During the consultation, the AIPA Secretary General had the opportunity to highlight the key issues discussed and prioritized within AIPA, offering recommendations for the development of the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan from a parliamentary perspective

Stakeholders Roundtable on Advancing Women Political Participation and Leadership in ASEAN



The AIPA Secretariat and UN Women jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion on Enhancing Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) in ASEAN, titled "Promoting Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected, and Inclusive ASEAN Community," on 30 May 2024 at Grand Mahakam Hotel, Jakarta. The event convened over 20 high-level representatives from ASEAN member states and key dialogue partners, including Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and Heads of Diplomatic Missions to ASEAN.



The event provided a platform to explore potential opportunities and partnerships aimed at supporting the implementation of the WPPL Plan of Action and Implementation Framework, developed by Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA), to strengthen women's leadership and political participation across ASEAN. Fostering partnerships at this stage is pivotal to ensure effective implementation of these strategic documents

following their anticipated adoption at the upcoming 45th AIPA General Assembly.

The 6th Intake of the PCAsia Programme on Parliamentary Diplomacy (PCAsia-PPD)



Started in May 2024, the Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia), AIPA's MoU partner, conducts its 6th intake Programme on Parliamentary Diplomacy (PCAsia-PPD) in a hybrid format. This program, attended by parliamentary staff from AIPA Member Parliaments, aims to enhance their capacity to effectively support parliamentary diplomacy efforts.

During a session on 30 May 2024, the AIPA Secretariat provided insights into parliamentary diplomacy practices from the perspective of AIPA and the Secretariat. This session facilitated a valuable exchange of knowledge and fostered deeper understanding between the AIPA Secretariat and the participating parliamentary staff regarding the practice of parliamentary diplomacy at the regional level. This programme is part of AIPA's cooperation with PCAsia and ran from May to July 2024.

Handover of a Voluntary Contribution from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to AIPA



On 13 May 2024, **H.E. Hjayceelyn M. Quintana**, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN, symbolically handed over a voluntary contribution of USD 20,000 to AIPA on behalf of the Government of the Philippines. This generous contribution underscores the Philippines' ongoing commitment to fostering people-centered and inter-parliamentary cooperation throughout ASEAN.

Courtesy Meetings



Throughout May 2024, the AIPA Secretary General welcomed several esteemed guests through courtesy visits. These included **H.E. Ina Lepel**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Indonesia, Timor Leste, and ASEAN, and a delegation from the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, led by **H.E. Osman Saglam**. Additionally, the AIPA Secretary General had the honor of meeting **H.E. Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz**, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC).



The AIPA Secretary General also engaged in significant discussions and meetings with key figures such as **H.E. Kiya Masahiko**, Ambassador of the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, and **H.E. Maynor Jacobo Cuyún Salguero**, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala to ASEAN. These engagements focused on strengthening partnerships and exploring future collaborations.

Secretariat to Secretariat Meeting: Coordination Meeting with House of Representatives of Indonesia



The AIPA Secretariat met with the Secretariat of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives on 31 May 2024 at the AIPA Secretariat Office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting focused on potential regional initiatives and Indonesia's support for the upcoming 2nd Joint Activity AIPA-FAO-ISSD on the Implementation of ASEAN Guidelines for Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (ASEAN RAI), scheduled for 24-25 July 2024 in Bali, Indonesia.



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