
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary
Delegation to the 39th AIPA
General Assembly,
September 2018

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Foreword

Australia welcomed the opportunity to attend and observe the 39th General Assembly of ASEAN's parliamentary arm, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

The AIPA General Assembly was held in Singapore, with the theme of building a resilient and innovative ASEAN Community. The well-organised Assembly and associated program allowed plentiful opportunities for the Australian delegation to renew ties with parliamentarians of Southeast Asian and Observer parliaments, form ties with guest parliaments, and build on Australia's enduring relationships with and commitment to ASEAN countries and the region more broadly.

The Australian delegation found the dialogue discussion with ASEAN Members very worthwhile. It provided both parties with an opportunity to learn from each other and exchange ideas on the topics of climate action and active ageing.

In addition to attending the AIPA General Assembly, the Australian delegation also participated in a range of side meetings, some of which were organised with the assistance of the Australian High Commission in Singapore. These meetings enhanced the value of our visit.

I thank my colleague on the delegation, Mr Steve Georganas MP, whose particular interest in active ageing and knowledgeable participation in discussions made a valuable contribution to our visit.

Finally, I wish to record the delegation's appreciation to Singapore for its generous hospitality and excellent organisation of the 39th AIPA General Assembly.

Senator Scott Ryan
Delegation Leader



Membership of the delegation

Senator Scott Ryan, President of the Senate (Leader)

Mr Steve Georganas (Deputy Leader)

Ms Sarah Fielder (Secretary)

The 39th AIPA General Assembly

Introduction

- 1.1 The 39th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly was held from 3 to 7 September 2018 in Singapore. The purpose of AIPA meetings is to address issues of mutual concern to ASEAN Member and Observer countries.
- 1.2 The General Assembly has been held regularly since 1978. Over 140 parliamentarians attended the 2018 General Assembly, representing ten Member countries. Also represented at the General Assembly were Observer delegations from ten parliaments, and two delegations as guests of the host.
- 1.3 The following summarises some of the issues and outcomes arising from the 39th AIPA General Assembly, with a particular focus on the issues discussed during the dialogue session between ASEAN countries and Australia.

AIPA General Assembly – Background

- 1.4 In 1977, ten years after the formation of ASEAN, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) was established by the parliaments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. AIPO was formed to contribute to the attainment of the goals and aspirations of ASEAN through inter-parliamentary cooperation.

- 1.5 In order to establish a more effective and closely integrated institution, AIPO changed its status from an organisation into an assembly in 2007 and changed its name to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, or AIPA.¹
- 1.6 The Statutes of AIPO were signed in 1977 by the Heads of parliamentary delegations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The Statutes have been amended several times since that time, most recently in 2017.
- 1.7 The key aims and purposes of AIPA are to:
- promote solidarity, understanding, cooperation and close relations among parliaments of ASEAN Member states, other parliaments and parliamentary organisations;
 - facilitate the achievement of the goals of ASEAN as constituted in the ASEAN Declaration of August 1967 made at Bangkok, Thailand, as well as the ASEAN Vision 2020 taking into account Bali Concord II 2003 leading to the realisation of an ASEAN Community based on three pillars: ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;
 - establish and maintain exchange and dissemination of information as well as coordination, interaction and consultations with ASEAN to offer parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration and familiarising the peoples of ASEAN with policies aimed at accelerating the realisation of an ASEAN Community;
 - study, discuss and suggest solutions to problems of common interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action and timely response by the AIPA Members;
 - keep all AIPA Member parliaments informed of steps taken and progress achieved by each parliament in realisation of the aims and purposes of AIPA; and
 - promote the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN.²

1 AIPA, 'History of AIPA (From AIPO to AIPA)', <http://www.aipasecretariat.org/static_page/detail/12/history-of-aipa> viewed 26 September 2018.

2 ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, 'The Statutes of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)', <http://www.aipasecretariat.org/static_page/detail/2/statutes> viewed 26 September 2018.

1.8 AIPA comprises the following ten ASEAN Member parliaments:

- Brunei Darussalam;
- Cambodia;
- Indonesia;
- Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- Malaysia;
- Myanmar;
- Philippines;
- Singapore;
- Thailand; and
- Vietnam.

1.9 As part of the 39th AIPA General Assembly, AIPA Member parliaments took part in dialogue sessions with ten Observer parliaments comprising:

- Australia;
- Belarus;
- Canada;
- China;
- European Parliament;
- India;
- Japan;
- Republic of Korea;
- Russian Federation; and
- Timor Leste.

1.10 The AIPA Statutes require that a General Assembly of AIPA be held once a year, and that the venue be rotated among Member parliaments in alphabetical order unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee. The venue and date of previous General Assemblies are shown at **Appendix A**.

Courtesy call on the AIPA President

- 1.11 Each General Assembly is presided over by the AIPA President, who is the Speaker or President of the AIPA Member parliament hosting the Assembly. The President of the 39th AIPA General Assembly was His Excellency Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Singapore.
- 1.12 Along with representatives from other Observer delegations, Australia attended a courtesy call with Speaker Chuan-Jin on Monday, 4 September 2018. This was an important opportunity to reaffirm Australia's relationship with Singapore and to stress the importance of ASEAN to Australia. The meeting also provided the occasion for Australia to extend its thanks to Speaker Chuan-Jin for his Parliament's gracious hospitality.

Figure 1.1 AIPA President greeting the Australian Delegation Leader



Source: *Delegation secretariat*

Opening ceremony

- 1.13 The theme of the 39th General Assembly was: Towards a resilient and innovative community. These sentiments were emphasised throughout the opening ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, 4 September 2018.
- 1.14 A welcome speech was delivered by the President of AIPA and an opening address was delivered by His Excellency Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore. Following, the Secretary General of ASEAN, His Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi, made a statement on behalf of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Welcome speech

- 1.15 In his speech, Mr Chuan-Jin mentioned the active steps ASEAN has taken to survive, including the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015. He noted the relevance of this year's General Assembly theme to helping enhance the community building efforts.
- 1.16 He recognised the need for AIPA to also continually evolve, as has been demonstrated by the body transforming from an organisation to an assembly, expanding to comprise the Parliaments of all 10 ASEAN Member states, and holding annual engagements between the Member parliaments and AIPA's 12 Observer parliaments. He said that the establishment of the AIPA caucus, which helps to harmonise the laws between Member states, has made AIPA more effective as an institution.
- 1.17 Mr Chuan-Jin acknowledged that AIPA has been an important platform for promoting regional cooperation and understanding amongst parliamentarians in the region over the past 40 years based on mutual understanding and trust. He used the first meeting of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs, or AIPACODD, held in Singapore from 19 to 20 June 2018, as an example of how AIPA has evolved to best serve the people of ASEAN.
- 1.18 The AIPA President reiterated the importance of AIPA in raising awareness of ASEAN and communicating the benefits of the ASEAN Community to the 'man in the street', as well as voicing the real-life issues that affect citizens in the region.

Opening address

- 1.19 In his opening address, the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore noted the unity of ASEAN. He acknowledged that this unity is not guaranteed, but a testament to human will and a collective recognition that the region and people are better when ASEAN is united. He recognised that this unity gives ASEAN weight and relevance beyond the region, and noted that cooperation between Member states continues to evolve.
- 1.20 Mr Teo Chee Hean identified several challenges facing the region and beyond including terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, protectionism, isolationism, xenophobia, climate change and the digital revolution, and the role that AIPA can have in helping ASEAN maintain centrality. He said he believed that the 39th General Assembly should focus on creating a Cohesive, Connected, Creative and Climate-resilient ASEAN.
- 1.21 He stressed the importance of the role that AIPA, as a platform for parliamentarians to identify and discuss matters of common concern, plays in fostering greater cohesion in the region. He also highlighted that AIPA parliamentarians have a key role to play in helping its citizens to better understand the importance of a more inter-connected ASEAN and the need to pursue free and open markets.
- 1.22 He said that AIPA parliamentarians are well placed to encourage a mindset of creativity and innovation among their people, especially with the digital revolution. He also expressed concern about the effects of climate change, especially on the low lying coastal cities in the region, and acknowledged that the link AIPA provides between political leadership and citizens is crucial for the implementation of climate initiatives.
- 1.23 The Deputy Prime Minister concluded by saying that this link and continued efforts enable ASEAN to continue to be a cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the world.

Statement by the ASEAN Secretary General

- 1.24 The Secretary General of ASEAN began his statement by offering his condolences to the Member states affected by the recent natural disasters.
- 1.25 He then emphasised the strong relationship between AIPA and ASEAN and the important role that AIPA has in ensuring ASEAN is well understood by the citizens in the region. He then discussed ASEAN's initiatives, activities and achievements, before highlighting some of the areas where more work needs to be done. He finished by reaffirming

ASEAN's support for AIPA and willingness to continue to work closely with AIPA.

First Plenary Session

- 1.26 The first plenary session took place on Tuesday, 4 September 2018, immediately following the opening ceremony. Following the appointment of Vice Presidents of the 39th General Assembly, brief statements were made by leaders of Member and Observer delegations, and by special guests of the host parliament.

Statements by Member countries

Brunei Darussalam

- 1.27 The leader of this delegation, Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Bin Mohamed Taib, expressed support for AIPA's aspirations to achieve peace and security for the people of ASEAN, and the opportunity this forum presents for these nations to learn from each other. He mentioned some of the key political, economic and social challenges facing the region, including child sexual exploitation and illicit drug activities, and the mechanisms AIPA has been using for finding solutions. He concluded by acknowledging that a united effort must continue in order to improve the quality of life for the people of ASEAN.

Cambodia

- 1.28 The leader of the delegation for Cambodia, Mr Tep Ngorn, acknowledged that while ASEAN nations continue to build strong trade and economic ties, challenges posing threats to trade, security, the environment, poverty, drugs, protectionism and geopolitical competition remain. He mentioned various partnerships, agreements and statements that should be supported by ASEAN nations to respond to these challenges, and highlighted that ASEAN needs to continue strengthening the education sector and skills development, investing on physical infrastructure, supporting research and development, and creating a conducive environment for foreign direct investments. Mr Ngorn concluded by stressing the importance of improving consultation mechanisms within the AIPA framework to create better outcomes for the people of ASEAN nations.

Indonesia

- 1.29 The Indonesian Delegation Leader, Mr Bambang Soesatyo, began his statement by discussing the direct relevance of this year's theme to ASEAN, and acknowledged that although positive development in the region has occurred, challenges remain such as financial market volatility, the growing risk of trade dispute and fast-growing digital technology. He said that the future of ASEAN depends on collectively seizing opportunities and facing challenges, while maintaining centrality. He took the opportunity to thank the ASEAN Community for its assistance in the recent Lombok earthquake and informed the plenary of its commitment to improving its natural disaster management capacity. Mr Soesatyo concluded by stressing that a strong and innovative ASEAN Community requires the involvement of all ASEAN citizens and that parliamentarians can be used as a vehicle to achieve this through spreading awareness to their constituencies.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- 1.30 Madame Pany Yathotou, leader of the Lao PDR delegation, began by thanking the ASEAN Community for its assistance after the collapse of the saddle dam of the Xe Pien-Xe Namnoy hydropower project in Sanamxay district. She then discussed the progress made by ASEAN, particularly through the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, to continue promoting peace, stability, security and socioeconomic development to improve the lives of the people of ASEAN. Madame Yathotou reaffirmed Lao PDR's support for the theme of the General Assembly and stated the importance of the areas of science and technology and innovation in improving economic development and social security, along with the initiatives adopted by Lao PDR in this area.

Malaysia

- 1.31 The leader of the Malaysian delegation, Dato' Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof, began his statement by discussing the outcome of Malaysia's 14th general election in 2018. He then discussed the pertinence of this year's theme and advocated that policy formulation should be done with the demands, needs and aspiration of the people in mind. He also touched upon the importance of keeping up with current technologies. The leader outlined some of the current ASEAN initiatives and said that the key to ASEAN becoming more resilient and innovative is to focus on the application of laws, good leadership and consideration of the diversities, ethnicities, religions, cultures and traditions of its peoples and associated

legal frameworks. He also mentioned the necessity of increasing awareness of ASEAN amongst its citizens.

Myanmar

- 1.32 The Myanmar Delegation Leader, Mr Tun Tun Hein, recognised that the theme of the General Assembly reflects the necessary actions for AIPA, especially a young parliament like Myanmar. He then addressed some of the key issues facing the world such as peace and security and climate change, and said that they and other emerging issues should be addressed by AIPA. Mr Hein also mentioned the efforts of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in advancing the peaceful, inclusive, resilient, healthy and harmonious society should be encouraged; and the role that technology can play in transforming the way in which we live. He concluded by outlining some of the political reforms occurring in Myanmar.

Philippines

- 1.33 The leader of this delegation, Ms Rose Marie J. Arenas, said that the theme for the General Assembly was timely given the rapid developments, complexities and security challenges around the world including cyber threats, climate change, and violent extremism. She referred to the people oriented focus of the ASEAN-AIPA partnership and the key principles of consultation and consensus, ASEAN Centrality, unity and solidarity, peace and security, investment in youth and the elderly, and sustainable and inclusive development. Ms Arenas listed some concrete measures to help promote the principles, and mentioned some of the policy initiatives used to bring the principles and measures to life. She concluded with comments on the relevance of AIPA to ASEAN in the community building process and the increase of Observer countries being a testament to the success of AIPA.

Singapore

- 1.34 The leader of the delegation, Mr Charles Chong, acknowledged that the longevity of any organisation is determined by its ability to consistently adapt to changing circumstances and that AIPA, like ASEAN, has had to do this to acclimatise to the challenges and opportunities of this century. He noted that a sense of renewal has been present in AIPA, and acknowledged that ongoing effort is required on finding a common ground to benefit the people of ASEAN. In particular, he referred to the need for strengthening collective resilience against growing

trans-boundary threats like terrorism, climate change and cyber threats, and making use of technology and innovation for growth. He mentioned ASEAN'S common vision for a resilient and innovative community, and several initiatives being used to achieve this. Mr Choong concluded by saying that the exchange of information that occurs at the annual AIPA General Assembly not only strengthens relationships, but plays a key role in translating ASEAN agreements into domestic action.

Thailand

- 1.35 Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, the leader of the Thai delegation, began by acknowledging the opportunities brought by the General Assembly to share and exchange practices on mutual benefits for the people of ASEAN. He said that it is his desire to see AIPA maintain its ability to respond to emerging threats such as terrorism, cyber crime, human trafficking and the effects of natural disasters. The Professor discussed some of the recent calamities including the Thai cave rescue mission in the Chiang Rai province and the resulting lessons learnt about disaster response and humanitarian measures on rescue missions. He also expressed a desire to do more on legislative connectivity at this year's General Assembly, primarily through the draft resolution on the Collection and Exchange of Information on Laws of AIPA.

Vietnam

- 1.36 The leader of the Vietnamese delegation, General Do Ba Ty, opened with remarks on the recovery of the global economy and trade, but highlighted the potential economic challenges facing the world economy. He then moved on to the achievements that ASEAN has made on community building and the importance of this for responding to traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, environmental issues, climate change and complex developments in the East Sea that threaten peace and stability in the whole region. Therefore, he said that Vietnam fully endorses this year's theme and offered ways for creating a resilient and innovative community. The General said that Vietnam would continue on the path it is on, and concluded by offering five matters for AIPA to draw focus on at the General Assembly.

Statement by Australia

- 1.37 In his statement to the General Assembly, the leader of the Australian delegation and President of the Senate, Senator Scott Ryan, noted the great contribution which ASEAN has made to peace, regional cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia.
- 1.38 Australia acknowledged the opportunity that the General Assembly provides for renewing its friendships and reaffirming its valuable relationships and cooperation with Southeast Asian nations. Australia noted its accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in December 2005 and with the 'Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership', signed in Manila ten years ago. It also noted the appointment of its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN in 2013, and the Strategic Partnership entered into with ASEAN in 2014.
- 1.39 Australia mentioned its pleasure in hosting the first Special ASEAN-Australia Summit in Sydney in March 2018. This summit between the heads of state also provided an opportunity for further meetings to take place between business leaders, counter-terrorism specialists and academics, and was a useful interaction between ASEAN and Australia, and led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism.
- 1.40 Australia highlighted its economic and security interests that are inextricably linked with the countries of Southeast Asia, a relationship underpinned by the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed in 2009. It also mentioned the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations.
- 1.41 Australia reinforced the value of working cooperatively with ASEAN states in celebrating the values that tie them together, and in continuing to learn from its ASEAN parliamentary counterparts at AIPA. The Australian Delegation Leader applauded AIPA Members for their continued commitment to peace, stability and cooperation in the region.
- 1.42 The full text of the Australian delegation's statement is at **Appendix B**.

Figure 1.2 Group photo of delegation and guest leaders



Source: Delegation secretariat

Committee meetings

1.43 During the first plenary session, the following committees were formed:

- Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA);
- Committee on Political Matters;
- Committee on Economic Matters;
- Committee on Social Matters;
- Committee on Organisational Matters; and
- Committee on the Joint Communiqué.

1.44 The committees formed at each General Assembly consider key issues relevant to ASEAN countries. Each committee produces a statement and approves a series of resolutions for adoption by the AIPA General Assembly. Representatives of AIPA Member countries provide the membership of the committees. As an Observer country, Australia has no official capacity on the committees.

Dialogue session with Australia

- 1.45 As part of the General Assembly, time was allocated on Wednesday, 5 September 2018 for AIPA Member countries to conduct dialogue sessions with each Observer delegation. The topic for the dialogue sessions at the 39th AIPA General Assembly was: Exchange of experiences on climate action and active ageing.
- 1.46 The dialogue session with Australia was chaired by Ms Foo Mee Har, Member of the Singapore Parliament. It commenced with each Australian delegate making a brief statement, followed by a representative from each Member delegation following suit. Australia then briefly responded to the Member statements.
- 1.47 Details of the participants in the dialogue session are provided in the AIPA dialogue report, which appears at **Appendix C**.

Australian delegation's comments

- 1.48 The deputy leader of the Australian delegation opened the session by outlining the situation on active ageing in Australia. He said that Australians are both ageing at a fast pace due to mass migration after World War II, and living longer. He also mentioned the work that the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, of which he is Deputy Chair, is undertaking in this area.
- 1.49 He outlined some of Australia's approaches to supporting its citizens as they age. These include the Medicare Safety Net and Home Care Packages, but acknowledged that demand is greater than availability for the latter, with funding being the key obstacle.
- 1.50 The leader of the Australian delegation mentioned the Australian Government's Intergenerational Report which assesses the long term sustainability of current Government policies and how changes to Australia's population size and age profile may impact on economic growth, workforce and public finances over the following 40 years.³ He mentioned the fiscal effect of an ageing population, the impact of delays in using skilled migrants and the difficulty that older citizens face in finding work.

3 Australian Government, The Treasury, '2015 Intergenerational Report', <<https://treasury.gov.au/publication/2015-intergenerational-report>>viewed 10 October 2018.

- 1.51 He then outlined Australia’s ongoing political debate around policies to deal with climate change, acknowledging the divide in politics on this issue which was demonstrated by the repeal of Australia’s price on carbon. He also highlighted that Australia is committing to substantial reductions of emissions on a per capita basis.

Figure 1.3 Delegates during the dialogue session



Source: Delegation secretariat

Member delegations’ comments

- 1.52 In their brief statements, the representatives of Member delegations reaffirmed their diplomatic relations with Australia, thanked Australia for its support and welcomed increased cooperation, particularly in the areas of sharing best practices and technical expertise in active ageing and climate change.
- 1.53 The majority of AIPA Members agreed that an ageing population is a significant issue throughout the region, resulting in many economic and social challenges. They shared their associated initiatives and agreed that financial assistance and access to healthcare are vital to improving outcomes in this area, along with creating better social connections and integration with the community.
- 1.54 Further, the AIPA Members were of the opinion that climate change is a major threat to the region and beyond, and it was made evident that several of these countries are already taking serious action on it. They mentioned their commitment to combatting climate change at the highest

levels such as through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. They shared some of their initiatives on combatting climate change, sustainable development and natural disaster preparedness.

Australian delegation's response

- 1.55 The Australian delegation thanked the Member delegation representatives for their statements, reaffirmed the mutual value of Australia's relationship with ASEAN nations and acknowledged the diverse range of challenges across the region.
- 1.56 The Australian Delegation Leader stated that living longer should be viewed as a blessing, not a problem, for many reasons including the fact that today many generations apart are in a position to meet one another, for example, children and their great grandparents. He said that it is the collective responsibility of society to care for the older generations so that they can age with dignity.
- 1.57 He also mentioned the importance of meeting Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol commitments, and that it is apparent that some countries are already feeling the borderless effects of climate change, making it necessary for bigger nations to act, and for smaller nations to get on board. He said that renewable energy is the way of the future, with Australia investing over \$30 trillion on such research and development over the next 20 years. He acknowledged that we will be judged by future generations on how we manage this problem.
- 1.58 The deputy leader of the Australian delegation acknowledged the diversity of issues raised by the AIPA Member delegation representatives and concurred with the leader that living longer is a blessing, not a problem. He said that we have a duty to the generations before us, as they built our country, and that we will be judged by the way we look after our elderly. He mentioned that health care and social inclusion are imperative and applauded Singapore's integration of the needs of the elderly into its city planning. He said that exchanging ideas at forums such as this is very useful.

Second plenary session

1.59 The second plenary session was held on Thursday, 6 September 2018.

Presentation of committee reports

1.60 The Chairs of the following committees, as well as the dialogue panels with Observer parliaments and the Joint Communiqué presented their respective reports:

- WAIPA;
- Political Matters;
- Economic Matters;
- Social Matters; and
- Organisational Matters.

1.61 The above reports were approved and associated resolutions adopted (where applicable) by the General Assembly.

1.62 The leaders of AIPA Member country delegations signed the Joint Communiqué. The text of the document is at **Appendix D**.

1.63 The resolutions and reports adopted by the various Committees related to the following issues.

Committee on WAIPA

- Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship for Development; and
- Empowering Women in ASEAN to Harness the Potential of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

Political Matters

1.64 Although the Committee on Political Matters discussed at length various issues related to seven draft resolutions, it did not adopt any resolutions.

Committee on Economic Matters

- Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Cross-Border Data Flows in ASEAN;
- Promoting Innovation and e-Commerce in ASEAN;

- Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN;
- Good Regulatory Practices in the ASEAN Economic Integration; and
- Regional Effort to Address the Impact of Global Trade Tension Between Economic Powerhouses.

Committee on Social Matters

- Report of the 1st AIPACODD Meeting and the Resolutions on Securing a Drug-Free ASEAN Community for Future Generations and The Terms of Reference for AIPACODD;
- Promoting Digital Literacy and Combating Fake News;
- Support for Persons with Disabilities; and
- Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Urban Ecosystems.

Committee on Organisational Matters

- The AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report FY2017-2018;
- Continuation of the Joint Programme between AIPA and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft Fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit;
- Expanding the Scope of Cooperation between Freeland Foundation and the AIPA Secretariat;
- Financial Report of the AIPA Secretariat for the Period of 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018;
- (1) Estimates Budget for the AIPA Secretariat for the Period of 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019; (2) Supplementary Estimates from 1 August 2019 to 30 September 2019; and (3) Special Fund;
- Submission of Draft Resolutions by AIPA Member parliaments;
- AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf;
- AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Mr Anusart Suwanmongkol;
- Development of New Organizational Design and Human Capacity Development Plan for AIPA Secretariat;
- Legal Status of the AIPA House;
- Appreciating the Services of Mr Tan Chuan-Jin as President of AIPA;
- Date and Venue of the 40th General Assembly of AIPA;

- the Development of Web-based and Online Database of Resolutions Adopted by AIPA; and
- Appreciating years of service of Ms Ria R Aritonang to AIPA and AIPA Secretariat.

Date and venue of the 40th AIPA General Assembly

- 1.65 It was agreed that the 40th AIPA General Assembly would be held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2019.

Closing ceremony

- 1.66 The closing ceremony was held on Thursday, 6 September 2018. A closing address was given by the outgoing President of AIPA, after which the AIPA Presidency was transferred to the incoming President of AIPA and President of the National Assembly of Thailand, Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai.
- 1.67 In his closing speech, the outgoing AIPA President referred to the approximate 1,600 meetings held by ASEAN each year. He noted the importance of the AIPA General Assembly, being a vital platform through which parliamentarians can come together to exchange views on both commonalities and differences and find new ways to collaborate for the betterment of ASEAN and its peoples.
- 1.68 He reflected on the progress made during the week and the need for ASEAN to remain united. He welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and mentioned AIPA's reaffirmation of ASEAN's commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system, the meeting on WAIPA's focus on women's role in the new economy, and the various discussions had by the Committee on Social Matters. The outgoing AIPA President made special mention of the agreement to convene the Committee on Political Matters this year and the exchange of views, despite no resolutions being made.
- 1.69 He thanked all attendees for their contribution and enthusiasm, and noted that the presence of so many legislators was a testament to AIPA's enduring strength and vitality after 40 years. He then handed over the Presidency of AIPA to the incoming President.

- 1.70 The incoming AIPA President thanked the outgoing President for driving the region towards a more resilient and innovative community and said that the National Assembly of Thailand will work closely with the AIPA Member parliaments during its presidency to nurture inter-parliamentary partnership.
- 1.71 He said that the Thai Parliament will support AIPA parliamentarians to:
- work with ASEAN leaders and their governments on the creation of the rules-based ASEAN Community;
 - ensure that the integration process is inclusive and benefits the people, so as to make ASEAN more people-oriented; and
 - ensure that ASEAN people are at the heart of ASEAN centrality.

Additional meetings

- 1.72 In conjunction with the Assembly, the Australian delegation took the opportunity to undertake various informal meetings with parliamentary colleagues from various ASEAN, and Observer nations who wished to discuss Australia's contribution to a range of regional and domestic matters within Southeast Asia.
- 1.73 The Australian delegation was grateful for the opportunity to meet with Secretary General of AIPA, the Hon Mr Isra Sunthornvut. The Secretary General discussed a range of issues with the delegation including the purpose of the establishment of a permanent AIPA secretariat and the issues-based focus of ASEAN and AIPA. The delegation stressed the value in being Observers including the opportunity it presents for increasing future ministers' awareness of AIPA and leveraging such relationships, and in shaping policy.
- 1.74 The delegation expresses its thanks to all parliamentary colleagues for their time and willingness to engage in open and enthusiastic dialogue.

Figure 1.4 Delegates with the AIPA Secretary General



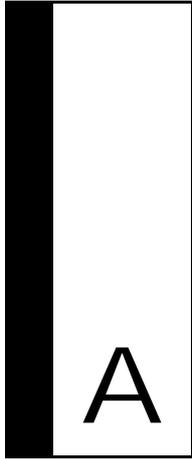
Source: Private

Conclusion

- 1.75 The 39th AIPA General Assembly provided a worthwhile forum for strengthening bonds between the parliaments of ASEAN countries. The Assembly also presented Australia with an important opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to Southeast Asia and to renew friendships with parliamentarians in the region.
- 1.76 The theme of the 39th General Assembly was: Towards a resilient and innovative community. The common position among ASEAN Members was that it is necessary for ASEAN to acclimatise to the challenges facing the region, and beyond. Some of the challenges identified are terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, protectionism, isolationism, xenophobia, climate change and the digital revolution.
- 1.77 ASEAN countries expressed the need for continued efforts in ensuring that the ASEAN Community remains united. They agreed that there is great value in AIPA as it provides a link between ASEAN and its citizens.
- 1.78 The Australian delegation appreciated the opportunity to discuss its important relationships with neighbouring countries. Australia's longstanding engagement with the region was noted by several delegations.

- 1.79 The Australian delegation is aware of the opportunities AIPA presents for Australia to continue to engage with friends and neighbours in the region. To this end, the delegation affirms the importance of the Australian Parliament's continued attendance and participation in the AIPA General Assembly. The delegation considers that engagement with AIPA is one important aspect of Australia's overall engagement with ASEAN.
- 1.80 In conclusion, the Australian delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to the hosting nation, Singapore, for its warm hospitality and a very well organised and professionally conducted 39th AIPA General Assembly.

Senator Scott Ryan
Delegation Leader
November 2018

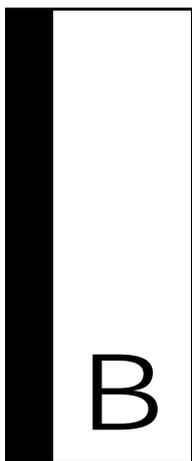


Appendix A: Date and venue of AIPA General Assemblies

Since its inception in 1977, AIPA has held annual meetings of its General Assembly as follows:

- 1st General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 26–28 September 1978
- 2nd General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 27 September to 3 October 1979
- 3rd General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2–6 September 1980
- 4th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2–6 February 1982
- 5th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 5–9 April 1983
- 6th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 5–7 October 1983
- 7th General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 2–6 October 1984
- 8th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 22–29 September 1985
- 9th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24–30 January 1988
- 10th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 21–26 August 1989
- 11th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 10–15 September 1990
- 12th General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 18–23 November 1991
- 13th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 21–26 September 1992
- 14th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 19–26 September 1993
- 15th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 19–24 September 1994
- 16th General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 18–23 September 1995
- 17th General Assembly of AIPO in Phuket, Thailand, 16–21 September 1996

- 18th General Assembly of AIPO in Bali, Indonesia, 1–6 September 1997
- 19th General Assembly of AIPO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24–28 August 1998
- 20th General Assembly of AIPO in Manila, Philippines, 19–24 September 1999
- 21st General Assembly of AIPO in Singapore, 10–15 September 2000
- 22nd General Assembly of AIPO in Bangkok, Thailand, 2–7 September 2001
- 23rd General Assembly of AIPO in Hanoi, Vietnam, 8–13 September 2002
- 24th General Assembly of AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia, 7–12 September 2003
- 25th General Assembly of AIPO in Phnom Phen, Cambodia, 12–17 September 2004
- 26th General Assembly of AIPO in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18–23 September 2005
- 27th General Assembly of AIPA in Cebu, Philippines, 10–15 September 2006
- 28th General Assembly of AIPA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18–24 August 2007
- 29th General Assembly of AIPA in Singapore, 19–24 August 2008
- 30th General Assembly of AIPA in Pattaya City, Thailand, 2–8 August 2009
- 31st General Assembly of AIPA in Hanoi, Vietnam, 19–25 September 2010
- 32nd General Assembly of AIPA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 18–24 September 2011
- 33rd General Assembly of AIPA in Lombok, Indonesia, 16–22 September 2012
- 34th General Assembly of AIPA in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 17–23 September 2013
- 35th General Assembly of AIPA in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 14–20 September 2014
- 36th General Assembly of AIPA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6–12 September 2015
- 37th General Assembly of AIPA in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 29 September to 3 October 2016
- 38th General Assembly of AIPA in Manila, Philippines, 14–20 September 2017
- 39th General Assembly of AIPA in Singapore, 3–7 September 2018



Appendix B: Statement by the leader of the Australian delegation

It is a great pleasure and honour to address the 39th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly here in Singapore. On behalf of the Australian delegation, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to Your Excellency, AIPA President and Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, and to the people of Singapore, for the warm hospitality extended to us.

The Assembly is taking place at an important time for ASEAN and for Australia's relations with ASEAN. ASEAN celebrated its 50th birthday in 2017, and is now moving into its second half century. As the prime structure for Southeast Asian regional cooperation, the 'ASEAN Community' continues to promote collaboration in the economic, political and security areas as well as across the socio-cultural realm.

Our participation as observers of this Assembly provides us with an opportunity to renew our friendships and to reaffirm the very valuable relationships and cooperation which Australia has long had with ASEAN and its 630 million people in many spheres, including through parliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

In fact, Australia became ASEAN's first dialogue partner over 40 years ago in 1974, and 2018 marks the 44th year of that partnership. Throughout that period, Australia has appreciated the great contribution which ASEAN has made to peace, regional cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

Our commitment was reaffirmed with our accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in December 2005 and with the 'Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership', signed in Manila ten years ago. In 2013, Australia appointed its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN.

Then, in November 2014, at the 40th Anniversary Commemorative ASEAN-Australia Summit in Myanmar, Australia and ASEAN entered into a new Strategic Partnership. The Strategic Partnership recognises both the depth and breadth of existing Australia-ASEAN cooperation and acknowledges the potential for greater engagement.

In March this year, Australia convened the first Special ASEAN-Australia Summit in Sydney. Apart from the summit between the heads of state, further meetings took place between business leaders, counter-terrorism specialists and academics. All agreed that it was a time of much useful interaction between ASEAN and Australia. During the Special Summit, Australia and ASEAN signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism.

Australia's economic and security interests remain inextricably linked with the countries of Southeast Asia, a relationship underpinned by the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed in 2009. In 2017, Australia's trade with ASEAN countries grew by 9 per cent over 2016 to reach \$105 billion, which is greater than our two-way trade with Japan and the United States. The two-way investment relationship is now valued at well over \$200 billion. Today, Australia is also heavily engaged with ASEAN and other Indo-Pacific economies in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations.

Our functional collaboration with ASEAN continues through many avenues, including participation in the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. We also participate actively in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, an important forum which brings together defence ministers from the 18 East Asia Summit countries.

Australia also values the opportunity to work cooperatively with ASEAN states in disaster management and in combatting transnational crime. In particular, we are actively involved in helping the developing ASEAN states to reduce disaster risk and to build community resilience. Australia's assistance to developing ASEAN member states, including bilateral and regional programs, will total some \$1 billion in 2018-19.

Over the past decade and a half ASEAN and Australia have substantially expanded our cooperation to combat terrorism, counter violent extremism and fight transnational crime. The agreement signed in Sydney affirms that expanded cooperation. We are also working closely to bolster the cybersecurity capabilities of both the public and private sectors in ASEAN. The Australia-ASEAN Cyber Policy Dialogue will be held in Singapore next month.

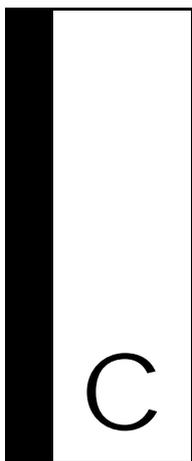
But, we also jointly celebrate the vitality of our peoples, and Australia-ASEAN people-to-people relations are seeing rapid development. Tourism, education, arts exchanges, the New Colombo Plan and a plethora of other programs see the people of ASEAN and Australia learning more about each other year by year.

We must celebrate the values which tie us together, and recognise that adherence to the rule of law and open markets will allow the free flow of trade, people, capital and ideas. One of the founding fathers of ASEAN – Singapore's first Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew – spoke of how, if there were no international law and order, "big fish would eat small fish and small fish would eat shrimps". ASEAN, as a body, works to provide the international law and order structure whereby the Southeast Asian nations have created a region where all states, regardless of their size, are respected in their sovereignty and their ability to determine their own course.

In closing, I come back to the reason we are gathered here in Singapore. We are all coming together as elected representatives of the peoples of our respective countries, tasked with representing our countries' Parliaments and peoples to

explore better ways forward in addressing the many challenges which face us. We are here to continue learning from our ASEAN Parliamentary counterparts.

Once again, it is a great pleasure and honour to attend this important forum to renew cooperation between our parliaments, and we are confident that the relationship between Australia and ASEAN will continue to benefit our countries and peoples. On behalf of the Australian delegation, I applaud you, as legislators, on your role in ASEAN's continued success in ensuring peace, stability and cooperation in the region, and wish you a fruitful and successful General Assembly.



Appendix C: AIPA Report on the dialogue with Australia

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly 39th General Assembly 3–7 September 2018, Singapore

REPORT OF THE DIALOGUE WITH AUSTRALIA

- 1 The Dialogue session with Australia took place on 5 September 2018 at 2.20 pm. The session was presided over by Ms Foo Mee Har of the Parliament of Singapore as the Chairperson, and Mr Darryl David of the Parliament of Singapore was the Rapporteur. The following delegates attended the session:

OBSERVER PARLIAMENT

Australia

- a) Mr Scott Ryan
- b) Mr Steve Georganas

AIPA MEMBER PARLIAMENT

Brunei Darussalam

- a) Miss Khairunnisa Haji Ash'ari

Cambodia

- a) Mr Chhit Kim Yeat

Indonesia

- a) Mr Juliari P. Batubara

Lao PDR

- a) Mr Thanta Kongphaly
- b) Mrs Vanpheng Keonakhone

Malaysia

- a) Mr Kasthuriraani Patto
- b) Mr Syed Ibrahim bin Syed Noh

Myanmar

- a) Mr Naing Htoo Aung
- b) Dr Win Myint

Philippines

- a) Mrs Evelina Escudero

Singapore

- a) Mr Henry Kwek
- b) Mr Saktiandi Supaat

Thailand

- a) ACM Chanat Ratana-Ubol
- b) Mr Anusart Suwanmongkol

Vietnam

- a) Mrs Mai Thi Phuong Hoa

2 The session discussed the following issues:

- a) **ASEAN-Australia relations:** AIPA Members and Australia affirmed the warm and friendly relations with Australia, underpinned by longstanding diplomatic relations. AIPA Members welcomed increased cooperation with Australia, particularly in the areas of sharing best practices and technical expertise in active ageing and climate change.
- b) **Active ageing:** The rise of an ageing population was a key issue for Australia and majority of the AIPA Members, where it resulted in several economic and social challenges. The meeting shared the various healthcare policies, plans and systems implemented to mitigate the challenges of a rapidly ageing population in their respective countries

and the region. The meeting agreed that aside from financial assistance and access to healthcare, building social connections and integration in the community were also important aspects to examine when developing programmes for active ageing.

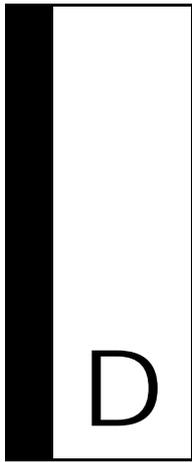
- c) **Climate change:** Climate change was a key issue for Australia and all AIPA Members, and several countries were focusing more attention on this issue. The meeting affirmed the delegates' commitment to combat climate change at the highest levels, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. AIPA Members also shared the various policies and plans to mitigate climate change issues and promote sustainable development at societal and individual levels in their respective countries, including the set-up of research centers to look into climate change issues.

3 The meeting also made the following points:

- a) Challenges in ageing populations across countries are diverse and evolving, and addressing this issue is a long-term commitment. Australia would like to learn from ASEAN as well.
- b) Australia shared that ageing should be spoken of positively, and not be viewed as a problem as countries developed and implemented their policies and plans. The point was made that it was a collective responsibility to care for the older generation and help seniors age with dignity.
- c) Australia would continue to support AIPA Members in dealing with climate change, and believed that combatting climate change would take a global effort.

4 With no further comments from delegates, the Chairperson called the session to a close at 3.30 pm.

5 The Report of the Dialogue with Australia will be included in the main Report of the 39th AIPA General Assembly.



Appendix D: 39th AIPA Joint Communiqué

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
39th General Assembly
3–7 September 2018, Singapore

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

I INTRODUCTION

- 1 Pursuant to the decision of the 38th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in Manila, the Philippines, on 14 – 20 September 2017, and in accordance with the Statutes of AIPA, the 39th General Assembly was held in Singapore from 3 – 7 September 2018.
- 2 Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, President of AIPA and the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore presided over the 39th General Assembly of AIPA.
- 3 The 40th General Assembly will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2019.

II WELCOME SPEECH

- 4 In his Welcome Speech, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, President of AIPA and Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore noted that even as ASEAN commemorated its 51st anniversary this year, it has become more necessary for the grouping to ensure it remained adaptable and nimble. He commended ASEAN for having taken active steps to ensure that the grouping thrived, including establishing the ASEAN Community in 2015. Thus, he said the theme of “Resilience and Innovation” selected to mark Singapore’s Chairmanship of ASEAN this year would build upon community-building efforts to-date.
- 5 Mr Tan noted that, in a similar vein, AIPA as a body had evolved to become more effective and inclusive: it has changed its name from the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO), to the current AIPA; it has expanded to embrace the Parliaments of all 10 ASEAN Member States; it now engages with 12 Observer Parliaments from around the world at its General Assemblies; and it has set up mechanisms like the AIPA Caucus to work towards developing common legislative initiatives to harmonise the laws of ASEAN Member States.
- 6 Hence, he believed that amidst the changes, AIPA continued to be an important platform to promote regional cooperation and understanding. He reaffirmed predecessors’ hopes that AIPA would continue to contribute to the building of mutual understanding, trust and confidence amongst its Member Parliaments.
- 7 Reminding delegates that AIPA parliamentarians played a unique role as interlocutors between ASEAN the organisation and ASEAN the people, Mr Tan said, as representatives of our respective citizens, AIPA parliamentarians were in a unique position to raise awareness of what ASEAN does, to communicate the benefits of the ASEAN Community to the man on the street and to give voice to the real-life issues that affect our

citizens. He urged AIPA parliamentarians to focus on creating a more resilient, more innovative ASEAN that can best serve the people of this region for generations to come.

III OPENING ADDRESS

8 In his Opening Address, Mr Teo Chee Hean, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security said that over the years, ASEAN's political leaders have met regularly and have developed a high level of mutual understanding and respect, resulting in broader cooperation between ASEAN Member States. He was glad that intra- and inter-regional trade had allowed ASEAN economies to grow collectively and steadily, and marveled at how greater connectivity had fostered closer people-to-people ties among ASEAN citizens.

9 Mr Teo, however, sounded a warning that ASEAN's continued centrality should not be taken for granted as the geopolitical landscape could shift rapidly and suddenly. As ASEAN navigates the present volatile times, Mr Teo said it was timely for the region's parliamentarians to consider what AIPA's role could be in supporting ASEAN's continued centrality. He suggested 4 C's that AIPA could focus on.

10 First, a more Cohesive ASEAN. Mr Teo was of the view that AIPA was an important platform for the region's parliamentarians to come together and to identify and discuss matters of common concern. Through the regular meetings, he said AIPA played a crucial role in fostering greater cohesion and regional cooperation, and believed that the strong parliamentary ties built would strengthen ASEAN's resilience against emerging security challenges at all levels. He thus urged all AIPA parliamentarians to continue providing mutual cooperation and support to one another to strengthen the collective efforts.

- 11 Second, a more Connected ASEAN. He said as representatives of the people, AIPA parliamentarians had a key role to play in helping citizens better understand the importance of a more inter-connected ASEAN and the need to pursue free and open markets. In particular, when faced with the current situation where some countries were rejecting the open and rules-based multilateral trading system, Mr Teo said ASEAN must avoid the temptation to regress, look inward and implement protectionist policies in their respective countries that will set the whole region back. He believed that AIPA parliamentarians could play a crucial role in the efforts on this front.
- 12 Third, a more Creative ASEAN. Mr Teo said AIPA parliamentarians were well-placed to encourage a mind-set of creativity and innovation among the ASEAN populations. He pointed out that the digital revolution was driving rapid changes in economic, social and even political interactions. He thus urged AIPA parliamentarians to help ASEAN and its people to ride this wave to greater benefit.
- 13 Fourth, a more Climate-Resilient ASEAN. Mr Teo was sure AIPA parliamentarians played a critical role in the collective push for a low-carbon and climate-resilient ASEAN by encouraging the promotion of sustainable growth and ecosystems in their own countries.
- 14 Concluding his remarks, Mr Teo stressed that AIPA's contributions to ASEAN's future were vital against the current backdrop of uncertainty. He said parliaments represented the people, made the laws of the land, and helped to explain the challenges of the world to our people and how they must respond collectively. He believed that it would only be through combined efforts that ASEAN could continue to be a cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the world.

IV DELEGATIONS

- 15 Delegates from the AIPA Member Parliaments, Observer Parliaments, the AIPA and ASEAN Secretariats, and other Guests of the Host participated in the 39th General Assembly.
- 16 For the AIPA Member delegations, **Brunei Darussalam** was led by Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman bin Mohamed Taib, Speaker of Legislative Council; **Cambodia** was led by Mr Tep Ngorn; **Indonesia** was led by Mr Bambang Soesatyo, Speaker of the People's Representative Council; **Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)** was led by Madame Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly; **Malaysia** was led by Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof, Speaker of the House of Representatives; **Myanmar** was led by Mr Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of the Union Parliament; the **Philippines** was led by Ms Rose Marie J. Arenas, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; **Singapore** was led by Mr Charles Chong, Deputy Speaker of Parliament; **Thailand** was led by Prof Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Assembly and **Vietnam** was led by General Do Ba Ty, Vice President of the National Assembly.
- 17 For the Observer delegations, **Australia** was led by Mr Scott Ryan, President of the Senate; **Belarus** was led by Mr Dmitry Shevtsov; **Canada** was led by Mr Terrence Sheehan; the **European Parliament** was led by Mr Werner Langen; **India** was led by Mr Kirti Vardhan Singh; **Japan** was led by Mr Motome Takisawa; the **People's Republic of China** was led by Ms Wei Lv; the **Republic of Korea** was led by Mr Lee Soo Hyuck; **Russia** was led by Mr Stepan Zhiriakov and **Timor Leste** was led by Ms Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmiento, Vice President of Parliament.
- 18 The delegation from **AIPA Secretariat** was led by Mr Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary-General.

19 For the Guests of the Host, the **ASEAN Secretariat** was led by Dato Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary-General; **Morocco** was led by Mr Abdelaaziz Omari, Vice President of the House of Representatives and **Norway** was led by Mr Torstein Tvedt Solberg.

V VICE-PRESIDENTS OF 39TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 Pursuant to Article 10 of the Statutes of AIPA, the General Assembly elected the Leaders of Delegations of the AIPA Member Parliaments as Vice-Presidents of the 39th General Assembly of AIPA.

VI STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF DELEGATIONS OF AIPA MEMBER PARLIAMENTS

21 The Leaders of Delegations of the AIPA Member Parliaments delivered their respective statements at the First Plenary session of the 39th General Assembly.

Brunei Darussalam

22 Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman bin Mohamed Taib, Speaker of Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, said the theme of 39th General Assembly of AIPA demonstrated that the region's commitment and continued support towards the ASEAN agenda remained ceaseless. He said this was evident in the issues, such as promoting economic development, improving people's welfare and security challenges, and tackling technological advances that were scheduled to be deliberated in the Committees of WAIPA and Political, Economic and Social Matters by AIPA at this Assembly. He stressed, however, that it was essential for decisions to be made with mutual respect and in compliance with AIPA statutes and in alignment with ASEAN pillars. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman bin Mohamed Taib pledged Brunei Darussalam's continued support to AIPA's aspirations to achieve peace and security of the people in the region, and to learn from the best practices of fellow AIPA Members. For instance, he noted that

regional parliamentary workshops, forums and meetings were conducted by AIPA to review and harmonise laws wherever possible and necessary. An example is the Regional Parliamentary Workshop on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism held recently in Bali. He also highlighted the work of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs which highlighted that as the legislative body in their respective countries, AIPA Parliaments had to be meticulous to address illicit drug activities and work in alignment with the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025.

- 23 In closing, Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman bin Mohamed Taib said AIPA was a perfect platform to learn and study experiences of other countries, as well as to exchange political, economic and social integration ideas.

Cambodia

- 24 Mr Tep Ngorn of the National Assembly of Cambodia made reference to the theme "Towards a Resilient and Innovative Community". He said it was crucial and closely linked to the current regional and global context that had been changing rapidly in political, socio-economic, security dimensions and in terms of advances in technology.
- 25 He was of the view that to realise the goal of being resilient and innovative, ASEAN as a regional grouping would need to stand firm against protectionist trends by further promoting trade liberalisation and accelerating negotiations to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. He stressed, however, that this must be done based on the fundamental principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality and non-interference, through regular consultations, deepening dialogues and promoting the principle of consensus-based decision-making.

- 26 Mr Tep Ngorn suggested that AIPA could play a role in the process by urging ASEAN Member States to improve skills development of its people, promote investment in physical infrastructure especially in transportation and telecommunications, support Research and Development efforts, and create a conducive environment for Foreign Direct Investments. At the same time, he said, AIPA would need to further promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges especially amongst our youths and encourage the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, and ASEAN's Statement on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.
- 27 Mr Tep Ngorn added that the other role AIPA Member Parliaments could play was to foster the consistency of important legislation and national policies in relation to environment, culture, women, children, drugs, socio-economic, politics and security as well as in the prevention of cyber-crimes.
- 28 He concluded by emphasising that Cambodia remained committed to firmly respecting constitutional powers, the principles of liberal democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and the rule of law. To this end, he said Cambodia would strive to maintain peace in order to contribute to the development and stability in the region. He also pledged that the new Parliament, elected in the recent July 2018 general elections, and the new Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia would continue to cooperate with countries in the region and the world to achieve common interests on the basis of equality, rights, respect for sovereignty and non-interference.

Indonesia

- 29 Mr Bambang Soesatyo, Speaker of the People's Representative Council of Indonesia, emphasized the role of AIPA in pursuing a resilient and innovative ASEAN, and to realise the ASEAN Vision 2025 through the constitutional mandate of legislation, budget, and oversight. For ASEAN to be a resilient community, ASEAN must be able to cope with turbulence at the regional and global levels.
- 30 Mr Soesatyo touched on the recent humanitarian situation in the region. Following recent earthquakes in Lombok and its surrounding areas, Indonesia acknowledged the considerable attention shown by neighbouring ASEAN countries. Indonesia was committed to improving its capacity in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and preparedness, and would continue to support investment and capacity building in these aspects at the national, regional, and global levels. Mr Soesatyo also expressed Indonesia's concern on the persisting humanitarian crisis in Myanmar that required collective action, and called for a viable and long term solution to address the root causes of the conflict and to bring peace, stability, the rule of law, and to promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as to ensure sustainable and equitable development across the region.
- 31 Furthermore, Mr Soesatyo said ASEAN's economy must be resilient amidst a surge of trade tension and protectionism. Pointing out that financial market volatility, growing risks of trade disputes, and fast growing digital technologies present challenges, Indonesia highlighted the need to pursue expanded cooperation, such as through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. In terms of achieving a vision of an innovative community, AIPA Member Parliaments could contribute through legislation, budgeting, and oversight support in the development of infrastructure and connectivity between regions, particularly under the umbrella of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

- 32 Mr Soesatyo added that efforts had to be made to elevate the institutional capacity of AIPA, particularly in terms of decision making. Although the principle of consensus played a significant role in ensuring stability in the region, Mr Soesatyo expected that AIPA would be able to come up with alternatives in its decision making systems to keep up with regional dynamics.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- 33 Mrs Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, started her statement by expressing thanks and sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Singapore as well as the ASEAN family, ASEAN's dialogue partners, and regional and international organisations for the sympathy and humanitarian assistance extended to the people and Government of the Lao PDR, particularly to those affected by the collapse of the saddle dam of the Xe Pien-Xe Namnoy hydropower project in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province in Lao PDR on 23 July 2018. She was heartened by what she saw as a clear demonstration of a genuine spirit of caring, solidarity and encouragement.
- 34 Mrs Yathotou said the Lao National Assembly supported the theme of the 39th General Assembly of AIPA, "Towards a Resilient and Innovative Community", which was supportive to the realisation of the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN with a view to building an ASEAN Community that would serve as an important driving force for the implementation of various action plans as well as ASEAN Vision 2025. Mrs Yathotou believed the ASEAN Community could only become truly resilient and innovative when all ASEAN Member States became resilient and innovative. Thus, she said it was essential and necessary for ASEAN to intensify its cooperation in helping one another.

- 35 Mrs Yathotou also stressed that Lao PDR attached great importance to the development of science, technology and innovation by adopting the National Strategic Plan on Science and Technology Development for the period 2013-2020 and Vision 2030 in response to the national development needs for industrialisation and modernization of the nation. She was sure these would contribute to Lao PDR's continued national efforts to graduate from the Least Developed Country status by the early 2020s. She explained that Lao PDR has set an ambitious goal to achieve by 2030 the development and application of science, technology and innovation aimed at accelerating national development.
- 36 She said, going ahead, as the region moved towards a resilient and innovative community in accordance with the ASEAN Leaders' Vision, AIPA Member Parliaments should further strengthen the cooperation in promoting scientific research and development, technology and innovation; enhancing public-private-partnership; and harmonising regulatory legislation and policies related to science and technology by encouraging governments of ASEAN Member countries to translate Action Plan on Scientific Development into policies and regulations. She also believed AIPA should continue to dialogue with ASEAN's external partners, to provide technical assistance to CLMV countries in order to narrow the development gap and promote competitiveness and to disseminate scientific and technological innovation to people and entrepreneurs in order for them to apply such innovation into socio-economic development and improve the livelihood of peoples. By taking these actions, Mrs Yathotou said the region could build a resilient community and move forward together towards a community of shared destiny where no one would be left behind.

Malaysia

- 37 Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia, noted how Malaysia had its 14th General Election in May 2018, and for the first time after 61 years saw a peaceful transition of a change of government. He said with this change of a new government, it was crucial for the new breed of parliamentarians to continue to demonstrate a high degree of integrity, morality and to continuously uphold the rule of law, good governance with transparency. He stressed that all levels of the community should be treated equally and with equity.
- 38 Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof said in championing the principles of togetherness and teamwork, the parliamentarians would have to take a more holistic approach. He said they had to be equipped with the knowledge and understanding of grassroots needs for better economic growth, social development and environmental protection besides focusing on political perspectives. He felt that understanding the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution was also crucial in embracing the ever changing needs of the public.
- 39 He was aware that ASEAN aspired for positive changes in the livelihood and well-being of its more than 635 million people through a process of deeper integration based on rules based, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community. He said the participation and contribution of women was vital towards achieving the ASEAN Community and that women parliamentarians as leaders could play a more interactive role to achieve this.
- 40 He said in order to realise a more resilient and innovative ASEAN Community, the application of laws, good leadership and the consideration of the ethnicities, religious, cultural and traditional diversities should be practised. He was of the view that ASEAN parliamentarians, being the representatives of the people should also play a more vital role by

promoting and enhancing the public awareness about ASEAN and its functions.

- 41 In conclusion, Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof said ASEAN and AIPA must continue to work hard to move forward and see through all challenges together and strive for regional peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Myanmar

- 42 In his statement, Mr Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of the Union Parliament of Myanmar, drew the attention of AIPA Members to current challenges and uncertainties, highlighting as examples, non-traditional security threats and the threats of environmental degradation which result in climate change, extreme weather patterns and extinction of biodiversity. He said no country could act alone to tackle these issues and urged AIPA Member Parliaments to be vigilant to address these challenges collectively in alignment with the goal for a resilient ASEAN Community.
- 43 As for opportunities on the horizon, Mr Tun Tun Hein acknowledged that the Fourth Industrial Revolution was transforming lives everywhere, but pointed out that developing countries may not be able to afford the new technologies and innovations. These countries, he said, may thus find it difficult to reap benefits and achieve sustained development from the digital revolution.
- 44 Mr Tun Tun Hein also shared with AIPA Members the progress that Myanmar has made as it worked to bring reform to its political, economic and social systems. He admitted that the country faced difficulties in its journey but assured delegates that deep-rooted issues such as corruption, violation of human rights and drug trafficking were being handled by the highest level of authority. The complex issue of Rakhine State, he added, was being addressed intensively since the inception of the government.

Despite the challenges, he said Myanmar remained convinced that for the development of the country, a democratic system must be upheld. He wrapped up his statement by adding that Myanmar looked forward to the understanding and cooperation of fellow ASEAN Parliaments as it strengthened and developed democracy in the country.

Philippines

45 In her statement, Ms Rose Marie J. Arenas, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, expressed her support for Singapore's theme of a resilient and innovative ASEAN. Beyond the re-affirmation of ASEAN principles, Ms Arenas underlined the need to support initiatives and concrete measures that ensure the peace, stability, security and prosperity of our region, such as enhancement of regional cooperation against terrorism, proposal to establish an ASEAN Centre towards promoting healthy and active ageing, amongst others.

46 At this important juncture in the life of ASEAN, Ms Rose Marie J. Arenas said AIPA would be an indispensable forum for generating sustainable and responsive measures to further stabilise ASEAN's development while initiating measures for long-term solutions that would diminish our peoples' fears and ensure equitable growth in our respective economies. She was of the view that the inclusion of more observer countries in AIPA was a clear indication of how actively engaged the General Assembly is with the global forum.

47 In closing, she expressed confidence that AIPA Member Parliaments would work together to strengthen our united front to show a caring and sharing ASEAN that would be prepared to overcome the challenges, ready to capture present and future opportunities, and firm in our faith in the region's positive prospects.

Thailand

- 48 Prof Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Assembly of Thailand, underlined the importance of the AIPA General Assembly, which provides a valuable and significant opportunity for parliamentarians to share and exchange practices of mutual benefit for the people. Throughout the years, engagement through parliamentary dialogue has enhanced parliamentary friendship into a strategic partnership. Prof Wichitcholchai noted that Thailand wished to see AIPA remain relevant and coherent by maintaining its flexible and constructive position on new emerging threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, human trafficking, effects of natural disasters, and other transboundary threats.
- 49 Prof Wichitcholchai said the ASEAN region had witnessed unprecedented calamities over the past few months. A prominent incident was the rescue mission of a young football team trapped in a cave in Chiang Rai province, a dam collapse in the Attapeu province in Lao PDR, and a series of powerful earthquakes in Lombok. These unpredictable events had taught ASEAN major lessons on disaster response and humanitarian measures on rescue missions. In addition, timely preparation for disaster management was crucial in coping with such unpredictable events, making such tasks a mountain to conquer.
- 50 Prof Wichitcholchai said he believed that AIPA could do more on legislative connectivity. As a legislative institution, AIPA could share information, learn the good and the bad from our neighbours and partners regarding approaches and experiences on legislative practices. As such, Thailand had proposed a draft resolution on the Collection and Exchange of Information on Laws of AIPA, to encourage Member Parliaments to develop and update their legal database and to facilitate access to laws in ASEAN to promote legal understanding, and to strengthen and increase ASEAN's competitiveness. Sharing common concerns and realising

differences and similarities would bring us one step closer to achieving the role of parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration, and to augment the realisation of the ASEAN Community.

- 51 Prof Wichitcholchai said Thailand wished to see AIPA enter its fourth decade of cooperation by continuing to be a platform of parliamentary cooperation with the aim to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to ASEAN citizens. Therefore, legislative connectivity was key to promoting better understanding, greater competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a sense of community.

Vietnam

- 52 In his statement, General Do Ba Ty, Vice President of the National Assembly of Vietnam, shared that amidst the recent developments in the world and regional economic as well as political situation, although ASEAN has made significance achievements in Community building, multiple traditional and non-traditional security challenges, notably terrorism, climate change and complex developments in the South China Sea threaten peace and stability in the whole region. Therefore, he welcomed the theme of the 39th General Assembly of AIPA of “Towards a Resilient and Innovative Community”, which should be promoted across all three pillars.
- 53 He applauded the 32nd ASEAN Chairman Statement that reflected ASEAN’s joint commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, with full respect given to diplomatic and legal processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with common principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS as well as to maintain solidarity, unity and ASEAN centrality which are key elements of political resilience. As for economic resilience, he said this would be enhanced with regional competitiveness, promote intra-bloc trade and investment and deepen regional economic linkages. Socially, he said ASEAN’s resilience

would do well to continue its efforts to protect ASEAN people from natural disasters, impacts of climate change and epidemics, to facilitate human mobility, open up opportunities for employment, education and timely assistance. As for culture, he believed that ASEAN's resilience meant maintaining cultural identity in diversity and respect for differences.

54 He also shared his view about how the building of an Innovative ASEAN Community would be to adopt new technologies to leverage on benefits of the digital economy, develop high quality human resources and increase access to information for the people.

55 In closing, General Do Ba Ty re-affirmed that the National Assembly of Vietnam would continue to play an active role and engaging responsibly in international and regional affairs so as to contribute to the formulation and reform of AIPA's working procedures, as well as supporting ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN. He called on AIPA to (1) uphold the principles and norms of ASEAN's conduct, abide by international law, strengthen solidarity and unity, promote trust building, and actively fulfill the commitments within ASEAN; (2) coordinate in legal action to facilitate the implementation of ASEAN cooperation agenda in all areas; (3) enhance the role of Parliaments in overseeing the implementation of the ASEAN Master Plan; (4) strengthen cooperation with the AIPA Observers; and (5) continue to reform the procedures and improve operational efficiency.

Singapore

56 Mr Charles Chong, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, delivered the final statement. He commenced his speech by remembering how ASEAN had commemorated its 50th Anniversary last year and how AIPA would be hosting its 40th General Assembly next year, adding that the longevity of an organisation was determined by how it was able to stay nimble and consistently adapt to changing circumstances. Thus, while

much had been achieved, Mr Chong said more work remained as ASEAN and AIPA continued to work hard to implement all three ASEAN Community Blueprints so as to bring about concrete benefits for the people of ASEAN and uplift their quality of life.

57 Mr Chong observed that ASEAN Leaders had adopted a joint statement for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN that articulated their assessment of the changing geopolitical and economic landscape, set out the key principles that underpinned ASEAN's collective vision, affirmed the Leaders commitment to build a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN for the future and identified concrete initiatives that ASEAN would undertake to realise this vision. These initiatives include the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation. Mr Chong said it was to show support to these initiatives that Singapore had proposed draft resolutions for this General Assembly related to digital advancement and cybersecurity.

58 Mr Chong ended his statement by reminding delegates that AIPA parliamentarians were in the unique position of being both the direct representatives of the people of ASEAN and a conduit between these people and the governments of ASEAN. Thus, he said, AIPA played a key role in translating ASEAN agreements into domestic action.

VII STATEMENT BY ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL

59 Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN delivered a statement at the General Assembly. Dato Lim said the ASEAN Secretariat had long engaged with legislators of ASEAN Member States, who had an important role in ensuring that ASEAN was well understood and communicated to the people, and in the realisation of the ASEAN Community. Dato Lim said the ASEAN Secretariat was ready to work closely with AIPA on this important journey.

VIII STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF OBSERVER PARLIAMENTS

60 Heads of Delegation of Observer Parliaments namely: Australia, Belarus, Canada, People's Republic of China, the European Parliament, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Timor Leste presented their statements at the General Assembly.

VIII COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND DIALOGUE PANELS

61 The Committees proceeded with their meetings to consider the agenda assigned by the General Assembly.

Executive Committee Matters

62 The Meeting of the Executive Committee of AIPA, was chaired by Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, President of AIPA and the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore. Ms Tin Pei Ling was the Rapporteur and Mr Isra Sunthornvut, AIPA Secretary-General, was the Secretary to the meeting. The Meeting discussed the following:

- Presentation of the Report of the 1st AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) to be adopted by the Committee on Social Matters;
- Adopted the Programme of Activities, Draft Agenda Items for the 39th General Assembly, Topic for Dialogue with the Observer Parliaments, and the Establishment and Composition of Committees and Panels;
- In considering the Date and Venue of the 40th AIPA General Assembly, the meeting agreed to hold the 40th General Assembly of AIPA in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2019.

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

63 The Meeting on Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) was chaired by Ms Sylvia Lim and Miss Cheng Li Hui was the Rapporteur. The Meeting considered and approved two resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

a) Resolution on Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship for Development

64 The WAIPA Meeting unanimously urged AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to recognise the importance of gender equality and women entrepreneurship and emphasised that barriers need to be removed so that women have equal access to opportunities in education and employment, enabling them to seize economic opportunities.

65 The meeting focused on the importance of raising basic awareness and exposure of women's entrepreneurship for development.

66 The meeting recommended that national chambers of commerce and industry in ASEAN should support the expansion of market opportunities and increase business linkages within ASEAN Member States.

67 After discussion, the Committee members agreed to adopt one additional operative paragraph on the need to strengthen the supportive environment for socially and environmentally responsible entrepreneurship, particularly to provide marketing support to women entrepreneurs to ensure that the businesses they own and lead are sustainable.

b) Resolution on Empowering Women in ASEAN to Harness the Potential of Industrial Revolution 4.0

68 The delegates of the WAIPA Meeting encouraged AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen joint efforts in harnessing new technologies to tackle inequality in all forms, including social and economic inequality and to achieve inclusive growth in ASEAN Member States. The meeting also

acknowledged that Industrial Revolution 4.0 requires enhancement of accessibility for more geographical areas within countries.

- 69 The meeting called upon ASEAN Member States to provide training for women towards the elimination of the skills gap and digital illiteracy by enhancing public and private collaboration, as well as maintaining efforts to increase the number of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Political Matters

- 70 The Committee on Political Matters was presided over by Dr Teo Ho Pin as Chairperson, while Ms Rahayu Mahzam was the Rapporteur. The Committee met and discussed at length various issues related to the seven draft resolutions, viz.

- a) Report of the ASEAN-AIPA Interface at the 30th ASEAN Summit
- b) Report of the 9th AIPA Caucus Meeting
- c) Strengthening ASEAN Resilience against Terrorism and other Emerging Security Challenges
- d) Collection and Exchange of Information on Laws of AIPA
- e) Enhancing Cooperation on Maritime Security in ASEAN
- f) Humanitarian Situation in Myanmar
- g) Formalizing the Support by (1) the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) To ASEAN and (2) ASEAN Ambassadors to ASEAN Member States to ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

71 No resolution was adopted.

Economic Matters

72 The Committee on Economic Matters was chaired by Mr Liang Eng Hwa and Mr Chong Kee Hiong was the Rapporteur. The Committee considered and approved all five resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

a) Resolution on Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Cross-Border Data Flows in ASEAN

73 The Committee agreed on the strengthening of cooperation to promote cross-border data flows and acknowledged that there exists a need among ASEAN Member States to work collectively on related cybersecurity issues and capacity building initiatives. The Committee unanimously agreed that AIPA Member Parliaments should encourage their governments to review and consider harmonising policies on data protection so as to balance the rights of individuals and businesses in the ASEAN region.

74 On a proposal to work towards harmonizing the laws and regulations among ASEAN, it was acknowledged that it might be challenging to harmonize legal frameworks and proposed to acknowledge this point.

b) Resolution on Promoting Innovation and e-Commerce in ASEAN

75 The Committee stressed the important role of the digital economy in changing the pace of global trade, driving economic growth, promoting innovative development and increasing economic participation in ASEAN. In furtherance of this, the Committee agreed on the need to promote innovation and e-commerce in ASEAN through the development of ICT infrastructure, improving Internet speed and coverage, and ensuring reliability so as to attract investment and promote business development and cost effectiveness.

c) Resolution on Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN

76 The Committee recalled and fully endorsed the vision of the ASEAN Economic Committee 2025 in creating a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would support sustained high economic growth and resilience. In similar vein, the Committee also discussed the importance of deepening regional economic integration in ASEAN and reaffirmed their commitment to highly integrated and cohesive economies achieving free and open markets in ASEAN. It was hoped that this would result in job creation and the improvement of living standards.

d) Resolution on Good Regulatory Practices in the ASEAN Economic Integration

77 The Committee unanimously agreed to the draft resolution on Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) to support integration in ASEAN. The Committee agreed to recognize the six GRP Core Principles which were identified as relevant areas of focus, given the current development of GRPs in both the ASEAN region and globally. The Committee agreed that GRP would seek to improve ASEAN's competitiveness and enhance engagement with the stakeholders. The Committee agreed to periodically review GRPs with the view of improving the existing regulation on GRP and enhancing engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of GRP

e) Resolution on Regional Effort to Address the Impact of Global Trade Tension Between Economic Powerhouses

78 The Committee recalled the ASEAN Charter which called for an adherence to multilateral trade rules and a rules-based regime for implementation of economic commitments and the reduction of all barriers to regional economic integration. The Committee unanimously agreed to enhance ASEAN's commitment to address the impact of global trade tension. The Committee agreed that an open and transparent trading system would contribute to inclusive global growth and sustainable development. The Committee further stressed on the need for global economic powerhouses to restrain and refrain from exercising unilateral measures and highlighted

on the importance to promote shared growth and prosperity for the people in the region.

Social Matters

79 The Committee on Social Matters was presided over by Dr Lim Wee Kiak as Chairperson and Mr Henry Kwek as Rapporteur. The Committee discussed and approved one report and four resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

a) Report of the 1st AIPACODD Meeting and the Resolutions on Securing a Drug-Free ASEAN Community for Future Generations and The Terms of Reference for AIPACODD

80 The Committee considered the report and the two resolutions that had arisen from the 1st AIPACODD Meeting held in Singapore from 18-21 June 2018, and unanimously approved the report and two resolutions, entitled “Securing a Drug-Free ASEAN Community for Future Generations” and “The Terms of Reference for AIPACODD”.

b) Resolution on Promoting Digital Literacy and Combating Fake News

81 The Committee considered the resolution and reiterated concerns on fake news misleading the people of ASEAN, and that Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), along with its benefits, may also be misused for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security. Multiple additions were made to the resolution which urged for greater freedom in universal access to information and communication technology, called for stronger collaboration between ASEAN governments and the private sector to bridge the digital gap, and to consider comprehensive measures towards combating fake news.

c) Resolution on Support for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

82 The Committee unanimously agreed to the resolution. Context was given by the Committee as to the drafting of the resolution. Three new clauses were considered to reaffirm the wellbeing of PWDs, suggested a more comprehensive training programme and school-to-work transition for PWDs, the enhancement of policies on removing barriers, and improving access and strengthening of social services and programmes for PWDs.

d) Resolution on Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Urban Ecosystems

83 The Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution. The Committee included an additional clause to reaffirm two previous Declarations - the ASEAN post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda and the 2007 Declaration on Environmental Sustainability. An additional clause was also included to recommend ASEAN Member States to consider various areas of policy reform towards competitive, sustainable and inclusive metropolitan areas.

Organisational Matters

84 The Committee on Organisational Matters was chaired by Mr Lim Biow Chuan, and Mr Darryl David was the Rapporteur. The Committee discussed 19 draft resolutions and approved 14 resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

a) Resolution on AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report FY2017-2018

85 The resolution on the AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report FY2017-2018 was adopted by delegates. The Committee also discussed and exchanged their views pertinent to overseas trips taken by the AIPA Secretary-General that are not related to AIPA's programmes. The Committee agreed that trips not related to AIPA should be approved by the AIPA President, and a trip report should be submitted after each trip. The Secretary-General noted the Committee's views on spending within the approved budget.

b) Resolution on Continuation of the Joint Programme between AIPA and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft Fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

86 The Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution on Continuation of the Joint Programme between AIPA and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft Fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

c) Resolution on Expanding the Scope of Cooperation between Freeland Foundation and the AIPA Secretariat

87 The Committee unanimously adopted the resolution on Expanding the Scope of Cooperation between Freeland Foundation and the AIPA Secretariat.

d) Resolution on the Financial Reports of the AIPA Secretariat

88 The resolution on the Financial Reports of the AIPA Secretariat was adopted by delegates with minor edits. It included an amendment by Singapore to task the AIPA Secretariat to have the AIPA Special Fund reflected separately in the statement of income and expenditure.

e) Resolution on (1) Estimates Budget for the AIPA Secretariat for the Period of 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019; (2) Supplementary Estimates from 1 August 2019 to 30 September 2019; and (3) Special Fund

89 The Committee agreed to the resolution with some minor amendments. It included an amendment to task the AIPA Secretariat to propose performance measurements for the AIPA Secretary-General's performance bonus and gratuity for the next Committee on Organisational Matters to consider, with the view of ensuring good financial planning and prudence.

f) Resolution on Submission of the Draft Resolution of AIPA Member Parliaments with its Explanatory Note

90 The Committee exchanged views on the appropriate time for draft resolutions to be submitted in advance and emergency items that could be tabled by each country. The Committee agreed that six weeks prior to the General Assembly was adequate, and each AIPA Member Parliament could only propose one emergency item to be decided by the Executive Committee and the item must be submitted at least 72 hours before the Executive Committee meeting where only one emergency item could be submitted to the General Assembly. The AIPA Secretariat is also responsible to remind the AIPA Member Parliaments at least 8 weeks in advance of the General Assembly to submit their draft resolution. The Committee agreed to the resolution with these amendments.

g) Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf

h) Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Mr Anusart Suwanmongkol

91 The Committee unanimously adopted the resolutions on the AIPA Distinguished Service Awards given to Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf and Mr Anusart Suwanmongkol.

i) (i) Draft Resolution on Guidelines of AIPA Engagement with Guests, Observers and Dialogue Partners; (ii) Draft Resolution on Accrediting the Parliament of the Kingdom of Norway as Observer of AIPA; (iii) Draft Resolution on Accrediting the Parliament of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Observer of AIPA; (iv) Draft Resolution on Accrediting the Parliament of the Republic of Georgia as Observer of AIPA

92 The Committee agreed for these draft resolutions to be deferred to an Ad-Hoc Working Group comprising of nominees from each AIPA Member Parliament which may also include senior officials from each AIPA National Secretariat. The Committee proposed for the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to be appointed by the President of AIPA and for

the funding associated to any meeting of this Ad-Hoc Working Group to come from the AIPA Special Fund or GIZ. Details and composition of this Ad-Hoc Working Group will be proposed by the AIPA Secretariat to the President of AIPA.

j) Resolution on Development of New Organizational Design and Human Capacity Development Plan for AIPA Secretariat

93 The Committee unanimously adopted the resolution on the Development of New Organizational Design and Human Capacity Development Plan for AIPA Secretariat, noting that all expenses will be funded by GIZ.

k) Resolution on Legal Status of the AIPA House

94 The AIPA Secretary-General explained the background of the situation. He shared that the AIPA House was bought in 2014, and when he assumed the post of Secretary-General in 2016, he noted that the House still remained under the original seller's name, and not the AIPA Secretariat. Potential problems could arise if the legal status of the AIPA House is not resolved.

95 Hence, based on the report prepared by the lawyer hired by the AIPA Secretariat, an estimate of USD 45,000 needs to be spent in order to arrange for a legal transfer of name from the seller to AIPA Secretariat, in addition to USD 6,000 in fees for the lawyer, which has been incurred to date.

96 The Committee agreed by consensus to adopt the resolution, and to incur a sum not exceeding USD 55,000 from the reserves to resolve the legal issues

l) Draft Resolution on Amendment to the Statutes of AIPA

97 The Committee agreed by consensus to defer discussion on this draft resolution to the next General Assembly when Thailand hosts the meeting. Indonesia agreed to resubmit the draft resolution at the conclusion of this General Assembly.

m) Resolution on Appreciating the Services of Mr Tan Chuan-Jin as President of AIPA

98 The Committee unanimously agreed to the resolution on Appreciating the Services of Mr Tan Chuan-Jin as President of AIPA.

n) Resolution on Date and Venue of the 40th General Assembly

99 Thailand informed that the 40th General Assembly will be held in August 2019 in Bangkok. The Committee agreed by consensus to adopt the resolution.

o) Resolution on Development of Web-Based and Online Database Resolutions Adopted by AIPA

100 To the Committee's query on whether the proposed monitoring function of the online database duplicated the existing function of the AIPA Caucus to monitor the implementation of resolutions, the AIPA Secretary-General clarified that as the online platform is intended to facilitate easy access and quick reference of resolutions, it would not overlap with the current scope of AIPA Caucus. He also confirmed that the online database will have a search function. The Committee agreed by consensus to adopt the resolution.

p) Resolution on Appreciating Years of Service of Ms Ria Rumata Aritonang to AIPA and AIPA Secretariat

101 The AIPA Secretary-General explained that in view of Ms Ria Rumata Aritonang's long and excellent service, it was important for AIPA to express gratitude to her years of service. The Committee thanked Ms Ria R Aritonang for her years of service to AIPA and agreed by consensus to adopt the resolution.

Dialogue with Observer Parliaments

102 The General Assembly, through its dialogue panels, conducted separate meetings with the 10 Observer Parliaments, namely: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the European Parliament, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Timor Leste. The topic for the

dialogue meetings was the “Exchange of Experiences on Climate Action and Active Ageing”.

IX 40TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AIPA

103 The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of Thailand to host the 40th General Assembly of AIPA in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2019.

X APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

104 The Delegations attending the General Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and Parliament of Singapore as well as the people of Singapore for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 39th General Assembly of AIPA.

XI ASEAN SPIRIT

105 The 39th General Assembly of AIPA was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation, in accordance with the concept of “musyawarah” (deliberation) and “muafakat” (consensus).

Done in Singapore on the Sixth day of September, in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.