



15th ASEAN SUMMIT
CHA-AM HUA HIN
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Informal Meeting between ASEAN Leaders and Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) 23 October 2009

On 23 October 2009 ASEAN Leaders had an informal meeting with Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) at the Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel, Cha-am, Thailand. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, and was attended by ASEAN Heads of State/Heads of Government. H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, also presented at the Meeting.

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva expressed condolences on the passing of Dato' Mohamed Yusoff bin Mohamed Zain, AIPA Secretary-General. He also pointed out that the Informal Meeting underlined ASEAN's commitment to engage with our stakeholders in the region to realise the vision of a people-centred ASEAN Community by the year 2015. ASEAN-AIPA partnership could support ASEAN Community-building efforts through facilitating the early ratification of ASEAN instruments, harmonising laws within the region and raising ASEAN awareness. Other proposals to strengthen AIPA-ASEAN cooperation include the ASEAN Secretary-General's idea of establishing a "Parliamentarian Friends to the ASEAN Secretariat" and AIPA's consideration of creating a Working Group to study how to increase AIPA-ASEAN cooperation.

H.E. Madame Tong Phi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the president of AIPA, noted the progress made in ASEAN regional integration. She also pledged to support the realization of an ASEAN Community through fostering understanding among peoples with diverse cultural backgrounds, lowering the cost of transportation within the region to promote greater interconnectivity, addressing climate change, promoting education as well as food and energy security.

The Meeting shared the view that AIPA has a crucial role to play in the ASEAN Community building process. AIPA could also serve as a bridge between ASEAN and the ASEAN citizens in bringing the ASEAN charter to ASEAN peoples. In this connection, it is agreed that regular dialogue between ASEAN and AIPA should be convened to promote better understanding between the executive and legislative bodies.

The Meeting also congratulates Brunei Darussalam as the new member of AIPA and expressed the hope that AIPA should in the near future comprise all ten ASEAN Member States.

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