

Speech by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai
20 – 25 November 2022
Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia

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Your Excellency, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of AIPA and President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Heads of AIPA member parliaments and observer delegates, Members of Parliaments, fellow citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,
สวัสดีครับ

On behalf of the National Assembly and people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I wish to thank and congratulate His Excellency Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for hosting the 43rd General Assembly of the AIPA.

As mentioned in His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni in his message this morning, although the COVID-19 crisis has largely been resolved, the lingering impacts will be felt for several years or even decades – especially by those already on fragile grounds. These circumstances have, no doubt, been addressed to differing degrees in each member parliament’s own deliberations.

Honorable Delegates

During discussions at the AIPA-ASEAN Interface on 10 days ago in Phnom Penh, His Excellency Heng Samrin summarized the five points which represent the Legislature’s distillation of the problems to the Interface. They are:

- Managing the climate crisis (ASEAN Green Deal)
- Advancing people-centered Goals
- Supporting regional cooperation on Disaster Management
- Establishing a Digital Law Library
- Cooperating as parliaments on human rights, democracy, good governance, and development of the ASEAN Community

These five points are the milestones of advancing ASEAN collaboration.

Regarding the **climate crisis and arrangement of the ASEAN Green Deal**, Thailand has centered our recovery on Bio-Circular-Green Economic model to ensure no one is left behind. In rebuilding higher quality of life for the Thai people, we follow the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty King Rama IX. Our two guiding principles combine to ensure that we move towards **people-centered Sustainable Development Goals as outlined by the United Nations**.

As for the **Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management according to the ASEAN 2025 vision**, Thailand has been chosen to station ASEAN’s Satellite Warehouse, which is currently operational in Chai Nat province.

Establishing AIPA's Digital Law Library is in keeping with the proposal I made at the 40th AIPA General Assembly to harmonize the laws of ASEAN. I am glad that concrete steps are being taken and hope that **other parliamentary cooperation on issues previously summarized** also take place in lockstep.

I am very pleased that the theme for this year's conference, "Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN", is closely in line with the points outlined at the Interface meeting ten days ago.

The agenda on Inclusivity deserves special consideration, since reducing inequality is the foundation for sustainable development.

Digitizing our economy and society can contribute to national and regional Resilience where, thanks to our Digital Masterplan, ASEAN is ready to face the risk and opportunities as we head for this inevitable future.

Your Excellency, Honorable Delegates

The points we've discussed will bear fruit only when actionable steps are taken by all parties involved, whether that be us – the Legislative Branch – or other relevant actors. Beyond respect for the Rule-of-Law, we must also always adhere to our principles of integrity and good governance.

Though part of the Legislature, the Thai National Assembly has been active in pursuing sustainable growth, for instance: implementing a green parliament, using technology to improve our efficiency and devotion to the principle that the nation will prosper when society is righteous.

On behalf of the National Assembly and people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I thank all AIPA Member Parliaments and Assembly attendees for your dedication to the mission and responsibility to the good of our nations and peoples. I am confident that we will overcome any challenges we confront together.

Thank you very much.