



**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)
7TH AIPA CAUCUS
Siem Reap, Cambodia, 26TH – 30TH July 2015**

Summary Report of the 7th AIPA Caucus

INTRODUCTION

1. The 7th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus was held at Hotel Sokha Angkor Resort in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 26th to 30th July 2015.
2. The Agenda for Caucus are:
 - (i) The progress of implementing Resolutions adopted at the 35th AIPA General Assembly in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
 - (ii) Working Group Discussion on “The ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism”.

LIST OF DELEGATES

3. Caucus was attended by 13 delegates consisting of 79 members of parliaments and parliamentary staff from the 9 AIPA Member Parliaments, Secretary General of AIPA and the staff, Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, and Representatives from the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The list of delegates is attached as Annex M.

A Courtesy Call to H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

The Courtesy Call was held at Room Apsara II, Hotel Sokha Angkor Resort at 8.30 a.m.

In his remarks, H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia wished the AIPA delegations a pleasant stay and a successful meeting ahead.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Opening Ceremony commenced at 9 a.m. on Monday, 27 July 2015 at Sokha Grand Ballroom, Hotel Sokha Angkor Resort.
5. H.E. Post Dr. CHEAM Yeap, Chairman of Cambodian AIPA National Parliamentary Group and Chairman of the Organizing Committee delivered his welcome address. The full text is attached as Annex C.

H.E. Post Dr. CHEAM Yeap expressed that the 7th AIPA Caucus was indeed a great opportunity for all AIPA delegates to discuss, share experiences and best practices to identify new measures for promoting nature conservation and developing sustainable tourism in the coming years in ASEAN region and as the whole.

He stated that the topic of the meeting was selected as it was a topic of discussion in other parts of the world and the ASEAN region, has been long considered as a tourism destination and further it is a matter with the purview in realizing the ASEAN Community. He also expressed that it is ASEAN citizen obligation to protect and conserve cultural and natural treasures through working together to encourage governments and civil societies to ensure the preservation and promotion of natural culture and ancient historic heritage.

At the end of his address, he expressed his wish that the 7th AIPA Caucus will show to the whole world, especially AIPA's partners; the ASEAN, the role of AIPA in contributing in the building of a prosperous ASEAN society in the future and the ASEAN will be a single tourism destination.

6. Hon. Mr. Periowsamy Otharam, AIPA Secretary General delivered his remark at the Opening Ceremony. The full text is attached as Annex D.

In his speech, Mr. P.O. Ram welcomed all delegates and conveyed his appreciation to the Cambodian Parliament for organizing the 7th AIPA Caucus. He stressed about how ASEAN member states and AIPA should regulate and manage tourism industry in a sustainable environment as ASEAN has diverse attractions which contributes to economic growth among states in this region. Tourism on the other hand can become a medium to promote educational programs on cultures and history of countries in this region, as it also provides opportunity to encourage a green environment.

In his remark he also explained the main purpose of the establishment of AIPA Caucus is as a special mechanism for core group of parliamentarians to meet and discuss burning and important issues in the region, to monitor the status of implementation of the adopted AIPA resolutions and to explore possibilities for harmonization of laws on common issues encountered by all AIPA member parliaments, especially from all resolutions which are transnational in character and hence can be harmonized.

As AIPA is now more exposed to international relations and cooperation, it has received interest and invitation from regional and international organization such as Freeland-ASEAN WEN and UN Women to engage with AIPA, he asked the floor to consider if AIPA Caucus Mandate could be expanded to

accommodate other specific fields of issues which may enhance AIPA Caucus' functions into a more productive stage with fruitful outcomes.

7. H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia delivered his Opening Address at the Opening Ceremony and officially open the AIPA Caucus. The full text of H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel's opening address is attached as Annex E.

In his opening address **H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel** addressed an Opening Statement with a warm welcome to all distinguished participants and declared the meeting open. Before his closing remark, His Excellency appointed **H.E. NHEM Thavy** as the Chairperson of the 7th AIPA Caucus.

He stated that tourism is very important for ASEAN and the Cambodian Parliament has chosen for discussion: "*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*". He emphasized the importance of eco-tourism which provides opportunity for development in term of preserving our natural resources and cultures. Each respective government should continue to accelerate the implementation of ASEAN Declaration on the Establishment of Association for Prevention of Disasters and Protection of Climate Change.

He raised the successful practices of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the ideal leadership of Prime Minister **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, has paid great attention to human resource and political will to maintain peace, political stability and security for tourism development.

H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel also shared some recommendations to the floor where he strongly emphasized the need to continue encouraging the implementation of AIPA resolutions by ASEAN governments, through the necessity to publicize all the activities of AIPA, and to strengthen cooperation to attract more tourists to the region and to educate the importance of tourism, and to promote understanding and respect on cultural diversities of ASEAN.

He wished that the AIPA caucus will bring about mutual interests of ASEAN nations to deliberate fruitful discussion on transforming ASEAN into a sustainable single tourism destination.

8. Appointment of Chairperson of the 7th AIPA Caucus

By Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the meeting agreed to appoint **H.E. Mr. NHEM Thavy, Member of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee to the AIPA Caucus**, as the Chairperson of the 7th AIPA Caucus.

FIRST SESSION

9. The First Session of the 7th AIPA Caucus commenced at 10.15 a.m. on Monday, 27 July 2015 at Sokha Grand Ballroom, Hotel Sokha Angkor Resort, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

10. The meeting agreed to the appointment of Hon. Periowsamy Otharam, Secretary General of AIPA as the 7th AIPA Caucus Secretary.
11. Proceeding to the commencement of the first session, the Chairperson of the 7th AIPA Caucus informed the meeting of the letter received from Speaker of the House of Representative of Indonesia dated 6 July 2015 on their inability to host the 8th AIPA Caucus in 2016 in Indonesia.
12. The Chairperson of the 7th AIPA Caucus began the first session of the AIPA Caucus by welcoming all delegates, and followed by the introduction of delegations attending the 7th AIPA Caucus.
13. The meeting considered and adopted the Agenda and Programme of Activities for the AIPA Caucus (attached as Annex A and Annex B).
14. The Chairperson appointed H.E. Mr. CHHIT Kim Yeat, Senator, as the Chairperson of the Working Group Discussion.
15. Status of the Implementation of the Adopted Resolutions of the 35th AIPA General Assembly.

The country reports of the AIPA Member Parliaments state the status of the resolutions of the 35th AIPA General Assembly. These resolutions were recommended by the AIPA committees namely (1) Political, (2) Economic, (3) Social, and WAIPA. The presentations of the report were considered and narrowed down to indicate their status of the implementation of the resolutions adopted as recommended by the committees as set out hereunder

(1) Political Committee,

Efforts have been taken to ensure the realization of the ASEAN Political Security Community by 2015, especially on intra-regional differences. Commitment to maintain peace, security and stability through the ratification of relevant international laws and agreement is recommended in order to combat terrorism and trans-national crimes. Maintaining peace and stability in South China Sea is vital hence a high level dialogue with parties concerned and support from regional and international organizations is very crucial.

Policies in the enhancement of public security to create safe and secure homes and societies for the citizens of ASEAN related with good governance in the region. The adoption of the ASEAN Political and Security Community Blueprint, indicates commitment among ASEAN Member States to implement political resolutions of AIPA in order to promote trust-building, peace and stability in the region

(2) Economic Committee,

In order to nurture entrepreneurship as part of the efforts to narrow uneven development of SMEs in different member states of ASEAN development gap in ASEAN, it is necessary to provide financial scheme and government intervention in providing such legislations and support and further

encouraging SMEs within the region to support weaker SMEs to develop. In view of promoting green economy growth, ASEAN Member States need to ratify various international instruments and incorporating green economy program into its sustainable development strategy that is pro-growth, pro-job, pro-poor and environmental friendly, and at the same time aimed at reducing carbon dioxide, gas emission and cross border pollution

(3) Social Committee,

In the awakening of epidemic such as Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), strengthening cooperation among AIPA member parliaments is paramount. Ministry of Health of ASEAN member states launched awareness raising of the disease and respective government created policies which aimed at containing the spread of the disease. International surveillance on EVD has been strengthened. Along with the efforts to curb the threats from EVD, developing comprehensive national policy and plan for the prevention and control of major Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) needs the establishment of high level national multi-sectoral mechanisms for planning, guiding and monitoring, and implementing cost-effective approaches for the early detection of major NCD by sharing information, guidelines and participating in regional meetings.

Parliamentary Roles in Developing Vocational Education and Skilled Labour for the Integration of ASEAN Labour Market is crucial. Law on Employment and Skill Development, and Law on Education allow envisaged building quality education system that provides opportunities for every citizen and resident to meet the manpower needs and new jobs that will be created with economic diversification.

With regard to AIFOCOM, it is recommended to convene the meeting in alternate year, to reform the ways and mechanism of organizing the meeting by expanding the participation of government agencies. To support the function of Technical Working Group (TWG AIFOCOM), Malaysia commits to provide assistance and expertise to formulate the Terms of Reference (ToR) and mandates/functions of the TWG.

(4) WAIPA Committee,

In the Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence against Women and Children in ASEAN we need policies to promote protection against abuse, abandonment and neglect of children were observed. Increasing number of women in the decision-making position in their respective state is also encouraged.

Strategic mechanism to implement the promotion of gender equality through policy formulation and laws is a key factor in order to create awareness in all quarter of public education through approaching curriculum and campaigns in school on the elimination of violence against women and children is relevant to pave the way for gender equality.

Enhancing women's participation in politics and their contribution in local government, labour force and entrepreneurship should be followed through

by each state and this will enable female to be educated and raise their profile and be absorbed in all sectors of employment.

The Country Reports on the Status of Implementation of the 35th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions by each AIPA Member Parliament are attached as Annex F.

16. Working Group on the discussion of the “*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*” commenced at 3.00 pm on Monday, 27 July 2015 in Sokha Grand Ballroom, Hotel Sokha Angkor Resort.
17. The Working Group Session commenced with the appointment of Secretary of the Working Group, Hon. Periowsamy Otharam, and Secretary General of AIPA.
18. Presentation from the representative of the Ministry of Tourism, Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Tith Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism.

The representative of the Ministry of Tourism, His Excellency Mr. Tith Chantha, and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia reported that Cambodia has attracted more than 4 million tourist in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Cambodia aimed to reach 7.5 to 8 million tourist by the year of 2020. Cambodia has also established Cambodia Tourism Strategic Plan that is based on the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011–2014. It has also received several regional and international accolades for its tourism industry.

He emphasised that Cambodia is committed to develop a responsible and sustainable cultural and natural tourism that contributes to poverty alleviation and green economy. Furthermore, Cambodia has also set out priorities for tourism strategic plan which are: 1) tourism product development, 2) tourism marketing and promotion, 3) tourism connectivity, travel and transport facilitation, 4) tourism safety system and impact management, 5) legal system and management mechanism, and 6) human resources development. By implementing these prioritised plans, Cambodia is expected to be able to increase its socio-economic development, to alleviate poverty, to create employment opportunities, to generate income, and to upgrade its citizens living standards.

Full text of Presentation on *ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*” is attached as Annex G.

19. Presentation from the Representative of ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director of Finance, Industry, and Infrastructure Directorate.

The Presentation from the ASEAN Secretariat provided overview on ASEAN Tourism, where it shows the increase of ASEAN International Visitor arrivals within 2001 to 2014. The presentation also highlighted two major initiatives of ASEAN relevant to the theme of the Caucus, namely ASEAN Ecotourism Strategic Plan Phase-1 as well as Tourism and Climate Change Monitoring

System and Work Plan. Further, it also covered highlights on Standards for ASEAN Tourism.

The goal of the ASEAN Ecotourism Strategic Plan Phase 1 is to develop an effective regional tool for conservation of natural and cultural heritages within the overall ASEAN's sustainable development agenda. Whereas, its objectives are two-fold, namely to review and assess the institutional framework of management and promotion of national parks and ecotourism destinations, as well as to audit the development, management and promotion of ecotourism sites and prioritise sites according to their iconic value, level of attractiveness and quality of tourist experience. Several issues and prospects in ASEAN Ecotourism are namely, among others: trans-boundary ecotourism, growing importance of ecotourism, ASEAN Ecotourism Standard, ASEAN Open Policy, cross-border investments and environmental degradation.

Tourism and Climate Change Monitoring System and Work Plan has resulted in two important instruments, namely:

- 1) Framework, Approaches, Parameters and Measures for Climate Change and Tourism in ASEAN;
- 2) Work Plan on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for Tourism and Climate Change

As for the ASEAN Tourism Standards, ASEAN has adopted several Standards namely ASEAN Green Hotel Standard, ASEAN Homestay Standard, ASEAN Public Toilet Standard, ASEAN Spa Services Standard, ASEAN Community-Based Tourism Standard and ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard

Full text of Presentation on *ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*" is attached as Annex G.

20. AIPA Member Parliaments were invited to present their progress report on *ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*".

20.1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

National Initiatives of Brunei Darussalam on promoting Nature Conservation and developing Sustainable Tourism are namely Heart of Borneo Initiatives, National Park Development, Establishment of Marine Protected Areas, Establishment of Recreational Parks within forest or coastal areas and Tasek Merimbun which was recognized as ASEAN Heritage Park declared in November 1984.

As the implementation for those initiatives, Brunei Darussalam is already has relevant legislation as a base and to execute the initiatives. Some of the regulations are The Brunei Darussalam Biodiversity Law 2015, which is still in progress, Forestry Act, Wildlife Act, Environment Protection and Management Order and Wild Flora and Fauna Order 2007.

Brunei Darussalam also indicated several areas for possible common legislation. Some of them are transboundary protection framework, biodiversity sustainable development and conservation, wildlife management and protection and ecotourism development.

20.2. CAMBODIA

Presentation from the representative of the Ministry of Tourism, Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Tith Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism.

The representative of the Ministry of Tourism, His Excellency Mr. Tith Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia reported that Cambodia has attracted more than 4.5 million international tourist arrivals in 2014. Cambodia aimed to receive 7 to 7.5 million international tourist arrivals by the year 2020. Cambodia has also established Cambodia Tourism Development Strategic Plan 2012-2020 that is based on the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015. It has also received several regional and international accolades for its tourism industry.

He emphasised that Tourism of Cambodia is “Natural and Cultural” tourism to be developed in a responsible and sustainable manner that contributes to promoting conservation and protection of cultural and natural resources and also responding to the global warming, climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the green economy. Furthermore, as in the strategic plan, Cambodia has also set out priorities, covering: 1) tourism product development, 2) tourism marketing and promotion, 3) tourism connectivity, travel and transport facilitation, 4) tourism safety system and impact management, 5) legal system and management mechanism, and 6) human resources development. By implementing these prioritised plans, Cambodia expected to be able to increase its socio-economic development, to alleviate poverty, to create employment opportunities, to generate incomes, and to upgrade the people living standards.

Full text of Presentation on ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism” is attached as Annex G.

20.3 INDONESIA

The law on tourism was initially under Law Number 10 Year 1990, which was being replaced by Tourism Law No 10 Year 2009. It embraces the value of sustainable tourism development with the concepts that are aligned with international notion on sustainable tourism development embodied internationally.

Along with Government Regulation Number 50 Year 2011, The Ministry of Tourism has published National Tourism Master Plan Year 2010-2015 (Rencana Induk Pembangunan Kepariwisata Nasional) which elaborates

the direction and the strategy of tourism development. The regulation stated clearly that the development of national tourism strategic areas and national tourism destination should follow sustainable principles such as; to improve the competitiveness of the tourism product, to build partnership for development, to improve business credibility, and to be environmentally responsible.

As the concept of sustainable development, the Indonesian government realizes that planning and implementation for sustainable tourism needs coordinated support from other related sectors and every level of the government. As for the implementation, many regulations are associated with the sustainable tourism namely Acts, Government Regulations (Peraturan Pemerintah), Presidential Regulation (Peraturan Presiden), Presidential Decree (Keputusan Presiden), Presidential Instruction (Inpres) and Ministerial Regulation (Peraturan Menteri).

Indonesia has suggested several areas of common legislation as follows:

- Adoption of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Tourism Professionals and integration of Sustainable Tourism Principles into the tourism curriculum including into the specialized training curriculum.
- Development of an ASEAN certification for Sustainable Tourism Professionals to help ensure the free flow of qualified tourism Professionals within region.

20.4 . LAO PDR

Lao PDR which consists of 49 ethnic groups has made efforts in development of tourism sector through promotion of nature conservation and sustainable tourism as well as considered tourism as priority sector that contribute to her socio-economic development.

Lao PDR centrally and uniformly administers the conservation, protection and deployment of cultural, historical and nature tourism in sustainable manner. Supported with the participation of the community by emphasizing on individuals and organizations that obliged to contribute the efforts to conserve, protect, develop and promote culture and fine arts of national tradition. As for instance, Lao PDR has identified 1,145 nature tourist sites, 539 cultural tourist sites and 278 historical sites.

Lao PDR was selected as the world best tourist destination by the European Union Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT) in 2013 and cooperated with other international organizations to promote tourism and exchange lessons and information incorporate in the National Tourism Strategic Plan for 2012-2020 focuses on promotion of nature conservation and development of sustainable tourism.

20.5 . MALAYSIA

Sustainable tourism development is only considered successful if and when the tourism is able to provide quality employment to its community. It should be a win-win situation for all; it should sustain the well being of the local

people, support efforts to conserve the environment, and contributes to biodiversity. Therefore, it should go beyond the promotion of broad socio-economic development and give greater priority to poverty reduction.

The ASEAN Member States have to devise ways and means to place poverty reduction at the centre of tourism planning, development and management. This will require, amongst other things, genuine community participation, greater technical and financial assistance, human resources development, and institutional capacity building.

There is a need to urgently adopt a range of policies which encourage truly sustainable tourism that reflects a “quadruple bottom line” of environmental, social, economic and climate responsiveness, climate mitigation and adaptation must be central to strategies and plans for the sustainable growth and development of the sector.

Recognizing that tourism is a people based activity, careful planning of human resources, with private enterprises and employee representatives, is needed to ensure that tourism can fulfill its employment creation potential and has a sufficient supply of suitably skilled labor to meet future growth.

Thus ASEAN Member States have to evolve common approaches to address environmental management and protection to be an integral part of the tourism development process, contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of the natural areas and ecosystems, and at the same time, provide benefits to the local communities.

20.6 . MYANMAR

Myanmar, through its Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, worked together to generate several initiatives, strategies and programs on sustainable tourism. The 2013-2020 Myanmar Tourism Master Plan is aligned with the National Comprehensive Development Plan, and sets out an inclusive wide-ranging framework to strategically develop Myanmar’s vast tourism potential. One of the priorities in Myanmar Tourism Master Plan is also to advocate the development of an ecotourism management strategy for Myanmar’s protected areas.

Myanmar also encourages the involvement of all stakeholders including civil societies, international organizations, tourism industry, local community, relevant Ministries and the Union Government to cooperate in providing a professional, objective and accelerating green growth and sustainable development policies and strategies and developing human resources for science, technology and management practices. Myanmar encourages all stakeholders to form a national level tourism body to steer the sustainable growth, to enforce sustainable operation guidelines, and to closely follow up activities in regional level, local destination level, community level, and tourism site planning level.

To boost its national tourism, Myanmar implements new measures such as expanding the scheduled inbound flights and border gates, issuance of e-visa

and visa-on-arrival privileges at international gateway airports, and improving business and investment conditions. As an addition, Myanmar also cooperates with regional and international organizations to involve and promote Myanmar tourism in regional and international tourism industry.

20.7. PHILIPPINES

**The Philippines' Country Report on "ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism was received and admitted into the Report of the 7th AIPA Caucus in absentia. The report is contained in Annex H7.*

20.8. SINGAPORE

Singapore highlighted that sustainable tourism requires realising that change is often cumulative, gradual and irreversible. Economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development must include the interests of all stakeholders including visitors, industry and government. Non-governmental organizations are one of the stakeholders in advocating sustainable tourism. Their roles can range from spearheading sustainable tourism practices to advocating responsible tourism. More than just a form of tourism, responsible tourism is regarded as a behaviour that represents an approach to engaging with tourism, be that as a tourist or a business at a tourist site. Tourism industry is encouraged to calculate the 'carrying capacity'; the capacity of tourists an area can sustainably tolerate without damaging the environment or culture of the surrounding area.

Singapore is actively engaged in an array of conservation, recycling and reclamation measures. Environmental consciousness is very much entrenched in policy making, land use planning, community engagement and research & development into clean technology. Two of the most prominent sustainable and green tourism area are the newly-minted UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

In a landmark move, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) launched the Sustainability Guidelines for the MICE industry. Areas covered under the guidelines include waste management, the efficient use of water and energy as well as initiatives that encourage employees to develop a commitment to sustainable practices. The first event to adopt the guidelines was the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainability Development held at Marina Bay Sands from 25 - 26 November 2013.

20.9. THAILAND

Thailand tourism under the theme "Thainess" nowadays gradually plays a significant role, not only towards a national economic growth, but also an increasing social awareness and a consequent cooperation between public, private sectors. The numbers of tourist arrival in Thailand reach a steady growth during the past five years, from 15.9 million in 2010 to 24.8 million of tourists in 2014.

Some strategic plans focusing on sustainable tourism promotion are:

1. Promoting and support tourism industry to create income with balance and sustainable
2. Developing the tourism goods and services to be in good quality and safety
3. Upholding the quality tourism to be balanced and sustainable by focusing on the public relation of the image of Thailand and the confidence of the tourists.

There are a number of programs that Thailand has continued to develop and come across with the concept of sustainable development in tourism industry in ASEAN as listed below:

1. ASEAN Tourism Standards
2. The Project of “Tourism and sports organizational network development in integrated management for ASEAN community”
3. The Program “Tourism connectivity with neighboring countries”

Several initiatives for common legislation in tourism sector from Thailand are as follows:

1. Act on the carriage of passengers. This act will reduce barriers in trade and international investment and build confidence among entrepreneurs and consumers and to facilitate international trade and transportation.
2. Act to facilitate the transportation across borders. The purpose of this act is to facilitate transport across borders between Thailand and neighboring countries in ASEAN.
3. Tourism Business and Guide Act. Department of Tourism of Thailand has studied laws relating to the promotion and development of tourism and tour guide business and intend to produce expert tour guides who are meet the international standard and able to compete internationally.
4. Draft for Tourism Standards Act. The purpose of this Draft Act is to standardize various aspects related to tourism such as the services, product and safety in order to protect tourist’s interest.

20.10. VIET NAM

ASEAN is one of the most important market for Vietnam tourism. Nature conservation and sustainable tourism development have been considered and included in the tourism policies by Vietnam National Assembly and the respective Government. Vietnam has established its own criteria for assessment and certification of sustainable tourism label –the “Blue Lotus”- for tourism agencies, and organized many educational activities, communication and raising awareness and exchange information on sustainable development, nature conservation in the community.

At the plenary session of the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union 132th (IPU 132) held in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 2015, ASEAN Secretary General explained on the joint efforts by ASEAN to enhance sustainability and improve the environment in the development of the

ASEAN community towards cleaner, more efficient and better protected ASEAN.

Vietnam has made specific directions to remove difficulties in tourism sector, notably the promulgation of important documents such as Resolution No. 92/NQCP dated 08/12/2014 of the government on a number measures to promote Vietnam tourism development in the new period; Resolution No. 14/NQ-CP on a term of Visa exemption for citizens of Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belarus; and Directive No. 14/CT-TTg on Strengthening State Management efficiency, focusing on overcoming weakness and promoting tourism development.

Vietnam tourism industry has achieved particular success with 7.87 million international tourists arrivals in 2014. Tourism would contribute to the economic restructuring towards modernization job creation, poverty reduction, building country image and improving national position on international stage. Vietnam illustrated that tourism is a synthesis economic sector and high interdisciplinary.

Vietnam tourism has actived in ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF), ASEAN Working Group within the multilateral cooperation framework of Vietnam and other international organizations of ASEAN such as Japan, Korea, China, India, Russia, and ASEAN-Japan Center.

The full reports of The Country Progress Reports on “*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*” are attached as Annex H.

SECOND SESSION

21. Report by H.E. Mr. CHHIT Kim Yeat, Chairperson of the Working Group on “*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*”.

In his report, H.E. Mr. CHHIT Kim Yeat stated that ASEAN as a region is currently thriving to develop a responsible and sustainable cultural and natural tourism that contributes to poverty alleviation and green economic growth. The priority areas to be enhanced are tourism product development; tourism marketing and promotion; tourism connectivity, travel and transport facilitation; tourism safety system and impact management; legal system and management mechanism; and human resources development. By enhancing these prioritised areas, ASEAN region is expected to be able to increase its socio-economic development, alleviate poverty, create employment opportunities, generate income, and upgrade its citizens living standards.

Full text of the Report is attached as Annex I.

CLOSING SESSION

22. The Closing Session of the 7th AIPA Caucus was held on Tuesday, the 28th July 2015 at 1 p.m.

23. During the session, Delegates considered and recommended the Draft Resolution on “*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*”. The Draft Resolution recommended by the 7th AIPA Caucus will be tabled at the Meeting of Committee on Social Matters during the 36th AIPA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 6 to 12 September 2015.

The full text of Draft Resolution is attached as Annex J.

24. The 7th AIPA Caucus was officially closed by H.E. Post Dr. CHEAM Yeap. In his closing remarks, he expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all delegations for the hard work done over the past two days and the outcome that has been achieved from the 7th AIPA Caucus.

In his speech, he stated that tourism is one of the key driving forces for socio-economic development in each ASEAN Member States and ASEAN region as whole and is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world as well as helps to sustain economic growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty.

In addition, he proposed parliamentarians of AIPA member parliaments to take serious consideration and attention on the adverse effect of the issue and the two days of discussion and exchanges of ideas, experiences and best practices would contribute to addressing negative impacts of the tourism and come up with some concrete measures for promoting nature conservation and sustaining development of tourism. He also expressed the collaboration in maintaining peace, security and prosperity in the region.

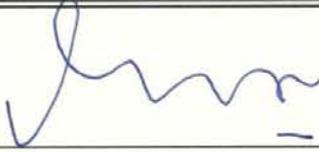
He was delighted to see the progress and commitments that each AIPA member have done with regard to the implementation of the 35th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions and a concrete outcome of draft Resolution on “*ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism*”.

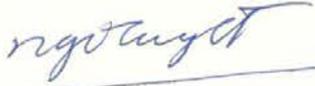
The full text of Closing Remarks is attached as Annex L.

25. In the Closing Session, H.E. Mr. NHEM Thavy, Member of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Vice-Chairman of the Organizing Committee as Chairman of the 7th AIPA Caucus, thanked all Delegates for their insightful comments and invaluable inputs to the active deliberation. The Chairperson also expressed his gratitude for the Delegates’ forbearance and cooperation throughout the duration of the Caucus that enabled frank discussions and contribution to the successful conclusion of the meeting. Finally, the Chairperson extended his appreciation to the AIPA Secretary-General and staff of the National AIPA Secretariat of the Cambodian Parliament for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.
26. Due to the inability of Indonesia to host the 8th AIPA Caucus on 2016, AIPA Secretary General had sent a letter to the President of AIPA dated 15 July 2015 with the recommendation to table this matter into the agenda of the Executive Committee prior to the 36th AIPA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for further discussion, consideration and decision.



ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
The 7TH AIPA Caucus Meeting

 <p>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</p>	 <p>Hon. Mr. Haji Zulkipli Haji Abd Hamid</p>
 <p>CAMBODIA</p>	 <p>Hon. Mr. CHHEANG Vun</p>
 <p>INDONESIA</p>	 <p>Hon. Mr. Junico BP Siahaan</p>
 <p>LAO PDR</p>	 <p>Hon. Dr. Koukeo AKKHAMOUNTRY</p>
 <p>MALAYSIA</p>	 <p>Hon. YB Datuk Datu Nasrun bin Datu Mansur</p>

 MYANMAR	 <hr/> Hon. Mr. Nyunt Tin
 PHILIPPINES	<hr/>
 SINGAPORE	 <hr/> Hon. Mr. Seng Han Thong
 THAILAND	 <hr/> Hon. ACM. Charlie CHANDRUANG
 VIETNAM	 <hr/> Hon. Mr. Nguyen Van Tuyet
<p>Done in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia on Tuesday, 28th of July in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen (2015).</p>  <hr/> Hon. Mr. Nhem Thavy Chairman The 7th AIPA Caucus Meeting	