



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

**Report of the Chairperson
of Working Group on “ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature
Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism”**

**H. E. Mr. CHHIT Kim Yeat, Senator and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on
Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media**

**H.E. Mr. Chairperson of the AIPA Caucus,
Honorable Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my honour to present the Report of the Working Group Discussion on “ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism”. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of distinguished delegations who have actively participated and contributed their invaluable insights at the Working Group discussion.

During the discussion, we have witnessed a number of national legislations and initiatives which have been implemented by ASEAN Member States to overcome the challenges of

establishing and strengthening sustainable tourism industry and management. 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.

The sustainable tourism development itself largely depends upon well defined national tourism strategies and tourism development plans at the national and regional levels. The tourism industry must endeavour to develop tourism in an environmentally responsible manner recognising that the maintenance of the natural resource base which supports the industry is the ultimate responsibility of the industry.

Tourism industry actors should practice environmental assessment that provides a structured approach to predicting potential impacts and incorporating mitigation measures during the design, construction and operation phases of tourism business. Long-term monitoring and assessment provide a

mechanism for detecting adverse environmental and social effects that may arise, and facilitate appropriate mitigation measures in a timely manner. The sustainable tourism development also requires the strengthening of human resources, and institutional capacities amongst all sectors involved and at several levels. Governments, international and regional organisations, industry and tourism-related NGOs should cooperate on the development and transfer of environmentally-sustainable tourism methodologies and technologies.

ASEAN Member States should work together to generate a common framework on tourism that lies on sustainable development concepts. Those concepts are economic development, social justice and environmental protection. For ASEAN region to achieve sustainable tourism development, tourism needs to be planned, managed, and regulated in such a way so as to minimise social degradation and environmental impacts, while providing a variety of advantages that contribute to sustainable economic growth.

It is our fervent wish that the outcome of this AIPA Caucus can be further elaborated during AIPA General Assembly and the recommendations on common legislative initiatives can be translated into national laws.

Thank you.