

# PRESS RELEASE

## ข่าวสารนิเทศ

28 February 2009

**ASEAN Heads of State/Government  
Informal Meeting with  
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Representatives**

On 28 February 2009 at 11.30-12.00 hrs. H. E. Abhisit Vejjajiva Prime Minister of Thailand and the other 9 ASEAN Leaders together with Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, the ASEAN Secretary-General, had an Informal Meeting with the Representatives of AIPA at Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel, Cha-am, Phetchaburi.

The Informal Meeting held was part of the effort to pave a solid foundation of a people-centered, inclusive, and participatory ASEAN Community which is the goal that Thailand as Chair of ASEAN hopes to see come to fruition.

This Informal Meeting is the first time that all 10 ASEAN Leaders and Representatives of AIPA and its Special Observers (Brunei and Myanmar) met after the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008. Both sides expressed a willingness to work together to build an ASEAN Community by 2015 and was in agreement that both sides should meet on a regular and annual basis to foster a closer partnership between ASEAN and AIPA.

The Thai Prime Minister as the ASEAN Chair expressed his admiration for the crucial role that AIPA has played in offering important and constructive suggestions concerning the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Human Rights Body. Furthermore, as the representative of the Peoples and the Legislative Branches of ASEAN Member States in the future ASEAN Community, AIPA can play a crucial role on several aspects; such as where necessary, bring legislation into closer harmony; help nurture a sense of “ASEAN Identity” among the people; and play the part of goodwill Ambassadors to create a sense of mutual sense.

Mr. Chai Chidchob, President of the Thai Parliament and AIPA, expressed his admiration for ASEAN’s success with the implementation of the ASEAN Charter. Furthermore, AIPA is ready to cooperate with ASEAN to successfully complete an ASEAN Community by 2015 and plans to increase and deepen its cooperation with ASEAN through measures such as participation at each others meetings, the creation of specialized organs or mechanisms to liaise between the two entities on issues such as legal harmonization. Furthermore, the President of AIPA also presented the report of the 29<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly on 18-24 August 2008 in Singapore to the ASEAN Leaders.

In this connection, it was also stated that the Thai Parliament will host the 30<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly on 2-8 August 2009 in Pattaya.

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