



## **ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)**

### **THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AIPA CAUCUS**

**Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR, 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

### **Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus met from 8 to 12 August 2016 at Luang Prabang View Hotel in Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR.
2. The main agenda of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus were:
  - (i) Discussion on the progress made by each AIPA Member Parliament in implementing Resolutions adopted at the 36<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
  - (ii) Working Group discussion on “*Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation to Support ASEAN Connectivity Initiatives including Cooperation on Legislating Migrant Workers*”; and
  - (iii) Working Group discussion on “*Wildlife and CITES Implementation (Promotion for preservation and protection, best practices, response to crimes)*.”

#### **LIST OF DELEGATES**

3. The 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus was attended by 12 delegations consisting of 44 members of parliaments and parliamentary staff from 9 AIPA Member Parliaments, Secretary General of AIPA and his staff, representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and Freeland and its partners.

*The list of delegates is contained at Annex A*

**A COURTESY CALL ON H.E. DR. BOUNPONE BOUTTANAVONG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF LAO PDR**

4. Before the opening of the Eighth AIPA Caucus, the Leaders of Delegations of the Member Parliaments and the Secretary General of AIPA called on His Excellency Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR at the Boutique VIP Room, Luang Prabang View Hotel at 08.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.
5. His Excellency Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong warmly welcomed the leaders of delegations and Secretary General on behalf of the National Assembly of Lao PDR and also expressed his sincere gratitude for attending the meeting. He wished the meeting will be fruitful and achieve its targets and goals.
6. The leaders of delegations expressed their gratitude to H.E. Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong for National Assembly of Lao PDR hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus and assured him that the meeting will be successfully concluded and the results will aid AIPA in furthering parliamentary cooperation.

**OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY**

7. The official Opening Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus commenced at 08.30 a.m on Tuesday, 9 August 2016 at the Art Centre Room, Luang Prabang View Hotel.
8. H.E. Khamkhanh Chanthavisouk, Governor of Luang Prabang Province delivered his welcoming remarks. In his remarks, he welcomed all delegations of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus to the World Heritage City, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. Furthermore, he wished all delegates to enjoy their stay in Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR.

*The welcome remarks is attached as Annex D*

9. (a) H.E. Mr. P.O. Ram, Secretary General of AIPA delivered his remarks. In his remarks he suggested that a Joint Task Force be setup with ASEAN. The Joint Task Force can recommend laws that can, on a selective basis, be harmonized. To assist

this task force, Government legal experts and the Judiciary of the various Member States should be requested to provide inputs on the laws of their respective States, from the list of Laws to be harmonized provided by the Joint Task Force, including advice and opinions related to the exercise. He said this is not an easy task, but that there is no need to start from scratch as the laws are already in existence in different forms in our Member States and just need to be massaged to be comfortably accepted by all Member States for harmonization; and

(b) He further suggested that upon presenting the report of the AIPA Caucus at the General Assembly, the Host Parliament of the Caucus should make a statement at the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly. A summary of the remarks made by the Host Parliament be included in the speech to be delivered at the next ASEAN-AIPA Interface. He further suggested that every report of the Caucus be presented to the respective parliaments for their consideration. He thanked the host parliament, the National Assembly of Lao PDR and the President of the National Assembly, H.E. Mme. Pany Yathotou, her officers and staff, for organising the 8th AIPA Caucus in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. In his personal capacity, he also thanked all Member Parliaments for supporting the Secretariat during his term of office.

*The remarks is attached as Annex E.*

10. H.E. Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR delivered his opening address and thereafter declared open the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus. In his Opening Address, H.E. Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong highlighted that the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus is an important meeting of AIPA. Its contribution is immeasurable in terms of promoting regional peace, stability and cooperation to ASEAN community-building. He also emphasized that the implementation of the 36th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions and the discussions on migrant workers and wildlife at the 8th AIPA Caucus was a crucial matter, to which Lao PDR has continuously paid attention. He wished that the results of the meeting will greatly contribute to the region's wellbeing.

*The opening address is attached as Annex F.*

11. Pursuant to Article I.(3) of Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, Lao National Assembly nominated **H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit**, Chairman of Foreign

Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, as the Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus. The meeting agreed with the nomination by National Assembly of Lao PDR.

#### **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

12. The First Plenary Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus was held at 09.45 a.m. on Tuesday, 9 August 2016 at Art Centre Room, Luang Prabang View Hotel. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit.
13. Pursuant to Article I.(4) of the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus nominated Hon. Mr. Sartono of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and Leader of Indonesia Delegation, as Deputy Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus. The meeting supported the nomination by the Chairperson.
14. In accordance with Article I.(5) of the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, the Chairperson informed the meeting that Mr. P.O. Ram, Secretary General of AIPA, is the Secretary of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus.
15. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the House of Representatives of the Philippines will not send any delegates due to the recent inauguration of their newly elected Parliament.
16. The Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus welcomed the delegates and invited the Leaders of delegations to introduce their delegates attending the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus. Furthermore, the Chairperson on behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus wished Singapore delegation a happy national day.
17. The meeting considered and adopted the Agenda and Program of Activities of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus.

*The Agenda and Program of Activities are attached as Annex B and Annex C respectively*

18. The Chairperson informed the meeting that the National Assembly of Lao PDR nominated H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit as the Chairperson for both Working Groups. The meeting agreed with the nomination by National Assembly of Lao PDR.
19. AIPA Member Delegations were invited to present their respective reports on the Status of Implementation of the 36<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly Resolutions. The presentations of the report were considered and summarized hereunder:

The implementation of the resolutions under political matters made by the 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was supported by the states especially in the implementation of the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Blueprints and furthermore to encourage the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to adopt constructive dialogue among member states with consultation and coordination on political and security issues which are common to all members.

In respect to economic matters, Member Parliaments emphasized the steps they have taken to promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). They voiced their support to ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and cooperation to narrow the social disparities and economic gaps in the region.

In line with the resolutions recommended by the Social Committee and adopted at the 36<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly the report of Member Parliaments suggested that they adopted or in the midst of adopting the recommendation of Social Committee in matters concerning aging population, Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education/Training, and Corporate Social Responsibility

WAIPA Committee resolutions passed at the 36<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly required infants of either gender to complete compulsory primary school education, to prevent gender disparity in primary and secondary education and equal treatments at workplace. This has been enforced by legislations by all AIPA Members. Furthermore, measure to combat human trafficking, especially women and children are also in place.

*Reports on the Status of Implementation of the 36<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly by each Member Parliament are attached as Annex G*

## **WORKING GROUP 1**

20. The discussion of the Working Group 1 on “*Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation to Support ASEAN Connectivity Initiatives including Cooperation on Legislating Migrant Workers*” was held on 9 August 2016. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit.
  
21. The meeting agreed to appoint Hon. Mr. Khenthong Nuanthasing, Vice Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Lao PDR as Secretary of the Working Group 1.
  
22. Mr. Kamphone Vongkhanti, Deputy Director of ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR delivered his report on Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation to Support ASEAN Connectivity Initiatives Including Cooperation on Legislating Migrant Workers. He stressed that the ASEAN Connectivity is a cooperation mechanism which covers all sectors and hence the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity must be improved. He added that the cooperation with the private sector and development partners including with AIPA is of necessity to a successful implementation of projects related to ASEAN Connectivity.

*The presentation is attached as Annex H.*

23. AIPA Member Parliaments were next invited to present their reports on the theme of Working Group 1, “*Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation to Support ASEAN Connectivity Initiatives including Cooperation on Legislating Migrant Workers.*”

### 23.1 Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam highlighted the ASEAN-AIPA Interface as an acknowledgement of AIPA’s role in supporting ASEAN to achieve its goal. Pursuant to this, Brunei Darussalam has given its full support and intensify efforts to protect the fundamental human rights, promote the welfare and uphold human dignity of migrant workers. To promote fair and appropriate employment protection, payment of wages, and adequate access to decent

working and living conditions for migrant workers, Brunei Darussalam has introduced some legislations under the purview of the Department of Labour, Ministry of Home Affairs such as Labor Act (CAP 93), Employment Order, 2009, Employment Agencies Order, 2004, Employment Information Act, 1974, and Trade Union Act, 1961. Brunei Darussalam is in full support of any policies or strategies relating to parliamentary cooperation to support ASEAN Connectivity and is prepared for a further cooperation and collaboration in the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers with the other ASEAN Member States.

### 23.2 Cambodia

Cambodia has a clear policy to encourage for lawful employment of overseas workers. This lawful employment will increase workers' welfare protection, skill and reduction of unemployment and it will also increase the state's revenue. In addition, Cambodia has strongly supported ASEAN's Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers issued January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. In Cambodia's view, parliamentarians should be key players in the issue as well. However, when it comes to practice, the role of parliamentarians at regional and state level has been very limited. Their engagement was not comprehensive enough and only been as the observers to the events. Parliamentarians should be given more voices in the ASEAN Community on various issues including the protection and promotion of the rights of the migrant workers. AIPA itself possesses much more potentials which has not been tapped to move to ASEAN's vision for a stronger community with its own style of democracy. There is increasing recognition on the part of AIPA and ASEAN the necessity to strengthen their relationship and cooperation, but perhaps due to its status as a separate and independent organization, the role and contribution of the AIPA in the community have not been at a level that they should be.

### 23.3 Indonesia

Indonesia has introduced several laws on migrant workers including Law No. 39/2004 concerning the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers Abroad which is the main legal framework on all matters related to migrant workers. Indonesia have also ratified the International Convention on

the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families through Law No 6/2012 in May 2012. To promote and protect the rights of migrant worker, the Government of Indonesia is seeking to advance its capacity and strategy through integrating the priority areas of intervention on the recruitment and placement mechanisms that protect migrant workers in the Indonesian Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019 and the introduction to a system of reliable complaint handling mechanisms, paralegal services, and consular services. The Indonesian House of Representatives also encourages the resumption of the negotiation to finalise the ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers that recognize both documented and undocumented migrant workers with a specific deadline.

#### 23.4 Malaysia

Malaysia is seen as one of the most popular destination for foreign workers in the region. The flow of foreign workers into Malaysia is largely attributable to the demand in the domestic market. However, the employment of foreign workers is a temporary measure adopted by Malaysia to address the issue of shortage of workers in sectors and jobs that attract less participation from Malaysian population. The offering to Malaysian/locals remains the priority and the employment of foreign is regarded as the last resort after all efforts to hire locals have been exhaustively undertaken by the employers. Malaysia has been implementing measures to manage the intake of foreign workers including the establishment of a special committee known as The Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers and Illegal Immigrants and One Stop Centre Application for Foreign Workers.

#### 23.5 Myanmar

Myanmar has been sending workers to several countries in Asia, notably Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan through 257 registered overseas employment agencies. To ensure that their workers' rights are protected, Myanmar has appointed Labour Attaches in Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) was formed in 2013 to register overseas employment agencies and to protect Myanmar workers abroad. To support MOEAF, the Complaints



Mechanism Centers have been established in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon where workers can file complaints reports and request for assistance.

#### 23.6 The Philippines (absent member)

The Philippines delegation was absent due to the recent inauguration of the newly elected Parliament. Notwithstanding the absence, they have submitted their report which is summarized hereunder:

The Philippines provided guiding framework in pursuing the goals of ASEAN Connectivity with three-pronged strategy that involves physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages. Emphasizing that central to physical connectivity is investment in transport system, information communication technology infrastructure, and energy supply. As for the institutional connectivity, the Philippines emphasized that there must be a continuous capacity building, skills training, and professional enhancement to cope with the challenges of rapid development and people to people connectivity. That in order to further nurture the connectivity for one ASEAN community, priority must be given to investment in education and life-long learning, human resources development, innovation and entrepreneurship, cultural exchanges and tourism promotion in addressing the framework. That one of the components of the goals of ASEAN Connectivity is to promote and to protect the rights of migrant workers. That the Philippines government introduced several legislations on the issue e.g. Labor Code of the Philippines and Migrant Workers Overseas Filipino Act of 1995. Hence the Philippines government works to ensure the documentation of overseas Filipino workers for their protection and to decrease the deployment of workers in areas prone to abuse and exploitation.

#### 23.7 Singapore

Singapore recognizes that labour migration is a complex and multi-dimensional issue, which brings about its own unique set of benefits and challenges to each country.

Singapore has been implementing various legislation and administrative measures to ensure the smooth undertaking of migrant workers management. Some of the measures are (i) ensuring proper documentation of

workers; (ii) regulating employers of migrant workers (i.e. Foreign Workers and Foreign Domestic Workers); (iii) regulating Employment Agencies (EA); and (iv) ensuring prompt salary payment and allowing option for direct transfer of salary payment.

Singapore passed the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act in 2015 to regulate and improve the standards of larger dormitories which house foreign employees.

Dedicated recreational centres have been built for migrant workers since 2009 and they provide a wider range of amenities such as remittance services, supermarkets and other sports facilities.

The Singapore Government proactively reaches out to all migrant workers to ensure they understand their employment rights and responsibilities and continues to work with ASEAN Member States towards finalization of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW).

### 23.8 Thailand

The labor market in Thailand is divided into overseas market and migrant workers market. Thailand's Ministry of Labour (MoL) is the national focal point for the management of Thai workers working overseas and migrant workers. Thai workers may seek working opportunities overseas through several channels, namely self-arrangement and domestic employers' arrangement. MoL provides support to the Thai overseas workers through several measures such as pre-departure training and electronic labor information system. As for migrant workers' market, Thailand is currently home to 2.43 million documented foreign workers from neighbouring countries. They are permitted to work in many sectors, most commonly the fishing and seafood processing sectors where demand for labor is high. Thailand is committed in their effort to promote and protect the rights of worker and has introduced the Convention No. 29 on Forced Labor and the Protocol of 2014 on the Forced Labor.

### 23.9 Viet Nam

The legal framework for Migrant Workers in Viet Nam has facilitated the operation of enterprises and protect the legitimate rights and interests of workers which leads to the enhancement of management on migrant workers. Viet Nam has negotiated and signed international cooperation agreements related to migrant workers with other international organisations i.e. ASEAN, IOM, ILO and UNIFEM. Furthermore, Viet Nam is now progressing towards harmonising the standards in ASEAN on vocational skills and the abilities of connection between recognizing vocational skills and labour export. Hence several recommendations related to migrant workers are proposed which are (1) to organise regional and international forum on migrant workers; (2) to focus on research on the promotion and harmonization of legal system of migrant workers in ASEAN; and (3) to promote and support resource mobilization for international cooperation in education and training within ASEAN member states.

#### 23.10 Lao PDR

Lao PDR has made efforts in protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. The Government specifically the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare was encouraged to develop labor law and tools for labor management, aimed at facilitating Lao labor force for the regional and international integration. Furthermore, the National Assembly oversees the actual implementation of related law and encourages relevant sectors to translate some articles of the law into subsidiary legislation serving as tools for a more effective management of migrant workers. The National Assembly has ratified ILO Convention No. 144 concerning tripartite consultation. Therefore, all parties are urged to implement the resolution of the 24th ASEAN Labor Ministers Meeting in Vientiane under the theme of transitioning from informal employment to formal employment towards decent work promotion in ASEAN. In the connection with the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, it encourages AIPA member parliaments to exchange information, best practices and experience in managing migrant workers and find the ways and means for the cooperation between sending and receiving countries in order to ensure mutual benefits as well as to protect the rights and benefits of migrant workers and improve their living standards.

*Reports by each Member Parliament on the theme of Working Group 1 are attached as Annex I.*

## **WORKING GROUP 2**

24. The discussion of the Working Group 2 on “*Wildlife and CITES Implementation (Promotion for Preservation and Protection, Best Practices, response to crimes)*” was held on Wednesday, 10 August 2016. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit.
  
25. The meeting agreed to appoint H.E. Viengthavisone Theppachanh, Vice Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Lao PDR as Secretary of the Working Group 2.
  
26. Ms. Sallie Yang, Senior Program Officer and Legal Support Program Coordinator of Freeland delivered her presentation on “*the ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime: Compendium of International Treatises and National Legislations.*” She briefly explained the engagement Freeland has with AIPA which has been initiated since 2012 through the adoption of Res.33GA/2012/Org07 on “Strengthening Law Enforcement and Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime and on Partnership Development with ASEAN-WEN/ ARREST Program/ FREELAND Foundation”. Furthermore, she introduced the forum to the ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime”, an ASEAN-WEN/Freeland publication which highlighted legal framework in the ASEAN region and the laws and legal tools available for the investigation and prosecution of wildlife and timber crime. The ASEAN Handbook has been endorsed and will be utilized by ASEAN, AIPA and SOMTC as legal resource and toolkit.

*The power point presentation is attached as Annex J.*

27. AIPA Member Parliaments were invited to present their reports on the topic of Working Group 2, “*Wildlife and CITES Implementation (Promotion for Preservation and Protection, Best Practices, response to crimes).*”

### 27.1 Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam has established Wildlife Division under the purview of Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT). It has also hosted the 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network from 5th to 6th May 2015 to review the progress, initiatives, challenges and future plans of ASEAN-WEN. Brunei Darussalam emphasized that strengthening inter-agency collaboration and coordination in wildlife surveillance is crucial in its effort to help combat wildlife crimes in the region. Constant joint patrols such as air, river and land at border checkpoints are also made and Wildlife Division of MPRT is also monitoring wildlife trafficking in the social media and open market. Brunei Darussalam also focuses on the capacity building of its manpower, including having trained staff and wildlife experts in legal reviews, veterinary, species identification, zoonosis and parasitology, welfare, care and animal handling (for rescue and rehabilitation center).

## 27.2 Cambodia

In Cambodia, according to the Constitution 1993, wildlife resources are State property. The management of state property shall be controlled by law and the State shall protect the environment and balance of abundant natural resources. For implementing CITES, Cambodia introduced a prominent Laws, namely Law on Forestry 2002. The Law provided provisions on management of forests and protected areas, wildlife conservation, legal penalties, forest offenses and list of wildlife species. Cambodia is also involved in regional and international efforts to support the wildlife and CITES . Cambodian delegation is scheduled to attend the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23 September to 5 October 2016 as well as the 13th ASEAN-WEN and ASEAN Experts Group Meeting in Indonesia in 2017.

## 27.3 Indonesia

Law Number 5 year 1990 passed by Indonesian House of Representatives and the ratification of CITES by Indonesian government explain specifically the government agencies and their coordination related to wildlife trafficking enforcement. The implementation of Law Number 5 Year 1990 and CITES in Indonesia still have many barriers and in fact illegal wildlife trafficking is still considered as a lucrative business sector. In view of

this, Indonesian House of Representatives strongly support the formation of SOMTC Working Group on wildlife and timber trafficking. Moreover, Indonesian House of representatives suggested the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network to highlight the importance of data and information exchange protocol at the national and international level to facilitate online investigation and extradition of suspects along with partners such as CITES and UNTOC.

#### 27.4 Malaysia

Malaysia has been implementing measures to comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1978 including the enactment of the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686], the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 [Act 716], Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 (Enactment No.6 of 1997) and Sarawak Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998. Malaysia has also used latest technologies to assist the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to prevent wildlife trafficking and poachers.

Malaysia has established Malaysia Wildlife Enforcement Network (My-WEN) to form a network of cooperation between all organizations which are involved in addressing the problems of illegal wildlife trade. My-WEN provides a platform to facilitate the coordination of the enforcement which involves multiple agencies and authorities. The members of My-WEN consists of departments and agencies of Malaysia CITES Management Authorities (MAs) and enforcement agencies (EAs) as well as freight and logistic service providers. Malaysia will continue to improve legislations, enforcement and also to take part in regional collaboration and special joint-enforcement operations to combat the wildlife crimes.

#### 27.5 Myanmar

Myanmar is home to a wide range of habitats and wildlife due to its numerous different landscapes and seascapes. To support the effort to combat wildlife crimes, Myanmar has introduced several measures, such as Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law (1994), Forest Rules (1995), Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Rules (2002), list of Protected Wildlife (1996). Myanmar has ratified the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES) on 11 September 1997 and commercial import and export of the endangered wild flora and fauna is regulated in accordance with the Convention. Pursuant to the ratification, Myanmar has been working with ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) since 2005 to combat the wildlife poaching and trafficking in the ASEAN region. In order to promote the implementation of CITES as well as to strengthen combating wildlife crimes in the country, Myanmar had also organized several capacity building programs in collaboration with international and regional institutions. Despite those achievements, Myanmar is still facing serious constraints in combating wildlife crime namely limited budget, insufficient staff, limited capacity, and limited cross sector and trans-boundary collaboration.

#### 27.6 The Philippines (absent member)

The Philippines delegation was absent due to the recent inauguration of the newly elected Parliament. Notwithstanding the absence, they have submitted their report which is summarized hereunder:

The Philippines is included in the list of seventeen (17) mega-diversity countries which hosts more than 6,000 species that cannot be found elsewhere. Unfortunately, the country is also one of the world biodiversity hotspots with a great number of critically endangered species. In response to the serious threat to the wildlife population, the Philippines enacted several laws designed to address matters on wildlife conservation and protection, protected areas, and fisheries code. The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines is also tasked with the protection of Philippine wildlife through the establishment of nine (9) major conservation programs and the declaration of thirteen (13) protected wildlife. The Philippines in solidarity with the global united effort to protect and conserve biodiversity and wildlife habitats is a signatory to international covenants e.g. Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and so forth.

#### 27.7 Singapore

Singapore became a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1986. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is designated as the national CITES authority responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES and wildlife policies in Singapore.

The AVA administers wildlife-related legislations and investigates all wildlife enforcement cases that are referred to Singapore through tip-offs or detected through Singapore's operations and surveillance. Through AVA, Singapore implemented a series of public outreach programs to heighten awareness and compliance to CITES as well as conduct and coordinate CITES capacity-building and species identification training workshops for inspectors and enforcement officers responsible for enforcing CITES.

To effectively enforce CITES, Singapore works closely with other national, regional and international enforcement agencies such as ICA, Singapore Customs, local police and Interpol, CITES Secretariat, CITES and non-CITES Parties, NGOs, as well as members of the public.

At the regional level, Singapore is a member of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) which comprises of wildlife law enforcement agencies in the 10 ASEAN Member States, and AVA is the national focal point.

## 27.8 Thailand

The illegal wildlife trade situation in Thailand is classified into three categories, namely (1) wildlife trade for consumption; (2) possession of wildlife for commercial purposes; and (3) transnational wildlife trafficking. Thailand is committed in strengthening ASEAN cooperation in preventing and combating wildlife crime as well as to push forward transnational wildlife trafficking as a priority issue in the region. To promote the wildlife issues, Thailand will participate in the 17th Meeting of Conference of Parties (CITES CoP17) and the 67th and 68th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC67) at the Republic of South Africa in September 2016. Thailand has also introduced legislation which comply with CITES agenda e.g. Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act (2nd revision) B.E. 2546, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act (3rd revision) B.E. 2557 and Elephant Ivory Act B.E. 2558. Through the



establishment of ASEAN-WEN, Thailand is the role model and the leading country in combating the wildlife crimes in the region. Furthermore, Thailand pledges to support the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and CITES, as reflected in the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### 27.9 Viet Nam

Viet Nam joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1994. Subsequently, Viet Nam has issued a number of legal documents to implement CITES, e.g. Law on Forest Protection and Development (2004); Law on Conservation of Biological Diversity (2008), and Decree 32/2006/ND-CP by the Government on management of rare and endangered forest plants and animals. Whilst Viet Nam has been actively participating in the regional efforts in combating wildlife crimes, internal challenges are still present, namely unclear concepts in the legal documents; Viet Nam's geographical position as an important hub for massive cargo transportation including that of wild fauna and flora; and limited CITES enforcement resources. To build the capacity of CITES-related institutions and human resources, Viet Nam organized and attended training and public awareness activities on the protection of wild fauna and flora.

#### 27.10 Lao PDR

The Lao PDR has made every effort to implement the CITES. The National Assembly of the Lao PDR has strengthened the management measures of wildlife by amending the Penal Law in 2005 and adopted the Forestry Law No. 06/NA and the Wildlife and Aquatic Law No.07/NA, dated on the 24th of December 2007.

The Lao Government has established an inter-agency coordination unit called Lao-WEN under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which is in charge of collaboration with relevant agencies to facilitate the implementation of those Laws. In addition, there was the issuance of the Prime Minister Order No. 15/PM, dated 13 May 2016 on enhancing strict management and inspection of logging and trade in timber in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.

The National Assembly of the Lao PDR has focused on 4 measures in relation to management and suppression of illegal trade in wild animals in the country, namely the prevention of violation, detection of cases of violation, disruption of a plan of violation and prosecution.

The Lao Government has also the National Action Plans under CITES to implement the wildlife conservation in some provinces.

*Reports by each Member Parliament on the theme of Working Group 2 are attached as Annex K.*

## **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

28. The Second Plenary Session of the 8th AIPA Caucus was held at 3.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 August 2016 and was presided by H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit.
29. H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit, the Chairperson delivered the report on results and discussion of both Working Group 1 and 2.

*The Report on results and discussion of the Working Groups by the Chairperson is attached as Annex L.*

## **CLOSING SESSION**

30. The Closing Session of the 8th AIPA Caucus was held on Wednesday, 10 August 2016 at 3.00 p.m.
31. The meeting considered and adopted the final report of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus meeting. Upon the adoption of the Report, leaders of all AIPA Member Parliaments delegations officially signed the Report
32. The House of Representatives of Indonesia was invited to host the 9<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus.
33. Hon. Mr. Sartono, Leader of Indonesia Delegation delivered his acceptance speech. In his speech, Hon. Mr. Sartono on behalf of the House of Representatives of Indonesia announced the acceptance of hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus in which the date and venue will be informed through AIPA Secretariat. He said that he is cognizant of the fact that AIPA so far continues to be a crucial organization for the success of

ASEAN's vision and mission. Furthermore, he looked forward to welcome all AIPA member parliaments to the 9<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus next year in Indonesia.

*The acceptance speech is attached as Annex N.*

34. H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit delivered his closing address. He thanked all delegates for their invaluable inputs and comments, and other suggestions during the discussions. He also expressed his gratitude to them being present and actively participating at the Caucus over the 2 days and contributed to the success of the Caucus.

*The closing address is attached as Annex O.*

35. With the conclusion of the Closing Address by the Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus, H.E. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit, the 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus was officially closed.



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)  
The 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus Meeting

<p>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</p>	<p>Hon. Haji Awang Ahmad Morshidi Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman</p>
<p>CAMBODIA</p>	<p>Hon. Mr. Hou Sry</p>
<p>INDONESIA</p>	<p>Hon. Mr. Sartono Hutomo</p>
<p>LAO PDR</p>	<p>Hon. Khenthong Nuanthasing</p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p>	<p>Hon. Haji Hasbi bin Haji Habibollah</p>



MYANMAR

Hon. Mr. Zaw Thein



PHILIPPINES



SINGAPORE

Hon. Mr. Gan Thiam Poh



THAILAND

Hon. ACM Charlie Chandruang



VIET NAM

Hon. Mr. Vu Hai Ha

Done in LuangPrabang Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> of August  
in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen (2016).

Hon. Prof. Dr. Eksavang Vongvichit  
Chairman  
The 8<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus Meeting