



## **Closing Address**

**H.E. Post Dr. Cheam Yeap,**

Chairman of the Organizational Committee and Chairman of Cambodian  
AIPA National Group of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the 7<sup>th</sup>AIPA Caucus Meeting under the theme

**“ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing  
Sustainable Tourism”**

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Sokha Resort Hotel, Siem Reap City

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- Honorable Heads and Members of Delegation of AIPA Member  
Parliaments,
- Honorable Senators and Members of the National Assembly of the Kingdom  
of Cambodia,
- Honorable Mr. P.O. Ram, Secretary General of AIPA,
- National and International Distinguished Guests,
- My dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen!

1- First of all, allow me to warmly welcome you all again and hope that you have had a pleasant and enjoyable stay in this marvelous city of Angkor. I wish to take this great opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all delegations for the hard work you have done over the past two days and the outcomes that we have achieved from the 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus Meeting. This achievement stems from your cooperative endeavor, active participation and high responsibility. Without your tireless efforts and dedications, it would not be possible to achieve our common goal.

- 2- The topic we chose to discuss in this two-day meeting is of crucial importance as tourism is one of the key driving force for socio-economic development in our respective country and ASEAN region as whole and is one of the fastest growing economic sector in the world. It is truly that the tourism sector is not only a socio-economic sector that helps to sustain economic growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty, but it is also considered an important sector that support regional integration, reported by the recent World Economic Forum, mentioning that ASEAN leaders have long recognized the vital role of tourism, which can play a key role in realizing the vision of ASEAN Community in 2015.
  
- 3- However, though tourism brings lots of benefits to the country, we should know that tourism has a multitude of impacts; it can be a positive force, bringing benefits to the destinations, or an engine for degradation. Tourism can be seen as a complex adaptive system combining socio-cultural values, quality of life aspiration, and the biophysical and economic system in which tourism takes place over time. Therefore the management of tourism is very important as it may affect the conditions of destinations and the host community, and more broadly the future of eco-system in the regions and the nations.
  
- 4- In addition, tourism and nature conservation are interdependent, and their relationship has been a lengthy one. Tourism often stimulates measure to protect or conserve nature, but at the same time, presents a significant environmental risk because of its demands on the natural environment. And the risks would intensify if domestics and international tourism demand for natural areas is growing.

- 5- Therefore, we as parliamentarians and AIPA member parliaments, have to take serious consideration and attention on the adverse effect of the issue. I strongly believe that during the past two days, the discussion and exchanges of ideas, experiences and best practices we have shared and learnt from each other would contribute to addressing negative impacts of the tourism and come up with some concrete measures for promoting nature conservation and sustainable tourism development, aiming to reach an aspiration of one single tourism of the ASEAN region.
- 6- I would like to underline the major issues which have been discussed at this meeting as followed:
1. To fully support the government and private sectors to sustain, enhance and promote Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism in the ASEAN Region.
  2. To pave the way in protecting natural habitats and to promote the educational aspect of tourism, towards building respect over diverse cultures and customs, friendship, harmony and cooperation among the peoples of ASEAN, as well as to realize green growth economies.
  3. To promote culture and eco-tourism as important sectors to generate valuable foreign revenue and to broaden job opportunities for the peoples of all ASEAN Countries. And in particular, to show case the diversity and richness of our various cultures to visitors throughout the world.
  4. The importance of continued cooperation among ASEAN member countries in their process of national development and the prevention of the negative impact of the unregulated tourism

development on cultural heritage sites, which can threaten their beauty and historical legacies for future generations.

**Excellencies Heads and Members of Delegation,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

7- ASEAN is steadily progressing towards achieving its aspiration of establishing an ASEAN community at the end of this year, 2015. Meanwhile, AIPA is also itself moving positively forward to becoming a more effective and closely integrated institution in the future. We as parliaments of ASEAN should undertake to create the enabling environment for the eventual transformation of the assembly into an ASEAN Parliament which need not necessarily to be modeled along lines of the European Parliament but which would be unique to ASEAN alone, taking only the best practices of the European Parliament for its long term future.

8- As representatives of the Nation in this region, let me reiterate that it is our legal obligation and moral duty to deploy common efforts to continue the implementation and to explore sustainable resolutions for the new emerging issues. Our common travel in this region over the years has strengthened our ASEAN Community and has established solid foundations for continued collaboration in securing peace, security and prosperity.

9- We are so delighted to see the progresses and commitments that each AIPA member has done with regards to the implementation of the 35th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions. So far AIPA has adopted more than 800 resolutions in the field of political, economic, social, WAIP and

organizational matters. Though we have not been able to implement all the resolutions, since we have this permanent mechanism in place, along with AIPA-ASEAN Interface, a lot of progress has been made. This reflects our strong commitment in supporting and accelerating the realization of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.

10- The Draft Resolution on “ASEAN Tourism: Promoting Nature Conservation and Developing Sustainable Tourism” which is a concrete outcome from this 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus, will put forward to the up-coming General Assembly of AIPA in Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia for approval.

11- Once again, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to express my profound gratitude and highly appreciate your valuable contributions to the success of this meeting. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to all Excellencies, the AIPA Secretary General and his colleagues, the Representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Representative of the Ministry of Tourism, AIPA supporting team of the Cambodian National Assembly’s Secretariat, Advisors, and Assistants and Information Units for their hard work contributing to the successful conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus.

12- As tradition of AIPA, on behalf of the Organizing committee of 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus and as the hosting parliament, I have a great honor to invite all Excellencies, Heads and Members of Delegation, Honorable Senators and Members of the National Assembly, national and international distinguished participants to enjoy the solidarity Dinner tonight at this hotel followed by Cultural Performance.

13- Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to offer you all the best wishes of good health, longevity, happiness and prosperity, and especially for a prosperity and well-being of our beloved ASEAN peoples. I now hereby declare the 7<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus is officially closed.

Thank you for your kind attention!