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36th General Assembly of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly



OPENING CEREMONY

By



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- AIPA 36 Malaysia
- Parlimen Malaysia

“Engaging a People Oriented, People-Centered ASEAN Community Towards Inclusiveness”

About 36th GA of AIPA

RATIONALE FOR THE THEME

“ENGAGING A PEOPLE- ORIENTED, PEOPLE-CENTRED ASEAN COMMUNITY TOWARDS INCLUSIVENESS”

Present Suggested Theme:

Engaging a People Centered ASEAN Community towards Inclusiveness

Alternative Theme:

ASEAN Beyond 2015: Towards a People Centered Community and Inclusiveness

Key words:

Engaging, People Centered ASEAN Community, Inclusiveness

1. ASEAN has always been considered a state centric organization. Although there has been increase attention given to youth, civil society organizations and minority groups, there are still many groups in need of attention such as persons with disability, marginalized communities, migrant workers, stateless people, etc. Thus as ASEAN becomes a COMMUNITY, it is important to take a people centred approach in order to narrow the gaps between those who are governing and those who are being governed due to the different levels of development within ASEAN Member States (AMS).

2. Inclusiveness is a people centered approach that can be considered as a goal as well as a process. Inclusiveness takes into account the environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging and where everyone has access to develop one's full potential.

3. When inclusiveness is considered a goal, at the end of the day, there will be higher degree of prosperity and a lesser degree of discontent among the peoples of ASEAN. When inclusiveness is considered as a process, strategies based on participatory approach will allow for more voices to be heard, leading towards making better decisions and good governance. Inclusiveness as a process is about engaging with different stakeholders.

4. Engagement takes different forms depending on the three pillars within the ASEAN Community, i.e. the APSC, the AEC and the ASCC. It takes place in both private and public spheres, at the local, national and international levels.

5. Political-Security Pillar: It is widely known that in ASEAN, different communities enjoy different levels of security. Different communities are governed by different systems. States must include different voices in governance and open up communications between state and society. The ASEAN community is a community made up of different geopolitical scenarios where there are issues such as people involved in conflict areas, cross border and maritime communities, extremist groups - political or religious, stateless and disenfranchised peoples. It is recognized that there are many for a where CBM have been taken to increase trust between AMS. But more importantly, people in the ASEAN community must feel secured and be free to gain access to live a full-filling life where the wellbeing of each citizen is taken care of without threats and fear from any parties.

6. Economic pillar: It is known fact that the economic gap, specifically the GDPs between the ASEAN countries (e.g. ASEAN 5 countries) are very wide. Thus, conditions such as this, there is prevalence of unevenness, displacement and disparity. Concerted efforts must be made in ASEAN to even out the economic gaps between communities where no community is left behind and where there is economic sustainability within each community i.e. poverty and illiteracy are reduced. Each citizen in the ASEAN community must enjoy as much as his/her neighbor in economic security, i.e. they have the means where they can sustain a secured and well-balanced life.

7. Social-Cultural pillar: In all ASEAN communities there are recognizable gaps that exist socially that intersect between structures such as ethnicity, gender, age, religious persuasion, sexual orientation, education and health. The ASEAN community with take heed of the intersecting issues for instance those related to women and girls - violence against women, equal pay for equal work, women in decision-making positions, equal access to education and health care regardless of ethnicity, status, religious and sexual persuasion.

8. To ensure inclusiveness and economic, political and social stability amongst the ASEAN nations, the ASEAN community must make way for equal access to education and health for all its citizens ensuring also equal opportunities and access to jobs, accommodation, and safety for all regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, religious persuasion, sexual orientation. In this endeavor, it is recognized that states cannot possibly work on their own; ASEAN nations must recognize grassroot level inclusiveness and must ensure a good working relationship between government and civil society.

9. Within all the three pillars, people centeredness and inclusiveness are cross-cutting so that an integrated, bottom-up approach emerges. The concepts of inclusiveness and people centeredness take into account shared responsibilities between the state and its peoples- civil society and various groups within each community (e.g. women, minority groups, religious communities, etc.) where different voices cooperate for the benefit for all.

Quotes on 36th GA of AIPA

“The 36th AIPA General Assembly emphasizes on the notion of inclusiveness that offers the opportunities to all to access and be involved in programs designed for the benefits and well-being of ASEAN community. We also believe participation of all in the action programs opens the spaces of more voices to be heard leading towards holistic decision making and good governance.”

Welcoming Address by

H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia,
President of 36th AIPA

8 September 2015, Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

“Part of making ASEAN more people-oriented, people-centered and inclusive was to make certain that human rights protections and improvements in quality of life were extended to everyone. One of those rights is the right to clean air”

“This is the first regional arrangement that binds a group of contiguous states to tackle transboundary haze pollution resulting from land and forest fires”

“It is a historic step – and one that many of us in the region know all too well is absolutely necessary”

Keynote Address by

Hon. Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak,
Prime Minister of Malaysia

8 September 2015, Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Courtesy Call on President of AIPA



Courtesy Call on President of AIPA



Opening Ceremony of the 36th GA of AIPA



Opening Ceremony of the 36th GA of AIPA





AIPA HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF ASEAN COMMUNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Sept 2015 (Parliament of Malaysia) - Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak said ASEAN parliamentarians need to play a more proactive role in highlighting the benefits that people can gain from a people-centred and more inclusive ASEAN in their respective countries.

The Prime Minister said they should leverage on their direct contact with voters as well as in parliament to convey what ASEAN stood for towards the creation of a regional community that was politically cohesive, economically robust and socially responsible.

Najib noted that the 10-member ASEAN had formulated hundreds of agreements, treaties, communiqués, statements and declarations.

"But these instruments will be of limited effects if people don't directly benefit from them, or are not aware of the tangible advantages that come from us being ASEAN," he said in his keynote address at the 36th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) here at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The Sept 6 to 12 gathering carries the theme 'Engaging a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN Community Towards Inclusiveness'.

Drawing the audience deeper into the theme, Najib drove home the point that the people's participation in the establishment by the end of 2015 of a unified ASEAN Community was crucial for it to be one they could relate to, feel part of and owned.

"The benefits of the ASEAN Community are very real. Freer movement of goods, services, skilled labour and capital will bind the region's economics closer," he said.

Harmonizing and streamlining product standard will increase competitiveness while gradual tariff reductions implemented since 2007 had already reduced many prices, the Prime Minister said.

"ASEAN integration will only be truly successful when the people of our 10 nations are fully involved in the process and invested in its outcome," he said.

Najib said that part of making ASEAN people-oriented, people-centered and inclusiveness was to make certain that protection of human rights and improvements in quality of life were extended to everyone.

"Across ASEAN we must reach out to the vulnerable and marginalized, promote gender equality and ensure justice and fairness to all our citizens," he said, adding that one of those rights was the right to clean air.

Najib pointed out that AIPA, formerly AIPO - an organization at its inception in 1977 before transforming itself into an assembly in 2007 - had done a sterling job in supporting the aims of ASEAN and helping putting them into action at the national level.

He took the opportunity to announce that ASEAN was taking steps to further formalize and regularize meetings, particularly the interface between ASEAN and AIPA.

"The two secretariats will continue to build the relationship through joint activities and develop mechanisms and indicators for effective reviewing and monitoring.

"This is essential to support the implementation of ASEAN policies and agreements, and will support cohesiveness in the decision-making process," he said at the event attended by over 300 delegates from ASEAN parliaments.

In attendance were AIPA President and Speaker of the House of Representative, H.E. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Mulia and the President of Senate, H.E. Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang.

First Plenary Session





Official Dinner Hosted by President of the Senate





PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION DIVISION
PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Email : pro@parlimen.gov.my
Web : www.aipa36malaysia.gov.my