

**DEWAN PERWAKILAN RAKYAT
REPUBLIK INDONESIA**

REMARKS BY H.E. H.R. AGUNG LAKSONO,

**THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION (AIPO)
Jakarta, 19 July 2007**

**Honorable Leaders of the People's Consultative Assembly
(MPR),
Honorable Leaders of the Indonesian House of
Representatives (DPR),
Honorable Leaders of the Regional Representatives Council
(DPD),
Honorable Leaders of Faction of the Indonesian House of
Representatives,
Honorable Members of DPR and DPD,
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs or representative,
Excellencies Ambassadors of fellow countries,
Honorable Secretary General of ASEAN,
Honorable Secretary General of AIPA,
Honorable Mr. AIPO, Mr. Kharis Suhud,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu 'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

The commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of AIPO has two significant meanings. Firstly, AIPO, as an organization of parliaments of ASEAN member countries is approaching a new era through the transformation agreed on the 27th General Assembly of AIPO last year to be a more effective and closely integrated institution. Secondly, the commemoration is meaningful for DPR-RI, considering that Indonesia is one of AIPO founding fathers, 30 years ago. Pursuant to the mandate of the last General Assembly of AIPO in Cebu City, the Philippines, the Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of AIPO is also organized in the other parliaments of AIPO member countries at the national

level. The grand commemoration of the 30th anniversary of AIPO will be held at the incoming General Assembly in August 2007 in Kuala Lumpur.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16-19 April 2007 in Kuala Lumpur agreed the changes of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization into the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and signed the Statutes of AIPA with some changes. The name of AIPO is still used for the

commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of *AIPO*, whereas the name of AIPA is used for the 28th General Assembly of *AIPA*. Therefore, the theme of the commemoration is the Transformation of AIPO into AIPA.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The AIPO was established 30 years ago in concurrence with the establishment of ASEAN in 1967, 10 years later. For 30 years, the AIPO has resulted in approximately 398 resolutions in 27 General Assemblies, deliberating the issues on politics, economics, social and organization as well as other issues relating to Women Parliamentarians. Looking at the number of the resolutions, the AIPO was quite productive. But, we are all aware that the resolutions have not yet been maximally implemented, because of some obstacles. Nevertheless, if we see from the purpose of its establishment that is to build a strong solidarity among its members in the region of Southeast Asia, the enhancement of cooperation to solve regional issues is successfully reached. The Speakers/Presidents of respective parliaments meet once a year. Delegates of respective parliaments also meet to discuss various issues and hold dialogue with observer countries. Looking at the

global situation and complex problems and challenges facing the region, the transformation of AIPO into AIPA is expected to be a powerful institution in line with the fast growing in the ASEAN region.

We all know that the ASEAN is approaching the establishment of ASEAN Community with 3 pillars such as ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Social Cultural Community in 2020. Though, the leaders of ASEAN have agreed to accelerate the achievement of the ASEAN Community in 2015. To this relation, a more powerful AIPA is strongly expected to support the realization of ASEAN Community.

Meanwhile, the establishment of ASEAN Parliament initiated by the Parliament of the Philippines needs support and it is a long process. Considering that it is a political institution, the establishment of the regional parliament as a supra-national institution is facing many hindrances such as the differences in political and socio-cultural background. Therefore, the best way to be taken is to transform AIPO into AIPA, hoping that it has a positive implication to the

parliaments of ASEAN member countries. Moreover, the AIPA and ASEAN could sit side by side approaching the future of nations and people of the Southeast Asia.

In this transformation, the Indonesian House of Representatives would like to express its hope that the President of AIPA, assisted by the professional Secretary General of AIPA, could take concrete measures to achieve the purpose of AIPA. If it deems necessary, the Secretary General of AIPA who his office is in the Building of DPR-RI, could exchange views with the DPR-RI, especially with the Leaders of DPR-RI or the Leaders of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this opportunity, I would like extend my sincerest thanks for the presence of Excellencies Ambassadors, fellow parliamentarians, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, especially Hon. Mr. Kharis Suhud who attended this august meeting to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of AIPO. On this occasion, on behalf of the Indonesian House of Representatives, I would like also to express our special thanks to Hon. Mr. Kharis Suhud who was awarded as Mr. AIPO at the 22nd General Assembly of AIPO in Hanoi, Vietnam. When he was the Speaker of the Indonesia House of Representatives, he had given his outstanding contributions for the development of AIPO in 1980s and 1990s. Our appreciation also goes to Honorable Mrs. Tati Dharsoyo, former Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and former Ambassador to Switzerland, who also attended this gathering, for all her contribution for the development of AIPO and the InterParliamentary Union (IPU). The purpose of celebrating the anniversary is to widely promote the AIPA. It is expected the people as a whole could know well the AIPA. I am personally surprised that more than 210 contestants from various backgrounds such as intellectuals, academicians, university students, journalists have participated in the essay writing competition on the transformation of AIPO into AIPA. By the working hard of the juries, they have decided 6 winners of the competition and they are present here now with us. For that reason, I would like to express my highest appreciation for all participants that have taken part in the competition. By striking the “*gendang rampak*” and launching the stamp of the 30th AIPO Anniversary in the ceremony will be the formal sign of AIPO transformation into AIPA and the name of AIPO will be officially changed into AIPA.

**We wish Happy the 30th AIPO Anniversary.
Welcome the Transformation of AIPO Into AIPA.**

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Speaker,

H.R. AGUNG LAKSONO