

*(As delivered)*

**Intervention by  
His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.),  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,  
at the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of  
the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)  
29 April 2017 at 15.00 – 15.30 hours, Summit Hall D, PICC, Manila**

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Mr. Chairman, Your Majesty, Excellencies,  
President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,  
and Distinguished AIPA Representatives

1. I am pleased to have this opportunity to meet with representatives from the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and am also pleased that Mr. Isra Sunthornvut (อิสรา สุนทรวัฒน์) who is present here today is currently serving as AIPA's Secretary-General.
2. I believe that the legislative branch holds an important key to the promotion of the ASEAN Community, which is based on the rule of law and good governance. An important mission that would help achieve this goal is the elimination of outdated laws and regulations, while at the same time, accelerating legislation of new laws and regulations that would facilitate the people in having better livelihoods and reduce social disparities.
3. Moreover, the legislative branch is an important mechanism in promoting the ASEAN Community's tangible integration process. This can be done through the improvement of domestic laws so that it is in line with ASEAN's legal commitments. It is also important to generate more knowledge and understanding on ASEAN's laws and agreements. For that reason, it is necessary to enhance cooperation among the ASEAN Member States' legislative branches for the translation and distribution of relevant legal documents into English which is ASEAN's common language, especially those pertaining to strengthening the ASEAN Community, relating to the protection of human rights and economic integration in the region.
4. Furthermore, as Thailand is currently ASEAN's coordinator in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we hope that AIPA would be able to play an important role in promoting sustainable development within the region. Through partnerships with international organisations such as the UN, there is much one could learn from the UN's experiences and best practices promoting and enhancing

sustainable development at the grassroots level. Accordingly, Thailand and the UN are interested in inviting AIPA representatives to join a brainstorming session on exploring effective ways on how we can attain sustainable development in the region. We hope that the AIPA would support this initiative.

5. Thank you.