

ANNEX V

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY INCOMING PRESIDENT OF AIPA



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY
SAMDECH AKKA MOHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAMBODIA
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY
ON 25TH AUGUST 2021**

Honorable Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, President of the 42nd AIPA General Assembly,
Honorable Speakers and Members of Parliament of AIPA Member Countries,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam for successfully hosting the 42nd AIPA General Assembly via teleconference during the Covid-19 pandemic. On behalf of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I am very honored to accept the responsibility as incoming President of AIPA from the Honorable Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei.

I express my deepest appreciation to the Legislative Council, particularly the Honorable Speaker for his efforts and dedication as AIPA President in promoting parliamentary cooperation in digital inclusion towards achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

As we are all well aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has had serious impacts on public health and the global economy. ASEAN has recently been hit hard by the outbreak of Covid-19, which has severely affected our economies and societies. We therefore need to promote digitalization to ensure economic recovery and improve social welfare based on the new normal. We need to further enhance regional cooperation in digital connectivity, cross-border digital trade, safe and security data flows, cybersecurity and inclusive digitalization.

In such difficult times, it is even more important to strengthen our partnerships within the AIPA framework and with our regional and international dialogue partners. As the incoming President of AIPA, I look forward to working with all member parliaments, the AIPA Secretariat and dialogue partners to continue strengthening our good cooperation to ensure and achieve the vision and aspirations of ASEAN, especially working towards realizing a truly people driven and people-centred ASEAN Community.

Honorable Speakers and Members of Parliament

With regard to the 43rd AIPA General Assembly, I would like to advise that the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia will host the meetings from September 12 to 16, 2022. Amid uncertainty over the Covid-19 crisis, we will meet in any way possible, hopefully in person once the pandemic is well controlled.

Finally, I wish Honorable Speakers and Members of Parliament good health and success in all your endeavors. Thank you.