



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

Unit 410 4/F La Fuerza Plaza 2, 2241 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1231 Philippines

Tel: (+632) 8196071 • Fax: (+632) 8196055 • Email: info@cald.org • Website: www.cald.org

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Hon. Isra Suthornvut

Secretary General-Elect

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Dear Hon. Suthornvut:

The Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) would like to congratulate you on your election as Secretary General of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). We are very pleased that one of our colleagues in CALD will soon assume this important position in the ASEAN structure. I am honoured to have personally met you in the last CALD conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where we discussed, among others, the sustainable development goals and regional politics.

As ASEAN moves into making the ASEAN Community of three pillars a reality, the role of AIPA in fostering inter-parliamentary (and accordingly inter-societal) cooperation becomes more significant than ever. ASEAN parliamentarians, as the link between the ASEAN structure and the peoples of the sub-region, are crucial in making the people part of (even central to) the regionalization process.

It is also important to note that you will be assuming this position at a critical juncture of ASEAN history – with the organization's erstwhile 'problem child' Myanmar (also known as Burma) making significant strides in the democratization process. Democratic challenges, however, remain in countries like Cambodia, Singapore and your very own – Thailand – and we sincerely hope that AIPA under your leadership can be an instrument to bring these countries to the democratic path.

Again, we send our warmest congratulations and we wish you the best as you begin your 3-year term of office this October 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia. We hope that your leadership would open opportunities for cooperation and dialogue between CALD and AIPA.

Sincerely yours,

Oyun Sanjaasuren, MP

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

President, United Nations Environment Assembly

Co-Chairperson, Civil Will Green Party of Mongolia