

H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, the President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives, had a discussion via videoconference with the Rt Hon. Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives.

On 30 June 2020 at 12.00 hrs. at the VDO Conference Room, the Bureau of the Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, the President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives, had a discussion via videoconference with the Rt Hon. Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives. The issues of the discussion were as follows :

**1. The Official Visit to Thailand of Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives.**

Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives had to postpone the official visit to Thailand in last April due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic across the world and would like to pay the visit to Thailand after the situation gets better, which the Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives was pleased to welcome the visit at any convenient time.

**2. The COVID-19 situation in both countries.**

Both sides discussed and exchanged views on the COVID-19 issue in terms of experiences, preventions and the pandemic control. They were pleased with the success on flattening the curve of infected cases in their respective countries. However, they concerned that the second wave of the pandemic might occur in the countries if the people were careless about the disease preventive measures.

**3. Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF).**

As the Republic of Korea would be the host of 29<sup>th</sup> AFPPD meeting in January 2021, the two Speakers discussed about the possibility to hold the meeting at that period of time with the COVID-19 unpredictable situation. They agreed the meeting should be hosted through the videoconference if the pandemic was still amid the outbreak. In 2022 the Thai National Assembly will be the host for the 30<sup>th</sup> APPF, thus the Thai President also encouraged Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives to attend the meeting in Thailand.

**4. The Collaboration of the Education between Thailand and New Zealand.**

Both parties agreed that the collaboration of the education between Thailand and New Zealand should be increased for the benefits of both countries. At present the New Zealand's education was very famous among Thai people because of its high standard of quality and cheap expenses comparing to other countries.

## 5. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation : APEC

The Speaker of New Zealand House of Representatives informed that the annual meeting of APEC, which will be hosted by New Zealand in 2021, would be held via videoconference because of the uncertain situation of the pandemic.

## 6. Thailand-New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership : TNZCEP

Thailand-New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership : TNZCEP could encourage both sides to boost the export volume to each other especially for the Thai vegetables and fruits. The Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives also gave durian as a present to Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives via the Embassy of New Zealand to Thailand.

