

41st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

On 8 September 2020, the Thai Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly, attended opening ceremony of the 41st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). In this regard, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai delivered a speech that “In tackling the COVID-19 situation, we are focusing on immediate internal needs - inevitably with external relations being less urgent. This could adversely affect the unity and centrality of ASEAN, particularly when it is being confronted with difficulties resulting from geopolitical and strategic uncertainty. He expressed his strong belief that parliaments could work closely during this difficult time to achieve common objectives, as follows: First, parliaments must strengthen their closeness to the people, thereby reaffirming ASEAN’s vision for a people-centered community and allowing ourselves to fulfill the mandate to oversee and provide insights for the executive branch. Second, at the regional level, it is preferable for AIPA to exchange knowledge and experiences among Members of Parliament. Finally, the ASEAN states are urged to harmonize laws to ensure that the same or similar rules and regulations are moving in the same direction. In this way, ASEAN unity and centrality can be persevered and strengthened.”

