



**CLOSING STATEMENT OF
THE 11th ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE (AIFOCOM)
TO COMBAT THE DRUG MENACE
12th – 16th MAY 2014,
Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR**

Good Afternoon

Excellencies Heads of Delegation

Honourable Members of Delegates

Secretary General of AIPA

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The 14th May 2014, marks another significant milestone for LAO PDR as a host Parliament for the 11th Meeting of AIFOCOM.
2. It is indeed a great honour for Lao PDR to host this important meeting for the second time.
3. By the spirit of the cooperation that was made by all AIPA Member Parliaments in our 11th AIFOCOM meeting to deliberate our topic to Combat the Drug Menace. This meeting has successfully considered and unanimously approved 2 documents;
 - (i) Draft resolution on Strengthening LEGAL Cooperation among Parliaments in Realizing a Drug Free ASEAN.
 - (ii) Report of the 11th Meeting of AIFOCOM.
4. Regarding the status of the establishment of TWG of AIFOCOM to Combat the Drug Menace. The Member Parliaments have agreed to entrust Secretary General of AIPA to circulate a review paper on the establishment of the TWG to all Member Parliaments of AIPA by the second week of June of 2014 for their comments.
5. In regards to the usage of the term Drug Free ASEAN. We have asked the AIPA Secretary to request ASOD to provide a definition for this term which can apply uniformly in all ASEAN States.

6. I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thank all Member Parliaments for making this meeting a success, by sharing their Country Report with one another. The Country Reports show that Governments of ASEAN are concerned with the Drug situation in ASEAN. Various steps have been implemented and new measures to curb the growth of drug have been introduced. The measures has limited the increase in drug trafficking and abusing in some countries. There is still a need to work globally with all nations to prevent the production of drugs. Though it may not be feasible by 2015, to have Drug Free ASEAN 2015, this should not deter our intention to eradicate the drug menace even if it takes many more years.

7. I would, in conclusion, like to express my sincere appreciation to the distinguished delegates for the excellent contributions made by them for the successful conclusion of this meeting and to AIPA Secretariat. Also, I would like to thank UNODC and the representative from ASOD for their comprehensive report on illicit drug production and trafficking in the region.

8. I wish AIFOCOM every success in the future activities.

Thank you.