

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The 4th Meeting of AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) on Monday, 24th May 2021 (via video conference)

Honorable Chair,
Honorable Parliamentary Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As AIPA in 2021, we acknowledge that as the whole world continues to fight the COVID-19 global pandemic, the drug situation at both the international and regional level continues to evolve with risks remaining as high as ever. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the prevention and control of illicit drugs within ASEAN countries. It is therefore suitable for ASEAN's response to this issue to also be fiercer in nature. Hence, ASEAN has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to drugs.

Given the situation, it is paramount for all AIPA Parliamentarian Members to gather, discuss, resolve and find ways to battle these ever-growing challenges. Cambodia applauds the collective effort and initiative of all AIPA Colleagues in making this meeting a success.

Today, we have been sharing valuable information on our respective countries latest development on said subject and have also discussed at length, our support for the “Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges towards Drug-Free ASEAN” Resolution. It is not only our greatest desire, but our social responsibility as community leaders to ensure a “Drug-Free ASEAN Community”. The journey may be long and challenging, but perseverance and unity must be central to our purpose.

We are hopeful that the endeavor to develop and distribute vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and for ASEAN to emerge stronger will reach a successful conclusion. Cambodia is honored to be ASEAN's Chair in 2022. Preparation and contingencies will be at hand for either a virtual or physical convening for the 5th AIPACODD Meeting next year.

I wish you all stay safe and hope to see you all again next year.

Thank you!