



The Second General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians'
Association for Information Technology -IPA IT II
17-19 May 2004, Conrad Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

IPA IT 2/2004/DAILY 01

Summary of the Meeting of
the Preparatory Committee of the Second General Assembly of the International
Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology
(IPA IT II)

On Sunday 16 May 2004

15.00-17.00 hrs.

New York Room I-II, Conrad Bangkok Hotel

List of the Preparatory Committee members participating in the meeting

- H.E. Mr.Suchon CHALEEKURE	Chairman (Thailand)
- Ms.Supasinee KHAMASUNDARA	Secretary (Thailand)
- Hon.Mrs.D'HONDT Greta	Belgium
- Hon.Mr.TADIC Tonci	Croatia
- Hon.Mr.Jyrki KASVI	Finland
- Hon. Mr. OH Kyeong Hoon	Korea
- Mr.SHIN Moon Keun	Korea
- Hon. Mr.Krzysztof OKSIUTA	Poland
- Hon. Mr.NICOLAESCU Ioan	Romania
- Ms.BADEA Adriana	Romania
- Hon. Mr.Wiboon SHAMSHUEN	Thailand
- Hon. Mr.Pridi HIRANPRUEK	Thailand

The Chairman, Mr.Suchon CHALEEKURE welcomed, the delegates. He noted that the purpose of the Preparatory Meeting was to review the plan for the Second IPA IT General Assembly, the meetings to be held, discussion topics, and the documents to be produced.

It was explained by the Chairman that the membership of the current Preparatory Committee for IPA IT II is comprised of delegates from the 16 member countries that attended IPA IT I in Korea. The chairman then proposed the following items on the agenda to be covered during the meeting:

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda of the Preparatory Committee Meeting for IPAIT II
- 2) Establishment of the Steering Committee for IPAIT II
- 3) Adoption of the Draft Program of Activities of IPAIT II
- 4) Adoption of the Draft Program of the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly of IPAIT II (17 May 2004)
- 5) Adoption of the Draft Program of the Second Plenary Session of the General Assembly of IPAIT II (18 May 2004)
- 6) Adoption of the Draft Program of the Third Plenary Session of the General Assembly of IPAIT II (19 May 2004)
- 7) Approval of the setting up of panels for discussion and committees for IPAIT II
- 8) Approval of new member countries of IPAIT
- 9) Appointments of chairpersons and rapporteurs for panels discussions and committees for IPAIT II
- 10) Admission of observers to IPAIT II
- 11) Admission of non-IPAIT participants to IPAIT II
- 12) Decision on the next host country for the Third IPAIT General Assembly
- 13) Other business

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the Preparatory Committee Meeting for IPAIT II

1.1 Delegates agreed to adopt the agenda of the Preparatory Committee Meeting, as described by the Secretary.

2. Establishment of the Steering Committee for IPAIT II

2.1 Thailand, as the host country of IPAIT II, proposed that a steering committee for IPAIT II be formed to replace the current Preparatory Committee, in accordance with Article 13 of The IPAIT Charter. The meeting agreed. According to the Charter, then, this decision to set up a Steering Committee and its composition will be reviewed and approved by the General Assembly in the first Plenary Session of the General Assembly on Monday.

3. Adoption of the Draft Program of Activities of IPAIT II

3.1 The Draft program was distributed to all delegates for consideration. The delegates approved the draft program.

3.2 The delegate from Philippines noted that there has been no follow-up on whether recommendations of the first IPAIT General Assembly have been implemented, and he proposed that a body with an oversight function be set up to look into this.

The Secretary explained that it is within the authority of the General Assembly to consider this proposal and the delegate from the Philippines agreed that he could raise this point at a later stage of the Assembly.

3.3 The delegate from Thailand, Mr. Wiboon, suggested that improvement of communication and contacts among the IPAIT members both at personal and organizational level would be crucial in addressing issues such as the above and enable members to be aware of the status of projects that have been initiated at Assembly meetings on a continuing basis. This could be facilitated by, to give an example, websites of Parliaments done on a bilingual basis so members can keep up to date and increase communications.

4. Adoption of draft programs of the three plenary sessions of the General Assembly of IPAIT II

4.1 The Secretary summarized the proposed content of IPAIT II General Assembly for the meeting's consideration. Key topics include: Consideration and approval of the Preparatory Committee meeting results, the election of a new president and vice president of IPAIT II, the presentation of country reports, four panel discussions to look into sub-topics of e-Parliament in more detail, consideration of a Bangkok Declaration setting forth a plan of activities for IPAIT, and consideration of a Joint Communiqué to be issued at the conclusion of the General Assembly.

The meeting approved the draft program.

5. On the setting up of two drafting committees for the Bangkok Declaration and the Joint Communiqué

5.1 Discussion was focused on the composition of the two drafting committees and their procedures for work.

5.2 After discussion, the Preparatory Meeting approved that the drafting committees be comprised of members of IPAIT and those drafts of both committees be submitted first

for review by the Steering Committee, and then submitted to the Third Plenary Session of the General Assembly on Wednesday for consideration and final adoption. It was noted that this was the pattern used in the IPAIT I General Assembly.

6. The Approval of new member countries of IPAIT

6.1 The Secretary informed the meeting that panel discussions, committees, and General Assemblies of IPAIT II will be attended by both IPAIT members as well as members of IPU (International Parliamentary Union) who are not members of IPAIT. There are about 8 such IPU members attending.

6.2 Discussion followed on the possibility of admitting these IPU members to IPAIT membership if they so wish it. While there is, according to the IPAIT Charter, a requirement that proposal for admission of new members must be done sixty days prior to the date of a General Assembly, the Secretary noted that it is within the authority of the Steering Committee to propose waiver of this rule to the General Assembly, in the interest of expanding membership of IPAIT. New members so admitted will be able to participate fully in the General Assembly activities.

6.3 The meeting agreed to let the General Assembly consider waiver of this ruling so IPU members attending could become IPAIT members if they so wish and participate in the Assembly.

7. Composition of discussion panels and drafting committees

7.1 The Thai delegate, Mr. Wiboon, noted that as host country Thailand will chair the four discussion panels and the two drafting committees. But in the interest of fairness and of enhancing participation and involvement in these major activities of IPAIT II, each panel discussion and committee should have an additional co-chairperson. The co-chairpersons should be recruited on a voluntary basis.

7.2 The meeting asked for nominations and volunteers from the committee. The following names were accepted by the committee for submission to the General Assembly for approval:

- 1) The Panel Discussion on e-parliament will be co-chaired by the delegate from Finland.

- 2) The Panel Discussion on e-government will be co-chaired by the delegate from Croatia.
- 3) The Panel Discussion on e-education and e-society will be co-chaired by the delegate from the Philippines.
- 4) The Drafting Committee on Joint Communiqué will be co-chaired by the delegate from Romania.

As there were no volunteers for co-chairperson of the Drafting Committee of the Bangkok Declaration, and for the Panel Discussion on e-Commerce and e-Industry, the meeting asked the Secretary to proceed in seeking co-chairpersons on a voluntary basis.

8. On Observers to IPAIT II

8.1 The Secretary has prepared a list of non-IPAIT participants to be submitted to the first Plenary Session of the General Assembly for approval. The list is comprised of:

- 1) Members of the Diplomatic staff of IPAIT countries stationed in Thailand and designated by their national parliaments to represent them at IPAIT II. They would have participant status with speaking rights, and voting rights.
- 2) Members of the Diplomatic staff attached to the Parliamentary delegations to IPAIT II as advisor. They would not have speaking or voting rights.
- 3) Members of the Diplomatic Corps in Thailand attending IPAIT II in general. They would have Diplomatic Corps status with no speaking and voting rights
- 4) List of representatives from government agencies, universities and private organizations in Thailand. They would have visitor status with no speaking right and voting rights

These lists will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval tomorrow.

9. The Next Host Country for the Third IPAIT General Assembly

9.1 The Secretary informed the meeting that at this time, no country has informed the Secretariat of its intention to host the third IPAIT General Assembly. The Chairman encouraged delegates to consult with their delegations on the possibility of hosting IPAIT III.

9.2 Mr. Wiboon, the Thai delegate, noted that it is a policy of IPAIT that the venue of the Assembly should rotate among continents in so far as possible, and raised the possibility that the next assembly might be held in a non- Asia continent, as the past this and the first Assembly were held in Asia. Tunisia was suggested by Mr. Wiboon in light of the fact that next year the World Summit on Information Society will be held in Tunisia, so holding the next Assembly at the same time and place would have great benefits to IPAIT.

9.3 The Chairperson concluded that this matter should be discussed in the General Assembly tomorrow when all delegates are present. The meeting agreed.

10. Other Business

There were no other matters under this heading.

The meeting adjourned at 17.00 hours.
