

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary-General



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**H.E. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco,
Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Republic of the Philippines**

Excellency,

It is a great pleasure for me to extend my sincere congratulation on your election as the new Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines.

As you are well aware, Parliament of the Philippines has played a pivotal role in creating the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA). In fact, the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, as co-founder and forerunner of the APA has recorded a cornerstone achievement in the history of parliamentary diplomacy in Asia.

It is over one decade since birth of this regional parliamentary body. During this period the APA Secretariat has spared no efforts to work for realization of the goals envisioned by the founders of this large community of parliamentarians. Furthermore, my colleagues and I at the Secretariat have wholeheartedly tried to pave necessary grounds to bring APA into an Asia-wide Organization as expected by its founders.

I am confident that our inspirations will not come true unless with unreserved support and cooperation of all the members. Much to our regret, implementation of our programs has been recently slowed down due to the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19. I hope with the containment of the pandemic and its eradication, we can follow our programs as planned. We look forward to further fruitful cooperation of your parliament under your leadership as before.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Best Regards

**Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General**