

President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives, had a bilateral meeting with Rt. Hon. Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament to continue the cooperation via video conference

30 June 2020



On Tuesday 30 June 2020, at 12.00 hrs., at Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, 3rd floor, Parliament Building, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives, had a bilateral meeting with Rt. Hon. Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives to continue the cooperation between the two parliaments and discuss the postponement of a visit to Thailand in April 2020, due to the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) via video conference. H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly was pleased to welcome Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives to visit Thailand and praised for COVID-19 situation management of New Zealand. H.E. Mr. Chuan said that the current situation in Thailand was improved and experiences of both countries should be shared to be a guideline for protecting and solving COVID-19 or other diseases that might occur in the future. In terms of the educational cooperation, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai also said that New Zealand has been destination for Thai students to study English language because of the education quality and the reasonable cost comparing with other countries in Europe. In the matter of parliamentary relations, both countries have established Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group to strengthen relationships among Members of the two Parliaments through exchange visits and bilateral meetings. On the occasion of the 30th Annual Meeting of Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Thailand in 2022, the President of the National Assembly invited members of the New Zealand Parliament to attend the meeting.

Rt. Hon. Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives, said a thank you for the discussion on many matters such as both countries' management measures for the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019, education promotion, the APEC meeting which will be held in New Zealand in 2021 via the video conference and the election of New Zealand in September 2020 and when the COVID-19 situation decline, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Zealand will pay a visit Thailand to strengthen relationships. Finally, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly, said that the economic cooperation with mutual free trade agreement caused an increase in Thai fruits exports, and will give durians, the king of fruits, Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives through diplomatic channel.