



THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 42nd ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY
International Convention Centre
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
23rd – 25th August 202



Theme: Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion towards ASEAN Community 2025

(Res.42GA/2021/Eco/01)

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
THROUGH PROMOTING DIGITALISATION OF MSMEs**

(proposed by Brunei Darussalam)

The 42nd General Assembly:

PP1. Calling AIPA Resolution RES.40GA/2019/ECO/03 on “Resolution on Improving Digital Connectivity to Support the Growth of MSMEs”, adopted at the 40th AIPA General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand highlights the importance of having digital connectivity as one of the contributing factors to the rise of MSMEs.

PP2. Reiterating AIPA resolution RES.39GA/2018/ECON/02 on “Promoting Innovation and E-Commerce in ASEAN”, adopted on the 39th AIPA General Assembly in Singapore that acknowledges the need to address opportunities and challenges offered by the revolution in information and communication technology (ICT) and electronic commerce (e-Commerce);

PP3. Recognizing AIPA Resolution RES.39GA/2018/Econ/03 on “Resolution on Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN”, adopted at the 39th AIPA General Assembly in Singapore which highlights the importance of international trade to stimulate economic growth, as well as the emergence of digital economy in factoring to economic integration;

PP4. Acknowledging the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 which aims to create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would support sustained high economic growth and resilience even during global economic shocks and volatilities as well as to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable and transformative and to further leverage ICT to enable an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN;

PP5. Emphasizing the importance of MSMEs as the backbone of ASEAN’s diverse and dynamic economy that contributes significantly to economic growth even when MSMEs are still left behind in terms of digital connectivity and hence, supporting the digitalization of MSMEs is important to avoid negative impact to MSMEs businesses that could further hinder the growth of ASEAN economy;

PP6. Supporting the development on MSMEs capabilities and networking, including to promote MSME digital upskilling to encourage the usage of digital technologies

which will enable them to achieve significant uplift in productivity; efficiency; and market expansion within the region; as identified in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and the ASEAN Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2016-2025. Thus increasing the ability of rural micro-entrepreneurs and the informal sectors to grow their businesses by utilizing ICT tools and online markets;

PP7. Affirming the importance of advancing ASEAN's digital economy in deepening ASEAN economic integration, aiding to ASEAN's efforts towards economic recovery, and in enhancing ASEAN's readiness to respond to future challenges;

Hereby resolves to:

OP1. Coordinate actions that AIPA shall assist ASEAN Member states to accelerate digital integration through effective prioritisation, coordination and tracking across different objectives and timelines. The massive use of digital technologies is fundamental way for businesses to operate and interact required by MSMEs to improve digital connectivity;

OP2. Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen their governments to provide financial support and work with business sector to support the regional digital trade connectivity initiated by ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) which will help to increase ASEAN trade and support the development of MSMEs;

OP3. Empower the partnership among ASEAN Member States and Member Parliaments to promote excellence, innovation and productivity; facilitate and enhance market access and internationalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); promote entrepreneurship and human capital development to create a thriving economic environment in ASEAN;

Adopted on the ___ day of August 2021 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.