



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report of the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus *Pages 1-20*

<u>Annexes</u>	<u>Documents</u>	<u>Page Nos</u>
Annex A	List of Delegations	A1 to A3
Annex B1	Opening Address by President of AIPA and Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore Mr Tan Chuan-Jin	B1-1 to B1-2
Annex B2	Welcome Remarks by Secretary-General of AIPA Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van	B2-1 to B2-2
Annex C	Programme of Activities for 12th AIPA Caucus	C1 to C2
Annex D	Agenda Items for 12th AIPA Caucus	D1
Annex E	Country Reports for Discussion Topic: Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity	E1-1 to E10-2
Annex F	Summary Tables for Discussion Topic: Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity	F1-1 to F10-2
Annex G	Country Reports for Discussion Topic: Status of Implementation of 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions	G1-1 to G10-5
Annex H	Summary Tables for Discussion Topic: Status of Implementation of 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions	H1-1 to H10-5
Annex I	Announcement by Host of 13th AIPA Caucus and Head of Delegation for Thailand, Mrs Pikulkaew Krairiksh	I1



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**REPORT OF THE
12TH AIPA CAUCUS**

INTRODUCTION

The 12th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus, hosted by the Parliament of Singapore, met on Wednesday, 16 June 2021, via videoconference.

- 2 The main agenda items of the 12th AIPA Caucus were:
- (a) discussion on the topic “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”; and
 - (b) consideration of the progress made by each AIPA Parliament on the implementation of the 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions.

LIST OF DELEGATIONS

3 The 12th AIPA Caucus was attended by about 50 delegates consisting of Members of Parliament and staff from nine AIPA Parliaments, observers from Myanmar, staff from the AIPA Secretariat led by the Secretary-General of AIPA and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The List of Delegations is appended as *Annex A*.

OFFICIAL OPENING

Opening Address by Speaker of Parliament of Singapore

4 The Official Opening ceremony of the 12th AIPA Caucus commenced on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 9.30 am (GMT +8), with the Opening Address by the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, who indicated he was heartened that despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, AIPA parliamentarians were still meeting to engage one another, albeit virtually. He believed that the AIPA Caucus

remained an important forum to discuss issues that were significant to ASEAN and to propose areas of cooperation.

5 Mr Tan also described the 12th AIPA Caucus' discussion topic of "Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity" as timely, given that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Suez Canal blockage earlier in the year have caused severe disruptions to trade connectivity and supply chains, and have emphasized the need for countries to be prepared for the next unexpected event.

6 Noting that the ASEAN grouping had recognised the importance of supply chain resilience and trade connectivity in the region early, Mr Tan said its efforts, including the adoption of the "Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in June 2020, have helped support the unimpeded cross-border flow of essential products.

7 Mr Tan urged the meeting's participants to support ASEAN's endeavours as he was sure that AIPA parliamentarians' efforts would contribute to the creation of a more resilient and innovative ASEAN to best serve its people and in the worst of times. Following the Opening Address, Mr Tan declared the 12th AIPA Caucus open. The full text of the Opening Address by Mr Tan is appended as *Annex B1*.

Appointment of Chairperson of 12th AIPA Caucus

8 Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, Speaker Tan appointed Mr Lim Biow Chuan, Member of the Parliament of Singapore, as Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus.

9 Mr Lim thanked AIPA parliamentarians for their attendance at the 12th AIPA Caucus amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and said this reflected their strong commitment to work on common issues and take on challenges together. He also placed on record his thanks and appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its able chairmanship of ASEAN and

AIPA this year.

10 The Secretary-General of AIPA Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van spoke next and expressed her appreciation for AIPA parliamentarians' continued support of the various AIPA meetings, and also thanked the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore Mr Tan and his parliamentary colleagues for hosting the 12th AIPA Caucus.

11 Mrs Nguyen remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact globally, disrupting supply chains, ways of life and working norms. Amidst the challenges, Mrs Nguyen observed that ASEAN had reaffirmed its commitment to free trade within the international rules-based system, noting that this was vital to economic recovery and future growth. To this end, she applauded the relevance of the topic "Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity" and emphasized the significance of the AIPA Caucus as a forum for the region's parliamentarians to share best practices and effective responses in mitigating the pandemic's impact and strengthening economic resilience. The full text of Mrs Nguyen's remarks is found in *Annex B2*.

FIRST SESSION OF 12TH AIPA CAUCUS

12 At 9.41 am, Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim called the First Session to order.

Appointment of Deputy Chairperson and Secretary

13 Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus which state that the Chairperson shall appoint a Deputy Chairperson and in accordance with the AIPA tradition of having the Deputy Chairperson of AIPA meetings to be from the next host Parliament, Mr Lim informed the meeting that Member of the Senate of Thailand and Head of Delegation for Thailand Mrs Pikulkaew Krairiksh would be the Deputy Chairman of the 12th AIPA Caucus. Mr Lim also informed the meeting that the Secretary-General of AIPA Mrs Nguyen would serve as the Secretary of the 12th AIPA Caucus, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus.

Introduction of Delegations

14 Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim then called on each Delegation to introduce their members. Thereafter, Mr Lim informed delegates that the meeting has an observer delegation from Myanmar, comprising four representatives.

Discussion and Approval of Programme of Activities and Agenda

15 The meeting went on to discuss and approve the Programme of Activities and Agenda Items for the 12th AIPA Caucus. The approved Programme of Activities and Agenda Items are appended as *Annex C* and *Annex D* respectively.

Presentation of Country Reports on “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”

16 Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim next invited AIPA Caucus Delegations to present their respective Country Reports on the discussion topic “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”.

17 The following paragraphs summarise the Country Reports. The full Country Reports and accompanying Summary Tables for “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity” are appended as *Annex E* and *Annex F*.

Brunei Darussalam

18 Brunei Darussalam had been planning to diversify its economy away from oil and gas and the COVID-19 pandemic had emphasized the need for Brunei Darussalam to produce essential food supplies locally, invest in and adopt energy-efficient technologies and seek new business opportunities in growing the “green” economy. To this end, Brunei Darussalam launched the Brunei Economic Blueprint in January 2021, which set out guidelines for the country to develop a dynamic and sustainable economy.

19 In line with efforts to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhance the trade

connectivity across the ASEAN region, the government of Brunei Darussalam implemented the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) System as Brunei Darussalam's linkage to the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). The initiative would expedite cargo clearance within the context of increased ASEAN economic integration. The BDNSW System would operate a Single Electronic Window for customs clearance of traded goods, thus creating a single point for the submission of standardised information and documents that meet legal import, export and customs-transit requirements.

20 Regionally, Brunei Darussalam joined 14 other Asia-Pacific countries in November 2020 to form the world's largest trading bloc, when it signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, a move which further signified Brunei's commitment to enhance trade relations and flows.

21 Brunei Darussalam has also supported efforts to strengthen supply chains and enhance trade connectivity in the region, through its commitment to open trade policies with its regional and global partners.

Cambodia

22 Cambodia had enjoyed economic growth of around 7.2% per annum and acknowledged that at the forefront of this remarkable growth is trade. To ensure the country would continue on a sustainable growth path, Cambodia has formulated policy decisions to support regional integration, the completion of potential bilateral FTAs and the joining of other cooperation platforms. With the advent of digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Cambodia has planned to diversify and leverage opportunities in new growth sectors, especially in the skills-oriented industries, emerging digital economy and services sector and harnessing the power of e-commerce.

23 There had been progress and achievements in efforts to accelerate economic diversification since the implementation of the Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy Update (CTISU) 2014. The country has thus begun to look into implementing objectives set out in the CTISU 2019-2023 roadmap. To clear remaining bottlenecks in the business and trading environment, Cambodia would do more to improve the investment climate and

reduce the cost of doing business in the country, for example, by making energy prices more competitive and lowering costs for logistics.

24 As for supporting regional integration, Cambodia has made efforts at improving trade facilitation, including:

- (a) implementing reforms to the export-import processes;
- (b) increasing the use of info-communications technologies (ICT) and the computerisation of the customs management system ASYCUDA;
- (c) moving towards paperless export procedures and company registration;
- (d) automating and digitalising key trade processes for their inclusion in the Cambodia National Single Window (CNSW) and the ASEAN Single Window (ASW).

25 Moving forward, Cambodia looked forward to supporting the implementation of ASEAN-wide integration initiatives that, in particular: (a) promote small and medium-sized enterprises and create new businesses based on technological innovations, (b) promote cooperation between the private and public sectors under the framework for the digital economy, and (c) develop human resources and deepen digital professional skills.

Indonesia

26 Experience gained from tackling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced Indonesia's commitment to efforts to prepare countries for exceptional shocks that affect cross-border supply chains within the country and in the region.

27 Within the country, steps have been taken to enhance Indonesia's logistics ecosystem and infrastructure. For example, Presidential Regulation No. 26 of 2012 contains a blueprint for the development of the National Logistics System in order to reduce transportation costs; while Presidential Instruction No. 5 of 2020 gives the mandate to strengthen the National Logistics Ecosystem to synchronize the flow of goods and documents for export/import, from the point of arrival to the point of storage in the hinterland.

28 Meanwhile, the National Medium-Term Development Plan of 2020-2024 has

identified infrastructure development as a national priority for the government of Indonesia, and consequently, legislation and regulations have been implemented to support the construction supply chain by streamlining it with the National Logistics System.

29 As one of the founding members of ASEAN, Indonesia expressed its commitment to regional economic integration. To strengthen supply chain resilience and trade connectivity, Indonesia would continue to pursue various actions and policy initiatives, including:

- (a) implementing the Hanoi POA and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF);
- (b) implementing the Omnibus Law on Job Creation, which was passed in October 2020. The Omnibus Law is meant to attract investments, create jobs and stimulate the economy by simplifying licensing processes, harmonising laws and regulations, increasing the ease of doing business and accelerating the government's responses to global challenges;
- (c) pursuing Free Trade Agreements/ Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements to diversify suppliers and production sources;
- (d) implementing the Indonesia National Single Window through the use of electronic form and signatures and applying electronic Certificate of Origin form D to all ASEAN Member States; and
- (e) promoting digitalisation, e-commerce and digital marketing platforms.

Lao PDR

30 The National Assembly of Lao PDR has reached consensus with the government on the country's ninth Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9th NSEDP) 2021-2025, which will, amongst other things, strengthen supply chain resilience and enhance trade connectivity. Lao PDR added that the anticipated recovery would be supported by investment in infrastructure and growth in services, exports, as well as private consumption. However, risks are tilted heavily to the downside, as unpredictable evolution of the pandemic and therefore its threats to macroeconomic stability could delay the resumption of regular economic activity. Under the downside scenario, which assumes some of these risks are realised, the growth rate is estimated to rebound to only 2.8% in

2021. Lao PDR was certain that all ASEAN State Members were now taking the necessary measures to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhancing trade connectivity in their respective countries. Lao PDR said trade-offs could be overcome via effective utilisation of technologies.

31 The six targets to be worked on are as follows:

- (a) ensure the steady growth of the country's economy with the focus on quality and sustainability;
- (b) develop higher quality of human resources with the focus on building research ability and applying scientific and technological advances to increase efficiency and create added value in production and services;
- (c) improve the well-being of the Lao PDR people;
- (d) protect the environment and reduce the risk of natural disasters;
- (e) build strong infrastructures, participate in joint processes and seek integration with the region and the international community; and
- (f) continue to ensure that the state administration focuses on creating an equal and fair society, protected by the rule of law.

32 Lao PDR reported that 25 major plans/strategies and measures have been formulated to ensure that the initiatives announced are actionable, implementable and would be achieved according to set targets. The anticipated recovery will be supported by investment in infrastructure, and growth in services, exports, and private consumption. However, risks are tilted heavily to the downside, as unpredictable evolution of the pandemic and therefore its threats to macroeconomic stability could delay the resumption of regular economic activity. Under the downside scenario, which assumes some of these risks are realized, the growth rate is estimated to rebound to only 2.8 percent in 2021. I am certain that all ASEAN State Members are now taking the necessary measure to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhancing trade connectivity in their country. Supply Chains may be trade-off but it may be overcome via effective utilisation of technologies

Malaysia

33 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to supply chains and economic

development and integration. Malaysia, as a country that depends heavily on trade, has announced and implemented several initiatives to strengthen the supply chain resilience and enhance trade connectivity within Malaysia and in the region.

34 For strengthening supply chain resilience, Malaysia has planned to improve the efficiency of the country's clearance processes by authorised agencies in order to shorten the clearance time and attract importers and exporters, and be on par with practices in other advanced countries. In addition to building up its own transport infrastructure and support services, Malaysia's government will, through Budget 2021's JANA NIAGA initiatives, provide RM300 million to drive the national supply chain finance platform. Through the National Digital Network (Jendela), Malaysia has also planned to enhance communication capabilities and promote e-commerce within the country over the next five years with various upskilling programmes such as Penjana, Go-eCommerce and Shop Malaysia online campaign.

35 Malaysia has participated and continues to participate in ASEAN-wide initiatives, including:

- (a) the ASEAN Work Plan for Enhancing Global Value Chain (GVC) Agenda (2016-2025); and
- (b) the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework which seeks to maximise the potential of intra-ASEAN market, broaden economic integration and establish ASEAN as a competitive market.

36 Malaysia's plans to enhance trade connectivity have been aimed, first, at building strength in its own industries through key programmes such as the National Policy on Industry 4.0 (Industry4WRD) and the MyDigital initiative. In support of ASEAN trade connectivity efforts, Malaysia has pledged its commitment to:

- (a) expediting its domestic processes to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement by 2022;
- (b) the aims of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 which supports sustainable economic development and enhances regional connectivity;
- (c) the goals of the MOU on the Implementation of Non-Tariff Measures on Essential

Goods under the Hanoi POA.

Myanmar

37 The observer delegation from Myanmar had submitted a Country Report and Summary Table on “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”, prior to the commencement of the 12th AIPA Caucus meeting. In accordance with AIPA Caucus conventions, the following paragraphs summarise Myanmar’s submissions.

38 Myanmar has adhered to the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) implementation plan, which covers broad strategies such as Enhancing Health Systems, Strengthening Human Security and Accelerating Inclusive Digitalisation. Myanmar has also been operationalising the Hanoi POA, the plan adopted at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in June 2020.

39 With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar has undertaken a two-pronged approach in tackling the crisis: (a) mandating preventive and control measures; and (b) facilitating access by economic sectors damaged by the pandemic to assistance. Myanmar has responded to the crisis through its COVID-19 Fund and COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) which include measures for relief and resilient recovery. Additionally, the Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) has been drawn up and would focus on reforms in five areas: rules and regulations, financial, tax, trade and the digital economy.

40 In order to facilitate international trade and to harmonise customs procedures of World Customs Organization (WCO) members, the Revised Kyoto Convention had been entered into force in Myanmar on 2 January 2021, with Myanmar Customs undertaking the trade facilitation measures stated in agreements with WCO and with ASEAN.

Philippines

41 Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine government marshalled its first responders to ensure the safety of the public and restricted access through the country’s territorial borders. Still, the contagion overwhelmed healthcare facilities and crippled the

economy, and trade supply lines were suddenly disrupted.

42 The quick and decisive action by the Philippine Congress and the Executive Branch of the government resulted in the implementation of countermeasures to arrest and mitigate the social and economic devastation. Measures include the enactment of Republic Act No. 11469, or the “Bayanihan To Heal as One Act”. Among the help extended were cash assistance for families and individuals affected by the community quarantine, healthcare services for COVID-19 patients, social amelioration assistance and other safety nets for affected industries. Meanwhile, Republic Act No. 11494, or the “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act”, was also passed by Congress to provide an anchor for the government’s socio-economic recovery programme.

43 The Philippines has been mindful that the battle to overcome the current unprecedented crisis is far from over and that it is imperative for ASEAN nations to stand united. To this end, the Philippines, in pursuit of the rehabilitation and recovery of trade supply chains, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, which would complement the country’s domestic initiatives aimed at reforming trade and investment practices, enhancing the country’s investment regime and bringing about the resurgence of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, as well as the recovery of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which had been one of the hardest hit sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

44 The Philippines has also worked to enhance intra-regional connectivity through improved physical, institutional, digital and people-to-people linkages, and has supported targets of ASEAN-wide plans and initiatives such as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) portal and the Hanoi POA.

Singapore

45 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding disruption of global supply chains, Singapore worked closely with ASEAN Member States and its Dialogue Partners on initiatives to express political commitment to maintain the continued flows of essential goods. A key development was the ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration issued in April

2020 which amongst other things, reaffirmed the importance of keeping ASEAN’s markets open for trade and investment; and tasked the ASEAN Economic Ministers to explore an arrangement to preserve supply chain connectivity for the flow of essential goods.

46 The region’s Economic Ministers at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in June 2020 adopted the Hanoi POA, which amongst other things, provides that the ASEAN Member States: (a) shall refrain from imposing unnecessary non-tariff measures (NTMs) during the COVID-19 pandemic; and (b) will promptly inform one another of any trade-related measure. The ASEAN Economic Ministers also signed the MOU on the Implementation of NTMs on Essential Goods, with an accompanying “early harvest” essential goods list of 152 product lines. Singapore has supported efforts to expand the “early harvest” list of essential goods to include food and agricultural items to further enhance supply chain resilience.

47 Singapore, as Chair of the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee, would also be driving ongoing efforts to expand the scope of the ASEAN Single Window to enhance the use and exchange of digitalised trade-related documents. In addition, Singapore along with five ASEAN Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam) officially implemented the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) in November 2020. Under ACTS, businesses can carry out their trucking operations in a single transit journey via a single truck, single customs declaration and a single banker’s guarantee. Businesses can thus enjoy time savings, cost reductions and better connectivity in moving goods via land, within the participating ASEAN Member States.

Thailand

48 As a committed ASEAN Member State, Thailand has actively implemented policies and actions to support supply chain resilience and trade connectivity in adherence with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, with emphasis on the following areas: (a) trade facilitation; and (b) reducing trade barriers in the region.

49 For the region, Thailand’s trade facilitation efforts have been focused on: (a) the ASEAN Single Window, (b) ASEAN-wide self-certification, (c) the ASEAN Mutual

Recognition Agreement and (d) the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). To reduce trade barriers, Thailand has been committed to keeping the smooth flow of essential goods in the region and has refrained from imposing unnecessary measures in compliance with the objectives stated in the Hanoi POA.

50 Thailand has also implemented initiatives within the country to support trade connectivity. It has set up an E-commerce Committee, consisting of both public and private stakeholders, to promote e-commerce in the country. In addition, Thailand has set up the National Electric Vehicle Policy Sub-Committees in 2021 to specifically stimulate growth of the electric vehicle industry.

51 Thailand remained supportive of exploring of possibilities to cooperate and facilitate trade connectivity regionally and globally, and stood ready to amend related policies and work on shared projects. It pledged its commitment to the achievement of objectives in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and other agreements on supply chain resilience and trade connectivity.

Vietnam

52 Vietnam made the observation that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed challenges facing the multilateral system and global governance. Coupled with the impact of climate change, digital transformation, rapid geopolitical changes and the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive growth, Vietnam said ASEAN's economic integration was now taking place in a different context compared to that in 2015 when the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint was approved.

53 Vietnam said ASEAN would need to focus on strengthening supply chains and promoting trade connectivity even as the grouping continued to work closely to jointly control and prevent the spread of the pandemic (especially cross-border transmission of the virus), boost vaccine purchase and vaccination, as well as strengthen cooperation in vaccine research and development.

54 To strengthen supply chain resilience and promote trade connectivity, the National

Assembly of Vietnam urged AIPA Member Parliaments to:

- (a) continue reviewing and completing legal frameworks that enable trade and investment facilitation, the regional flow of goods and unimpeded supply chains;
- (b) promote the ratification of regional trade agreements and strengthen parliamentary supervision with respect to the implementation of regional and international commitments on trade and investments;
- (c) establish new measures to promote bilateral trade relations and market promotion through virtual formats;
- (d) commit to keeping markets open and avoid imposing unnecessary tariff and non-tariff barriers;
- (e) seize opportunities of new-generation free trade agreements;
- (f) strengthen regional market development, build up complete supply chains for regional markets; and
- (g) take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to deal with economic slowdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASEAN Secretariat

55 Ms Julia Tijaja, Head of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate at the ASEAN Secretariat updated the meeting that over the last decade, ASEAN had been increasingly integrated into the regional and global supply chain. However, battled by external shocks such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions from climate change disasters, pressures on the multilateral trade system and the impact of digital technologies on trade, ASEAN's supply chain and trade connectivity have taken a hit. In 2020, ASEAN's trade in goods contracted 5.5% to US\$2.7 trillion, foreign direct investment (FDI) into ASEAN fell 24.5% to US\$137.3 billion. Further, the ASEAN economy had been estimated to contract 3.3% in 2020.

56 ASEAN has responded in the face of crisis with the following initiatives to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhance trade connectivity: (a) affirming commitment to keep markets open; and (b) signing the MOU on NTM Implementation on Essential Goods, with list of essential goods. It would also work on streamlining NTMs (non-tariff measures) with the NTM Toolkit, ex-ante methodology, the formation of an

independent NTM panel and improving notification procedures. In addition, ASEAN's ongoing Trade Facilitation Initiatives, such as the ASEAN Trade Repository, ASEAN Single Window, ASEAN Customs Transit System, ASEAN Wide-Self Certification Scheme, ASEAN Tariff Finder, would leverage on digital technology to improve efficiencies.

57 ASEAN also planned to continue working on general reviews and upgrades of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce, ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement and existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Furthermore, attention would be given to the development of the ASEAN Database on Trade Routes and Framework in order to enhance supply chain efficiency and resilience. Moving forward, ASEAN:

- (a) would continue with efforts to reduce trade transaction costs, address NTMs, roll out trade facilitation initiatives, leverage on digital technologies to extent possible;
- (b) pay particular attention to ensuring trade connectivity for essential goods;
- (c) strengthen trade cooperation in an open, inclusive, and rules-based regional and multilateral trading system, encourage better utilisation of FTAs and continue to review and upgrade or enhance FTAs and ASEAN own agreements; and
- (d) further future-proof the region's supply chains, including by developing hard and soft infrastructures, digital infrastructure, regulatory cooperation, better stakeholder engagement, human capital development, building resilience and sustainability into business strategy.

58 With these and various other efforts, the ASEAN economy would be expected to rebound by 4.4% in 2021 and 5.1% in 2022.

Discussion on National Initiatives and Possible Common Legislation on “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”

59 The meeting proceeded to discuss national initiatives presented and possible areas for common legislation.

60 Delegates commented on two points: (a) how a common set of standards or formula would accelerate and ensure sustainability in ASEAN's integration process; and (b) how rising costs, including increases in logistical costs, would impact or dampen ASEAN's economic recovery.

61 Responding to the comment on standards, ASEAN Secretariat's Ms Tijaja pointed to the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, Key Priority 3C, which contains at least four specific initiatives related to standards. Ms Tijaja commented that this highlighted that ASEAN's work on the harmonisation on standards needed to include essential goods and should be done in tandem with the ongoing work to expand the list of essential goods. Ms Tijaja also highlighted the preparatory work being done to implement the ASEAN Medical Device Directive, where standards have been set for a high level of harmonisation. She updated that seven ASEAN Member States have so far ratified the Directive.

62 In general, Ms Tijaja assured the meeting that reviews of ASEAN standards have been expanded to take into consideration major emerging issues. She said, for example, the ASEAN Consultation Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) had started work to draft Digital Trade Standards, which would become more important as ASEAN moved increasingly into cross-border digital trade.

63 Finally, on rising costs, Ms Tijaja agreed that the current COVID-19 pandemic had indeed highlighted that the lower-income or most vulnerable groups would bear a disproportionate burden of rising costs in the region.

64 There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 11.35 am to 11.45 am.

SECOND SESSION OF 12TH AIPA CAUCUS

65 Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim called the Second Session to order on Wednesday, 16 June 2021, at 11.45 am.

Presentation of Country Reports on Status of Implementation of Resolutions Adopted during 41st AIPA General Assembly

66 The AIPA Caucus Delegations were then invited to present their respective Country Reports on the “Status of Implementation of the Resolutions adopted during the 41st AIPA General Assembly”.

67 Under Political Matters, the 41st AIPA General Assembly adopted six Resolutions on the adoption of the 9th, 10th and 11th AIPA Caucus Reports, and the 30th, 34th and 36th ASEAN-AIPA Interface Reports. Status of Implementation update is not required for Resolutions on adoption of Reports.

68 Under Economic Matters, the 41st AIPA General Assembly adopted one Resolution on “The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19” for Status of Implementation update at the 12th AIPA Caucus.

69 Under Social Matters, the 41st AIPA General Assembly adopted three Resolutions, including the Resolution on “Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19” for Status of Implementation update at the 12th AIPA Caucus.

70 Under WAIPA Matters, the 41st AIPA General Assembly adopted one Resolution on “The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers” for Status of Implementation update at the 12th AIPA Caucus.

71 Nine of the 12th AIPA Caucus Delegations presented their updates at the meeting. The Country Report submitted by Myanmar will be included in the 12th AIPA Caucus Report. The 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions have been substantially implemented in various forms, including: (a) incorporation into legal and governance policy frameworks; (b) incorporation into programme, capacity-building and institutional development at every level including at the constituency, local and central government,

and parliamentary levels; (c) incorporation into future-planning scenarios and reviews; and (d) information sharing with relevant organisations and government ministries or departments. The relevant government ministries or departments of ASEAN Member States have also been involved in executing the implementation of adopted resolutions.

72 The full Country Reports and accompanying Summary Tables for “Status of Implementation of the Resolutions adopted during the 41st AIPA General Assembly” are appended as *Annex G* and *Annex H*.

73 There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned from 1.00 pm till 2.30 pm.

THIRD SESSION OF 12TH AIPA CAUCUS

74 Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim called the Third Session to order on Wednesday, 16 June 2021, at 2.30 pm.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of 12th AIPA Caucus

75 Mr Lim invited the Secretary-General of AIPA Mrs Nguyen to present the draft Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus. Mrs Nguyen thanked delegates for a fruitful meeting and said she believed the Report had captured the discussions. She said an observer delegation from Myanmar had joined the meeting and that the submitted reports from this delegation would be included in the 12th AIPA Caucus Report, in accordance with AIPA Caucus conventions.

76 Thereafter, the meeting considered and adopted the Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus. Upon the adoption of the Report, Heads of the 12th AIPA Caucus Delegations put their signatures to the Report, via videoconference. The 12th AIPA Caucus Report will be presented to the 42nd AIPA General Assembly in August 2021.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Announcement by Host of 13th AIPA Caucus

77 The meeting proceeded to the Closing Ceremony, with Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim inviting the Head of Delegation of Thailand Mrs Pikulkaew Krairiksh to make a short announcement.

78 Mrs Krairiksh said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic and social developments in AIPA countries had been severely affected. For the sake of the citizens of ASEAN, Mrs Krairiksh urged AIPA parliamentarians to continue to work closely to strengthen inter-parliamentary partnership and to ensure our governments' policies would truly reflect the voices of the people to get their lives back on track after the pandemic.

79 To enable continuity in engagement and discussions between AIPA parliamentarians, Mrs Krairiksh informed delegates that Thailand would host the 13th AIPA Caucus and pledged that the National Assembly of Thailand would work side by side with AIPA colleagues to ensure the results of the 13th AIPA Caucus would bring benefits to the people of ASEAN. The full text of the Remarks by Mrs Krairiksh is appended as *Annex I*.

Closing Address by Chairperson of 12th AIPA Caucus

80 In his closing remarks, Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus Mr Lim noted that the global battle against COVID-19 was not yet over and thus, urged AIPA parliamentarians to do their best to ensure the continued flow of essential goods and supplies, and that trade connectivity in the region remained resilient. He said this would help the people in our region emerge stronger and more united.

81 Mr Lim also expressed his appreciation to participants for their important contributions to the discussions and placed on record his thanks to the Secretary-General of AIPA, and staff at the AIPA Secretariat and the host secretariat, the Parliament of

Singapore, who have worked quietly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the meeting.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

Done on the Sixteenth day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-one:

For Majlis Mesyuarat Negara
(Brunei Darussalam)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nik Hafimi', written over a horizontal line.

MRS NIK HAFIMI BINTI ABDUL HAADII

For the Parliament of the Kingdom of
Cambodia
(Cambodia)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nim Chantara', written over a horizontal line.

MR NIM CHANTARA

For Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat
(Indonesia)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Putu Supadma Rudana', written over a horizontal line.

MR PUTU SUPADMA RUDANA

For Sapha Heng Xat
(Lao PDR)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanya Praseuth', written over a horizontal line.

MR SANYA PRASEUTH

For Dewan Rakyat
(Malaysia)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rohani', written over a horizontal line.

DATO SRI HAJAH ROHANI ABDUL KARIM

For the Congress of the Philippines
(Philippines)



JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO

For the Parliament of Singapore
(Singapore)



MR EDWARD CHIA

For the National Assembly of Thailand
(Thailand)

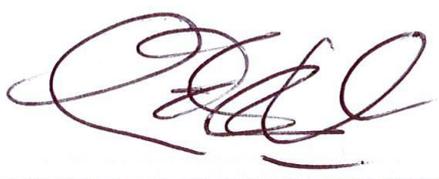


MRS PIKULKAEW KRAIRIKSH

For the National Assembly of Vietnam
(Vietnam)



MR VU HAI HA



MR LIM BIOW CHUAN
Chairperson of the Twelfth Meeting of AIPA Caucus
(Singapore)



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

LIST OF DELEGATIONS

12th AIPA Caucus

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Mr Lim Biow Chuan | Chairperson |
| 2 | Mrs Pikulkaew Krairiksh | Deputy Chairperson |
| 3 | Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van | Secretary |

Brunei Darussalam

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Mrs Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii | Head of Delegation |
| 2 | Mr Ong Tiong Oh | Member of Delegation |
| 3 | Mr Awang Haji Emran bin Haji Sabtu | Member of Delegation |
| 4 | Pehin Dato Haji Judin bin Haji Asar | Member of Delegation |
| 5 | Ms Rose Aminah Haji Ismail | Delegation Secretary |

Cambodia

- | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Mr Nim Chantara | Head of Delegation |
| 2 | Mr Ouk Damry | Member of Delegation |
| 3 | Mrs Mak Vansitha | Member of Delegation |
| 4 | Mr Srun Dara | Delegation Secretary |

Indonesia

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Mr Putu Supadma Rudana | Head of Delegation |
| 2 | Mr Achmad Hafisz Tohir | Member of Delegation |
| 3 | Mr Didi Irawadi Syamsuddin | Member of Delegation |

Lao PDR

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Mr Sanya Praseuth | Head of Delegation |
| 2 | Mr Bounloume Keobouahome | Member of Delegation |
| 3 | Mr Khemphone Anothay | Advisor to Delegation |
| 4 | Ms Siriphone Southammavong | Delegation Secretary |

Malaysia

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Dato Sri Hajah Rohani Abdul Karim | Head of Delegation |
| 2 | Mr Nga Kor Ming | Member of Delegation |
| 3 | Mr Wong Chen | Member of Delegation |
| 4 | Mr Mohsin bin Abdul Malek | Delegation Secretary |

Myanmar (Observer)

1	Mr Sunn Linn	Observer
2	Dr Kyaw Thu Hein	Observer
3	Dr Pyae Sone Win	Observer
4	Mrs Khin Charm Myae Aung	Observer

Philippines

1	Mr John Reynald M. Tiangco	Head of Delegation
2	Dr Sandra Y. Eriguel	Member of Delegation
3	Mr Jose Enrique S. Garcia III	Member of Delegation
4	Mr Valentino R. Palanca	Delegation Secretary

Singapore

1	Mr Edward Chia	Head of Delegation
2	Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis	Member of Delegation
3	Ms Joey Chua	Delegation Secretary

Thailand

1	Mrs Pikulkaew Krairiksh	Head of Delegation
2	Mr Manoon Sivapiromrat	Member of Delegation
3	Mr Krisda Tanterdtit	Member of Delegation
4	Mr Natee Chiamcharoen	Delegation Secretary
5	Miss Isaraporn Prompriengpun	Asst Delegation Secretary

Vietnam

1	Mr Vu Hai Ha	Head of Delegation
2	Mr Nguyen Hoang Mai	Member of Delegation
3	Mr Don Tuan Phong	Member of Delegation
4	Mr Phung Van Hung	Member of Delegation
5	Ms Ho Thi Hoai	Delegation Secretary

AIPA Secretariat

1	Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van <i>Secretary-General of AIPA</i>	Head of Delegation
2	Mr Mario Pandu Dewono <i>Deputy Secretary-General of AIPA</i>	AIPA Secretariat Staff
3	Ms Putri Maha Lima	AIPA Secretariat Staff
4	Mr Sandi Nursahamdani	AIPA Secretariat Staff

ASEAN Secretariat

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Mr Lee Yoong Yoong | Representative |
| 2 | Ms Julia Tijaja | Representative |
| 3 | Ms Destya Pahnuel | Representative |
-



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
PRESIDENT OF AIPA AND SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT
MR TAN CHUAN-JIN
AT THE OPENING OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 12TH AIPA CAUCUS
WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021**

Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

2 Let me extend a very warm welcome to all delegates and officials attending the virtual meeting of the 12th AIPA Caucus. Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am glad that we can still meet and engage one another, albeit virtually, to continue strengthening regional cooperation among AIPA parliamentarians.

3 AIPA has always taken an active and keen interest in issues within the ASEAN region. The AIPA Caucus assists AIPA by exploring some of these issues and proposing areas of cooperation of mutual benefit to all the countries in the region. Even amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this regional platform plays a vital role to raise awareness among lawmakers on important and pressing issues. As representatives of our citizens, we are in a unique position to give voice to the issues that affect them. With this aim in mind, the 12th AIPA Caucus will study the topic of “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”.

4 The pandemic and Suez Canal blockage earlier this year, caused severe disruptions in supply chains and trade connectivity, with extensive and wide-reaching ramifications. Beyond transnational trade and domestic economic effects, an obvious consequence was the disruption of medical supplies, at a time the world needed it most. As a result of such unexpected events, we need to be prepared for the next disruption to our trade connectivity and build up our supply chain resilience.

5 ASEAN has risen to the occasion and recognised the importance of supply chain resilience and trade connectivity in the region early. Our Economic Ministers adopted the ‘Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic’ (“Hanoi POA”) at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in June 2020. Additionally, ASEAN worked with our Dialogue Partners to collectively affirm the importance of keeping supply chains open and connected. All these have helped to support the unimpeded cross-border flow of essential products, including food, medicines and medical supplies, for our people.

6 In this regard, AIPA Member Parliaments can support ASEAN’s regional efforts by discussing the topic “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”. Our discussions today will undoubtedly help advance regional collaboration. It will form part of

our efforts in creating a more resilient, more innovative ASEAN that can best serve its people even in the worst of times, whether born out of a pandemic, or some other crisis.

7 On this note, it is now my pleasure to declare the 12th AIPA Caucus open. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Caucus, I appoint Mr Lim Biow Chuan as the Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus.

8 I wish you all a fruitful and productive round of deliberations. Thank you.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AIPA
MRS NGUYEN TUONG VAN
AT THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 12TH AIPA CAUCUS
WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021**

Your Excellency Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore,
Distinguished AIPA parliamentarians, ASEAN Representative,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to warmly welcome Heads of delegations, representatives of AIPA member parliaments and distinguished guests to the 12th AIPA Caucus Virtual Meeting. On this occasion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to H.E. Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore and our distinguished Singaporean parliamentarians for hosting this important event.

2 The COVID-19 pandemic really has global devastating impacts and change our life in all aspects and in the ways that we have never experienced. Major impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in the global economic decline and threaten regional and international security. The Coronavirus disease broke out, disrupting supply chains, ways of life, and working norms. Through most of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's focus has been on repairing damage already done, through vaccine rollout and unprecedented economic response and recovery packages.

Distinguished parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

3 The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) early realised the importance of keeping trade moving in order to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19. The day before the World Health Organization officially declared the virus to have reached pandemic proportions, the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) released a statement on Strengthening ASEAN's economic resilience in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, reaffirming the bloc's commitment to maintaining its economic and integration policies.

4 ASEAN reaffirmed its commitment to free trade within the international rules-based system, noting that this is vital to economic recovery and future growth. The ASEAN meeting recognised the importance of maintaining resilient global supply chains and supporting global economic recovery by keeping markets open to trade and investment, free from unnecessary restrictions in accordance with countries' respective commitments within the international rules-based system. This will facilitate sustainable and inclusive global and regional economic growth by working closely with all relevant international and regional organisations and financial institutions, restoring business confidence in the region, and supporting regional connectivity.

5 ASEAN has made great progress in optimising the role of trade in the post-pandemic economic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic which is expected to be prolonged and ASEAN has to continue strengthen the resilience and sustainability of regional supply chains, and to enhance trade connectivity in this time of crisis and uncertainty.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6 AIPA member parliaments play a key role in implementing existing instruments and mitigating risks through enacting necessary legislative reforms and building accountability through oversight of government preparedness and response policies regarding economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this process, AMSs as well as AMPs need to cooperate and take extra measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, including in term of economic recovery.

7 At today meeting, AIPA member parliaments will discuss the topic “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity” and present country reports on the status of implementation of the 41th AIPA General Assembly Resolutions. The meeting is a forum for AIPA member countries share best practices on how parliaments can enhance their roles on effective response to mitigating impacts of the pandemic and strengthening economic resilience.

I wish the meeting great success.

Thank you for your kind attention.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Time indicated in this programme is GMT +8

Wednesday 16 June 2020

- 8.30 am - Final Connectivity Test
- 9.25 am - Delegates take their seats
- 9.30 am to
9.45 am - Official Opening of 12th AIPA Caucus
- Opening Address by Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore
 - Appointment of Chairperson
 - Remarks by Chairperson
 - Welcome Remarks by AIPA Secretary- General
- 9.45 am to
11.00 am - First Session of the 12th AIPA Caucus
- Appointment of Deputy Chairperson and Secretary
 - Introduction of Delegations
 - Discussion and Approval
 - Program of Activities
 - Agenda
 - Discussion Topic: Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity
- 11.00 am to
11.15 am - Rest Break
- 11.15 am to
12.30 pm - Second Session of the 12th AIPA Caucus
- Discussion Topic: Consideration of Status of Implementation of 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions
- 12.30 pm to
2.30 pm - Lunch Break

2.30 pm to

4.30 pm

- Third Session of the 12th AIPA Caucus
 - Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus
 - Closing Ceremony
 - Announcement by Host of 13th AIPA Caucus
 - Closing Address Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus.
-



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS**
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus (Thailand)
 2. Appointment of the Secretary of the 12th AIPA Caucus
 3. Introduction of Delegates
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity
 - a. Presentation of Country Reports
 - b. Presentation by ASEAN Secretariat
 - c. Discussion on National Initiatives and Possible Common Legislation
 6. Consideration of Status of Implementation of 41st AIPA General Assembly Resolutions
 7. Consideration and Adoption of the 12th AIPA Caucus Report
 8. Virtual signing of the 12th AIPA Caucus Report by AIPA Heads of Delegation
 9. Announcement by Host of 13th AIPA Caucus
 10. Closing Address by Chairperson of the 12th AIPA Caucus
-

ANNEX E

COUNTRY REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION TOPIC:

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN
RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Brunei Darussalam aims to diversify its economy away from oil and gas and to prepare for growth, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brunei Darussalam needs to produce essential food supplies locally, invest in and adopt energy-efficient technologies and seek new business opportunities in the growing “green” economy.

2 Brunei Darussalam had launched the Brunei Economic Blueprint in early January 2021, which provides guidelines on how the country can develop a dynamic and sustainable economy. The blueprint is part of the government’s Brunei Vision 2035, which aims to diversify the country’s economy away from petroleum, which contributes to 95% of exports. These efforts will make the country’s economy more resilient and sustainable and, in turn, give a competitive advantage to Brunei Darussalam.

3 The economic blueprint will focus on “six aspirations”, namely: developing a productive and business environment by leveraging technology and innovation; promoting continuous learning, training and reskilling of the workforce; ensuring the economy is open and globally connected; ensuring preservation of the environment; developing infrastructure to support and grow businesses; and ensuring good governance and public service excellence.

4 The government of Brunei Darussalam is also actively promoting local micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) – which constitute 90% of total enterprises – to be more export-orientated, as well as encouraging businesses to leverage emerging technologies and innovation to increase productivity and competitiveness.

5 The government of Brunei hopes to attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs) in ASEAN, which, in turn, will help create meaningful, high-value employment for its local workforce. This is in leveraging more foreign direct investment to Brunei’s halal industry, through the development of halal services and goods that can be a “prime opportunity” to mould the sultanate’s position as a halal hub. Brunei is currently ranked 15th out of 73 countries based on Thomson Reuters’ Global Islamic Economy Report 2018/19, and placed seventh in the halal food sector and sixth for halal pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

6 In the effort to strengthen the supply chain resilience and to enhance the trade connectivity across the ASEAN region, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Finance has implemented the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) System as part of the contribution to the creation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) with the objective to expedite cargo clearance within the context of increased ASEAN economic integration. The BDNSW System is used to design, implement and operate Single Electronic Window for the Ministry of Finance of Brunei Darussalam for customs clearance of traded goods, thus creating a single point to submit standardized information and documents to meet legal import, export and customs-transit requirements.

7 Consequently, Brunei Darussalam is committed to enhance the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window in order to enable Ports Clearance Module. An amount of approximately BND\$860,000 has been allocated in the Financial Year 2021/2022 for upgrading the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window. This upgrading plan consists of two spearhead projects by the Royal Customs and Excise Department (RCED) which is mainly to integrate functions and processes previously implemented in the e-Customs system into one platform.

8 Regionally, Brunei Darussalam has joined the other 14 Asia-Pacific countries in November 2020 to form the world's largest trading bloc after signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The agreement further signifies Brunei's commitment to heighten trade relations and flows.

9 As part of further efforts to strengthen the supply chain and enhance the trade connectivity, Brunei Darussalam has also shown its commitment to participate in open trade policies with its regional and global partners. In addition to RCEP, Brunei Darussalam is also part of the following FTAs:

- ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA);
- ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA);
- ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA);
- ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA);
- ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP);
- ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA);
- Brunei-Japan Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement (BJEPA); and
- Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP/P4).

10 With the strong commitment of Brunei Darussalam in the signing of the FTAs, it is hoped for goods and services across the region to move seamlessly and, hence, expand the economic integration in the region that will give opportunities for businesses, especially MSMEs, to tap into global supply chains.

11 Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the supply chain and Brunei Darussalam is not excluded from this impact. Realising the supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brunei Darussalam is committed to maintain open and connected supply chains as reflected through the "Joint Ministerial Statement by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore Affirming Commitment to Ensuring Supply Chain Connectivity Amidst the COVID-19 Situation" on 25 March 2020.

12 Amidst the border closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brunei Darussalam has issued the "*Guidelines for Business and Transport Companies Using Registered Commercial Vehicles in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia (Transport Operators and Runners)*" which are intended to ensure economic activity and operations of the supply chain in Brunei Darussalam during the border crossing restrictions and it is a government initiative to reduce the negative impact on the source of revenue for businesses.

13 In September 2017, Brunei Darussalam had corporatized the Ports and Marine Departments into the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD). This corporatization was aimed at ensuring productivity and efficiency with the close cooperation of the Muara Port services under the control of Muara Port Company. To date, the number of containers handled in 2018 reached a record volume of 113,125 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units), the highest recorded since 2013.

14 Moreover, the Muara Port Company has incorporated added services to improve efficiency of Muara Container Terminal that includes increasing capacity from 220,000 to 330,000 TEUs and dredging the channel depth from 12 to 14 metres. These will increase docking capacity and thus encourage more logistical services.

15 In the effort to strengthen the supply chain connectivity, leveraging digital technologies can also be seen as an important step forward. Brunei Darussalam recognizes the benefits of digital technologies brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including cloud computing, data analytics, automation, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things in the supply chain that allow for a seamless flow of information between customers and suppliers, and better manage the product flow domestically and internationally. Essentially, the digital technologies promote efficiency and productivity across industries as well as expand the opportunities for businesses, especially the MSMEs, to tap into the global value chain.

16 Towards this end, Brunei Darussalam actively engages to improve the digital infrastructure, in line with the vision towards becoming a Smart Nation, where the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications has formulated the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 that covers initiatives and activities to leverage on technology to achieve impactful outcomes, such as increased productivity and production, enhanced efficiency, increased cost effectiveness, improved transparency and governance, encourages participation and facilitates official, business and personal transactions.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: CAMBODIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Trade development remains a priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia in the market economy approach and plays a key role in promoting growth and socio-economic development. Implementing the fourth phase of the Royal Government of Cambodia's Rectangular Political and Strategic Program, strives to develop the trade sector through integration into the regional and global economic community, enhancing the capacity and sustainability of market supply in order to become a source. A confident global supply chain promotes the efficiency of trade services, enhances intellectual property protection, strengthens consumer protection and competition, as well as ensures the quality and safety of goods to maintain the well-being of the people.

Before COVID-19, under the wise leadership of **Samdech Techo** Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodia made significant progress in socio-economic development over the past two decades, such as economic growth of 7%-8% per year, and rapid growth in transport, infrastructure, energy, trade, investment, construction, real estate and tourism. At the same time, the Cambodian people have experienced modernization of urbanization, human resource development and poverty reduction. Cambodia has made these achievements on the basis of solid peace, political stability and macroeconomics, which is a win-win strategy under the wise leadership of **Samdech Techo** Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

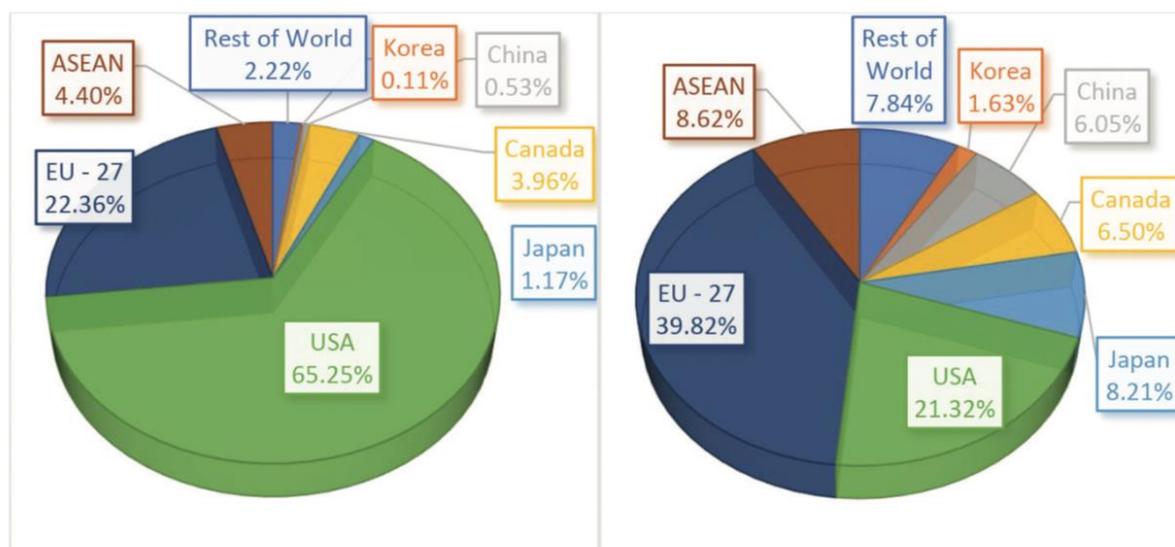
1. *Overview of Cambodia Economy and Trade Performance*

As reported in Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy Update (CTISU) 2014, until recently, Cambodia's goods exports were highly dependent on the US market and, therefore, vulnerable to shifts in that market. Reducing reliance on this market, and more generally diversifying export destinations, has been an important policy goal. According to the CTISU 2014, a specific focus of that goal was to develop export markets in Asian countries, which were seen as more dynamic markets than those in North America and Europe. However, this ambition was not followed up by specific actions during ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) implementation and ongoing negotiations in Regional Economic Comprehensive Partnership (RECP). The AEC process is largely dominated by a political agenda merely expecting that the ASEAN declarations will deliver the desired trading opportunities in spite of the meagre results of the last decades in terms of trade liberalization.

Figure 1 below shows the change in export shares on a 10-year time horizon and summarizes a long story in a few words. Indeed, the reliance of Cambodia on the EU and US markets is evident even if it has marginally decreased over the last decade. From 2006 to 2016, ASEAN markets have increased from 4.4% to 8.6%, still not making a significant difference in overall destination basket. China has significantly increased its market share from less than 1% to 6%. QUAD countries, especially the EU, are still the main market destination of Cambodian exports. ASEAN and China also increased their shares. However, the volume of trade flows remains relatively limited.

As reported in the CTISU 2014, export growth to the EU was exceptionally strong. Exports to the EU surged by more than \$500 million between 2010 and 2011 alone, and the EU's share of Cambodian exports rose from 23% in 2007 to 30% in 2011. This trend continued in the period 2011-2016. Japan and Canada also show increases, even if more modest. The shares of exports to ASEAN, China and South Korea increased – in the latter three countries from a low base.

Exports of Cambodia to China experienced an increase that is only matched by a parallel increase of ASEAN markets as importer of Cambodian goods. Overall, the regional markets do not occupy a strategic position in the Cambodian export destination basket.



2. Cambodia's Trade Performance with the ASEAN Countries

In the past 15 years, since its accession to the WTO, Cambodia has undertaken major economic reforms and secured growth as an engine for pro-poor development. The country is highly integrated into the global economy and is the third most open economy in ASEAN. Growth has been sustained at high rates above developing country averages (around 7.5% in 2018) over the last decade, leading to Cambodia's graduation to lower middle-income country¹ status in 2016.

Cambodia's high growth trajectory is expected to continue. Growth has been sustained, thanks to the main drivers of growth that constitute the agriculture (ie, rice, cassava, rubber), industry (ie, garment and footwear, travel goods, bicycles) and services (ie, construction and tourism sectors). Growth is projected to accelerate to 7% in 2019, underpinned by rising government spending and robust demand in advanced economies. Cambodia's growth rate is, however, expected to gradually decelerate, if structural problems are left unaddressed.

Cambodia has performed well in attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) compared to other countries in the region, due to the relocation of low-cost manufacturing (accelerated by increasing labour costs in China, Vietnam and Thailand), and a low tax regime with additional tax incentives. Besides the preferential access to the EU, which as a Least Developed Country (LDC) Cambodia benefits from, and other markets, Cambodia's central location in ASEAN has made it an attractive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination with significant opportunities to integrate regional and global value chains.

However, around 80% of Cambodia's exports are sold to just eight partner countries, mostly to the EU and US. Given this narrow production and export base and concentrated export markets, Cambodia's growth is vulnerable and expected to become gradually constrained over the longer term. Further, textiles, clothing, footwear and travel goods exports to Europe and the USA (markets that import 70% of total Cambodian exports of goods) are reliant on preferential treatment.

Cambodia has not yet fully reaped the benefits of regional integration, bearing in mind the country's meagre volume of intra-ASEAN trade compared to other countries in the region. Only around one fifth of Cambodia's exports are sold to ASEAN Member States. The use of tariff preferences among Cambodian businesses is low and only relatively few Cambodian companies apply for preferential certificates of origin under ASEAN-related Free Trade Agreements. Cambodian exports to ASEAN are predominantly machinery and agro-products, with minor exports of apparel: under 20% of total exports go to ASEAN. Owing to its dependence on such products for the ASEAN markets, priorities for further integration lie in respecting Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures, complying with agricultural and food standards and adhering to preferential origin rules.

In the last few years since CTISU 2014, there has been clear progress as a result of the Cambodian Government's efforts to accelerate economic diversification. The share of exports to the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), ASEAN and larger Asian region has increased rapidly (in particular to China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam), driven by the development of new industries integrated into regional manufacturing value chains, such as automotive parts and a bicycle industry, as well as an increase in exports of pre-processed agricultural commodities to the region. On the other hand, Cambodia remains dependent on large import volumes of agricultural inputs, agricultural products and processed food.

Despite formidable achievements made in reforms, major bottlenecks to the business and trade-enabling environment remain. Trade costs weigh heavily on Cambodia's export structure and exporting firms' performance. The contribution of transport and logistics to the total exported value added reached 14%, double the corresponding number in Thailand and 3.5 times that of Malaysia or Vietnam. The supply chain links between foreign and domestic firms are weak. Addressing these challenges will require embarking on structural reforms, especially those that can help improve the investment climate, and reducing costs of doing business, including the introduction of competitive energy prices and lower logistics costs.

Over the last few years, there has been progress in addressing some of the trade competitiveness and business climate issues in Cambodia. The reform of export-import processes, including the increased use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) through the roll-out of the computerised customs management system ASYCUDA and a move towards paperless export procedures and company registration, the automation and digitization of key trade processes for their inclusion into the Cambodia National Single Window (CNSW) and future ASEAN Single Window (ASW) are good examples of the Government's commitment.

Yet, Cambodia's eventual graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, the increased competition from neighbouring countries, the gradual conclusion of free trade agreements between the EU and some ASEAN countries, and the threat of suspension of the EBA scheme by the European Union may further erode Cambodia's competitiveness if not tackled.

3. *Current logistics performance of Cambodia*

Cambodia falls behind the region in most logistics indicators. High logistics cost, based on market conditions in Cambodia only, is not justifiable. Trucking costs, in fact, are very competitive when they are compared to neighbouring countries. Informal costs are often hidden in lump sum service contracts between industry and service operators to which service operators would absorb all informal payments in their final prices presented in the service contracts. The design and implementation of a strong border trade policy are an essential element to reduce logistics costs and support export expansion.

In the short term, Cambodia needs to reduce trade logistics costs to remain competitive. Since informal costs appear to be included in the current value of logistics costs, it is urgent for the government to design and adopt a comprehensive integrity strategy considering international good practices for border management operations and to implement modern automation systems for border management and port operations by digitalizing/automating processes entailing cross-border trade to the extent technologically feasible will reduce face-to-face interaction and remove informal payments.

The automation of border procedures beyond Customs can also help to improve logistics indicators, reducing time and increasing predictability, hence, reducing cost to import-export goods. Investment in improving logistics soft and hard infrastructure would have to be commensurate with Cambodia's growth ambitions.

The logistics performance of the country, based on the same methodology as the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), is perceived to be higher than the WB's LPI score and ranking. This result is valid for both international and domestic logistics. The rationale behind the higher score is because respondents who are directly dealing with logistics issues in the country are much more familiar with the logistics context in Cambodia than those who are answering the WB's LPI from outside the country. There is a need to harmonize domestic logistics with international logistics standards in order to enable seamless connectivity between domestic and international logistics.

There is a need to further explore and understand supply chain issues in both the best and worst performing sectors. Lessons can be learnt and best practices transferred to other low performing sectors. This is part of the "peer" group methodology approach that enables logistics knowledge transfer. The studies of domestic logistics corridors would also be necessary in order to identify waste in the system.

The focus in terms of trade logistics improvement, therefore, needs to be on assuring the reliability and removal of uncertainties in the logistics system in Cambodia. If reliability of logistics improves in the country, then local manufacturers and LSPs can design and plan more optimized logistics systems and, consequently, become more competitive. This will also mean that logistics costs of key sectors in the country can be reduced. Focus can then move to time-based competition in order to sustain the country's competitiveness.

4. *Government master plan on Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity*

4.1 Cambodia logistics master plan

Consistent with the vision of the Royal Government of Cambodia to become an upper-middle-income country in 2030 and a high-income country by 2050, Cambodia is envisioned as

connected and integrated in the ASEAN Economic Community. Development of the country's industrial development can generate sustainable and inclusive high economic growth by way of economic diversification, strengthening competitiveness and promoting productivity. This will need a common vision with a long-term and sustainable approach to transform and modernize Cambodia's transport and logistics from a high cost, slow and inefficient sector to an affordable, speedy and efficient industry by 2025, taking into consideration the need to link up with global value chains and supporting industrial development, promote local economic and social development, mitigating environmental impacts, and complement national connectivity with regional connectivity. The developed national logistics vision will need to address the policy options, the funding mechanisms and implementation arrangements.

The proposed master plan needs to stress the need for inter-agency coordination as logistics issues are not solely under the jurisdiction of the MPWT. The MoC is also involved in the status and role of logistics services firms. Since trade logistics focuses more on international logistics issues, trade facilitation and trade logistics will need to be combined as logistics is a derived demand of trade.

The foundation for this Master Plan is from the Industrial Development Plan (IDP), which emphasizes the transformation of the industrial structure from labour-intensive industries to technology-driven industries. To realize such a transformation, the IPD emphasized four key policy measures: 1) strengthening connectivity with the global supply chain; 2) integration with the industrial network in the Mekong region; 3) formation of industrial clusters that would enhance competitiveness and productivity; and 4) development of policies focusing on initiatives towards technology-driven and knowledge-driven industries.

Currently Cambodia is still dependent on light industries, like garments and footwear, which rely totally on low production costs and trade preferences with developed countries. Although the shift of industrial structure towards more value-added and skill-oriented has begun, it may take several more years before the transition is fully completed. As such, the light industry will continue to play a leading role in employment generation and exports during this transition period.

As economic growth pulls up labour costs, the official minimum wage level has risen up commensurately over the years, eroding to some extent the country's competitiveness vis-à-vis other lower wage countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, and even in some regions in Vietnam. To counter that effect, reducing logistics costs and increasing logistics reliability are indispensable for the survival of the light industry in Cambodia.

As such, logistics development and industrial development are an inseparable pair for ensuring inclusion in the global value chain. The logistics sector should provide the following values to the new manufacturing industry:

1. Lower cost and reliable time for cross-border transport to maintain investment value of Cambodia;
2. Competition between transport modes; and
3. More choices in value-added logistics services.

5. *National law*

- Law on the Approval of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Joint Tariff Agreement for the ASEAN Free Trade Area

- Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2008)
- Law on Trade Facilitation (2017)
- Agreement on the Protocol and Memorandum of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (2000)
- Law on the Approval of the Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Maritime Transport (2013)
- Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Complete Liberalization of Air Freight Services, including two protocols, the protocol for the implementation of the sixth contract package of air
- Transport services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement. On Services, Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services Contract of the People's Business Association (2014).
- Sub-Decree on the Organization and Functioning of the National Committee for Non-Tax Measures (2014)
- Law on the Approval of Southeast Asian National Affairs with Partners (2012)
- Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (2007)
- Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (2007)
- Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (2008)
- Law on the Approval of the Protocol Amending the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (2005)
- Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (2010)
- Law on the Adoption of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Freedom of Air Freight Services, including two protocols and the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Freight Services, including six protocols (2011)
- Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2009)
- Law on the Approval of the 7th Protocol on the Customs Transit System of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Transit of Goods (2016)
- Law on the Approval of the Agreement on the Establishment and Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk, Protocol on the Establishment and Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk, Protocol on the Legal Framework for the Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk (2016)
- Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs (2014)
- Law on the Approval of the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on the Openness of Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (2016)
- Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction and Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia under the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (2019)
- Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2017 under the Commodity Trade Agreement on Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China (2019)
- Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction and Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2017 under the ASEAN Trade Agreement (2019)

- Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Program of Reduction and/or Elimination of Customs duties of the Kingdom of Cambodia in accordance with the wording of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2012 under the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2015).



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: INDONESIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

A. OVERVIEW OF INDONESIA'S TRADE AND ECONOMY

1. Indonesia's Economy and Trade Performance

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country consisting of 17,508 islands, 34 provinces and more than 400 regencies/cities spread over 5,180,053 square kilometers. The land area is 1,922,570 square kilometres (37.11%) and the sea area 3,257,483 square kilometres (62.89%) with a total of 81,000 km of coast line. In 2020, the population reached more than 270 million.

In 2021, Indonesia's economy is projected to grow from 4.0% to 5.4%, although during the first quarter of 2021, Indonesia was still suffering from economic contraction at 0.74%. Amidst the global economic recovery, during January-March 2021, Indonesia experienced a total trade surplus of US\$ 5.5 billion.

Indonesia's non-oil and gas exports were recorded at US\$ 46.26 billion from January to March 2021, an increase of 17.1% year-on-year. Indonesia's export structure is dominated by the manufacturing sector, with export value in January-March 2021 reaching 79.7% of Indonesia's total exports. The mining sector occupies the next position with a contribution of 12.79%.

Indonesia's non-oil and gas imports during January-March 2021 were recorded at US\$ 38.3 billion, an increase of 13.1% compared to the same period in 2020. The structure of Indonesia's imports was dominated by raw/auxiliary materials, which reached 75.6% of the total import value. Imports of capital goods followed with a contribution of 15.05%.

2. Indonesia's Trade Performance with ASEAN Countries

Indonesia's total non-oil and gas trade with ASEAN in 2020 was recorded at US\$ 56 billion, or a decrease of 14.8% compared to 2019. Indonesia's non-oil and gas trade with ASEAN shows a decrease of 2.4% during 2017-2020. Meanwhile, the total non-oil and gas trade in January-February 2021 reached US\$ 10.5 billion or decreased by around 2.1% year-on-year. Indonesia experienced a non-oil and gas trade surplus with ASEAN in 2020, amounting to US\$ 9.2 billion, or an increase of 42.7% compared to the surplus in the previous year. Indonesia also experienced a non-oil and gas trade surplus during January-February 2021 of US\$ 1.6 billion, or an increase of 29.7% year-on-year.

Indonesia's non-oil and gas exports during 2020 reached US\$ 32.6 billion, a decrease of 9.7% compared to 2019. Indonesia's total non-oil and gas exports to ASEAN in January-February 2021 reached US\$ 6.05 billion, an increase of 1.2% compared to the same period

in 2019. Meanwhile, total imports in 2020 were recorded at US\$ 29.8 billion or decreased by around 12% compared to the previous year. Indonesia's non-oil and gas imports from ASEAN in January-February 2021 amounted to US\$ 4.4 billion, a decrease of 6.4% compared to January-February 2020.

B. INDONESIA'S LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE

Noting the geographical conditions of Indonesia and the importance of inter-island smooth flow of goods and services, Indonesia is committed to strengthening the supply chain and trade connectivity. Several challenges have been identified. The challenges include: (1) logistics services have not been integrated into a logistics business ecosystem; (2) insufficient quantity and quality of infrastructure to support the seamless logistics and supply chain; (3) data on significant commodities are not available in real-time, so there is no certainty of information on cargo volume; (4) lack of intensive coordination and synchronization among stakeholders; (5) Inconsistencies of regulations among central government agencies and between the central government and local governments.

Compared to the other ASEAN Member States, Indonesia's logistics performance falls behind both for Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and Logistics Cost, which impacts the competitiveness of its international trade. Indonesia ranked 46th on the LPI, placing the country in 5th position in ASEAN after Singapura (7), Thailand (32), Vietnam (39) and Malaysia (41). Indonesia's Logistics Cost is 22% of its GDP, relatively higher than the other ASEAN Member States.

Further, Indonesia has learnt from the experiences during the global pandemic that efforts must be taken to prepare countries for exceptional shocks which cause significant damage to the operations of many cross-border supply chains. Efforts to strengthen the supply chain and to enhance trade connectivity are also part of regional economic integration and integration into the global value chain.

C. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY ACROSS ALL SECTORS

Presidential Regulation No. 26 of 2012 on the Blueprint for the development of the National Logistics System sets a framework for developing a national logistics system. Under this blueprint is the development of a national logistics system aimed at facilitating the effective and efficient flow of goods to ensure the supply of the public's basic necessities and improve the competitiveness of national products on the domestic, regional and global markets – all with the objective of building national logistics nodes and their connectivity across rural, urban, inter-regional and inter-island, as well as connecting them with international hub ports through the collaboration of stakeholders.

The implementation of Presidential Regulation No. 26 of 2012 is divided into three phases. Phase 1, from 2011 to 2015, is Strengthening the Domestic Logistics System through improving the supply chain for key commodities, strengthening logistics actors and service providers, transport infrastructures, information and communication technology, and regulations and policies. Phase 2, from 2016 to 2020, is the Integration of ASEAN Logistics Networks through strengthening logistics facilities and infrastructure, including transport and information and communication technology infrastructures, capacity building for logistics actors and service providers, and national logistics system connectivity into ASEAN regional logistics network. Phase 3, from 2021 to 2025, is the Integration to Global Logistics Networks

through integrating the National Logistics System on the domestic and global scales to create global connectivity.

To overcome the identified challenges, the Strengthening of the National Logistics Ecosystem (NLE) is mandated through Presidential Instruction No. 5 of 2020. NLE is a logistics ecosystem that synchronizes the flow of goods and documents of export/import from the point of arrival at the port until the goods arrive at the warehouse (hinterland). It is a collaboration-oriented effort between government and private agencies through data exchange, simplification of the process, eliminating repetition and duplication, and efficient use of information and communication and digital technology.

Managing the National Logistics Ecosystem (NLE) is carried out with a vision to improve the performance of national logistics, improve the investment climate and increase the competitiveness of the national economy. The four programs to strengthen the NLE include simplification of government service business processes in logistics; a collaboration of logistics services, both international and domestic; payment of state revenues and facilitation of payments between logistics business actors; and arrangement of port spatial planning and distribution channels of goods. Currently, NLE enters the piloting phase and implements the early stages of the inbound cycle: the gradual implementation of single submission and joint inspection of Customs and Quarantine at Belawan Port, Tanjung Emas, Tanjung Perak and Tanjung Priok; simplification of ship-to-ship floating storage unit (STS FSU) services in the Batam Logistics Ecosystem.

To support an efficient logistics transportation, Presidential Decree No. 109 of 2020 on the national strategic project was issued to allow for around 90 projects of infrastructure development spread across Indonesia. The National Medium-Term Development Plan of 2020-2024 put infrastructure as a national priority for the Government of Indonesia. Infrastructures are considered as the catalyst that plays a crucial role in driving the pace of competitive national economic growth at the regional, national and international levels. Furthermore, the establishment of this vision focuses on large infrastructures, such as toll roads, railways, ports and airports that will build interconnections with small industrial areas, special economic zones, tourism, plantation rice fields and fisheries. Furthermore, relocating the Capital City of the Republic of Indonesia will increase construction activities.

To accelerate the achievement of national infrastructure development programs, the Minister of PWH has provided five breakthroughs ranging from simplifying regulations and laws, increasing the competence of human resources (HR), innovative funding, leadership and application of research and technology results. During the pandemic, as part of its overall policies to ensure safety during all stages of infrastructure projects, the Ministry of Public Work and Housing (MPWH) issued an Instruction of the Minister of MPWH Number 2 of 2020 concerning the 2019 Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) Prevention Protocol in the Implementation of Construction Services as a protection to the ongoing construction projects. In addition to the Ministerial Instructions, a Circular Letter of the Minister of Public Works and Housing has also been issued on 19 August 2020 concerning the Implementation of the New Normal Order and Adaptation in the Implementation of Construction Services, which is intended as a guideline in the construction sector.

The Government of Indonesia's priority on infrastructure development demands the readiness of the entire construction supply chain and a reliable construction service supply chain. Law Number 2 of 2017 on the Construction Services provides the legal basis for the improvement of the construction supply chain. The Law is further reinforced by Government Regulation No. 22 of 2020 as its implementing regulation. Article 24 Paragraph (1) mandates that the

Construction Service business activities are supported by the supply chain business for construction resources. Furthermore, Article 25 Paragraph (2) mandates that construction resources prioritize local, superior and environmentally-friendly products, one of which is material resources and construction equipment. Article 26 mandates that material resources and construction tools must pass the test from an authorized institution in order to comply with standards and optimize the use of domestic materials and tools. This implementing regulation has also been in line with the Omnibus Law on Job Creation enacted by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in 2020.

Building the capacity of human resources is also a priority, including work competencies certification and accreditation for professional associations. The construction supply chain has also been streamlined with the National Logistics System and in line with its priorities of regional development to reduce disparity; strengthen the infrastructure to support the economic development and basic services; and creating a living environment, disaster resiliencies and climate change. The Government of Indonesia has also been developing a big data system of the national construction service industry supply chain in line with the concept of Industry 4.0.

To ensure trade flows in goods and services post-COVID-19, accelerated digitalization and uptake of new technologies can help firms find a balance between supply chain resiliency and efficiency. Even before the pandemic, Indonesia was keen to improve the logistics of e-commerce, mainly to accelerate the growth of MSMEs. From 2017-2020, Indonesia's compounded growth of e-commerce transaction value reached 51%, and the Central Bank of Indonesia projected that the value of e-commerce in Indonesia is increasing rapidly in 2021 to reach 337 trillion rupiahs. Several programs are carried out to support e-commerce logistics, including access to the center for MSMEs development, human resource development, tracking and tracing system, sorting facility and technology, and encouraging startups to develop joint initiatives in the logistics market.

Efforts to improve supply chain and trade connectivity are made, parallel to the effort to strengthen the legal basis for investment. On 2 November 2020, Indonesia officially enacted the Omnibus Law on Job Creation (UU Cipta Kerja No. 11 of 2020). It aims to attract investments, create new jobs and stimulate the economy by, among other things, simplifying the licensing process and harmonizing various laws and regulations and making policy decisions faster for the central government to respond to global or other changes or challenges. The key points include, among others, focusing on increasing the ease of doing business in Indonesia.

As one of the founding members of ASEAN, Indonesia is committed to regional economic integration. Indonesia agrees with the notion that ASEAN needs to leverage on the momentum for recovery from the global pandemic to enhance much-needed regional connectivity by upgrading infrastructure to support resilient economic development. This would improve the efficiency of key trade routes and supply chain networks and unlock the digital economy's opportunities. Indonesia is, therefore, committed to the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF).

At the regional level, participation in global and regional supply chains has been one of the most reliable economic growth strategies, especially for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Smooth and efficient connectivity in both trade and transport has been indispensable to the region's economic goals. Signing of the Regional Comprehensive

Economic Partnership or RCEP also signaled Indonesia's strong commitment to multilateralism. RCEP will catalyze Asia's long-term integration, contribute to the recovery, multilateralism and is a major milestone in opening up the largest trading bloc in the world. This can be both a massive opportunity and challenge for Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to expand and strengthen supply chains in the region.

In summary, to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhance trade connectivity, Indonesia has set policy actions and initiatives, which include:

- Strengthening bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation by pursuing Free Trade Agreements/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to diversify suppliers and production sources to ensure the resilience of supply chains;
- To facilitate international trade, Indonesia has improved the use of the Indonesia National Single Window through the use of electronic forms and signatures;
- Applying electronic Certificate of Origin (SKA) form D to all ASEAN member countries;
- Implementing strategic trade promotion by diversifying with non-traditional trading partners/countries;
- Increasing infrastructure development and promoting the wide use/utilization of digital technology to improve our productivity, especially for MSMEs, such as promoting the use of e-commerce;
- Implementing "Making Indonesia 4.0" as an integrated roadmap to implement several strategies in entering the Industry 4.0 era by involving several stakeholders, ranging from government institutions, associations, industry players and academia;
- Improving Indonesia's national logistics system to reduce the costs of transportation, which will lead to more affordable prices of essential commodities, connectivity and integration in the country and an improved competitive position for Indonesia in the global market.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: LAO PDR

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has intensified the growth slowdown, plunging Lao PDR's economy dramatically. The pandemic has mainly affected the labour-intensive service sectors and those linked to global and regional supply chains, especially a negative effect on tourism-related services, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing. The sharp drop in domestic revenue mobilization has led to a worsening of the fiscal situation. Under the baseline scenario, Lao PDR's GDP growth rate is projected to rise to 4.9% in 2021, assuming that the domestic spread of the virus is brought under control and we believe that the government measures are implemented effectively.

2 The anticipated recovery will be supported by investment in infrastructure and growth in services, exports and private consumption. However, risks are tilted heavily to the downside, as unpredictable evolution of the pandemic and, therefore, its threats to macroeconomic stability could delay the resumption of regular economic activity. Under the downside scenario, which assumes some of these risks are realized, the growth rate is estimated to rebound to only 2.8% in 2021. Lao PDR is certain that all ASEAN Member States are now taking the necessary measures to strengthen supply chain resilience and enhancing trade connectivity in their countries. Supply chains may have trade-offs but it may be overcome via effective utilization of technologies. Lao PDR is concerned about the effects of the pandemic and climate change on the economy and the following are measures taken to strengthen economic resilience during this period:

- (i) Support the enhanced visualization of supply chain through utilization of digital technology;
- (ii) Support diversification of suppliers, customers and production bases;
- (iii) Promote trade facilitation and enhanced connectivity; and
- (iv) Engage in alignment or harmonization of domestic rules and regulations.

3 Concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, Lao PDR is struggling to limit the socio-economic implications. However, due to the large number of confirmed cases, Laos has confirmed the third lockdown until 19 June 2021. All checkpoint borders are still closed, residents are not permitted to leave their homes except for necessary activities, such as medical emergencies and buying food supply. As evident in the decline in tourism flows, disruption in air travels, weakening in consumer and business confidence, community quarantines, stay-at-home orders, temporary business closures and travel restrictions, the pandemic had brought immediate disruptions in economic activities across the country. The economic impact likewise intensified as the stoppage in production, disruptions in business operations and widespread restrictions on the movement of people resulted in losses for businesses, loss of livelihood and income for workers and particularly in the area of trade connectivity within the region and globally. However, businesses were granted tax breaks and/or emergency loans; workers were provided subsidies/cash assistance. Since the spreading of COVID-19 in April 2020, the Prime Minister announced under the Decision on

Policies and Measures various fiscal and monetary policy measures to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lao economy has introduced measures to keep the economy afloat and help out the affected micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

4 The National Assembly have adopted the Directions for the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) and has reached a consensus on the report of the Government, particularly the government has identified six targets: (i) The national economy's steady growth with quality and sustainability; (ii) Higher quality of human resources with the ability to research and apply scientific and technological advances to increase efficiency and create added value in production and services to meet the demand of the development plan; (iii) Gradually improve the well-being of the people; (iv) Protect the environment and reduce the risk of natural disasters; (v) Build strong infrastructures, utilizing potentials, opportunities, participate in the joint process and actively integrating within the region and the international community; and (vi) State administration, an equal and fair society which is protected by the rule of law with sacred and strict laws. Also 25 major plans/strategies and implementing measures are laid out to ensure that the plans/strategies are actionable and implementable and achieve their set objectives and targets. Where one of the six targets is macroeconomic development:

It is forecasted that GDP growth will increase at an annual average rate of 4% while aims to reach annual average per capita income in 2025 of US\$ 2,880, and GNI growth of US\$ 2,280, which can be broken down into the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector: accounting for 15.3% of the total GDP;
- Industrial Sector: accounting for 32.3% of the total GDP;
- Service Sector: accounting for 40.7% of the total GDP;
- Tax and Customs: accounting for 11.7% of the total GDP

5 The Prime Minister has issued instructions to all ministries to take the necessary actions and implement control measures to ensure macroeconomic stability and at the time of the pandemic to prioritize public revenue collection from businesses that are not affected by COVID-19, control inflation for essential commodities, foreign currency reserves, and manage budget deficit and debts.

6 The possible key policy responses of the Lao PDR government are as follows:

- The 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9th NSEDP) stressed on the quality of the development of the national economy by transforming the economic structure towards industrialization and modernization, namely, enhancing visualization of supply chain through utilization of digital technology and to focus on the manufacturing sector in the processing industry, which is closely related to regional and international production supply chains.
- Potential sectors can further be exploited in the area of agriculture and tourism which these sectors could generate more revenue, foreign exchange and large-scale investment. In line with the quality of growth, Lao PDR will diversify its economy by reducing its dependence on natural resources for sustainable growth, reducing external impacts and boosting production and investment. Digital Technology can create multitasking, connectivity with other sectors of the economy and integrating regional and international production and logistics chains. Digital technology may play an important role to make supply chains resilient by visualizing E2E (end to end) supply chains and increasing productivity and manufacturing capabilities.

- To support diversification of suppliers, customers and production bases, 4th Industrial Revolution or industrial data sharing in the region shall be used. It is essential to strengthen cooperation among private companies across national borders, and the government needs to develop a common digital infrastructure.

7 All government-line ministries are instructed to issue the necessary regulations for implementation of the above-stated target measures as per their responsibilities and scope of governance, to ensure full and effective implementation of the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025) with a view to realizing the following targets and overall objectives:

- Ensure a balanced socio-economic development among the three pillars: (i) Economic, (ii) Social and (iii) Environment, by ensuring economic development as the central pillar, focusing efforts on increasing Gross National Incomes (GNI) and income distribution, promoting social development as a crucial element by emphasizing on poverty reduction, and promoting the environment as essential in aligning with sustainable and green growth direction;
- Place an emphasis on economic structural transformation, promote diversification of small-scale sectors based on domestic potentials and external opportunities in line with the modernization direction, increase value added to economic sectors while promoting production quality and efficiency that are in line with sustainable and green growth direction, as well as expanding the potential export markets in order to reduce economic vulnerability;
- Focus on the implementation of the integration and connectivity policies, fully utilize telecommunication infrastructure and logistics services in order to transform our country into the centre for trade integration and provide services for countries regionally and globally.
- Continue to enhance policies, measures and channels in mobilising fund and resources to support the need for development and promote quality investment in order to ensure the realisation of goals and targets; urgently improve the indicators to create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investment, and to ensure the confidence of investors.

8 Since the pandemic has no borders, the Delegation from Lao PDR would like to call upon the AIPA member parliaments to work together to fight against the pandemic and express its appreciation to the international community for providing technical and medical assistance to the Lao PDR to fight against the pandemic.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
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VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: MALAYSIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

I. INTRODUCTION

1 The report provides the status and Malaysia's initiatives in strengthening the supply chain resilience and enhancing trade connectivity within Malaysia. The report will cover all initiatives announced and implemented by the government to achieve these objectives.

2 The report will also include ASEAN-led initiatives that have been adopted by Malaysia with respect to strengthening supply chain resilience and enhancing trade connectivity within the region.

3 In 2020, Malaysia's total trade amounting to RM1.777 trillion comprised exports valued at RM980,988 million while imports amounted to RM796,194 million¹. Malaysia's trade grew by 43.2% year-on-year to RM190.76 billion in April 2021 – a new record high in terms of trade, exports and imports' monthly value. Between January and April 2021, trade grew by 21.4% to RM696.46 billion as compared to RM547.42 billion for the same period in 2020.

II. STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN

4 Malaysia has been named among the top 10 most attractive nations to logistics providers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, air cargo carriers and distributors in the 12th Annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index in 2021. The logistics industry in Malaysia has evolved with the increased demand for e-commerce, chain logistics and last-mile delivery services.

5 Malaysia planned to improve the efficiency of the clearance process by authorised agency for logistics as it can shorten the clearance time to attract importers and exporters as well as be on par with the other advanced countries' practices.²

6 The National Transport Policy 2019-2030 also focused on optimising, building and maximising the use of transport infrastructure, services and networks to maximise efficiency through digitalisation with the objectives of improving the economic contribution and increasing the efficiency and productivity of the transport sector.³

¹ Source from MIDA

² Strategy 1.5 of the National Transport Policy 2019-2030.

³ Policy Thrust 2 of the National Transport Policy 2019-2030.

7 Through Budget 2021, which was themed “Resilience As One, Together We Triumph”, the government announced the JANA NIAGA initiatives that would provide RM300 million to drive the national supply chain finance platform. The initiatives aim to assist SMEs due to the disruption caused by the pandemic.

8 Malaysia announced the National Digital Network (Jendela) to enhance communication capabilities within the next five years, and various upskilling programs, such as Penjana, Go-eCommerce and Shop Malaysia online campaign, while targeting an increase from 240,000 (2019) to 875,000 (2025) companies adapting to e-commerce.

9 In May 2021, Malaysia launched the “Guidebook to Starting Warehouse Business in Malaysia” to provide those who are involved in or wishing to venture into warehousing services with the essential and relevant information that will assist them in understanding and participating effectively in the formulation of the various processes into their build-up of the warehousing business which is vital in the logistics sector.⁴

10 Malaysia acknowledged the importance to embrace digitalisation to strengthen supply chain resilience. The government has initiated to collect logistics data on a periodic basis that can be utilised to determine the performance of the logistics industry and promote data-driven business in the logistics industry.

11 There are also several initiatives under ASEAN that have been adopted and ongoing to strengthen supply chain resilience within the region, such as:

a. The ASEAN Work Plan for Enhancing Global Value Chain (GVC) Agenda (2016-2025)

The Work Plan identifies five priority areas: (1) enhance participation and upgrading in GVCs by creating an enabling policy environment; (2) improve statistics and analytical capacity in support of GVC-related activities; (3) improve trade in services within GVCs; (4) make GVCs inclusive by promoting MSMEs and AMS engagement; and (5) facilitating readiness for tomorrow’s GVCs.

b. ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework

The main focuses and priorities under Broad Strategy 3 – Maximising The Potential of Intra-ASEAN Market and Broader Economic Integration, is to intensify intra-ASEAN trade and investment and establish ASEAN as a competitive market and to further increase intra-ASEAN trade and investment to strengthen our supply chain resilience and regional value chains.

12 The Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods by the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) was issued during the APEC MRT Meeting in 2020 hosted by Malaysia to ensure trade continues to flow during the pandemic.

III. ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY

13 In 2018, Malaysia launched the National Policy on Industry 4.0 (Industry4WRD) to transform the local business landscape by not only improving productivity but also increasing efficiency while reducing costs. Under the policy, the government is providing an Intervention Fund, a matching grant with a maximum amount of RM500,000 to support

⁴ Guidebook to Starting Warehousing Business in Malaysia.

companies in implementing intervention projects based on the recommendation of Industry4WRD RA Report on the shift factors of people, process and technology.

14 Malaysia recently launched MyDigital in February 2021 as an initiative that embeds the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, which aims to map Malaysia's growth trajectory in digital economy development. The Blueprint is expected to create adequate access and connectivity through initiatives that have the potential to strengthen the global supply chain.⁵

15 The conclusion and signing of the RCEP Agreement came at an opportune time and served as a boost as ASEAN steps up economic recovery efforts. The agreement should offer new growth opportunities, as well as provide regional and GVCs with more flexibility and options to reorganise in the face of mounting pressure and uncertainty. In understanding the importance of this FTA to the industry players, Malaysia is expediting its domestic processes to ratify RCEP by 2022.

16 The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 also outlined several initiatives to develop infrastructure to support sustainable economic development and enhance regional connectivity.

17 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" which was signed by the Economic Ministers at the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Summit on 13 November 2020.

18 The MOU addressed trade disruptions that have ramifications on the flow of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies, in the region. Currently, AMS are in negotiation to expand the list of essential goods to include food and agricultural products in an effort to keep the markets open for trade and investment as well as to strengthen the resiliency of regional supply chains.

⁵ Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDigital)



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: MYANMAR

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Strengthening Supply Chain and Trade Facilitation

This report has been prepared for how Myanmar has been operating to strengthen Supply Chain Resilience of Enhancing Trade Connectivity. The purpose of this report is to support in developing common legislative initiatives with the objective in harmonizing the laws of ASEAN Member States through submitting the information and the facts that how Myanmar has undertaken in 2020 and is undertaking in current situation. By submitting these facts, it can smoothly perform the aim of the Caucus where it is utilized as a platform for regular interaction amongst AIPA Member Parliaments as well as ASEAN.

2 According to the declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 held in April 2020 and the Joint Statement of Special ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting held in June 2020, ASEAN Member States (AMSs) agreed to provide timely exchange of information and sharing of best practices among the Member States for taking collective action to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 and ensuring the smooth flow of essential goods, including food, medicines, medical and other essential supplies associated with combating the COVID-19 pandemic. For addressing the scale and impact brought about by the pandemic, ASEAN developed a community-wide long-term socio-economic recovery strategy called ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Plan Frame Work (ACRF). The ACRF and its Implementation Plan were adopted by the Leaders at the 37th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2020. ACRF involves five broad strategies, namely, Enhancing Health Systems, Strengthening Human Security, Maximizing the Potential of the Intra-ASEAN Market, Accelerating Inclusive Digitalization and Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient future.

3 Furthermore, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of Non-tariff Measures on Essential Goods Under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the AEC-related ACRF initiatives. The MOU was signed by the ASEAN Economic Community Council at the 19th AECC Meeting held on 10 November 2020 and the purpose of the MOU is to address trade distorting effects of NTMs on essential goods by developing the list of essential goods for keeping markets open for trade and investment. At the time of signing the MOU, the early harvest list with 152 medical and medical supplies items was attached to the MOU. ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed to expand at least 100 food and agriculture products as the essential goods at the 27th AEM Retreat in March 2021. ASEAN Member States are now discussing to finalize the list of essential goods for food and agricultural products.

4 With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar is undertaking a two-pronged approach consisting of performing the preventive and control measures and facilitating access to remedy for the economy damaged by this pandemic with added speed and possible ways. Myanmar responded to the crisis through the COVID-19 fund and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan

(CERP) which includes measures for relief and a resilient recovery. Moreover, the Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) has been already drafted, which focuses on reforming the five areas, such as rules and regulations, financial, tax, trade and digital economy. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is trying to streamline the issuing process of relevant licenses, permits and recommendations from concerned departments for ensuring to improve the business environment with efficient procedure. Myanmar recognizes the important role of digital technology and encourages developing online platform and developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for facilitating the business.

5 Myanmar is constantly monitoring and conducting COVID-19 prevention and treatment undertakings for the public, and it now has a three-stage priority programme for giving the vaccine for over 15 million people.

6 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar has mobilized over four trillion Myanmar kyats, 3.4% of Gross Domestic Product, as the fiscal stimulus measures. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement was signed by RCEP Ministers from 10 ASEAN Member States and its plus one Free Trade Area (FTA) countries, namely, Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, at the Virtual Signing Ceremony at the sidelines of the 4th RCEP Summit which was held on 15 November 2020, witnessed by the Leaders.

7 Myanmar sent the instrument of ratification (IoR) for RCEP Agreement to the ASEAN Secretariat on 4 May 2021 through the Myanmar Permanent Mission to ASEAN. Singapore, China and Myanmar have already sent their IoR/IOA to the ASEAN Secretariat to date. All signatory States are trying to finish the ratification process by October 2021 in order for the Agreement to enter into force in January 2022.

8 On the other hand, Myanmar Customs strengthened and maintained close relationships with all stakeholders. Myanmar Customs issued new regulations to facilitate the trade especially with the Ministry of Health and Sports, on expediting the process for customs. As there are barriers for trader in taking the approval from other agencies, such as Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Plants, Myanmar Customs has changed to the process of taking approval after the release of goods. (Notification No. 019/2020 established by MACCS Division dated on 13 October 2020). Under the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar Customs is undertaking the trade facilitation measures including in ASEAN Agreement and World Customs Organization (WCO).

9 Myanmar Customs commenced the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Pilot Project and also laid down the work plan of National Single Window.

10 In order to facilitate international trade and harmonize customs procedures of WCO members, the Revised Kyoto Convention has entered into force for Myanmar on 2 January 2021.

11 To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of import/export procedures, Myanmar Customs laid down the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Customs Bonded Warehouse on 20 August 2019 and put this SOP into practice in October 2020. Four Dryports have been developed nationwide to reduce barriers in the flow of goods at sea ports.

12 Myanmar Customs made several announcements to ease the import/export processes. To get a better resolution of the documents in Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS), Myanmar Customs announced the unnecessary documents lists. It means only necessary documents should be attached to the System and it can reduce the costs and time. (Notification No. 4/2020 issued by Export and Import Control Division dated on 20 April 2020)

13 As flights are paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, the procedure to accept the scanned copies of document is announced in order to obtain the relief of customs duty before getting original documents.

14 Myanmar Customs has joined the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) since December 2019 as pilot stage. Myanmar has joined the live environment in Operation in May 2020. The ASW has exchanged the ASEAN Certificate of Origin (ATIGA e-Form D) among ASEAN Member States. Myanmar implemented the exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD). Customs officers can check and approve the online CO forms with National Single Window Routing Platform.

15 Myanmar did not, and will not, escape the economic consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and current situation. We already have felt its impact: disrupted supply chain and trade flows, falls in retail and discretionary spending, a near cessation of tourism, and an understandable slump in consumer and investment sentiment broadly. In the face of this, the people of Myanmar have been characteristically brave and resilient, but there is also much that Myanmar can and will do. Measures must be taken not just to ameliorate the current external crisis, but to create durable mechanisms and institutions that will propel us towards the kind of economy our people need and deserve.

16 Based on the above information of Myanmar, AIPA, as the legislative branch of ASEAN, will put every effort to support the development of legislation on Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity in the ASEAN Region.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: PHILIPPINES

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Like a thief in the night, the COVID-19 virus descended on the Philippines and the ASEAN region in the first quarter of 2020. The contagion brought an unprecedented health emergency of pandemic proportions which unleashed serious economic and social consequences. Trade supply lines were severely disrupted and consumer demand for products plummeted. The Philippine economy was viciously battered, resulting in a record high of 9.5% GDP contraction for the year 2020.¹

Faced with an impending national crisis of catastrophic proportions poised to impact on the lives of millions of Filipinos, the Philippine government immediately undertook crucial initiatives and placed all frontline first response agencies on the highest level of alert and readiness to secure the populace and the territorial borders of the country. Appropriate countermeasures were employed to help mitigate the expected economic downturn and life-threatening situation which eventually devastated local business and overwhelmed many of the healthcare service facilities of the country, especially those located in the urbanized national capital region.

In timely response, the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines enacted Republic Act No. 11469, the “Bayanihan To Heal as One Act”, which provided the President with emergency powers to control the alarming spread of the COVID-19 virus and the concomitant socio-economic issues and problems arising from the lockdown of the economy and the general public. Among the measures extended were cash assistance for families and individuals affected by the community quarantine, most especially the marginalized sector, healthcare services for COVID-19 patients, social amelioration assistance and other safety nets for affected industries and the establishment of a government partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders.

To pave the way towards economic recovery and strengthen supply chain resilience, Republic Act No. 11494², the “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act” was passed by Congress. This provided the anchor of the government’s socio-economic recovery program during the pandemic. It vested the President with the additional authority to institute mechanisms to further combat COVID-19 and to prepare the groundwork for the calibrated reopening of the economy. Among the measures provided were stimulus funds to restart the economy, capital infusion to government financial institutions, subsidy for the transport and tourism sectors, funds for livelihood skills training, improvement of basic healthcare responses through the emergency hiring of healthcare workers, allocation of funds for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and the construction of additional quarantine and isolation facilities.

Those two pieces of legislation are crucial in efforts to gradually reopen the economy, support business, most especially micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs),

¹<https://www.bworldonline.com/philippine-gdp-shrinks-by-record-9-5-in-2020/>

² As amended by Republic Act No. 11519, extending the availability of funds appropriated through the Bayanihan 2 until June 30, 2021

considered the backbone of the economy, revitalize supply chains, enhance trade connectivity and stimulate economic growth; and as the country is made more resilient to COVID-19, by the strengthening of healthcare services, particularly the healthcare capacity of hospitals, pandemic response capabilities and the vaccination of the public.

Today, as the Philippines continues to battle the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is mainly in the vaccine rollout which is expected to pave the way towards the gradual normalization of the economy and the lives of the people.

The opportune passage of Republic Act No. 11525, the “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act”, expedites the procurement and administration of vaccines by the government and the private sector. It also provides for the establishment of an indemnity fund to cover compensation for those who will experience serious adverse effects from the vaccine.

Local trade and business have suffered very low levels of activity and the supply chain of goods and basic commodities have been heavily disrupted. In spite of these extremely adverse economic conditions, the government remains steadfast and determined to pursue its agenda to promote trade and investments, minimize disruptions to supply chain and enhance trade connectivity of essential goods, such as medical supplies, medicines, non-COVID-19 vaccines, food commodities and other vital supplies and services.

On 15 November 2020, the Philippines, in pursuance of the rehabilitation and recovery of trade supply chains during this difficult time of the pandemic, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, purportedly the world’s largest free trade agreement. The ASEAN-backed RCEP is expected to complement the country’s on-going trade and investment reforms, enhancement of investment regimes, initiatives for the resurgence of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors and recovery programs for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are among the hardest hit local industries during this time of COVID-19. This action is in synergy with ASEAN’s support for the establishment of a regional multilateral trading system, creation of a new trading structure, enabling of a sustainable trade facilitation system, revitalization of supply chains disrupted by COVID-19 and post-pandemic recovery assistance in the region.

Enhancing intra-regional digital connectivity through improved physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages will facilitate and promote economic growth, narrow development gaps and contribute to the overall goal of economic integration of the ASEAN region.

To lay down the foundation for the development and harnessing of digital technology, the Philippine Government showcases its previous initiatives which include Republic Act No. 10844 which was enacted by Congress to create the “Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)”. The DICT is tasked to be the lead agency in the planning, development, promotion and implementation of a national Information Communications Technology (ICT) development agenda. It is also assigned to prepare the country for the advent of the emerging technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) which later proved to be a major factor in the survival of supply chains and trade connectivity in the Philippines, as well as the ASEAN region, during this time of COVID-19 crisis.

The “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025” outlines the new strategies to guide all future endeavors of improving connectivity in the region. It aims to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN region that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness and a greater sense of community. With this perspective, Republic Act No. 10863, the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act” was passed to institute reforms in trade facilitation

in the country. It mandated the shift towards a modern and efficient administration of customs standards, rules and processes by the Bureau of Customs (BOC). This landmark legislation signaled the start of the transition of Philippine cross-border transactions into the digital age via the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT).

Republic Act No. 10863 established the TradeNet online digital platform which serves as the operations management system facilitating the processing and releasing of import and export licenses. It has a single database which enables the quicker and cheaper movement of goods to and from the Philippines due to the shorter processing time, minimal number of procedures and reduced number of registration and documentation requirements for the shipping of goods.

TradeNet is the country's National Single Window (NSW) and is connected³ to the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) portal. Under the ASW, Philippine customs authorities, together with their counterparts in other ASEAN member states, will have the technical capability to digitally verify the validity and authenticity of electronic trade goods agreement documents filed by traders operating within the region. This arrangement will hasten the clearance of consignments across borders of ASEAN states and will greatly contribute to the streamlining and resiliency of regional trade supply chains during this difficult time of the pandemic.

In view of the economic slowdown under the COVID-19 pandemic, the swift and uninterrupted flow of supply chains and trade connectivity must both be sustainably streamlined to set into motion the recovery of business and trade in the ASEAN region. In this regard, the Philippines fully supports the joint endeavor and united action of ASEAN member nations as manifested in the "Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic".

The Philippines believes that it is imperative for the business sector to adopt and invest in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology in order to counter disruptions of supply chain and trade connectivity. Industries, such as the manufacturing and consumer food sectors, which form part of the global trade value chain, must adopt cloud-based digital platforms, as well as new, advanced and efficient technologies of the 4IR, namely, artificial intelligence, robotics, Internet of Things, 3D printing and quantum computing. All these innovations will immensely increase industrial productivity and contribute to the overall recovery of the ASEAN regional economy.

To further contribute in efforts to rehabilitate and strengthen trade and business in the ASEAN region, the Philippines previously enacted measures to provide an investment-conducive and rules-based business environment in the country, among these are the following:

1) Republic Act No. 10667, the "Philippine Competition Act" which is intended to ensure efficient and fair market competition among businesses engaged in trade, business and other commercial economic activities. It also prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuses of dominant position, and corporate mergers and acquisitions that limit, prevent and restrict competition;

2) Republic Act No. 11032, the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act", which seeks to promote efficiency through the automation of the business registration process, consequently, reducing processing time, eliminating red tape and curbing corrupt bureaucratic practices. This, in turn, will make it easier for fledgling businesses to start operating in the country;

³As of December 30, 2019, <http://info.tradenet.gov.ph/articles/asean-single-wind>

3) Republic Act No. 11523, the “Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act” which aims to reduce the non-performing loans of banks. Under the FIST law, certain incentives and privileges will allow banks and financial institutions to transfer their non-performing assets to FIST Corporations; and

4) Republic Act No. 11534, the “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act” which aims to gradually lower the corporate income tax from 30% to 25% and streamline the government’s fiscal incentives for investments from both foreign and domestic enterprises.

The long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to linger on in the coming years. Correspondingly, it is crucial for ASEAN nations to exert all efforts to promote and sustain deepening cooperation in maintaining the economic supply chain, raising trade and investment levels, overall competitiveness and economic development in the region.

The Philippines fully realizes that the road to recovery of the ASEAN region is marked with tremendous and seemingly insurmountable socio-economic challenges during this time of global-wide COVID-19 virus infection. Both affluent and poor countries are in a quandary as to how and when the most virulent affliction ever experienced by mankind will finally end. It is, indeed, a very daunting and exasperating time as daily economic activities are pursued. Nevertheless, it is exigent to continue to focus on the march towards regional integration of one people, one economy and one proud and resilient ASEAN community.

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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: SINGAPORE

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding disruption of global supply chains, Singapore worked closely with ASEAN Member States (AMS) and its Dialogue Partners on a number of statements and initiatives to express political commitment to maintain the continued flows of essential goods. On 14 April 2020, ASEAN Leaders issued a Declaration following the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 which (a) reaffirmed the importance of keeping ASEAN's markets open for trade and investment; and (b) tasked the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEMs) to explore an arrangement to preserve supply chain connectivity amongst AMS to maintain the flow of essential goods.

2 To implement the Leaders' instruction, the AEMs adopted the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic ("Hanoi POA") at the Special AEM Meeting on 4 June 2020. Amongst other things, the Hanoi POA provides that AMS shall refrain from imposing unnecessary non-tariff measures (NTMs) during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially export prohibitions or restrictions, and politically committed AMS to promptly inform each other of any trade-related measure. To implement the Hanoi POA, AEMs signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Implementation of NTMs on Essential Goods, including an accompanying "early harvest" essential goods list of 152 product lines (comprising medicines and other medical essential supplies) on 13 November 2020 at the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit. Singapore strongly supports the efforts to expand the "early harvest" list of essential goods to include food and agricultural items.

3 As Chair of the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee, Singapore is driving on-going efforts to expand the scope of the ASEAN Single Window to enhance the use and exchange of digitalised trade-related documents. Almost all international ports and points of entry in ASEAN are now able to receive the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) e-Form D (the Electronic Preferential Certificate of Origin) for claiming preferential tariffs via the ASW. "Live" exchange of an additional document, the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) also began on 30 December 2020. Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand are currently on board and other AMS are slated to join this new initiative by the end of 2021. Discussions have now commenced on the exchange of more trade documents, namely, the e-Animal Health (e-AH) and the e-Phytosanitary (e-Phyto) certificates. Efforts are also underway to look into expanding the ASW to selected Dialogue Partners, namely, Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the United States.

4 Singapore, along with five other participating AMS (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), officially implemented the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) on 2 November 2020 to enhance trade connectivity and facilitate the cross-border transit movement of goods. Under the ACTS, businesses can carry out their trucking operations in a single transit journey via a single truck, single customs declaration and a single banker's guarantee and,

consequently, look forward to time savings and cost reductions and better connectivity in moving goods via land within the participating AMS. At present, feasibility studies are being conducted to bring more AMS on board the ACTS in future.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: THAILAND

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Thailand has placed importance on implementing supply chain resilience and facilitating trade connectivity as most of our policies, projects and works that we have launched generally followed the ASEAN framework on this issue.

Last year, ASEAN provided many statements and fora concerned on supply chain resilience and trade connectivity, such as what we had shared in the Statement on Strengthening ASEAN's Economic Resilience in Response to the Outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease COVID-19 in the meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in March 2020. In this statement, ASEAN had agreed to remain committed in keeping the ASEAN market open for trade and investment and to strengthen long-term supply chain resilience and sustainability, including through better transparency, agility, diversification and the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity: MPAC 2025. Thailand, as an ASEAN Member Country, has always updated our trade measures during the outbreak of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Secretariat and notified other countries, as well.

Furthermore, according to the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in June 2020, ASEAN had collectively promised to ensure the smooth flow of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies associated with combating the COVID-19 pandemic, and facilitate timely information sharing amongst the ASEAN Member States with regard to trade-related measures on these essential goods and supplies. This also included facilitating information and exchanging the best practices of Member States in handling COVID-19.

In November 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Commerce of Thailand signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation on Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action. Thailand has agreed on eliminating non-tariff measures which would unnecessarily impede intra-ASEAN trade flows of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies, as listed in the Appendix of the MOU, for the purpose of combating the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also checked if there were any government measures and policies which could be affecting trade flows, in accordance with the rights and obligations of the Member States under the WTO Agreement, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement: ATIGA and any other international agreements. The Senior Economic Officials (SEOM), assisted by the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Coordinating Committee (ATF-JCC) and supported by the ASEAN Secretariat, monitored the implementation of arrangements under this MOU.

Thailand appreciates ASEAN's efforts in implementing various measures for maintaining supply chain connectivity, including:

1. Trade Facilitation

1.1 The deployment of ASEAN Single Window: ASW

Today, all AMSs are fully integrated into the ASW system and are able to exchange the ATIGA e-form D certificate of origin through the ASW. The expansions to include other trade-related documents are also under trial, including the e-Phyto certificate and ASEAN Custom Declaration Document (ACDD). The implementation of ASW helps to save time and reduce the cost of document handling by providing ASEAN traders with a single online submission for import-export documentation. (Handled by the Thai Customs Department).

1.2 The Operation of ASEAN-wide Self-certification: AWSC

The AWSC, which has been operating since 2020, helps to facilitate ASEAN traders by allowing certified exporters to self-certify the origin of their goods. Therefore, AWSC reduces the time and costs of doing businesses while also reducing inaccuracy in filling out information in Form D. (Handled by the Department of Foreign Trade)

1.3 ASEAN MRA on Type Approval for Automotive Products: AP MRA

The Mutual Recognition Arrangement on ASEAN Automotive Products facilitates ASEAN's acceptance of inspection and certification of automotive products by certified test centres among the ASEAN Member States. Therefore, the relevant products will not need to be re-inspected and re-certified. This MRA will assist businesses in the automotive sector in ASEAN by facilitating intra-ASEAN trade, as well as increasing business opportunities and reducing trade barriers. Associated costs, including expenditures and the time required for import and export of automotive products in the region, will also be reduced.

The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), Ministry of Industry, has pushed forward the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Type Approval for Automotive Production, which is one of the ASEAN initiatives to facilitate the linkage of supply chains. So far, Thailand had signed this agreement since October 2020 and all ASEAN Member States had already signed the agreement in January. After that, the Thai National Assembly had approved this agreement on 9 February 2021.

The ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Type Approval for Automotive Production has principally listed 19 automotive products in accordance with the UN Regulations, such as automobiles and motorcycles, tires, bellows, safety glass, brake systems, seat belts, seat mounting points, seats and headrests, rearview mirrors, speedometers and sound alarm equipment. Once this arrangement comes into force, ASEAN Member States shall accept the results of the certification audit. And if any automotive products or any parts have met the standards and passed the test, those products will be exported to other ASEAN countries without any re-inspection. However, this is still in the process of ratification which is expected to be done by 17 January 17 2022.

To this end, Thailand would like to request all AMS to expedite the ratification of AP MRA as soon as possible as automotive products and spare parts are goods that generate significant revenue for our region.

1.4 The Signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: RCEP

Signing of the RCEP agreement with ASEAN's FTA partners, which are China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand, makes RCEP the world's largest FTA. The agreement will strengthen the production network and distribution of goods in the region and connect goods and services of member countries to the global value chains. Thailand encourages all ASEAN Member States to expedite the ratification process as soon as possible. Thailand is also accelerating our internal process with the aim of having the RCEP enter into force by the beginning of January 2022.

2. Reducing trade barriers

The ASEAN Economic Ministers had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic on 13 November 2020. Through the MOU, ASEAN commits to keep the smooth flow of essential goods and refrain from imposing any unnecessary measures. In the future, any measures being introduced must conform with the rights and obligations under the WTO Agreements, the ASEAN Trade-in-Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and the principles of other international agreements. On the date of signing, the MOU includes a list of 152 essential goods, consisting mostly of medical goods and medical supplies. Today, ASEAN Member States are negotiating to expand the list of essential goods to include food and agricultural products, especially staple food, with the goal of including no less than 100 items. Thailand is one of the main supporters in pushing for the expansion of the list, as we recognise the benefits of the MOU in facilitating the supply chain of essential goods in ASEAN.

Thailand's internal initiatives

The Ministry of Commerce of Thailand has set up our e-commerce committee consisting of both public and private stakeholders to promote e-commerce in Thailand. The committee has developed the e-commerce action plan phase 1 for 2021 and 2022 that outlines four strategic objectives:

1. Develop an e-Marketplace to promote internal and cross-border trade.
2. Support development of a favorable environment and contributing factors for e-commerce in all aspects to facilitate growth of e-commerce trade.
3. Build confidence in e-Commerce transactions.
4. Develop the Thai entrepreneurs to be able to make the most of e-commerce.

The e-commerce action plan is currently being developed and will soon be presented to the Thai Cabinet for approval, after which, Thailand begins amendments of some of our regulations to support the implementation of the action plan and today's environment.

Moreover, the Office of the Board of Investment (BOI) has the responsibilities in promoting investment in businesses that are beneficial to the country by granting investment rights and benefits, creating a supportive environment for investment, and promoting and servicing investment in order to strengthen the overall national economic and social systems.

Under the BOI, the Thai Enterprise Development Division is responsible for strengthening supply chain and enhancing trade connectivity. Its mission is as follows:

1. Study, analyze, prepare information and develop strategies and measures on investment connectivity in targeted countries and industries;
2. Provide investment-related consultation, promote and support the cooperation among Thai and foreign entrepreneurs, especially in target industries; and
3. Develop cooperation and connectivity among enterprises and experts in various fields both in Thailand and overseas, with an aim to transfer knowledge and technology to Thai entrepreneurs.

From 22-25 September 2021, the BOI, in collaboration with the Thai Subcontracting Promotion Association and Informa Market, will be organizing the “Subcon Thailand”. This annual event is considered as the center of purchasing and subcontracting for quality industrial parts, featuring industrial parts for industries, such as automotive, electronics, machinery and future industries, such as aviation, medical equipment, robotics, automation and digital.

In Thailand, we have set up the National Electric Vehicle Policy Committee in February 2020 to specifically stimulate the electric vehicle industry in the country. This committee has planned towards Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV). Therefore, they divided their plan into three steps: first, short-term goal will be done within year 2025; second, mid-term goal within year 2030; and third, long-term goal within year 2035. The aim of this committee is to expand the market base of the electric vehicles and its parts to the electric vehicle industry. However, the measures and policies to promote electric vehicles shall be improved to support the import and export of the electric vehicle industry, as follows:

1. To support the demand of electronic vehicle industry: government rules and regulations should be updated so that electric vehicles would be permitted to be purchased and used in the government sectors, for example, first, trying to clearly define the producing processes of the products that are important for electric vehicles, such as passenger cars, pick-up trucks, motorcycles and electric buses. If the rules and regulations are up-to-date, the entrepreneurs in the free trade zone will be facilitated to invest more in the domestic supply chain.
2. To preserve the balance of the eco-systems: the Automotive and Tire Testing, Research, and Innovation Center (ATTRIC), together with the Electric Vehicle Battery Testing Center, which is the first automotive testing center in the ASEAN region, has supported investment and enhanced regional potentiality to become a cluster of automotive and its parts in terms of standardized and innovative products, as well as accelerated the development of charging stations to cover most different areas across the country.

In this regard, the National Electric Vehicle Policy Committee has appointed four sub-committees, namely, (1) Sub-committee on the Promotion of Manufacturing Electric Vehicles and Parts; (2) Sub-committee on Infrastructure and Battery System Development for Electric Vehicles; (3) Subcommittee on Impact Assessment on Fuel and Greenhouse Gas to Promote the Electric Vehicles; and (4) Sub-committee on Promotion of the Use of Electric Vehicles. The Committee has assigned all these four sub-committees to determine appropriate plans and measures to support the development of the electric vehicles and its parts, to back up the automotive industry and to provide guidelines for the development of automobile manufacturers, including guidelines for preparing potential manpower in the electric vehicle industry.

In conclusion, Thailand has agreed on exploring possibilities to cooperate and facilitate trade connectivity within the ASEAN region. Together with the international cooperation framework, Thailand is ready to amend our related policies, build up shared projects and work to make sure that the ASEAN framework on supply chain resilience will achieve its goal.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: VIETNAM

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

Over the past year, the outbreak and rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have severely affected the economy, politics, social security and safety of countries and people around the world. The pandemic has exposed a myriad of difficulties and challenges facing the multilateral system and global governance in fostering a peaceful, green and prosperous world. The ASEAN Community, as well as countries around the world, have set the top priority for fighting the pandemic, protecting the safety of people's lives and health. Measures adopted to restrict travel and public contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in profound impacts on economic and trade activities, the breakdown, disruption of supply chains in ASEAN as well as people's livelihood. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has happened quickly and strongly in key markets, such as China, Japan, the European Union and the United States, causing a tremendous decrease in the export and trade of ASEAN countries.

More than ever, it has been increasingly critical to promote international unity and multilateral cooperation in establishing connectivity, bolstering national capacity and harnessing collective strength.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was established at the end of 2015 and became the 5th largest economy in the world, with a total GDP of around US\$3 trillion in 2018. ASEAN has made many encouraging achievements in building the AEC. ASEAN basically became a single market with free flows of goods, services, capital, investments and skilled labour. However, ASEAN's economic integration is taking place in a different context compared to 2015 at which the AEC Blueprint was approved due to the impact of climate change, digital transformation, the urgent demand for sustainable and inclusive growth as the world's geopolitics and economy have been experiencing many rapid and unpredictable changes.

In the ASEAN Community building process, AIPA in general, and AIPA Member Parliaments in particular, play an important role, making practical contributions to complete the legal frameworks supporting and promoting the Governments to implement policies and programmes to implement the commitments in ASEAN Community development in every aspect.

Against the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN needs to put more focus on strengthening supply chains and promoting trade connectivity while working closely to jointly control and prevent the spread of the pandemic, especially cross-border transmission of the virus, boost vaccine purchase and vaccination as well as strengthen cooperation in vaccine research and development.

In contribution to the theme of this meeting, the delegation of Viet Nam National Assembly would like to make the following proposals:

1. Continue reviewing and completing legal frameworks enabling trade and investment facilitation, the regional flow of goods and uninterrupted supply chains.
2. Promote the ratification of regional trade agreements and strengthening parliamentary supervision with respect to the implementation of regional and international commitments on trade

and investment. This is regarded as a key instrument to promote greater integration within the ASEAN Community and between ASEAN and external partners.

3. Establish new measures in promoting bilateral trade relations and market promotion through virtual formats, such as live phone calls between Economic Ministers, to discuss the trade cooperation situation, thereby, removing difficulties in market opening; implementing online trade connectivity activities between enterprises in order to expand markets and create a more favorable environment for the commodity supply chains.

4. Uphold commitments on opening markets and avoid unnecessary tariff and non-tariff barriers to enhance the resilience and sustainability of supply chains regionally. Seize the opportunities of new-generation free trade agreements, such as RCEP and CPTPP.

5. Strengthen regional market development, build up complete supply chains for regional markets. Develop a logistics system to support the supply chain linked to the global value chain to meet the needs of consumers around the world.

6. Take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to deal with economic shutdown and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Increase the application of digital technology in production and business activities; promote goods consumption through e-commerce trading platforms.

ANNEX F

SUMMARY TABLES FOR DISCUSSION TOPIC:

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN
RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam introduced the Brunei Economic Blueprint, which provides guidelines on how the country can develop a dynamic and sustainable economy.</p>	
<p>PROMOTION OF LOCAL MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (MSMES)</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam is committed to promoting the local micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to be more export-oriented, as well as encourage businesses to leverage emerging technologies and innovation to increase productivity and competitiveness.</p>	
<p>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW</p> <p>Implementation of Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) System as part the contribution to the creation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW)</p> <p>REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam became a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.</p> <p>In addition to RCEP, Brunei Darussalam is also part</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">National Initiatives on STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation</p>
<p>of the following FTAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA); ● ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA); ● ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA); ● ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA); ● ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP); ● ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA); ● Brunei-Japan Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement (BJEPA); and ● Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP/P4). 	
<p>COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SUPPLY CHAIN IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam is committed to maintaining open and connected supply chains as reflected in the <i>“Joint Ministerial Statement by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore Affirming Commitment to Ensuring Supply Chain Connectivity Amidst the COVID-19 Situation”</i> on 25 March 2020.</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam has issued the “Guidelines For Business And Transport Companies Using Registered Commercial Vehicles In Brunei Darussalam And Malaysia (Transport Operators And Runners”</p>	
<p>CORPORATISATION OF PORT</p> <p>The corporatisation of the Ports and Marine departments into the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) on 28 September 2017 is exceptional to ensure productivity and efficiency whereas through the Muara Port services under the control of Muara Port Company Sdn Bhd, the number of containers handled in 2018 reached a record volume of 113,125 TEUs (20-foot equivalent</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">National Initiatives on STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation</p>
<p>units), the highest recorded since 2013.</p> <p>EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION OF SHIPPING INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The Muara Port Company has incorporated added services to improve efficiency of the Muara Container Terminal that includes increasing capacity from 220,000 to 330,000 TEUs and dredging the channel depth from 12 to 14 metres. These will increase docking capacity and thus encourage more logistical services.</p> <p>TOWARDS LEVERAGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam Single Window Brunei Darussalam’s Digital Economic Council</p>	



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: CAMBODIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Law on the Approval of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Joint Tariff Agreement for the ASEAN Free Trade Area. ❖ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2008). ❖ Law on Trade Facilitation year (2017). ❖ Agreement on the Protocol and Memorandum of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (2000) ❖ Law on the Approval of the Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Maritime Transport (2013). ❖ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Complete Liberalization of Air Freight Services, including two protocols, the protocol for the implementation of the sixth contract package of air Transport services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement. On Services, Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services Contract of the People's Business Association (2014). ❖ Sub-decree on the Organization and Functioning of the National Committee for Non-Tax Measures (2014). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The COVID-19 crisis has once again reminded our community that the AIPA family is still deficient and heavily dependent on external factors. With the new trend brought on by the COVID-19 disease, the transition from a global trade and supply chain to a regional trade and supply chain, AIPA must be ready to make the most of it. We often mention that intra-trade is still low. This circumstance is a great opportunity for the AIPA family to promote regional and local trade. In this spirit, all AIPA Member States must show a strong will to continue to eliminate the remaining tariff and non-tariff barriers to the maximum. ➤ AIPA must consider a strategy to restore and accelerate the recovery of economic growth after the end of the COVID-19 crisis. I believe that AIPA needs to speed up the implementation of existing plans and mechanisms, as well as promote regional economic integration and increase trade facilitation. In addition, we need to promote the implementation of initiatives for ASEAN integration, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The promotion of small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the creation of new businesses based on technological innovations (start-ups); (2) Promoting cooperation between the private and public sectors within the framework of the digital economy; and (3) Human resource development and digital professional skills. ➤ ASEAN, as well as the AIPA family, a community with a common destiny, should promote greater coordination and dialogue on the implementation of

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Law on the Approval of Southeast Asian National Affairs with Partners (2012). ❖ Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (2007). ❖ Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (2007). ❖ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (2008). ❖ Law on the Approval of the Protocol Amending the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (2005). ❖ Law on the Approval of the Framework Agreement and Protocol for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (2010). ❖ Law on the Adoption of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Freedom of Air Freight Services, including two protocols and the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Freight Services, including six protocols (2011). ❖ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2009). ❖ Law on the Approval of the 7th Protocol on the Customs Transit System of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Transit of Goods (2016). ❖ Law on the Approval of the Agreement on the Establishment and Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk, Protocol on the Establishment and Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk, Protocol on the Legal Framework for the Implementation of the ASEAN Single Desk (2016). ❖ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs (2014). 	<p>various measures to avoid serious social and economic impacts in the region, such as taking unilateral measures across border crossings without prior notice that could affect the supply chain, production and trade flows among countries in the region and the economy of the whole region, especially the travel, business and daily lives of the people of the neighboring countries in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before COVID-19, under the wise leadership of the Samdech Techo Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodia had made significant progress in socio-economic development over the past two decades, such as, economic growth of 7%-8% per year, rapid growth in transport, infrastructure, energy, trade, investment, construction, real estate and tourism. At the same time, the Cambodian people have experienced modernization of urbanization, human resource development and poverty reduction. Cambodia has attained these achievements on the basis of solid peace, political stability and macroeconomics, which are a win-win strategy under the wise leadership of the Samdech Techo Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. ➤ Cambodia started off from a small country with limited resources, committed to continuing to expand and strengthen cooperation on the Parliamentary Forum within the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. It aims to participate in solving common challenges to build resilience to crises and ensure the sustainability and definition of socio-economic development in the regional and global frameworks. Cambodia's commitment to turn the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity for deeper reform sites to build a good economic system and a stronger and more resilient society for future crises. In this regard, Cambodia has been preparing and planning to launch an economic recovery plan from the COVID-19 crisis for 2021-2023 in order to: “drag economic growth back to closer potential growth, sustainable and through ensuring peace, security and social stability and public order on the path of new normalization as well as enhancing competitiveness and promote economic diversification, especially strong industrial bases with high export capacity and stronger linkages with regional and global supply chains”.

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Law on the Approval of the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on the Openness of Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (2016). ❖ Sub-decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction and Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia under the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (2019). ❖ Sub-decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2017 under the Commodity Trade Agreement on Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China (2019). ❖ Sub-decree on the Implementation of the Tax Reduction and Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2017 under the ASEAN Trade Agreement (2019). ❖ Sub-decree on the Implementation of the Program of Reduction and/or Elimination of Customs duties of the Kingdom of Cambodia in accordance with the wording of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2012 under the ASEAN Commodity Trade Agreement (2015). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On this basis, Cambodia will prioritize: (1) rehabilitation by building a solid foundation for the economy to return to the path of growth with a focus on ensuring safety, impact management, stabilization and recovery of potential businesses, especially in the most affected areas and more and faster job creation; (2) reform by continuing to introduce key structural reform measures, including improving the environment and facilitating trade, investment and business, promoting and developing digitalization in the public and private sectors of the economy; (3) continue to promote and support the principle of globalization through greater international trade opening and support a stronger multilateral system as well as favoring developing countries to ensure that the benefits of globalization are distributed equitably and effectively; (4) development of small and medium enterprises by promoting business operations in the formal economy and ensure access to policy and financing support, as well as management techniques to promote connectivity to production chains and services to large industries. ➤ COVID-19 has had devastating effects on society and the global economy and, in particular, the region, by disrupting trade and the functioning of the global supply chain, causing job losses and declining incomes. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">First, the COVID-19 crisis has once again reminded our community that ASEAN is still deficient and heavily dependent on external factors. With the new trend brought on by the COVID-19 disease, the transition from global trade and supply chains to regional trade and supply chains, ASEAN must be ready to take full advantage. We often mention that ASEAN intra-trade is still low. This circumstance is a good opportunity for AIPA member countries and ASEAN members to promote local and regional trade. In this spirit, AIPA Member States and all ASEAN members must show a strong will to continue to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers which remains at the maximum.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Second, ASEAN has new opportunities to strengthen its regional supply chain. This is a matter of urgency, as I see a regional supply chain linkage that will enable ASEAN to realize its full potential as AIPA Member States and the 10 ASEAN members have different comparative advantages. In</p>

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
	<p>addition, the regional supply chain will enable AIPA members and ASEAN members to supply one another and turn ASEAN into a self-reliant and self-sufficient region. This does not mean that ASEAN will break away from the global supply chain, but it does enhance the competitiveness of the ASEAN community on the international stage.</p> <p>Third, the participation of the private sector is an indispensable task in the process of community development, especially in the context of COVID-19. In fact, the spread of COVID-19 has severely affected a number of sectors, requiring government intervention. But the private sector must not rely entirely on the government and must consider its ability to contribute to the management and mitigation of the effects of COVID-19. Based on this spirit, for the sector that is not negatively affected or slightly affected, investors and business owners need to think carefully about their responsibilities, especially Corporate Social Responsibility for its staff. Investors and business owners need to remember that our employees are the ones who make business and investment grow to this day. The COVID-19 Crisis is a great opportunity for investors and business owners to show their gratitude and appreciation to their employees by not giving up work and other support as much as possible. It is true that ASEAN governments have played an important role during and after the COVID-19 crisis, but the government alone has not been able to address these challenges. Therefore, the private sector must actively participate and cooperate with the government as a whole to solve the challenges that are emerging.</p>



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: INDONESIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

COUNTRY: INDONESIA

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>Sixteen Economic Policy Packages launched by President Joko Widodo. Among others, the economic reform packages are intended to increase industries' competitiveness, deregulation of investment procedures, improve the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) and improve logistics efficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further cooperation on trade and investment facilitation among ASEAN Member States. ▪ Further improvement in transport infrastructure, utilization of digital technology in production and logistics, as well as formation of unified rules to facilitate data distribution within the region.
<p>The Omnibus Bill on Job Creation (Law No. 11/2020) to create a national regulatory system that is of high quality, is simple and orderly. It is also meant towards attracting investments and integrating into the Global Value Chain (GVC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for the development of human resources to play a leading role in the digitalization era. ▪ Standardized qualification of education and human resources development, particularly during distance learning in pandemics, such as nowadays.
<p>Stimulus to curated marketplace platforms as a means to boost online transactions, as well as using technology to eliminate uncertainty in supply chain during the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall, the area for harmonization of e-commerce in ASEAN has been the strongest in digital transaction laws. Further harmonization is needed in the areas of consumer protection, data protection and privacy, cross-border dispute resolution and cloud computing policy. ▪ In order to support intra-ASEAN end-to-end transportation of goods, ASEAN could work towards a well-integrated and sustainable multimodal transport system, which has been laid out under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT).

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>Addressing Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) as a way forward to increase intra-ASEAN trade, which would contribute to the recovery of supply chains within the region during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further cooperation to address unnecessary barriers to trade.
<p>One of the keys to the success of developing a construction service supply chain system is the development of an integrated information system containing data and information from all construction service stakeholders. The Government of Indonesia has developed a National Logistics System (Sislognas) with the Vision of the National Logistics System for 2025 towards the realization of a logistics system that is locally integrated and globally connected for national competitiveness and social welfare. The Government of Indonesia has also been developing a big data system of the national construction service industry supply chain in line with the concept of Industry 4.0.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further regional cooperation to improve the resilience, readiness and reliability of the entire construction supply chain.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: LAO PDR

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has intensified the growth slowdown and plunging Lao PDR's economy drastically. Lao PDR's GDP growth rate is projected to rise to 4.9% in 2021, assuming that the domestic spread of the virus is brought under control, that the government's small but targeted COVID-19 fiscal support measures are implemented effectively</p>	
<p>Lao PDR, is concerned about the effect of the pandemic and climate change on the economy and the measures taken to strengthen economic resilience in this period are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Support the enhanced visualization of supply chain through utilization of digital technology. (ii) Support diversification of suppliers, customers and production bases. (iii) Promote trade facilitation and enhanced connectivity. (iv) Engage in alignment or harmonization of domestic rules and regulations. 	
<p>The 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9th NSEDP) stressed on the quality of the development of the national economy by transforming the economic structure towards industrialization and modernization, namely, enhancing visualization of supply chain through utilization of digital technology.</p>	
<p>1) The National Economy's steady growth with quality and sustainability.</p>	

National Initiatives on Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>2) Higher quality of human resources with the ability to research and apply scientific and technological advances to increase efficiency and create added value in production and services to meet the demands of the development plan.</p> <p>3) Gradually improve the well-being of the people.</p> <p>4) Protect the environment and reduce the risk of natural disasters.</p> <p>5) Build strong infrastructures, utilizing potentials, opportunities, participate in the joint process and actively integrating within the region and the international community.</p> <p>6) State administration, an equal and fair society which is protected by the rule of law with sacred and strict laws.</p> <p>Also, 25 major plans/strategies and implementing measures are laid out to ensure that the plans/strategies are actionable and implementable and achieve their set objectives and targets.</p>	
<p>Digital technology may play an important role to make supply chains resilient by visualizing E2E (end-to-end) supply chains and increasing productivity and manufacturing capabilities.</p>	
<p>All government-line ministries are instructed to issue the necessary regulations for implementation of the above-stated target measures as per their responsibilities and scope of governance, to ensure full and effective implementation of the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025).</p>	



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: MALAYSIA

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on Supply Chain Resilience/ Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
I. STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN	<p>Malaysia strongly supports the way forward to embrace regional cooperation and collaboration between AMS to facilitate favourable economic outcomes in increasing connectivity to allow goods to be traded smoothly.</p> <p>Malaysia believes that the development of the logistics and e-Commerce ecosystem can be enhanced to create more business and job opportunities for the overall wealth and prosperity of our country and ASEAN at large.</p> <p>A common legislation will also have an effect on the sovereignty of member states and has never materialised within the ASEAN platform.</p>
<u>Nation-wide Initiatives</u>	
<p>a) National Transport Policy 2019-2030 The National Transport Policy, among others, was aimed at creating a conducive ecosystem for the transport industry to enhance productivity and competitiveness, facilitate seamless movement of goods to boost trading activities and ease of doing business and providing mobility that meets the expectations of people and promote inclusivity.</p>	
<p>b) Provision in the Budget 2021 The JANA NIAGA initiative to provide financial aid to SMEs to drive the national supply chain that were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p>c) National Digital Network (Jendela) It is aimed at enhancing communication capabilities and provide various upskilling programs through improved connectivity and communication.</p>	
<p>d) Malaysia launched the “Guidebook to Starting Warehouse Business in Malaysia” to provide information on the process to develop warehousing business.</p>	
<u>ASEAN-wide Initiative</u>	
<p>a) The ASEAN Work Plan for Enhancing the Global Value Chain Agenda (2016-2025) was</p>	

National Initiatives on Supply Chain Resilience/ Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>adopted at the 48th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) on 3 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.</p> <p>Some of the areas identified to support the Work Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a platform to engage with the communities to mainstream GVC-related policies, provide policy-makers with the tools to enhance their analysis and understanding of GVCs by facilitating current and future research on GVCs in the region; • raising awareness on the importance of competitive services markets for efficient GVC participation; • identify policy actions to increase efficiency of services; • develop and implement initiatives to assist SMEs in the key areas for GVCs; and • Support capacity building and research. 	
<p>b) ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (Broad Strategy 3: Maximizing the Potential of Intra-ASEAN Market and Broader Economic Integration)</p> <p>To strengthen the supply chain, ASEAN will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. keep markets open for trade and investment by accelerating trade and investment and working towards enlarging the market through economic partnerships with the region’s major trading partners. ASEAN also needs effective implementation of the three core agreements: (i) ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA); (ii) ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), which would subsequently be superseded by the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA); and (iii) ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA); b. leverage on free trade agreements (FTA) and comprehensive economic partnership (CEP) agreements with major trading partners that will not only expand ASEAN’s market but also transform the region into an attractive destination for 	

National Initiatives on Supply Chain Resilience/ Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>foreign direct investments (FDIs);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. build stronger and smarter supply networks, better information sharing, diversify sources of supply chains and balance between resilience, sustainability and efficiency in production. At the same time, capacity building on the development of local level supply chain trade networks could be conducted to align with regional and international trade networks; d. keep trade lines open, including airports, seaports and land checkpoints, for goods to move from suppliers to consumers without disruption and to preserve supply chain connectivity; and e. leverage on digital technology to keep goods moving as quickly as possible while limiting unnecessary human interaction. 	
<p>APEC-wide Initiative</p> <p>The Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods by the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) was issued during the APEC MRT Meeting in 2020 hosted by Malaysia to ensure trade continues to flow during the pandemic.</p>	
II. ENHANCING TRADE CONNECTIVITY	
National-wide Initiatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industrial 4.0) Under the policy, the government is providing a matching grant to support companies in implementing intervention projects as a way of facilitating companies' adaptation of industrial revolution 4.0. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) MyDigital The Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint to create adequate access and connectivity through initiatives that have potential to strengthen the global supply chain. 	
<u>ASEAN-wide Initiative</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 is aimed at developing infrastructure to support sustainable economic 	

National Initiatives on Supply Chain Resilience/ Trade Connectivity	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>development and enhance regional connectivity. The introduction of ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 also supports the overarching ideas of a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness and a greater sense of Community.</p>	
<p>b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of the Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (MOU) was signed by the Economic Ministers at the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Summit on 13 November 2020. The MOU addressed trade disruptions that have ramifications on the flow of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies in the region.</p>	



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: MYANMAR

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>Enhance ATIGA provisions with a view to increase intra-regional trade and investment, including incorporating provisions in the ATIGA to strengthen supply chain connectivity and resilience and continue to upgrade ASEAN Plus One FTAs to adopt more trade facilitative measures, and seek further liberalisation, where possible, and to enhance economic integration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft on the ATIGA General Review is expected to be presented at the 35th AFTA Council Meeting
<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Ha Noi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p>Under the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar Customs is undertaking the trade facilitation measures including in ASEAN Agreement and World Customs Organization as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar Customs commenced the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Pilot Project and also laid down the work plan of National Single Window. - In order to facilitate international trade and harmonize customs procedures of WCO members, the Revised Kyoto Convention has entered into force for Myanmar on 2 January 2021. - To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of import/export procedures, Myanmar Customs laid down the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Customs Bonded Warehouse on 20 August, 2019 and put this SOP into practice in October 2020. - Four Dryports have been developed nationwide to reduce barriers in the flow of goods at sea ports. 	

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>Myanmar Customs made several announcements to ease the import/export processes. To get a better resolution of the documents in Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS), Myanmar Customs announced the unnecessary documents lists. It means only necessary documents should be attached to the System and it can reduce the costs and time. (Notification No. 4/2020 issued by Export and Import Control Division dated on 20 April 2020)</p>	
<p>Air cargo is a trade facilitator that contributes to national economic development and creates a number of jobs for citizens.</p> <p>Myanmar has not put any restrictions on operations of air cargo flights and has kept its airports open for those flights.</p> <p>The Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) is constantly observing the unprecedented changes and challenges arising in the region and in the port industry, and taking the following actions to mitigate impacts and to ensure the facilitation of international trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ensuring uninterrupted shipping & maintaining ports open: MPA supervises all port terminals to ensure providing port operation and services as usual by which to guarantee the normal flow of trade and goods in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. (b) Reducing demurrage and detention fees: As a Relief Plan, traders receive 50% reduction in demurrage charges as well as seven-day free on container return (to depot). (c) Relaxing restrictions: Due to occurring delays in air express delivery under the pandemic, importers were allowed email submission of Bill of Lading (BL), instead of original BL submission, in exchange of Delivery Order (DO). 	



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: PHILIPPINES

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiative	Recommendations on Possible Areas for Common Legislation
<p>Republic Act No. 11534 – “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act or ‘CREATE’”</p>	<p>Institution of a common formula in the gradual lowering of corporate income tax to ensure that businesses can sustain their operation in a profitable manner amidst pandemic.</p>
<p>Republic Act No. 11525 – “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaboration in the institutionalization of a regional vaccination program for the procurement and administration of safe and effective vaccines and ensure that no one is left behind; ○ Sharing of technical knowledge or best practices in the administration of vaccines among the member-states; and ○ The conduct of a study to support common legislation to establish an ASEAN vaccine manufacturing facility to help ensure reliable supply to the region.
<p>Republic Act No. 11523 – “Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allowing banks and financial institutions to outsource the management of their non-performing assets.
<p>Republic Act No. 11494 – “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuation of programs to provide subsidies and assistance to facilitate the recovery of more industry sectors. ○ Construction of additional health quarantine and isolation facilities; ○ Provision of a subsidy to the transport and tourism sectors; and ○ The extension of statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of documents, payment of taxes, fees and other charges required by law among governments of ASEAN states.

National Initiative	Recommendations on Possible Areas for Common Legislation
Republic Act No. 11469 – “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of financial assistance to unemployed workers, the urban poor and other marginalized sectors of the society, especially those who were affected by quarantine lockdowns and closure of workplace; ○ Prioritization of frontline healthcare facilities in the allocation of medical supplies; and ○ Ensuring the availability of essential goods, especially food, medicine and hygienic products, by ensuring that their supply chain connectivity is not disrupted in the course of transit along ASEAN states.
Republic Act No. 11165, the “Telecommuting Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage private business employers to develop and implement work-from-home arrangements using Internet platforms by providing corporate tax incentives.
Republic Act No. 11032 – “Ease of Doing Business Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplifying the processing and issuance of licensing and regulatory certificates required of business entities in order to lighten the burden of businesses in this time of economic recovery.
Republic Act No. 10863 – “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage ASEAN member states to expedite full interconnectivity with the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) portal in order to hasten the pace of economic recovery and economic integration of the region.
Republic Act No. 10844 – “Department of Information and Communications Technology Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional cooperation and assistance in the acquisition of digital technology products of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
Republic Act No. 10693 – “Microfinance NGOs Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaboration and partnership with non-government organizations (NGOs) in promoting inclusive and pro-poor financial and credit policies and mechanisms; ○ Providing financial and technical assistance to poor individuals in starting a livelihood or micro-financed enterprises that will sustain them amidst pandemic; and ○ Promotion of financial literacy programs to aspiring entrepreneurs.
Republic Act No. 10667 – “Philippine Competition Act”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening of intra-regional cooperation to promote economic efficiency and free and fair competition in trade, industry and all commercial economic activities



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: SINGAPORE

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiative	Recommendation on Possible Areas for Common Legislation
<p>Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted trade flows and disrupted supply chains. Maintaining trade connectivity is critical in enabling countries to respond effectively and efficiently to manage the pandemic.</p> <p>In recognition of the importance of upholding trade and supply chain connectivity, Singapore and New Zealand initiated a Joint Ministerial Statement on 20 Mar 2020 to affirm our shared commitment to maintaining open supply chains amidst the COVID-19 situation.¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt suitable provisions from the <i>Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic</i> and the <i>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of NTMs on Essential Goods</i> into a legally binding document. • Streamline and reduce non-tariff measures. • Develop common frameworks and standards to facilitate flow of goods and enhance intra-ASEAN trade. • Establish clear and harmonised rules for digital trade and ensure interoperability of digital systems to facilitate digital trade. • Simplify trade processes and digitalise customs processes e.g. expanding the scope of the ASEAN Single Window to enhance the use and exchange of digitalised trade-related documents. • Reduce the time for release of goods at all land entry points, sea and air ports. • Ensure that critical infrastructure (land, air and sea) remain open and functioning during crises.

¹ As of Apr 2021, countries that joined the Joint Ministerial Statement are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: THAILAND

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>1.Trade Facilitation</p>	<p>Eliminate non-tariff measures which would unnecessarily impede intra-ASEAN trade flows of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies.</p> <p>Check if there are any government measures and policies which could affect trade flows, in accordance with the rights and obligations of the Member States under the WTO Agreement, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and any other international agreements.</p>
<p>1.1 The deployment of ASEAN Single Window: ASW</p>	<p>Support the ASEAN Single Window system.</p> <p>Since all ASEAN Member States are fully integrated into the ASEAN Single Window system and can exchange the ATIGA e-form D certificate of origin through the ASEAN Single Window. The expansions to include other trade-related documents are also under trial, including the e-Phyto certificate and ASEAN Custom Declaration Document (ACDD).</p> <p>The implementation of ASEAN Single Window will help save time and reduce the cost of document handling by providing ASEAN traders with a single online submission for import-export documentation.</p>
<p>1.2 The Operation on ASEAN-wide self-certification: AWSC</p>	<p>Since 2020, ASEAN-wide self-certification has helped to facilitate ASEAN traders by allowing certified exporters to self-certify the origin of their goods. Therefore, if all the countries fully support the AWSC, it will reduce the time and cost of doing businesses and at the same time reduce inaccuracy in filling out information in Form D.</p>

National Initiatives	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>1.3 ASEAN MRA on Type Approval for Automotive Products: AP MRA</p>	<p>Support the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on ASEAN Automotive Product.</p> <p>This Mutual Recognition Arrangement will assist businesses in the automotive sector in ASEAN by facilitating intra-ASEAN trade, as well as increasing business opportunities and reducing trade barriers. Associated costs, including expenditures and the time required for import and export of automotive products in the region, will also be reduced.</p> <p>Request all ASEAN Member States to expedite the ratification of AP MRA as soon as possible as automotive products and spare parts are goods that generate significant revenue for our region.</p>
<p>1.4 The Signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: RCEP</p>	<p>Encourage all ASEAN Member States to expedite the ratification process as soon as possible. Thailand is also accelerating our internal process with the aim of having the RCEP enter into force by the beginning of January 2022.</p>
<p>2. Reducing trade barriers</p>	<p>In the near future, any measures being introduced must conform with the rights and obligations under the WTO Agreements, the ASEAN Trade-in-Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and the principles of other international agreements.</p> <p>On the date of signing, the MOU includes a list of 152 essential goods, consisting mostly of medical goods and medical supplies.</p> <p>Today, ASEAN Member States are negotiating to expand the list of essential goods to include food and agricultural products, especially staple food, with the goal of including no less than 100 items.</p> <p>Thailand is one of the main supporters in pushing for the expansion of the list, as we recognise the benefits of the MOU in facilitating the supply chain of essential goods in ASEAN.</p>

National Initiatives	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
<p>3. Internal initiatives</p>	<p>Initiatives on E-Commerce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an e-Marketplace to promote internal and cross-border trade. 2. Support development of a favorable environment and contributing factors for e-commerce in all aspects to facilitate growth of e-commerce trade. 3. Build confidence in e-commerce transactions. 4. Develop the Thai entrepreneurs to be able to make the most of e-commerce.
	<p>Initiative on strengthening supply chain and enhancing trade connectivity.</p> <p>Setting up event in September 2021 called “Subcon Thailand” to be the centre of purchasing and subcontracting for quality industrial parts, featuring industrial parts for industries, such as automotive, electronics, machinery and future industries, such as aviation, medical equipment, robotics, automation and digital.</p> <p>Initiative on National Electric Policy The National Electric Vehicle Policy Committee has appointed four sub-committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Sub-committee on the Promotion of Manufacturing Electric Vehicles and Parts; (2) Sub-committee on Infrastructure and Battery System Development for Electric Vehicles; (3) Sub-committee on Impact Assessment on Fuel and Greenhouse Gas to Promote the Electric Vehicles; and (4) Sub-committee on Promotion of the Use of Electric Vehicles. <p>The Committee has assigned all these four sub-committees to determine appropriate plans and measures to support the development of the electric vehicles and its parts, to back up the automotive industry and to provide guidelines for the development of automobile manufacturers, including guidelines for preparing potential manpower in the electric vehicle industry.</p>



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: VIETNAM

**STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING TRADE
CONNECTIVITY**

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue reviewing and completing legal frameworks enabling trade and investment facilitation, the regional flow of goods and the uninterrupted supply chains.2. Promote the ratification of regional trade agreements and strengthening parliamentary supervision with respect to the implementation of regional and international commitments on trade and investment. This is regarded as a key instrument to promote greater integration within the ASEAN Community and between ASEAN and external partners.3. Establish new measures in promoting bilateral trade relations and market promotion through virtual formats, such as live phone calls between Economic Ministers, to discuss the trade cooperation situation, thereby, removing difficulties in market opening; implementing online trade connectivity activities between enterprises in order to expand markets and create a more favorable environment for the commodity supply chains.4. Uphold commitments on opening markets and avoid unnecessary tariff and non-tariff barriers to enhance the resilience and sustainability of supply chains regionally. Seize the opportunities of new-generation free trade agreements, such as RCEP and CPTPP.5. Strengthen regional market development, build up complete supply chains for regional markets. Develop a logistics system to support the supply chain, linked to the global value chain to meet the needs of consumers around the world.

National Initiatives on [theme]	Recommendation on Possible Common Legislation
	6. Take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to deal with economic shutdown and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Increase the application of digital technology in production and business activities; promote goods consumption through e-commerce trading platforms.

ANNEX G

COUNTRY REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION TOPIC:

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS**



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brunei Darussalam has adopted all of the resolutions during the 41st AIPA General Assembly except for the resolutions under the Committee of Political Matters. Through the implementations made under the Committee of Economic Matters, there has been the enactment of legislation to support policies that promote economic recovery, such as the rolling out of fiscal and monetary policy measures; enhancement on cybersecurity protection; cross-border data sharing and storage of information gathering and record keeping. Under the Committee of Social Matters, the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam has been supporting its national efforts to stem the spread of pandemic COVID-19 within the country, through the Infectious Diseases Act (IDA) Chapter 204 (Amendments) Order 2020 which has been in effect from 30 January 2020. In line with the “whole-of-nation approach”, agencies in Brunei are united in addressing the impact and challenges arising from the spread of the pandemic which includes maintaining the well-being of the public, protecting jobs and providing support for individuals and supporting and assisting businesses. Under the Committee of WAIPA, women continue to be given equal opportunities, among others, in education, training, healthcare, employment, ownership of assets, benefits and citizenship.

REPORT

COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL MATTERS

1. The only resolutions adopted during the General Assembly were the Report on the AIPA-ASEAN Interface and the Report of the 11th AIPA Caucus.

COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC MATTERS

2. The 41st AIPA General Assembly endorsed the “**Resolution on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19**” and has been fully supported by Brunei Darussalam.

3. The peak of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam, like many of our ASEAN colleagues, presented a “seize the moment” opportunity on the importance and urgency in the promotion of digital technologies and its necessity in supporting the economy. The realisation of not just the private sector in its operations but also basic governmental interface with the public required the adaptation of business models to make this possible. The necessity was brought about due to: firstly, social distancing measures that force many enterprises to think “outside the box” and consider the benefits of automation and other digital tools; and, secondly, closed border and movement restrictions encouraged many enterprises to move online. Understanding the need to accelerate and upskill, Brunei Darussalam, through various free or reduced cost programmes,

strategies and initiatives, extended advice and training to enterprises on how to use e-commerce platforms, how to promote and describe their products or services better, and how to adjust their business models.

4. Thus, with necessity being the mother of invention, COVID 19 accelerated the purpose of digitalisation and reaffirmed the importance of the digital economy, the launch of the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025, under the Digital Economy Council (DEC) could not have come at a more timely juncture and to provide and steer leadership on initiatives related to the digital economy.

5. Additionally, Brunei Darussalam has seen the emergence of home-grown online marketplace and e-commerce platforms that provide alternative ways for MSME vendors to continue their business online and promote delivery services. Such platforms range from online directories with links to local e-commerce platforms as well as shipping and logistics providers; community-based platforms that support single mothers, home-based vendors and small goods traders. Online platforms and services have also empowered young entrepreneurs who have long been the ready adopters of technology and enhance their services beyond Brunei Darussalam.

6. Subsequently, through all of these implementations, there has been the enactment of legislation to support policies that promote economic recovery, such as the rolling out of fiscal and monetary policy measures; enhancement on cybersecurity protection; cross-border data sharing and storage of information gathering and record keeping.

7. Brunei Darussalam has also introduced a number of policies in a bid to lessen the impact of restrictions and trade as well as lessen the economic burden on businesses and low-income communities. To support the impacted sectors and minimise disruption to economic activity, under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance and Economy Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Brunei Associations of Banks (BAB) announced a set of interim measures by the banking sector effective 1 April 2020 and has been further extended up to 30 September 2021.

8. In strengthening the digital economy in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty has consented to the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 under the joint guidance of the Ministry of Finance & Economy and the Ministry of Transport and Info-communications launched on 4 June 2020.

COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL MATTERS

9. The resolution adopted under this committee was on Enhancing AIPA's Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19. The Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam has been supporting its national efforts to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic within the country, through the Infectious Diseases Act (IDA) Chapter 204 (Amendments) Order 2020 which has been in effect from 30 January 2020.

10. Under the IDA, the Government of Brunei Darussalam has provided high-quality and comprehensive healthcare for all citizens, including foreigners and residents of Brunei Darussalam, which include monitoring centres and isolation centres. The IDA has also implemented restrictions of exit and entry into Brunei Darussalam since 16 March 2020 except for essential travels. In addition, restrictions of dine-in services in restaurants and food outlets were enforced during the outbreak of the pandemic in the country, as well as the closure of entertainment and sport facilities. De-escalation has since uplifted restrictions as restaurants and food outlets are permitted to operate dine-in services in full capacity; use of entertainment and sports facilities allowed; mass gathering allowed – all of which depended on the status of the pandemic in the country.

11. Supporting the social protection, safety and welfare of social workers, frontline staff and health workers are given special allowances of BND\$400 allocated by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam which started in March 2020 when Brunei detected its first case, and will be extended until the eradication of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam. On the other hand, with regard to protecting jobs and providing support for individuals, our Government provides full Supplemental Contributory Pension (SCP) for self-employed individuals for a period of six months. Online learning is also provided free-of-charge through an online learning platform that has over 300 courses related to business matters. Companies are also encouraged to conduct upskilling and reskilling trainings for their staff, as provided by the Manpower Planning and Employment Council.

12. The Government of Brunei Darussalam has also enhanced its telecommunication services to meet increasing demand during the pandemic, both from an enhanced and improved infrastructure on Internet connectivity, to the cost affordability and competitiveness of telco services to the public, especially to support online learning and teaching for schools to enable continuous learning during the outbreak of the pandemic in the country. Donations of computers, laptops and tables were also conducted by the public, organisations and agencies, to support the online learning, blended with recorded lessons broadcast through national television networks.

13. The Government has also ensured that information and latest updates on current COVID-19 infection in the country are disseminated effectively by the conduction of press conferences; set-up of Health Advice Line 148 for public to enquire on the pandemic in Brunei Darussalam; and the Self-Assessment Tool via the BruHealth App. The BruHealth App is also currently used for the ease of registration for vaccination which has been rolled out since April 2021, accessible for all citizens, permanent residents and foreigners in Brunei Darussalam.

COMMITTEE OF WAIPA

14. The “**Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers**” has also been adopted and fully supported by Brunei Darussalam.

15. In Brunei Darussalam, women continue to be given equal opportunities, among others, in education, training, healthcare, employment, ownership of assets, benefits and citizenship.

16. Women accounted for 39.3% of the labour force (Labour Force Survey, 2019), and 54% of those employed in the Brunei Darussalam civil service (Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2019);

17. Brunei Darussalam has recorded progress of women in positions of power and decision making in various fields – women accounted for more than 60% of the top two divisions in the civil service and recorded a rate of 37% in women holding middle and senior management positions in the private sector – the highest in the region.

18. Currently, there are three women Legislative Council representatives who continuously discuss various women’s issues during our parliamentary sessions.

19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Brunei Darussalam has introduced measures to protect the jobs and provide support for individuals, including for women:

- Providing online training free-of-charge through Coursera, an online learning platform that has over 300 courses related to business matters;

- Life-long Learning: companies are encouraged to conduct upskilling and reskilling trainings for their local staff, as provided by Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC);
- Contract extension for i-Ready apprentices for a period of six months, especially for those whose contract expired before September 2020 in the public and private sector;
- Expanding the i-Ready Apprenticeship Program to Level 5 Diploma (HND or Advanced Diploma) and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET);
- Providing work-from-home and more flexible time arrangements in order to sustain work-life balance not only for women but for all who needed it.

20. Brunei Darussalam, as the recent Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Women, has led some significant achievements, such as producing the inaugural ASEAN Gender Outlook publication with United Nations Women and the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Framework, an initiative with ASEAN Commission on Women and Children.

21. In Brunei Darussalam, the legislation and regulations to promote gender equity in employment can be found in the Employment Order 2009, the Workplace Safety and Health Order 2009 as well as the Maternity Leave Regulation 2011 which are all fully enforced.

22. Additionally, in March 2021, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), through the Community Development Department (JAPEM), hosted the Wanita Weekend: Women Empowered Conference and the #YouGoGirl Marketplace with the objective of empowering women and promoting work-life balance for women.

23. Brunei Darussalam, as the Chairman of ASEAN 2021, will also highlight women's development as one of the deliverables under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar.

24. Whilst, as the Chair to the AIPA 42nd General Assembly this year, with the theme "Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion towards ASEAN Community 2025", Brunei Darussalam wishes to put forward a resolution to empower women's economic participation through the digital and financial inclusion which it believed could provide new avenues for the economic empowerment of women and can contribute to greater gender equality.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: CAMBODIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

I. The Committee on Economic Matters

Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 Resolution on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19. Economic Recovery Measures:

1. Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) established a task force to control supply and prices of strategic goods, including rice, salt, vegetable, fish, meat, face masks, disinfectant alcohol, pharmaceutical and medical equipment and other essentials for daily consumption during the fight against COVID-19.
2. Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) also built a task force responsible for planning the budget policy on financing and social assistance, which the team has to study and determine the required budget to fight against COVID-19 based on three preventive measures, such as preventing COVID-19 outbreaks, stabilizing the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people and recovering businesses (2020).
3. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) informed businesses to reopen starting from early July 2020, but schools are still operating online. In addition, entertainment clubs and KTV owners were allowed to convert their business into restaurants.
4. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) officially launched "Cash Transfer Program for Poor and Vulnerable Households during COVID-19" On 24 June 2020, to provide reliefs as temporary social support to contribute to poverty reduction and improve the livelihoods and well-being of rural vulnerable households. The RGC's cash subsidy program is aimed specifically at poor and vulnerable families adversely affected by COVID-19. USD 25 million per month was allocated to help these poor and vulnerable families. As of 13 July 2020, at least USD 23 million was transferred to approximately 520,000 people to temporarily support their living expenses, according to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.
5. Promotion of Cambodian agriculture and agro-industry: the COVID-19 pandemic has caused difficulties to farmers' daily activities, but COVID-19 has created an opportunity for the agriculture sector to grow. The Cambodian Farmers Federation Association of Agricultural Producers (CFAP), Cambodian farmers continued to farm normally, but their productions cannot be exported due to import and export difficulties and quarantine measures without specific deadline.
6. In order to help farmers, the government suspended the export of fish, rice and paddy rice to ensure domestic supply. In addition, Prime Minister Hun Sen continued to call on workers returning from Thailand to seek jobs in the agricultural sector, including in livestock and aqua-farming.
7. The garment sector, the main source of the government's direct revenue, has also received an intervention. For factories that have been impacted by COVID-19, the RGC paid \$40 and factories paid \$30 to employees whose jobs have been suspended.

8. Businesses and workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors, including the airline and aviation firms, have also received government support, among which, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and businesses affected by COVID-19 have received tax holidays of up to six months, while workers who have jobs suspended or have lost their jobs are able to receive about 50% of their basic pay for between two to three months.
 9. The National Bank of Cambodia has devised financial support strategies, such as relaxation of interest and loan payment obligations, to help microfinance businesses as lenders and borrowers resilient to the domestic growth shock caused by COVID-19.
- ❖ COVID-19 poses some serious challenges, especially in the textile, tourism, aviation and service sectors. In this situation, the Royal Government of Cambodia has already set out five rounds of measures to help maintain the balance of production and business for both domestic and foreign supply, especially to ensure the stability of the lives of people who are severely affected. These interventions include: tax incentives and concessions, payment of insurance premiums, occupational risk and health insurance, facilitating credit conditions, increasing market liquidity, providing subsidies to garment and tourism workers; establish special financing programs to help rehabilitate and promote the business of small and medium enterprises, organize skills training for workers and prepare financing projects for working capital to meet the needs of factories, enterprises and businesses in the country.
 - ❖ Financial and monetary intervention: The Royal Government of Cambodia has provided tax deductions to the affected sectors. The Royal Government has provided additional capital to the Rural Development Bank and the Agricultural Sector and established the SME Bank to support agriculture, agro-industry, food processing, and small and medium enterprise development. The Royal Government has also reduced minimum obligatory reserves to support the financial sector and encourage financial institutions; in particular, the bank restructures loans to facilitate clients affected by the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Royal Government has increased funding for the program “Labor Cash” which has created more jobs and infrastructure in rural areas.
 - ❖ Cambodia promotes and inspires a culture of sharing, which includes sharing from state institutions to the people, sharing from development partners and NGOs to the people, sharing from the rich to those poor in resources and sharing between local people. This culture has not only eased the pressure on the national budget, but also formed a national unity movement and a driving force in combating COVID-19.

II. *The Committee on Social Matters*

Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 Resolution on Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19. Cambodia has built institutional capacity and partnership development:

- 1) 113 officials attended local and international training seminars, 41 females and one overseas.
- 2) Prepared the report summarizing the monthly work results for the first quarter of the first half of September 2020 and the progress report in 2019 of the implementations of the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023.
- 3) Compiled the standard documents related to the competence of the Ministry for 2020 and the series of public services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- 4) Implement effective and responsible public financial management reform program.
 - 5) Signed agreements with 16 organizations. Total organizations where the agreement is still valid with the Ministry and there are 145 organizations with a total budget of 287,789,738.52 US dollars.
 - 6) Organized an online video-level meeting of ministers and senior officials within the framework of ASEAN Social Affairs during COVID-19.
 - 7) Coordinated and organized the 6th ASEAN Children's Forum online at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Audited in Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, Kep, Kampot, Phnom Penh, National Center for Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation to control public financial management, focusing on the implementation of revenue, expenditure, state budget, management of state property.
 - 8) Inspected the Department Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakkiri and Mondulakiri provinces in order to strengthen the implementation of the Law on the General Statute of Civil Servants, Discipline, Regime and Presence Management.
- ❖ In the field of social affairs, the Royal Government has launched a cash-for-work project to develop rural infrastructure and support farmers, which will help promote better community infrastructure and provide some additional employment opportunities for the people during this difficult time. In addition, the Royal Government has launched a cash subsidy program to provide additional temporary assistance to the poor and vulnerable in order to maintain their livelihood during the crisis. For the education sector, after the closure of schools for a while, the Royal Government has launched a "Strategy for the reopening of educational institutions", which requires educational institutions to implement a diverse learning approach: electronic distance learning, along with classroom learning, combines rigorous implementation of the "social gap" policy and other safeguards as determined by the Ministry of Health.
 - ❖ Social Support and Assistance: the Royal Government of Cambodia initiates and develops cash support programs for poor, vulnerable families, pregnant women and children, families affected by COVID-19, providing subsidies to garment and tourism workers and social assistance during the closure of the city as rice, foodstuffs, as well as alleviating the cost of electricity and water for high-risk people living in the red zone and those affected by the leaks. At the same time, COVID-19 sufferers, both Cambodians and foreigners, are treated with the utmost care by doctors and free-of-charge, including accommodation, health care and food.

III. *The Committee on WAIPA*

Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers. Based on the Rectangular Strategy, Phase 4, Rectangle 1, "Human Resource Development" in the fourth angle: Strengthening gender equality and social protection to improve the socio-economic situation and strengthen the role of women as the backbone of the economy and society: clearly, the attention of the Royal Government was to help all kinds of victims and the vulnerable in society, especially orphans, vulnerable children, the elderly, the disabled, veterans and former civil servants.

In order to strengthen the social security network and social protection, contribute to the well-being of the people, especially the victims and vulnerable to the risks. Launched the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 focusing on three main programs:

- 1) Improving the efficiency of social welfare services,
- 2) Improving the efficiency of the social security system and providing rehabilitation

- services for the disabled, and
- 3) Strengthening the capacity of institutions and Develop partnerships.
The 12 sub-programs include:

1. Development of welfare for the vulnerable and vulnerable and family affairs
2. Development of the welfare of children and youth rehabilitation
3. Development of the welfare of the disabled
4. Development of the welfare of the elderly
5. Development of the welfare of six veterans
6. Improving the efficiency of social welfare services in the capital and provinces
7. Improving the efficiency of social security services for civil servants
8. Optimizing social security services for veterans
9. Continuing the provision of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities
10. Institutional capacity building and partnership
11. Human resource development, and
12. Institutional capacity building and partnership development.

❖ *Cambodia has set the following priorities:*

First, explore new opportunities to enhance the participation of young women in education and skills in line with the context of the labor market and higher levels, especially those related to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education.

Second, continue to promote the economic development of women in the family, especially in the community and rural areas, and the entrepreneurial development of women, micro and small and medium enterprises, by examining the functions of the Women's Development Center, examining the potential in the context of the fourth-generation industrial revolution and the digital economy in the post- COVID-19 economic recovery framework.

Third, expand the scope of work, promote social morality and women's values by strengthening the implementation of parenting programs, non-violent culture, and promote the implementation of laws and strategic plans to prevent violence against women and children in all forms, including the welfare of women and girls in particular within the framework of social protection.

Fourth, examine the strategies and scope of work to promote women's leadership in the public, political and private sectors and, especially in the upcoming 2022 Commune/Sangkat Council elections.

Fifth, strengthen the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in policies, development plans in all sectors at all levels, especially focusing on strengthening the system and capacity for statistical monitoring and evaluation.

Sixth, explore new potentials and initiatives for gender mainstreaming in climate change, disaster management and green development.

Seventh, expand cooperation within the ASEAN community and globally in promoting the rights of women and children, especially with Cambodia as the chair of the ASEAN Commission on Women 2021.

- ❖ The implementation of the social protection system in Cambodia started, firstly, with pregnant women; women with twins, women workers and women officers, where women who give birth to one child received a subsidy of 400,000 Riel, those who give birth to twins received 800,000 Riel and those with triplets received 1,200,000 Riel, a high initiative and direct support by the Prime Minister.

- ❖ The salaries of factory workers as well as informal workers in 2021 will increase to \$ 192 per month, but, on average, each worker will receive between \$ 210 and \$ 220 per month. For foreign workers, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has provided additional skills training to prepare them for legal work abroad in industry and agriculture. Separately, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation also helped and facilitated the repatriation.
- ❖ Develops and enhances programs for the development of women with disabilities, such as employment, rehabilitation and fitness, vocational training and free services. Poor people with disabilities in the community receive a women's policy. Registered land and used this land as well as provided property to poor women and widows, settled housing, allocated land for social concessions for women and families. Receive training in agricultural techniques that can adapt to climate change, as well as strengthen the relevant capacity to establish savings communities and farming communities.
- ❖ In the National Economic Promotion Program, the capacity of women officers at the Women's Development Centers in the capitals and provinces has been strengthened on the use of information technology to increase the understanding of information technology communication in business affairs, which promotes the advancement of information technology for women.
- ❖ At the same time, the Rural Development Program improves the livelihoods of women and families through the provision of primary health services and community hygiene education, the New Village Movement, the construction of housing latrines, clean water, vocational training and credit. It is providing economic potential for women and families to create new jobs, expand businesses, increase agricultural productivity and reduce migration, and provide legal and related services.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: INDONESIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 Resolution on Fostering Inclusive Economic Development in ASEAN adopted by the Committee on Economic Matters mandated the AIPA Member Parliaments to advance efforts to manage the substantial losses that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to ASEAN economies. In responses to the detrimental impact of the pandemic to the economy as well as an effort in managing the well-being of its citizen, two major Government Regulations have been passed by the Government of Indonesia. First, the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No 1 of 2020 on State's COVID-19 Finance policy and Financial System Stability for the Management of COVID-19, and/or Encounter the Threat to National Economy and/or Stability of Financial Systems. Second, the Presidential Regulation No 54 of 2020 on the Revision of Allocation and Details in the Income and Expenses of the State Budget 2020. The Executive Order on State's COVID-19 Finance policy and Financial System Stability was passed into Law by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia through Law No 2 of 2020. The Law also accommodates the mandate of the Presidential Regulation No 54 of 2020 to expand the state spending to provide for the national COVID-19 relief programs. Indonesia has also enacted several other pieces of legislation related to MSMEs, digital economy and e-commerce prior to the pandemic. An Omnibus Law on Job Creation has also been enacted in November 2020 by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Law No 11 Year 2020 aims to attract investment, create new jobs and stimulate the economy.

The Committee on Social Matters adopted Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 Resolution on Enhancing AIPA's Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio Cultural Community in Responding to COVID19. Law No 6 Year 2008 on Health Quarantine is the legal basis for the issuance of several regulations on measures and approaches to mitigate and overcome the pandemic. It became the basis for the limitation in the operation of public facilities and Large Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB), which aim to reduce the spread of the virus. Law No 20 Year 2004 on National Social Security System ensures the rights of every citizen to social protection during the crisis. Law No 20 Year 2003 on National Education System ensures the rights of every citizen to education even during global crisis. Law No 6 Year 1994 on the ratification of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Law No 32 Year 2009 on the Protection and Management of Environment are in place to ensure the alignment of Indonesia's development policies and priorities during pandemic recovery with the international commitment on climate action and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee on WAIPA adopted Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 Resolution on The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers. In Indonesia, mainstreaming gender equality and gender responsive policies into national long- and medium term development is mandatory through a Presidential Instruction, which strengthens Law No 12 Year 2011 on Gender Equality. At the workplace, Law No 13 Year 2003 on Manpower is the

umbrella legislation for non-discriminatory and gender equality in recruitment and treatment in the workplace. International Conventions concerning the well-being of female workers have also been ratifying through Law No 7/1984 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Law No 21/1999 on ILO Convention No 111 concerning Anti-Discrimination in Position and Occupation; Law No 80/1957 on the Ratification of ILO Convention No 100 concerning Wage Equality. In regard to protection of Indonesian female migrant workers, Law No 39/2004 on Placement and Protection of Migrant Worker is in place.

REPORT

A. Resolution of the Committee on Economic Matters

Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 Resolution on Fostering Inclusive Economic Development in ASEAN was drafted and adopted based upon common concerns on the substantial losses that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to ASEAN economies. In response to the detrimental impact of the pandemic on the economy as well as an effort in managing the well-being of its citizens, two major Government Regulations have been passed by the Government of Indonesia. First, the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No 1 of 2020 on the State's COVID-19 Finance policy and Financial System Stability for the Management of COVID-19, and/or Encounter the Threat to National Economy and/or Stability of Financial Systems. Second, the Presidential Regulation No 54 of 2020 on the Revision of Allocation and Details in the Income and Expenses of the State Budget 2020. The Executive Order on State's COVID-19 Finance policy and Financial System Stability was passed into Law by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia through Law No 2 of 2020. The Law also accommodates the mandate of the Presidential Regulation No 54 of 2020 to expand state spending to provide for the national COVID-19 relief programs.

In its essence, the Law governs two main things – State Financial Policy and Stability of Financial Systems. Under the State Financial Policy, the key policies and initiatives are:

1. Relaxation of the state budget deficit policy to reach above the standard 3% of GDP to adapt to the much-needed fiscal space. Starting in 2023, the state budget deficit policy will return to the maximum level of 3%.
2. Allocation and reallocation of spending to various policies designed to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which include allocation and reallocation of expenditure between state institutions, between functions, and between programs and mandatory spending, as well as allocation and reallocation of Regional Government Expenditures.
3. Loans to the Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation (IDIC)
4. Issuance of Government bond can be purchased by Bank Indonesia, SOEs, corporate investors and/or retail investors
5. Use of alternative budget sources, for example ASL, education endowment funds, and funds managed by the Public Service Agency
6. Taxation Policy:
 - a. Decrease in Corporate Income Tax Rates gradually to 20% starting in 2022;
 - b. Taxation Incentives in the Capital Market for public ownership <40%;
 - c. Taxation of Electronic Transactions;
 - d. Extension of tax administration time;
 - e. Customs facilities in the context of COVID-19.

Under the Stability of Financial Systems, the key policies and initiatives are:

1. Improved coordination among the Financial System Stability Committee (FSSC) members
2. Provide the necessary authority to four institutions to prevent a crisis (forward looking) in the KSSK forum, for example, to issue instruments, BI buys government bonds on the primary market, lending to “IDIC” and “FSA” may request a merger or consolidation of Financial Services Institutions.
3. Foreign exchange management (LLD) management for residents
4. Increase public confidence without causing moral hazard

Several other pieces of legislation dealing with economic matters have been in place long before the pandemic. On strengthening of MSMEs, Law No 20/2008 on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) promotes institutional and policy supports for MSMEs development and Law No 1/2013 on Micro Financial Institution provides support to access to finance for MSMEs. During the pandemic, to maintain sustainability of MSMEs and enable their participation in the economic recovery, the Government has made policies and initiatives to facilitate interest subsidy, fund placement, guarantee return, working capital guarantee (stop loss), Government-borne final income tax and investment financing to cooperatives.

On digital economy and e-commerce, Law No 36/1999 on Telecommunication has been in place to enhance digital connectivity across Indonesia and encourage progress on e-commerce, as well as Law No 7/2014 on Trade as the legal basis for further regulation on e-commerce.

In relation to regional economic cooperation, Law No 4/2018 on the Ratification of Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement Services to facilitate open trade, investment and free movement of goods, services and capital.

An Omnibus Law on Job Creation has been enacted in November 2020 by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Law No 11 Year 2020 aims to attract investments, create new jobs and stimulate the economy. It simplifies the licensing process and harmonizes various laws and regulations and makes policy decisions faster for the central government to respond to global or other changes or challenges.

B. Resolution of the Committee on Social Matters

The Committee on Social Matters adopted Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 Resolution on Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19. The Resolution urges the ASEAN Member States to step up efforts in managing the impact of COVID-19 on the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community.

Law No 6 Year 2008 on Health Quarantine is the legal basis for the issuance of several regulations on measures and approaches to mitigate and overcome the pandemic. It became the basis for the limitation in the operation of public facilities and Large Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) which aims to reduce the spread of the virus. Law No 20 Year 2004 on National Social Security System ensures the rights of every citizen to social protection during the crisis. Under the National Economic Recovery Program, the largest allocation of resources is intended towards expansion of investment in social protection program. Expansion of social protection program enables the Government of Indonesia to increase the coverage and benefit levels of existing assistance programs while also introducing several new schemes to reach the newly vulnerable groups, including pre-employment cards, cash assistance for micro,

small and medium-sized enterprises, and wage subsidies for formal workers. BP Jamsostek, as the social security operator, has also adapted to new circumstances of social movement restrictions and keep maintaining the obligation to provide service as regulated through utilization of digital technology.

Law No 20 Year 2003 on the National Education System ensures the rights of every citizen to education even during the global crisis. As students are unable to continue their learning activities at school, educational institutions are given the flexibility to choose the most suitable form of distance learning. In addition, the Government of Indonesia provides a free online portal and an online learning sharing platform to encourage knowledge sharing. Under the Presidential Regulation issued in 2020, the Ministry of Education's budget was increased by 96% with majority portion of the budget intended to support distance learning. One of the Government's assistance measures to support implementation of distance learning is Internet quota or phone credit subsidies for teachers and students.

Law No 6 Year 1994 on the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Law No 32 Year 2009 on the Protection and Management of Environment are the legal bases for Indonesia to align the development policies during pandemic recovery, with international commitment on climate action and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

C. Resolution of the Committee on WAIPA

The Committee on WAIPA adopted Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 Resolution on The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers. During the meeting, the Committee on WAIPA called on AIPA Member Parliaments to conduct a review of national legislation framework on jobs and income and ensure that it is gender responsive and to adopt an ASEAN common perspective towards a Sustainable Development Goal on Gender Equality; to strengthen parliamentary capacity building, participation and oversight frameworks with regard to decent work and increased income for women workers.

During the pandemic, Indonesia believes that empowering women is part of the solution to fight COVID-19. In Indonesia, the commitment to preventing discrimination against women amid the pandemic is crystal clear. Even prior to the pandemic, mainstreaming gender equality and gender responsive policies into national long and medium term development plans is mandatory and regulated through Presidential Instruction that strengthens Law No 12 Year 2011 on Gender Equality. In the implementation, it is complemented with a guideline for gender mainstreaming at local government and gender-responsive budgeting.

At the workplace, Law No 13 Year 2003 on Manpower is the umbrella legislation for non-discriminatory and gender equality in recruitment and treatment in the workplace. International Conventions concerning the well-being of female workers have also been ratified through Law No 7/1984 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Law No 21/1999 on ILO Convention No 111 concerning Anti-Discrimination in Position and Occupation; Law No 80/1957 on the Ratification of ILO Convention No 100 concerning Wage Equality. In regard to protection of Indonesian female migrant workers, Law No 39/2004 on Placement and Protection of Migrant Workers is in place.

The pieces of national legislation have been translated into implementing regulations, among others Regulation No 03/1999 on Prohibition on termination of employment on the basis of marriage, pregnancy and childbirth, Circular Note No 04/1996 on Non-discrimination against women workers in the company.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: LAO PDR

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

The National Assembly and the Government of Lao PDR have made utmost efforts in implementing AIPA Resolutions adopted at the 41st General Assembly held virtually, which are critical to socio-economic development. These resolutions have been translated into national legislation and policies. In addition, this report also reflects existing legislation and policies adopted in recent years in relation to the resolutions of the 41st AIPA General Assembly as follows:

I. On Economic Matters:

1. RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN (*Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01*):

The 9th Legislature of the National Assembly approved the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 on 22 March 2021 with a central vision to structural economic transformation amidst a complex and shifting regional and international geo-strategic landscape, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Despite these challenges and complexity, the country has enjoyed political stability, peaceful and social order, national unity and equality, an improved living standard and sustained economic growth at an annual average rate of 5.8% while achieving a GDP per capita at US\$ 2,666 and more than 62,384 households (5.16%) have been lifted out of poverty. Currently, the approved plan is being translated into the Government's long-term sustainable growth strategy, targeting non-resource-based industrialization, productive capacity building and reduced economic vulnerabilities. The National Assembly Lao PDR supports the government's efforts to remove growth constraints of the non-resource industrial sector, improve business environment, increase agricultural productivity and unlock the potential of the services sector.

The Lao government has begun efforts to support the growth of SMEs, starting with the legislative framework governing the promotion of SMEs, and the establishment of the SME Promotion and Development Office and SME Development, Promotion and Productivity Committee under this framework.

II. On Social Matters:

1. RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 (*Res 41GA/2020/Soc/03*):

The National Assembly of Lao PDR, as a pledged member of AIPA, we have the role of supervising the government on developing and enhancing the national policy and action plans in order to promote the development of e-government to support the utilisation of digital-

technology in all sectors at the central and local levels, in order to accelerate socio-economic development in order to facilitate transformation towards industrialisation and modernisation with focused targets and areas, as well as in response to the current COVID-19 outbreak and in the post-COVID-19 era under the ‘New Normal’.

The National Assembly has put into action the roles, rights and duties in monitoring the implementation of measures to prevent, control and solve the spread of the disease COVID-19 with the appointment of the National Assembly’s COVID-19 Ad-Hoc to monitor the implementation of measures at disease analysis centers, quarantine centers, treatment facilities and vaccination facilities to ensure the safety and health of the people and resolve its impact on society and make sure that no one is left behind. In addition, the National Assembly have encouraged the government to focus on improving the teaching system in line with the pandemic through online teaching in cities and districts that have access to the Internet and for rural tutoring to be taught through television programmes.

In response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease 2019, the Lao government recognizes the grave threat to the lives and safety of its people, especially to the ASEAN peoples, and its potential risks, including its impact on the political, social and economic stability amongst our AIPA member countries. A Special Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) was convened on 20 February 2020 in Vientiane and the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies (ACCWG-PHE) was established in March 2020 to review the status and reports on the challenges and implications of COVID-19 in ASEAN, and to consider ways to respond to the pandemic through coordination among the three pillars and related sectors. The government has also introduced the National COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (2020-2025) that harmonized with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Since January 2021, the Government has implemented a mass and nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme under which more than seven hundred and ten thousand people (as of 13/06/2021) have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while more than three hundred and nine thousand people (as of 13/06/2021) have completed the second dose. The government of the Lao PDR has put in their utmost efforts to vaccinate 22% of the population by 2021; 50% by 2022 and 70% by 2023. Therefore, to enhance AIPA’s role in supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in responding to COVID-19, we would like to propose that there shall be a common initiative on a vaccination passport within ASEAN.

III. WAIPA:

1. THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS (*Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01*)

With regard to this resolution, the National Assembly has made significant progress by passing and adopting the Law on Gender Equality in December 2019, which is a key legislation tool to ensure the implementation of policy on women’s advancement. The 8th NSEDP has incorporated numbers of targets on gender quality. In addition, the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly of Lao PDR has a five-year plan on monitoring and promoting the employment of women with an emphasis on monitoring and encouraging stakeholders to build a model business for women. The women parliamentarians have exercised their rights to comment at the 10th Ordinary Session of the 8th legislature of the National Assembly and at the most recent inaugural session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly of Lao PDR.

The National Assembly supports the 9th NSEDP on enhancing and creating more opportunities conducive for women to run for seats in the National Assembly and Capital/Province

People's Council to cover more than 30%, to decrease the gender inequality Index to 0.430 and increase the gender equality Index to 0.984.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: MALAYSIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 41st AIPA General Assembly with the theme “Parliamentary Diplomacy for a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community” was held virtually from 8 to 10 September 2020.

During the Assembly, three (3) resolutions were adopted:

- The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19 pandemic;
- Enhancing AIPA’s role in supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in responding to the COVID-19; and
- The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers.

The three resolutions are partially implemented.

In line with several recent developments in the ASEAN Economic Community, the government has already started to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and carry out the domestic ratification process on the Regional Comprehensive Partnership.

AIPA Malaysia takes an indirect role through the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on SDG (APPGM-SDG) to promote inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities.

Women parliamentarians take an active role in mainstream gender in lawmaking.

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1 The report gives the status of the implementation of the 41st AIPA General Assembly resolutions in Malaysia. The 41st AIPA General Assembly was held virtually from 8 to 10 September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. During the Assembly, three (3) resolutions were deliberated and adopted in the Committee on Economic Matters, Committee on Social Matters and Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA).

- 2 The report covers the following resolutions:
- a) The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19 pandemic;
 - b) Enhancing the Role of AIPA to support the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community in responding to the COVID-19;
 - c) The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers.

3 The report covers the period from September 2020 to June 2021, over nine months. During this period, the Parliament of Malaysia was in session between 2 November and 17 December 2020. In addition, a state of emergency from 11 January to 1 August 2021 has been declared to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, from January 2021, the official business of Parliament has been postponed.

II RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19 PANDEMIC

4 AIPA Malaysia refers to several milestones achieved in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN, namely, the release of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Economic Community, the endorsement of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Declaration on the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework.

5 The pandemic has led to an economic contraction of 5.6% in 2020. However, it has improved in the first quarter of 2021 to -0.5%. The pandemic crisis has also brought unprecedented uncertainties to ASEAN as it experienced an economic contraction of 4.0% in 2020, the first economic contraction in 22 years.

6 The government has introduced the 6R strategy: RESOLVE, RESILIENT, RESTART, RECOVERY, REVITALISE AND REFORM to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to ensure sustainable economic recovery. Five economic stimulus packages worth RM340 billion (USD82 billion) and the most recent RM40 billion (USD9.6 billion) aid package were unveiled since the start of the pandemic.

7 ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework

7.1 ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) serves as the consolidated exit strategy from the COVID-19 pandemic. ACRF tackles the main challenges faced by ASEAN: the public health system, human security, regional economic market, digitalisation and sustainable development.

7.2 On the adoption of the Ha Noi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic¹, the government agreed to the proposal for an additional 163 tariff lines on food and agricultural products on top of the 152 products in the category of medicines and medical equipment.

¹ <https://asean.org/storage/2020/06/Hanoi-POA.pdf>

7.3 The ACRF Broad Strategy 4 provides for accelerating the inclusive digital transformation to take the region through the recovery process and towards long-term resilience. For this, the government has recently launched the Malaysia Digital (MyDigital) Economy Blueprint. In addition, Malaysia has in place the National eCommerce Strategic Roadmap, Malaysia Green Technology Masterplan 2017-2030, Industry 4WRD: National Policy on Industry 4.0, Malaysia Smart City Framework.

8 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Following up on the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in November 2020, the government is undertaking domestic procedures to complete the ratification process. RCEP will impact legislation, namely, the Customs Act, Copyright Act, Patent Act and Trademark Act.

9 ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement

9.1 The ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement implementation is still pending, subject to further deliberation in July 2021.

9.2 In the meantime, the Malaysian government has set up a One-Stop Centre and a dedicated website to facilitate and expedite the entry of business travellers to Malaysia.

10 AIPA Malaysia and parliamentarians will continue to review and articulate matters concerning ACRF, RCEP, Travel Corridor and other related issues to enable trade facilitation, the regional flow of goods and the undisrupted supply chains².

III RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19

11 The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community strives for a community that engages and benefits the people and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic.

12 The Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint assesses progress in implementing the Blueprint's five characteristics and objectives (engages and benefits the people, inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic).

13 AIPA Malaysia and All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) actively participate in localising the SDG at their constituencies. APPGM-SDG is chaired by Hon Dato' Sri Hajah Rohani Abdul Karim who is also a member of AIPA Malaysia. Since its formation in 2019, APPGM-SDG has carried out ten (10) pilot projects at ten parliamentary constituencies to map and identify issues concerning the communities. It has now entered into phase 2 to formulate solutions for the constituencies. Phase 2 includes an additional twenty (20) new parliamentary constituencies. This platform builds on a bottom-up approach where multi-stakeholder engagement at the grassroots is vital for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient community.

14 The APPGM-SDG augurs well and is aligned to the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

² As per 41st AIPA General Assembly resolution on the role of Parliamentarians in Promoting ASEAN cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19.

15 The government is actively implementing and strengthening policies and initiatives for social protection, safety and welfare towards mitigating the pandemic's impact.

16 Among the measures taken are stepping up financial welfare assistance, setting up the hotline and tele-counselling service to provide social and emotional support, overhauling the social safety net, and designing a women empowerment framework. Lessons learnt and success stories will be shared when the government participates in the Technical Working Group to develop a roadmap to implement the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community.

IV RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS

17 The National Policy on Women provides for long-term strategies and programmes to uphold gender equality. The government encouraged women's participation in the employment sector for income-generating and widened the labour market.

18 The female labour force participation at 55.2% is still far from the male labour force participation at 80.6%³. One of the factors that are holding women from participating equally in the workforce is the caring of children. Typically, women spend disproportionately more time meeting the expectations of their domestic role.

19 Thus, in the Budget 2021, the government has a budgetary allocation to provide for the establishment of 150 childcare centres in government buildings and hospitals as a support system for working women and frontliners.

20 The government provides childcare subsidies for low-income working households and encourages Flexible Working Arrangements through tax incentive.

21 The amendment to the Employer Act 1955 is expected to increase the maternity leave from 60 days to 90 days, improve provision on sexual harassment protection, repeal provisions relating to restrictions on women's employment in certain circumstances and introduce conditions associated with flexible working arrangements.

22 The government is also expected to table a Bill on anti-sexual harassment to address the issue effectively. Sexual harassment is recognised as an act that violates human dignity. Furthermore, it is a form of gender-based discrimination that can prevent women equal participation in the employment sector.

23 To build leadership among women, the government organised gender advocacy programmes, Young Women Leadership and Gender Empowerment, and Career Women Leadership and Gender Empowerment, to leverage the role of young women below 30 years old to become future leaders.

24 Women are coached, trained and provided with financial aid through entrepreneurship programmes to secure employment. In addition, financial incentive schemes, such as the DanaNITA Financing Scheme, Ar-Rahnu Micro-Credit Programme, were launched to intensify women's participation in entrepreneurial activities.

³ As of August 2020.

25 Women parliamentarians and parliamentarians strategise action plans with the Executive Branch to ensure women enjoy equal rights and opportunities without any gender-based discrimination.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: MYANMAR

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Myanmar has always been making its efforts to implement the AIPA resolutions, and it also strove to implement to the best of its ability the 41st AIPA resolutions on political, economic, social and WAIPA matters. As regards the political matter, Myanmar approved of the adoption of the Interface and the Caucus reports. The Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) (MTSRR 2021-2025) was launched to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on tourism-related businesses in Myanmar. Myanmar has signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Non-Tariff measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Action Plan on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and supply chain connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic”. Regarding the Global pandemic “COVID-19”, the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 is steering the COVID-19-related activities in Myanmar in order to protect the community’s health. COVID-19 vaccination has been carried out since January 2021 in Myanmar. According to the prioritized groups, healthcare workers were vaccinated in January, followed by essential workforces, Government staff, company staff and elderly people, etc, and a total of 3 million doses were given up to May. The Department of Labour (DOL) submits monthly reports to the Department of Social Welfare on job matching activities of LEOs for women and provides skills training for women at the six skills training centers.

REPORT

2 Myanmar has always been making its efforts to implement the AIPA resolutions, and it also strove to implement to the best of its ability the 41st AIPA resolutions on political, economic, social and WAIPA matters. As regards the political matter, Myanmar approved of the adoption of the Interface and the Caucus reports.

3 As regards the resolution on fostering inclusive economic development in ASEAN, ASEAN Member States should implement appropriate policy measures to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses across ASEAN, especially in travel, tourism, retail, manufacturing sectors and other services sectors and the most affected industries. The Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) (MTSRR 2021-2025) was launched to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on tourism-related businesses in Myanmar.

4 ASEAN Member States are to control the spread of the COVID-19, boost travel confidence in ASEAN by adopting safety standards and health protocols that support seamless travel experience while adhering to the international safety and health standards and ensuring the compliance of the communications under relevant agreements among ASEAN Member States. Quarantine information, travel restriction and travel reopening situation of ASEAN Member States are shared quarterly under the ASEAN tourism cooperation mechanism and the said

information is published at the ASEAN Tourism Website. ASEAN Member States are to explore the concept of “travel bubble” as a preliminary initiative in the gradual reopening of borders by establishing safe travel zones in ASEAN, facilitate the movement of essential business travellers and recommend guidelines for reference by all ASEAN Member States without undermining commitments under relevant agreements among ASEAN Member States. Myanmar participated in the 4th drafting meetings on ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement framework through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5 ASEAN Member states including Myanmar have signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Non-Tariff measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Action Plan on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and supply chain connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” on the sidelines of 37th ASEAN Summit on 13 November 2020.

6 Member States are committed to ensure the smooth flow of essential goods, including food, medicines, and medical and other essential supplies associated with combating the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate timely information sharing amongst the Member States with regard to trade-related measures on these essential goods and supplies.

7 Following the adoption of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan at the 37th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2020, the Department of Trade relevant civil service agencies in Myanmar and the respective ASEAN Sectoral bodies such as ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC) and ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Implementation of ATIGA (CCA) work together to support the development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its implementation plan. The Department of Trade is mainly responsible to implement the Initiatives and Programs under the Strategy 3: Maximizing the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration.

8 As regards the resolution on Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-culture Community in responding to COVID-19, ASEAN Member States are to strengthen cooperation in education and vocational and technical training by promoting life-long learning, enhance preparedness of ASEAN human resources in meeting future skill requirements, while developing new skills for workers to be able to respond to COVID-19 as well as future pandemic and advance cooperation with businesses in up-skilling and promoting new skills for workers. The tourism sector is intended to strengthen cooperation in education and vocational and technical training through the cooperation of ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (ASEAN MRA-TP) among the ASEAN Member States.

9 Regarding the Global pandemic “COVID-19”, the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 is steering the COVID-19 related activities in Myanmar in order to protect the community’s health. Regarding the Global pandemic “COVID-19”, the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 is steering the COVID-19-related activities in Myanmar in order to protect the community’s health.

10 The central and state and regional level response teams are working together at front lines in COVID-19 response and control activities.

11 The vaccination program has been carried out in Myanmar since January 2021 with the help of the COVAX facilities. People in Myanmar are having vaccinated according to the priority list, meaning that the medical personnel and high-risk groups are vaccinated first before other cohort and it is the ongoing process with detailed vaccine rollout plan. The public risk

communication is facilitating through announcements, health talks/interviews and pamphlets by the Health literacy and Promotion unit under MOHS. Updated data concerning with COVID-19 situation in Myanmar have been continuously updated at the COVID-19 dashboard of MOHS web page.

12 Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar announced that a total of 2,595,359 COVID-19 samples were tested in Myanmar and there were 142,997 confirmed cases and 132,064 discharged cases, according to the latest update on 12 May 2021.

13 COVID-19 vaccination has been carried out since January 2021 in Myanmar. According to the prioritized groups, health care workers were vaccinated in January, followed by essential workforces, civil servants, company staff and elderly people etc., and a total of three million doses were given up to May.

14 Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports has cooperated with the related Ministries, voluntary organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs) and the technical support of China, Korea, WHO and USCDC.

15 Department of Labour (DOL) has been undertaking labour registration for job seekers, receiving job offers from civil service departments and cooperatives, joint venture and private industries that operate with 5 workers and above, sending suitable registered job seekers lists according to job offers and supporting job placement of those who are selected by employers in accordance with the Employment Restriction Act 1959. For those who live in the areas where Labour Exchange Offices (LEOs) are not opened yet, staff from LEOs go to those areas as mobile teams to provide job placement service for them and job fairs are also conducted throughout the country for increasing job opportunities.

16 Department of Labour (DOL) submits monthly reports to the Department of Social Welfare on job matching activities of LEOs for women and provides skills trainings for women at the six skills training centers.

17 Myanmar ratified ILO Convention No. 182 (The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention) on 18 December 2013, enforced on 18 December 2014 in Myanmar, and its implementation report was submitted to ILO on 1 September 2015.

18 The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population undertakes as focal ministry on the protection of working children employed in respective workplaces in Myanmar, and the Director General of FGLLID is taking responsibilities as a member of National Committee on Child Right cooperating with Myanmar civil service, Employer and Worker Organizations, ILO and UNICEF.

19 Although Myanmar was registered for ILO Convention 138 (the Minimum Age Convention) on 8 June 2020 and will come into force on 8 June 2021, a year later, the minimum age of working children was amended to 14 years in line with the ILO Convention 138 for the elimination of child labour in Factory Act, 1951 and the Shops and Establishments law, 2016.

20 National Committee on elimination of child labour was formed, and it has planned to operate the National Action Plan as short-term and long-term plan (15 years' long-term plan with 5 years' short-term plan).

21 The National Committee on the elimination of child labour in Myanmar was formed with Notification No. (15/2021) on 23 February 2021 with 39 members, and the fourth meeting of that National Committee was held on 21 April 2021.

22 The Eight Working Committees of the National Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour in Myanmar and its duties were prescribed.

23 The workshops and the national consultation meetings have been convened to develop and issue the hazardous work list on child labor in Myanmar, issued in accordance with the recommendations of the Attorney General of the Union and work in progress to approve a list on the hazardous work on child labour which consists of 17 sectors and 71 workplaces.



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: PHILIPPINES

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought havoc across the world that abruptly upended our lives last year. Today, the world is eager for the pandemic to subside and for life to return to normal.

2 The Philippines, for its part, implemented various actions, such as community quarantine, social distancing and lockdowns, in response to the pandemic. A year after, there are realizations that it is not enough to close the borders and practise health protocols to overcome COVID-19.

3 Success is possible when all people in all countries are protected. Consistent with these findings, the Philippines pursued enabling laws to harmonize regional efforts in sustaining health cooperation while promoting regional solidarity with its fellow ASEAN member countries.

4 In this time of uncertainty and economic stress, there is a need for a shared sense of global community through working together with our neighboring countries while pushing for a proactive and all-encompassing recovery framework.

5 Our closer integration to battle COVID-19 is a message full of hope that, amidst the pain and losses, we can rise above these challenging times and rebuild and remake our world for better humankind. Together, let us heal and recover as one united, responsive and cohesive region.

REPORT

6 The raging and devastating pandemic in 2020 has affected the Philippines, Southeast Asian countries and the rest of the world. The COVID-19 outbreak brought human suffering, economic disruption and placed the global economy into a historic recession.¹

7 The Philippines also suffered a setback due to the lockdowns that crippled businesses and supply chains and put millions of people out of work. Before 2020, the Philippines has one of the most vibrant economies in the East Asia Pacific region.²

8 Today, the Philippine economic outlook for 2021 reflects a projected growth of the economy but still way below the pre-COVID rate. Hence, timely measures are significant to cushion against the after-effects of health and economic difficulties. The efficacy of public health

¹ Gopinath, Gita (2020). "The Great Lockdown: Worst Economic Downturn Since the Great Depression." International Monetary Fund. April 14, 2020. [imf.org. Retrieved from https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/14/the-great-lockdown-worst-economic-downturn-since-the-great-depression/](https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/14/the-great-lockdown-worst-economic-downturn-since-the-great-depression/)

² "The World Bank in the Philippines." [worldbank.org. Retrieved from https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview#1](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview#1)

measures, coupled with the ability of the countries to protect the jobs and incomes of their people, are key factors to economic recovery.

I. COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19

9 The Philippine government pursues a 4-Pillar Socioeconomic Strategy Against COVID-19 to boost the economy. The following are the 4-Pillars: (1) emergency support for vulnerable groups; (2) marshaling resources to fight COVID-19; (3) monetary actions and other financing support; and (4) an economic recovery program to create and sustain growth.³

10 Consistent with the country's commitment to further the existing bonds of regional solidarity and cooperation with its fellow ASEAN member countries, the recently concluded 41st AIPA General Assembly led to the adoption of one related resolution on the role of parliaments in promoting ASEAN cohesiveness and economic recovery post-COVID-19.

11 At the forefront of the country's economic agenda are numerous House Measures filed during the 18th Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Philippine Government enacted Republic Act (RA) 11469, or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," in a bid to stand side by side with its regional neighbours in overcoming and healing from the ravages of COVID-19. This law granted President Rodrigo Duterte emergency powers to address the pandemic and help our countrymen.

12 The government's second coronavirus pandemic relief legislation is the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (RA 11494), which provides a stimulus package of P140 billion in regular appropriation and P25 billion as standby funding to help mitigate the losses and enhance the financial stability of the country amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

13 RA 11519, which extended the effectivity of the "Bayanihan to Recover as One Act" until 27 March 2021, and RA 11520, extending the availability of the 2020 Appropriations to 31 December 2021, were enacted for the government to continue its programs and sustain and further its capacity to support the Filipino people.

14 Another significant measure is the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act or CREATE (RA 11534), which cuts corporate income taxes and provides incentives to help businesses recover from the pandemic and encourage foreign investments. The CREATE law will bring more quality jobs, encourage investments and generate growth in 2021 and beyond.

15 The Philippine Government also enacted the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021 (RA 11525) to ensure the procurement and administration of the vaccine in an expeditious, effective, efficient and equitable manner. This measure aims to protect Filipino people, save lives, mitigate economic losses and restore public trust and confidence.

16 Meanwhile, the Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act (RA 11523) ensures that banks and other financial institutions can maintain their financial health to cushion the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This law allows the disposal of bad loans and non-performing assets of financial institutions through transfers to Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer Corporations (FISTC).

³ "The Duterte Administration's 4-Pillar Socioeconomic Strategy Against COVID-19." Department of Finance. Dof.gov.ph. Retrieved from <https://www.dof.gov.ph/the-4-pillar-socioeconomic-strategy-against-COVID-19/>

17 Other pieces of economic legislation are the “Philippine Competition Law” (RA 10667), which is designed to ensure efficient and fair market competition among businesses; “Ease of Doing Business Act” (RA 11032), which simplifies procedures in government transactions; and the establishment of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) (RA 10844), which serves as the lead agency in the development of plans and policies to transition the Philippines to the Fourth Industrial Revolution era.

18 Significant measures pushed in the Philippines include the P10K Emergency Cash Aid or EC Act of 2021 (HB 9089), Bayanihan to Arise as One Act (HB 8628) and Bangon Pamilyang Pilipino (BPP) Assistance Program Act of 2021 (HB 8597), among others. These measures intend to promote business and consumer confidence and social welfare necessary to achieve genuine economic recovery.

19 These legislative actions are consistent with the Philippines’ commitment to bolster the collective effort of the world community of nations to strengthen ASEAN cooperation while producing a comprehensive post-pandemic recovery plan.

II. COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MATTERS⁵

Enhancing Its Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19

20 Unity of purpose and cooperation among nations are critical in ending the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the *World Health Organization Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan of 2021*.⁴ In the past 12 months, the World Health Organization (WHO) observed that countries that tried a coordinated approach made an incredible achievement in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

21 According to WHO, the “me first” approach to vaccination is strategically and economically self-defeating because the continued spread of COVID-19 across the world will only hasten the emergence of new SARS-Cov-2 variants, where its consequence is disastrous because it will undermine the effectiveness of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. Indeed, *no community should be left behind*.⁵

22 Correlatively, the AIPA Resolution supporting the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Response to COVID-19 emphasizes collaboration and cooperation in fields of health, labor and employment, and social protection.⁶

23 The Resolution particularly cited the collaboration in the prevention and control of infectious diseases and reform in the universal healthcare system. Support for the livelihoods and health of all workers, especially to those with low income and in the informal economy, was encouraged. Strengthening the cooperation for social protection, safety and welfare to mitigate the impact of disasters and pandemics was also given importance.

24 The Philippine Congress enacted laws that are highly significant in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴ World Health Organization, WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan 2021, p. 7, Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-WHE-2021.02>

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶ ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Resolution on Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19

25 Congress enacted "*Bayanihan* to Heal as One Act," upon the declaration of the President of a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19.⁷ This law provides measures and programs that mitigate the COVID-19 transmission and the treatment of patients and their inclusion in the National Health Insurance Program; gives subsidies to low-income households; grants protection, allowance and other benefits to health workers; and prioritizes the allocation of medical supplies and equipment. It also ensures the availability of essential goods; grants a 30-day grace period for the payment of loans and rentals; the use of unutilized and/or unobligated funds of the government and government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs); and the realignment of appropriations to fund measures and programs in response to COVID-19.⁸

26 In continuation to this response, Congress enacted Republic Act (RA) No 11494, or the "*Bayanihan* to Recover as One Act", which provides for recovery interventions to reduce the adverse impact of the pandemic on the socio-economic well-being of Filipinos through the provision of assistance, subsidies and other forms of socio-economic relief. This law, likewise, sustains efforts to test, trace, isolate and treat COVID-19 cases and enhances the capacity of the healthcare system to eliminate, prevent and control pandemics.⁹

27 RA 11332, otherwise known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act" was enacted to sustain and establish disease surveillance to prevent and control the present and any other possible future pandemics.

28 Considering that vaccination plays an indispensable role in defeating the pandemic¹⁰, Congress enacted RA 11525, otherwise known as the "COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021". This law institutionalized the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for the procurement and administration of safe and effective vaccines by the national government. It also created the COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund to compensate persons encountering serious adverse effects of the vaccination.¹¹

29 According to the University of Philippines Population Institute (UPPI), the outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in an acute shortage of human resources for health (HRH) in the country, particularly for doctors and nurses.¹²

30 Correlatively, Congress enacted RA 11509, otherwise known as the "*Doktor Para sa Bayan* Act". This law establishes a medical scholarship and return service program to help deserving medical students pursue education and training in the fields of health and medicine who shall render services in the government public health offices or government hospitals in their hometown or any underserved locality. Under this Act, it will ensure the availability of doctors in every municipality in the country, especially in underserved, distressed, conflict-afflicted and geographically disadvantaged areas.¹³

⁷ Presidential Proclamation No. 922, series of 2020.

⁸ Sec. 3, RA 11469 (2020).

⁹ Sec. 3, RA 11494 (2021).

¹⁰ World Health Organization, Corona virus disease (COVID-19): Vaccines, (28 October 2020), Retrieved from [https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(COVID-19\)-vaccines](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(COVID-19)-vaccines)

¹¹ Sec. 3, RA 11525 (2021).

¹² University of the Philippines: Population Institute, Human Resource for Health in the Time of Pandemic: Does the Philippines Have Enough, (August 18, 2020), Research Brief No. 08, Retrieved from <https://www.uppi.upd.edu.ph/research/COVID-19/rb8>

¹³ Sec. 2, RA 11509 (2021).

31 On the aspect of shortage of nurses, Congress has enacted RA 11466, otherwise known as the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, which significantly raised the salary of nurses in the government service, among others. According to the UPPI, such a law is a welcome development to retain the services of nurses in the Philippines in this pandemic.¹⁴

32 With the Philippines’ policy to protect and promote the right to health of Filipinos among different strata of life, Congress has legislated RA 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act.” This provides that every Filipino citizen is automatically included in the National Health Insurance Program and grants immediate eligibility and access to preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care for medical, dental, mental and emergency health services.¹⁵

33 Some enacted laws prior to the outbreak of the pandemic are reflective of the Philippines’ continuous support to the ASEAN community, such as RA 11165, or the “Telecommuting Act”. This law allows an employer in the private sector to offer a telecommuting program to its employees where, instead of going physically to the office, they can work through online platforms.¹⁶

III. COMMITTEE ON WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF AIPA (WAIPA)

The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women

34 The WAIPA Resolution is aimed at securing jobs and income for women by developing leadership skills in the private and public sectors, providing entrepreneurial and business training, improving support services and narrowing the gender gaps in employment and income.¹⁷

35 In view of this, the Philippine Congress enacted laws that espouse gender equality and women empowerment in employment and security of tenure, education, entrepreneurship and social support.

36 With the intent to integrate women as full and equal partners with men in development and nation-building, Republic Act (RA) No 7192 was enacted. This law provides, among others, the capacity to act and enter into contracts which shall, in every respect, be equal to that of men under similar conditions, regardless of their marital status. It gives them the right to be admitted into military schools. It also gives them equal access to all social, civic and recreational clubs. Full-time housewives are also given the right to become members of government sponsored-social protection institutions.¹⁸

37 To protect women in workplaces, RA 11313, or the “Safe Spaces Act”, defines and penalizes gender-based sexual harassment in workplaces and learning/educational institutions, among others. It particularly mandates employers to provide measures that prevent gender-based sexual harassment in workplaces.¹⁹

¹⁴Supra, see Note 9.

¹⁵ Secs. 5 and 6, RA 11223 (2019).

¹⁶ Sec. 4, RA 11165 (2018).

¹⁷ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA-41 on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers, 30 April 2021.

¹⁸ RA 7192 (1992), Secs. 2, 7, 6, and 8.

¹⁹ RA 11313 (2019), Sec. 17.

38 Taking into account the welfare of working women and their maternal functions²⁰, RA 11210, or the “105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law” was enacted. It grants 105-day maternity leave with full pay.²¹ The said law covers female workers in government and the private sector, including those in the informal economy, regardless of civil status or the legitimacy of the child.²²

39 RA 10364, or the “Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012”, institutes policies to eliminate trafficking in persons, especially in women and children.²³ It expanded the definition of trafficking in persons, forced labor, slavery, sexual exploitation, recruitment and attempted trafficking in persons,²⁴ and adding liability to accomplices and accessories.²⁵ It also expanded the scope of persons that may be guilty of qualified trafficking in persons.²⁶ Moreover, it mandates law enforcement agencies of the government to prioritize the prosecution of violations of this law.²⁷

40 RA 9262, or the” Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004”, defines and penalizes acts that are deemed violence against women, including but not limited to, causing physical harm, threatening, compulsion or restricting of one’s freedom of movement, deprivation of financial and economic support as well as causing mental or emotional damage to women and their children.²⁸ It also grants protection orders to women and their children against violators thereof by ordering the latter to stay away from the victims to safeguard them and minimize disruptions in their daily lives.²⁹

41 In the field of education and vocational training, RA 10931, or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”, provides free tuition and other school fees in tertiary education, as well as vocational/technical education, to Filipino students who are currently enrolled or will enroll at State Universities and Colleges, and Local Universities and Colleges.³⁰

42 RA 9710, or the “Magna Carta of Women”, grants a wide coverage of protection and opportunity for women. This Act provides, among others, (a) the right to decent work of women which involves productive and fairly remunerative as a family living wage, security in the workplace and equality in opportunity and treatment of women; (b) the acceleration of representation of women that involves leadership and policy-making in the public service; and (c) equal access and elimination of discrimination in education, scholarships and trainings.³¹

²⁰ RA 11210 (2019), Sec. 2.

²¹ *Id* at Sec. 3.

²² *Id* at Sec. 3.

²³ RA 10364 (2013)

²⁴ *Id* at Secs. 4 and 5.

²⁵ *Id* at Sec. 6.

²⁶ *Id* at Sec. 9.

²⁷ RA 10364 (2013), Sec.11.

²⁸ RA 9262 (2004), Sec. 5.

²⁹ RA 9262 (2004), Sec. 8.

³⁰ RA 10931 (2017), Sec. 4.

³¹ RA 9710 (2009), Secs. 22, 25, and 13.

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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: SINGAPORE

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Executive Summary rehashes the Country Report in brief. The catalogue of all AIPA resolutions is available at the Library of the Parliament of Singapore, for Members' reference.

2 In respect of economic matters, Singapore has been working to promote ASEAN cohesiveness and economic recovery post-COVID-19 on several fronts, such as (not exhaustively):-

- i. integration of ASEAN markets by seeking to implement common frameworks in emerging areas;
- ii. enhancing digital connectivity and cybersecurity in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- iii. leading the development of the ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses;
- iv. leading the development of an ASEAN Data Management Framework;
- v. signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; and
- vi. supporting the agenda of ASEAN 2021.

3 Apropos social matters, Singapore recognises the cruciality of the resolution on "Enhancing Role of AIPA Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19".

4 In this vein, Singapore has been:-

- i. promoting regional renewable energy development;
- ii. participating in the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies;
- iii. contributing to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund; and
- iv. debating pertinent issues in Parliament, most recently, a motion titled "Accelerate and Deepen Efforts Against Climate Change".

5 Lastly, as regards WAIPA matters, Singapore's stance is that of utmost commitment towards securing jobs and income for women workers. To this end, our Parliament has been continually fortifying the bases of protection for women, legally and in other forms:-

- i. equal protection under the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore;
- ii. parity of employment rights under the Employment Act;
- iii. social and familial protections under the Women's Charter;
- iv. specifically identified areas of protection under the Penal Code;

- v. setting up of national entities, such as the Inter-Ministry Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- vi. women's participation is evident at all levels and sectors – approximately 30% of Singapore's parliamentarians are women, which is above the Inter-Parliamentary Union's average of 25.5%, having an elected female President, and key positions also held in comparatively equal numbers in the Executive and the Judiciary.

6 Singapore is, and will always be, committed to the resolutions adopted by AIPA, for the betterment of the ASEAN people.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

7 The Parliament of Singapore had informed Ministries/Government agencies of the resolutions adopted at the 41st AIPA General Assembly. A copy of all AIPA resolutions are also catalogued and retained in the Library of the Parliament of Singapore. This facilitates Members' access, who use them to raise pertinent issues and make recommendations on AIPA/ASEAN matters, at parliament sittings, when applicable.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

Resolution on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19

8 In the Annual Budget Statement approved by the Singapore Parliament in February 2021, the Government announced plans to promote integration of ASEAN markets, which include implementing common frameworks in emerging areas. For instance, ASEAN nations have developed the ASEAN Payment Policy Framework to encourage retail payment linkages among ASEAN countries.

9 Singapore will continue to work closely with ASEAN members, to enhance digital connectivity and cybersecurity and to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, building on initiatives, such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. Singapore will also continue to enhance infrastructural investments in the region with initiatives, such as working with our Indonesian partners to build the Nongsa Digital Park to facilitate collaboration between Singaporean companies and tech talent in Indonesia.

10 Regionally, Singapore led the development of the ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses – terms and conditions that may be included in legally-binding contracts for the transfer of personal data across borders. Singapore also led the development of an ASEAN Data Management Framework – a guide for businesses to implement a data management system with appropriate data protection safeguards. With these ready-to-use and flexible templates to transfer personal data, businesses operating in ASEAN markets stand to benefit from shorter contract negotiations on data flows.

11 The historic signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, in November 2020, to which Singapore is a signatory, is a statement and affirmation, in itself, of the importance of maintaining multilateral trade relationships to Singapore.

12 Singapore supports Brunei's agenda as Chairman for ASEAN 2021 and will work with Brunei to advance ASEAN community building, economic integration and regional stability and

to develop cooperation in new areas of importance, such as digitalisation, cybersecurity, smart cities and climate change. As ASEAN-EU Country Coordinator, Singapore has also strengthened cooperation between ASEAN and the European Union (EU) following the recent elevation of dialogue relations to a Strategic Partnership. An ASEAN-EU FTA would present new opportunities for inter-regional collaboration on issues, such as supply chain and digital connectivity. Singapore looks forward to the finalisation and ratification of the ASEAN-EU FTA.

SOCIAL MATTERS

Resolution on Enhancing AIPA's Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19

13 In the recent Budget approved by Singapore Parliament, the Government shared that Singapore is doing its part to promote renewable energy development in the region. During Singapore's Chairmanship of the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in 2018, ASEAN and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish dialogues and joint activities to promote renewable energy in the region. In August 2020, the Energy Market Authority co-organised a Regional Training Programme on Sustainable Energy Policies in Smart Cities with the International Energy Agency. The Programme explored policies promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in smart city planning. Singapore and the International Energy Agency also co-hosted the second Global Ministerial Conference on System Integration of Renewables during the Singapore International Energy Week, to promote dialogue in the acceleration of renewables integration.

14 Additionally, it was shared with Singapore Parliament during the Budget 2021 debates that ASEAN has made steady progress combating the pandemic. It promptly set up the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies. This led to several initiatives, including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. Singapore's contribution to the Fund will be used to purchase medical equipment and other items to aid fellow ASEAN Member States combat the pandemic. Singapore recognises the importance of these mechanisms, which have enhanced our ability collectively to deal with COVID-19.

15 In February 2021, the Singapore Parliament debated a parliamentary motion titled "Accelerate and Deepen Efforts Against Climate Change". This motion was mooted by a number of backbench parliamentarians led by Mr Louis Ng. The motion posited that climate change is a global emergency and threat. Further, the motion exhorted the Singapore Government, in partnership with the private sector, civil society and the people of Singapore, to deepen and accelerate efforts to mitigate as well as adapt to climate change, with "sustainability" as a touchstone in Singapore's development. This motion received support from all sides of the House and was passed unanimously on 1 February 2021.

WAIPA

Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers

16 In Singapore, there are equal working and educational opportunities for men and women, on the basis of meritocracy. Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore stipulates all persons are equal before the law. Women's rights are also enshrined in several other pieces of legislation, such as the Singapore Constitution, Employment Act, Women's Charter and the Penal Code, amongst others. There are also several national entities on women-related matters, such as the Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC) on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which monitors Singapore's implementation of CEDAW and the Office for Women's Development (OWD). The Compulsory Education Act passed in 2000 mandates all Singaporean children receive at least the first six years of primary education. This ensures that all Singaporean children, regardless of gender, have equal access to quality education.

17 The Singapore Government also supports the multiple roles that women play in our society. Women are active in leadership positions at work and in their community. Singapore also has a female Head of State, three female full Ministers, several other Political Office Holders and senior Civil Servants, including Permanent Secretaries. Women also comprise half of Singapore's public service and Judiciary. Currently, we have 31 women parliamentarians in Parliament, which is about 30%, and above the Inter-Parliamentary Union's world average of 25.5%. Singapore's women parliamentarians are not confined to speaking on women's issues but instead tackle a wide range of issues which include the economy, education and health.

18 The Government's approach is to empower women with choices to pursue their aspirations, be it career, family or both, by eliminating barriers for women at the workplace, in the community and at home. To do so, there is a need for a whole-of-society movement to change mindsets, attitudes and expectations. In support of women, the Government and community organisations have organised 37 conversations as part of the Conversations on Singapore Women's Development, engaging more than 1,800 people from various backgrounds. During the conversations, participants raised various concerns, such as challenges faced by working mothers and violence against women. The Government will continue to gather feedback and study the suggestions put forward by the participants and submit a White Paper to Parliament in the second half of this year.



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COUNTRY REPORT: THAILAND

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Economic Matters: Resolution on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19

The related Standing Committee under the Thai Parliament supports government policies to tackle the impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic and proposals for future economic recovery as well as financial assistance in accordance with the three emergency decrees for economic and social recovery and rehabilitation affected by COVID-19. The Thai Parliament also supervises the government in issuing relief measures and policies to mitigate the impact, including monitoring of budget disbursements and its effectiveness. In addition, certain related laws are being reviewed to help revive economic sectors in the country.

Social Matters: Resolution on Enhancing AIPA's Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19

Thailand intensifies its cooperation through the ASEAN meeting framework in order to support the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the domestic area, preventive measures on the effectiveness of the country's disease control system under related laws were launched in order to reach policies, guidelines and measures to reduce the economic impact and creating social and health protection welfare among populations affected by the spreading of Covid-19. Besides, policy implementation was launched to comply with climate change, marine debris, natural resource protection and conservation issues, under the resolution.

WAIPA: Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers

Regarding the resolution, Thailand supports the concrete implementation of measures promoting the equal treatment and rights of employment of both male and female employees as well as ensuring social security and labour protection under the related Acts. The Thai Parliament also pushes forward and initiates a review of related laws to promote the quality of life of women, family and the community. In addition, the Thai Parliament welcomes the principle of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to ensure that government planning, budgeting and auditing contribute to gender equality.

REPORT

With regard to the resolutions of the Forty-first General Assembly, Thailand has implemented the aforesaid resolutions in three main areas as follows:

Economic Matters

Resolution on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19

The Committee on Monetary Affairs, Finance, Financial Institutions, and Financial Market (The House of Representatives)

- Considering the comments and observations on government policies to tackle the impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic and proposals for future economic recovery.
- Considering the economic measures to remedy and rehabilitate those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Discussion on the performance of the Government Savings Bank, measures to provide assistance to entrepreneurs and people affected by the COVID-19 and assistance guidelines for border traders and the public to access funding.
- Following up on the progress of assistance measures for farmers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives.
- Organising the seminars and study visits on topics related to the COVID-19 Outbreak.

The Committee on Industry (The House of Representatives)

- Considering the guidelines for promoting the rubber glove manufacturing industry in Thailand to be Product Champion under the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee on Commerce and Industry (The Senate)

- Considering and monitoring on the overall industrial situation of Thailand, problems encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, and short-term solutions and direction of the industry after the pandemic and relevant information.

Ad-hoc Committee to consider and monitor the spending of money in accordance with three emergency decrees to solve problems, to remedy and restore the economy and society affected by the Coronavirus disease pandemic (The House of Representatives)

- Considering related matters to monitor the use of money in accordance with the three emergency decree for economic and social recovery and rehabilitation affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and to supervise the government in issuing relief measures and policies to mitigate the impact, including monitoring of budget disbursements and results of budget disbursement.

The Committee on Communications, Telecommunications, and Digital Economy and Society (The House of Representatives)

- Considering the measures to ease people's plight during the COVID-19 situation through the Rao Chana project the two monthly payments of 3,500 baht to informal workers, including freelancers, farmers and state welfare cardholders.

- Considering the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through the applications "Mor Chana" and "Thai Chana", and also noted that personal information of the people used for registration should be protected and secured.

The Committee on Economic Development (The House of Representatives)

- Hearing the opinions from various economic departments, i.e. National Credit Bureau, The Thai Bankers' Association, Bank of Thailand, Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation, Fiscal Policy Office, Government Savings Bank, Thai Hire-Purchase Association, regarding the economic situation caused by the spread of COVID-19. Many suggested measurements to cope with, namely, enhanced liquidity for entrepreneurs, debt restructuring in accordance with income, amending the laws related to the Soft Loan, lending a helping hand to the people affected by COVID-19.
- Noticing that the lockdown measure may impact the domestic travel of both Thai and foreign tourists and also affecting the SMEs.
- Assessing the economic situation during the COVID-19 period and considering the budgeting for remedies as well as the reserve budget for emergency situations.
- Targeting in reducing the new infection of COVID-19 by detecting the patients as soon as possible, isolation of patients, and drug treatment as well as dividing the province into 4 levels to achieve proactive action. Besides, the Ministry of Health emphasizing the measure of State quarantine and Local quarantine, active case finding, and register on application "Mor Chana" and "Thai Chana".

The Committee on Economics, Monetary and Finance (The Senate)

- Monitoring the performance according to the "Emergency Decree Authorising the Ministry of Finance to Raise Loans to Solve Problems, to Remedy and Restore the Economy and Society as Affected by the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, B.E. 2563 (2020)". The loans used for the restoration of the local and community economy, including (1) Work plan to strengthen the foundation economy; (2) Work plan for sustainable growth; and (3) Work plan for consumption and tourism promotion.
- Monitoring on Land and Building Tax Act, B.E. 2562 (2019). The Interior Ministry postponed various measures for a period of 4 months. In this regard, a tax reduction decree for certain types of land and building B.E. 2563 (2020) has been issued to reducing tax at the rate of 90 percent for the collection of taxes in the year 2020.

The Committee on Tourism (The House of Representatives)

- Reviewing amendments to current laws; Tourism business and Tourist Guide Act (NO.2) B.E. 2559 (2016) and Hotel Act, B.E. 2547 (2004), for example, the reviewing of related organic law on the proper number of a tour guide per number of tourists after post-COVID-19, to support entrepreneurs and other stakeholders' business in order to revive economy in tourism areas which are one of Thailand's main economic sectors.

Social Matters

Resolution on Enhancing AIPA's Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Marine Debris Management

- Cooperating with Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), launched the project on strengthening capacity for marine debris reduction in ASEAN region through a formulation of National Action Plans for ASEAN Member States and integrated Land-to-Sea Policy approach. (Phase 1)
- Cooperating with World Bank, launched the project on the market study for plastics circularity for Thailand.
- Roadmapping on plastic garbage management, aimed to recycle 100% of plastic garbage before year 2027.
- Planning to reduce 50% of plastic garbage in 2022, by launching the campaign in supermarkets, malls and convenience stores not to provide the plastic bags to customers but ask them to bring their own bags when they shop, called “everyday say no to plastic bags”.

Climate Change Management

- Achieving the target of 15.6% emission of the greenhouse gas produced in Thailand in 2020.
- Setting up Thailand's NDC Roadmap on Mitigation 2021-2030.
- Working on Thailand's Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission. Development Strategy: LT-LEDS.

Environment, Natural Resources and Biodiversity's Protection and Conservation

- Setting up the project on planting 100 million trees within year 2022.

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Support the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Setting up the Centre for the Administration of the Situation due to the Outbreak of the Communicable Disease Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
- Working on the Program of Integration of Quality-of-Life Development of Vulnerable Households.
- Launching the measures on
 - Measurement for 3 Groups of Vulnerable Populations affected from the Spreading of Coronavirus Infectious Disease (COVID-19).
 - Preventing, Protecting and Restoring for Children and Youth in Foster Homes across the nation.
 - Vocational Training Program for Children and Youth.
 - Guideline for Child Protection in the Situation of Spreading of Coronavirus Infectious Disease (COVID-19).
 - Reducing the economic impact and creating social and health protection welfare for disadvantaged groups, people with disabilities, homeless, homelessness of persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

- Building more homeless shelters.
- Building more Quarantine Residences for risk groups.
- Launching the mobile application of remedial measures for affected people.
- Launching moratorium measures for affected people.
- Establishing a community kitchen to provide food assistance to the poor in urban communities.
- Supporting the opening of an online flea market.
- Launching the Housing Repair Project for the poor affected by the spreading of Coronavirus Infectious Disease (COVID-19) across the nation.
- Launching No One Left Behind Project of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Support ASEAN Member States to Strengthen Cooperation for Social Protection, Safety and Welfare

- Virtual meeting of the 16th Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) held in September 2020.
- ASEAN Social Work Consortium Plan 2016-2020 (ASWC) and ASWC.
- Work Plan 2016-2020 and Beyond established during the 35th ASEAN Summit to drive action of ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW).
- ASEAN Workshop on the Promotion of CSR in Social Welfare and Development.

Ministry of Public Health

- Launching the preventive measures of the COVID-19 pandemic under the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 (2015) by
 - Implementing to develop and enhance the effectiveness of the country's disease control system in conjunction with the Revitalizing Disease Control Program (RDCP) to develop the Disease Control System for National Security under the International Health Regulation and Global Health Security Agenda to be ready to respond in emergencies and international standards.
 - Establishing a center for managing the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 and Communicable Disease Control Unit (CDCU) nationally and locally.
- Supporting medical and public health resources
 - Establishing a Stockpile and Logistics for COVID-19 cases.
- Taking action to access medicines and medical supplies, including health products to handle COVID-19
 - Setting measures to prepare for COVID-19 in the following aspects:
 - 1) Medicines, such as registration of COVID-19 medicines, Remdesivir. It estimates for the provision of COVID-19 medicines nationally, develops surveillance systems for manufacturers and importers to deliver reports on the amount of ready-made medicines inventory through the Stockpile application and issue a Notification of the Food and Drug Administration and the Division of Medicines in relation to the medical devices.
 - 2) Medical instruments: Issued a notification to the Food and Drug Administration on the Documents for Submission of the Application for the Certificate of Import of Medical Devices related to COVID-19 and has implemented a reduction in the period of issuance of medical equipment registration certificates in the medical equipment group.
 - 3) Addictive substances: Implemented fines for licensing and registration services on addictive objects in electronic form.
 - 4) Cosmetics: Cancelled the provision of alcohol gel as a medical tool and arranged for alcohol gel as cosmetic, and has issued legislation to direct the products to

be standardized and safe for consumers under the Cosmetics Act B.E. 2558 (2015) to prevent alcohol gel out of the market and people can easily access the products.

- 5) Food and drug administration: Improved the electronic work process and increased the number of personnel to assist in crisis operations, including waivers on documents used to consider/authorize online imports for medical instruments, food and medicine.
 - 6) Facilitating the operator: Issued a notification to the Food and Drug Administration on facilitating the authorization of health products used in the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitating entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Environmental Health Management
 - Preparing a manual for environmental health measures and guidelines in the situation of the COVID-19 epidemic for government offices, private workplaces, and establishments under the Law on Public Health and other related laws, including accommodation, public transportation, cleaning of common area risk points, solid waste management, wastewater management and ventilation.

The Committee on Public Health (Senate)

- Launching the preventive measures of the COVID-19 pandemic that tremendously affected the ASEAN socio-cultural community, particularly the people's health, well-being, safety, Labor and Employment, social welfare, income, employment, education and other socio-cultural fields.
 - Thailand's capacity to detect and manage its first cases of COVID-19. Thailand was the first country to confirm a COVID-19 case outside Wuhan.
 - Sharing COVID-19 prevention information about the refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border in support of the ongoing efforts of the Thai Government.
 - Stepping up their effort and cooperation to mitigate impact of natural disasters and pandemic on ASEAN Citizens.
 - Establishing the COVID-19 National Center for unity in administration.
 - Attending to a meeting of the Joint Dialogue between AIPA and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on waste management in the context of COVID-19 pandemic to foster collaborative action among AIPA Member Parliaments and its partners to prevent and reduce waste and garbage produced from sea-based and land-based activities, and the efforts of the ASEAN Member States in alleviating the socio-economic impact.
 - Encouraging ASEAN Member States to collaborate in the field of labour and employment.
 - Supporting ASEAN Member States to enhance their respective capacity to prevent and control infectious diseases by establish the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and to emphasize the importance of risk communications and risk assessments in the early detection of and rapid response to emerging infectious disease outbreaks by strengthening the ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Centre (ARARC).
 - Endorsing UHC since 2002 to ensure that no one is left behind, especially during epidemic outbreaks. All COVID-19 patients can be treated free of charge from UHC, Social Security Act 1990 and Civil Servant Medical Benefit Scheme Royal Decree 1976.
 - Passing Criminal Code on 6th February 2021 for sexual reproductive rights to pregnant women not more than 12 weeks for legal abortion and right to terminate pregnancy by medical doctors during 12-20 weeks of her pregnancy if she insists.

WAIPA

Resolution on the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers

The Ministry of Labour

- Approving the draft ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies towards Decent Works for All
- Establishing the tripartite committee implementing the Thailand Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2021
- Enhancing cooperation with UNDP, UN Women, and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to arrange a Study on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work of Women
- Managing the Women in STEM Workforce Readiness and Development Programme which cooperated with ILO with the aim of decreasing the skills gap between men and women and protect women from job loss due to the change of technology
- Arranging the training for women to promote securing jobs and income of women workers
- Implementing Social Security and Labour Protection under the following Act:
 - a) Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) and revision, Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994) and revisions which are in accordance with International Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: CERD by treating equally employees
 - b) Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998) and revision by amending the increase of the maternity leave for women employees from 90 days to 98 days and enacting law that promotes the equal treatment of male and female employees in employment unless the description or nature of work prevents such treatment
 - c) Home Workers Protection Act, B.E. 2553 (2010) in the case of female informal workers' protection
 - d) Labour Protection Act (No. 7), B.E. 2562 (2019) which has been amended in the section on the same rate of wage, overtime pay, holiday pay and holiday overtime pay shall be fixed by employers regardless of whether the employee is male or female. The aforesaid law has come into effect since 5 May 2019
- Providing employment service of both domestic and international recruitment services for all target groups, including the disabled, the elderly and vulnerable persons in accordance with Employment and Job Seekers' Protection Act, B.E. 2528 (1985).

The Committee on Social Development and Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs (Senate)

- Studying the information, operation and obstacles of the Thai Women Empowerment Fund and recommending pushing forward the policy of Thai Women Empowerment Fund to be the law of Thai Women Empowerment Fund for sustainability in promoting and developing the quality of life of women, family and community.
- Studying the promotion of employment of the disabled in accordance with Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, B.E. 2550 (2007) with the objective to monitor the situation and obstacles in implementing the measures of promotion of employment of the disabled in order to support the employment and decent work for them.



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ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

COUNTRY REPORT: VIETNAM

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19

The National Assembly of Viet Nam regularly reviews and completes the legal framework to promote trade facilitation; develop an open, sustainable and responsible investment policy. In 2020, the National Assembly of Viet Nam promulgated and amended many laws that have far-reaching impacts on the economy, such as the Law on Investment, the Law on Enterprises, the Law on Investment in the form of Public-Private Partnership, among others.

II. RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19

From the first quarter of 2020, the National Assembly has considered and approved the Government's proposal to deploy a social security package of up to VND 62,000 billion to promptly support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the same time conducted 06 surveys on policy implementation.

On 15 September 2020, at the 48th Session, the National Assembly Standing Committee adopted the Resolution regarding the supplementation of medical items to the national reserves. Accordingly, the scope of national reserves in the healthcare sector is expanded to meet the requirements of COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control as well as medical emergency requirements when unexpected situations occur in the future.

On 16 November 2020, at the 10th session of the XIV National Assembly, the National Assembly adopted the Law Amending and Supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Prevention and Control of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

The National Assembly has studied thoroughly and commented on the Government's draft Resolution on mechanisms and policies to socialize the vaccine purchase, import, research, domestic production and vaccination against COVID-19. The National Assembly also urged the Government to develop and submit to the National Assembly the Law on Improvement of People's Health to complete the legal basement in the field of preventive medicine, including the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Assembly Standing Committee adopted the Resolution on the use of savings from recurrent expenditures of VND 12,100 billion in 2020 for COVID-19 vaccine purchase.

III. RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS

The 14th National Assembly passed the Law on Vietnamese workers working abroad under the contract (amended) at its 10th session (October 2020). The Law includes provisions ensuring the principle of gender equality, creating opportunities and equal access for both men and women when working abroad.

At the 10th session of the 14th National Assembly, the National Assembly examined the Government's report on the implementation of the national target on gender equality in 2019 and in the period of 2011-2020.

The Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly has made specific proposals and recommendations in the field of labour and employment in the process of building the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2021-2030 period. The Social Affairs Committee has also supervised the 6-year results of the implementation of Resolution No 76/2014/QH13 on accelerating the implementation of the achievement of sustainable poverty reduction goals by 2020. Based on the assessment of the results on achievements, difficulties and limitations, the Committee has made recommendations regarding supporting poor female-owned households and supporting poor women with loan and vocational training.

Currently, the Social Affairs Committee is in the process of reviewing and verifying the Investment Policy Proposal for the National Target Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Social Security for the 2021-2025 period and coordinating on verifying the Investment Policy Proposal for the National Target Program on new Rural Development for the 2021-2025 period. The issue of gender shown in the National Target Programs will be carefully evaluated to ensure that the gender is covered and taken into account in all contents of the Programs.

REPORT

All Resolutions adopted at the 41st AIPA General Assembly were circulated to relevant bodies of the National Assembly and the Government of Viet Nam for consideration and implementation. The Committees of the National Assembly of Viet Nam have cooperated with ministries, agencies of the Government to study, propose bills and amendments to the National Assembly as well as to conduct cooperation programs with ASEAN in the political, economic and social fields.

I. RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19

1. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Viet Nam continues to implement measures to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a strategy of inclusive, comprehensive and effective vaccination. Viet Nam's national COVID-19 vaccine fund was recently established to mobilize social resources for the purchase and import of vaccines as well as for research, development and production of domestic vaccines.

Viet Nam will contribute US\$100,000 to the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund and is committed to contributing US\$5 million worth of medical supplies to the Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies.

2. In promoting ASEAN cohesiveness and economic recovery post-COVID-19

The National Assembly of Viet Nam regularly reviews and completes the legal framework to promote trade facilitation; develop an open, sustainable and responsible investment policy. In 2020, the National Assembly of Viet Nam promulgated and amended many laws that have far-reaching impacts on the economy, such as the Law on Investment, the Law on Enterprises, the Law on Investment in the form of Public-Private Partnership, among others.

In the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution taking place strongly and having huge impacts on the economy, the National Assembly of Viet Nam has proposed to include the topics of digital economy, information technology in Resolutions of the National Assembly and also focus on this content in legislative, supervisory activities and decision making on important national issues.

II. RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19

1. Regarding completing the legal basement, promoting national health coverage, guaranteeing no one is left behind

- On 16 November 2020, at the 10th session of the XIV National Assembly, the National Assembly adopted the Law Amending and Supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Prevention and Control of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

- Every year, many supervision and surveys on the implementation of health policies and laws are regularly conducted, ensuring that people receive quality comprehensive care, all difficulties and problems regarding policy implementation in practice are captured and solved in a timely manner.

2. Regarding strengthening measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating the impacts of the pandemic

- On 15 September 2020, at the 48th Session, the National Assembly Standing Committee adopted the Resolution regarding the supplementation of medical items to the national reserves. Accordingly, the scope of national reserves in the healthcare sector was expanded to meet the requirements of COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control as well as medical emergency requirements when unexpected situations occur in the future.

- The National Assembly has studied thoroughly and commented on the Government's Draft Resolution on mechanisms and policies to socialize vaccine purchase, import, research, domestic production and vaccination against COVID-19.

- The National Assembly Standing Committee adopted the Resolution on the use of savings from recurrent expenditures of VND 12,100 billion in 2020 for COVID-19 vaccine purchase.

- The National Assembly also urged the Government to develop and submit to the National Assembly the Law on Improvement of People's Health to complete the legal basement in the field of preventive medicine, including the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Regarding supporting labor and employment, ensuring the lives of workers in facing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

- From the first quarter of 2020, the National Assembly had considered and approved the Government's proposal to deploy a social security package of up to VND 62,000 billion to promptly support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the same time conducted 06 surveys on policy implementation.

- The President of the National Assembly assigned the National Assembly Delegations and Municipal People's Councils of 63 provinces and cities, Committees of the National Assembly to report on COVID-19 prevention and control and support for people and enterprises affected by COVID-19 in order to clarify advantages, difficulties, lessons learnt, and creating the basis for policy making in the upcoming time.

III. RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS

1. Regarding completing the legal framework and national policies on jobs and income, ensuring gender sensitivity for female workers

- The XIV National Assembly passed the Law on Vietnamese workers working abroad under the contract (amended) at its 10th session (October 2020). The Law includes provisions ensuring the principle of gender equality, creating opportunities and equal access for both men and women when working abroad.

2. Regarding promoting supervision of policies related to employment and income of female workers

- At the 10th session of the 14th National Assembly, the National Assembly examined the Government's report on the implementation of the national target on gender equality in 2019 and in the period of 2011-2020, including a specific assessment on the results of objective 2 of the Strategy, which is to reduce the gender gap in the economic, labor and employment sector; increase the access of poor women in rural areas, women of ethnic minorities toward economic resources, labor market.

- The Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly has made specific proposals and recommendations in the field of labor and employment in the process of building the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2021-2030 period, contributing to increase the proportion of female employees with wages, reduce the proportion of female employees working in the agricultural sector, and increase the ratio of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives by 2030.

- The Social Affairs Committee has also supervised the 6-year results of the implementation of Resolution No. 76/2014/QH13 on accelerating the implementation of the achievement of sustainable poverty reduction goals by 2020. Based on the assessment of the results on achievements, difficulties and limitations, the Committee has made recommendations regarding supporting poor female-owned households and supporting poor women with loan and vocational training.

- Currently, the Social Affairs Committee in its process to review and verify the Investment Policy Proposal for the National Target Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Social Security for the 2021-2025 period and coordinate on verifying the Investment Policy Proposal for

the National Target Program on new Rural Development for the 2021-2025 period. The issue of gender shown in the National Target Programs will be carefully evaluated to ensure that gender is covered and taken into account in all contents of the Programs, ensuring equal development opportunities for men and women to have access to opportunities and resources and not to be left behind in poverty reduction and new rural construction.

In general, the activities that have concretized the content of the Resolution adopted at the meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) within the framework of the AIPA 41st General Assembly have contributed to ensuring equitable access to decent work and increased income opportunities for women.

ANNEX H

SUMMARY TABLES FOR DISCUSSION TOPIC:

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS**



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted			

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST- COVID-19	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a proposal of legislations to support policies that promote economic recovery, such as the rolling out of sweeping fiscal and monetary measures. Brunei Darussalam has also introduced a number of policies in a bid to lessen the impact on the economic burden. To support the impacted sectors and minimise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brunei Darussalam accorded its unwavering support during the 36th ASEAN Summit where recovery plan should prioritise initiatives, such as the easing of travel restrictions through a “region-wide modality that can be initiated bilaterally” which can build confidence within ASEAN.

			<p>disruption to economic activity, under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance and Economy Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Brunei Associations of Banks (BAB) announced a set of interim measures by the banking sector effective 1 April 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In strengthening the digital economy in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty has consented to the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 under the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications launched on 4 June 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As COVID-19 is still on-going, there is an importance in the promotion of digital technologies and economy and the adaptation of business models to make this possible. The driving force comes in twofold: first, social distancing measures have obliged many enterprises to consider the benefits of automation and other digital tools; and, second, closed markets are encouraging many enterprises to move online. Utilizing this juncture, Brunei Darussalam has extended advice and training to enterprises on how to use e-commerce platforms, how to promote and describe their products or services better, and how to adjust their business models. • Thus, with the growing significance of digital economy, the Digital Economy Council (DEC) was established in Brunei Darussalam to provide and steer leadership on initiatives related to digital economy. • Brunei Darussalam has seen the emergence of online marketplace and e-commerce platforms that provide alternative ways for MSME vendors to continue
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				their business online and promote delivery services. The website is an online directory with links to local e-commerce platforms as well as shipping and logistics providers.
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III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	Yes	1. Section 62a Infectious Diseases Act Chapter 204 (Amendments) Order 2020 (in effect from 30 January 2020).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government has provided high-quality and comprehensive healthcare for all citizens, including foreigners and residents of Brunei Darussalam, including monitoring centres and isolation centres; 2. Government ensured dissemination of information and latest updates on current COVID-19 infection in the country; 3. Health Advice Line 148 has been set up and BruHealth Application established for self-assessment tool and contract tracing; 4. Government has conducted vaccine rollout for all, phase by phase, since April 2021; 5. There is a provision of special allowances for frontliners (BND\$400 per month); 6. Restrictions of Exit and Entry into Brunei Darussalam since 16 March 2020 except for

				<p>essential travels;</p> <p>7. Government provided full Supplemental Contributory Pension (SCP) for self-employed individuals for six months during the outbreak of the pandemic in the country;</p> <p>8. Companies conducted life-long learning for upskilling and reskilling for their local staff;</p> <p>9. Government has extended contracts of i-Ready Apprenticeship and expanded to Level 5 Diploma candidates;</p> <p>10. Job Centre Brunei has revamped its website to accelerate job search process and worked with private companies by providing services to local jobseekers and providing pool talent for the companies' reference and conducting interview through its virtual platform;</p> <p>11. Government enhanced its telecommunication services to meet increasing demand during the pandemic, especially to support online learning and teaching for schools to enable continuous learning during the outbreak of the pandemic in the country;</p> <p>12. Restrictions of dine-in services at restaurants, cafes, food courts, hawker stalls during the outbreak of the</p>
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				<p>pandemic in the country. Closure of entertainment and sports facilities during the first phase of pandemic. (De-escalation has since lifted restrictions as restaurants and food outlets are permitted to operate dine-in services in full capacity; use of entertainment and sports facilities allowed; mass gathering allowed under limited capacity whilst still encouraging physical distancing);</p> <p>13. Government has supported and assisted businesses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferral on contribution towards Employees Trust Fund and Supplementary Contributory Pension for local employees earning less than BND\$1,500.00 per month in all sectors under MSMEs; • Providing 25% salary subsidies for Bruneian employees in MSMEs; • Reducing financial burden on affected businesses and individuals by deferring certain repayments, loans, transaction fees, bank charges until September 2020. • Discounts given to rental rates on
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				<p>government buildings for MSMEs, corporate income tax and on utilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption of customs and excise duties. <p>14. Government has also provided an alternative to businesses to market products online through an e-commerce platform “e-Kadai”, assisted MSMEs in selling products in the virtual market, make digital payments via debit or credit cards.</p>
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IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	Yes	Legislation and regulations to promote gender equity in employment, such as the Employment Order 2009, the Workplace Safety and Health Order 2009 and the Maternity Leave Regulation 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in Brunei continue to be given equal opportunities among others in education, training, healthcare, employment, ownership of assets, benefits and citizenship. • Women accounted for 39.3% of the labour force (Labour Force Survey, 2019), with 54% of women employed in Brunei Darussalam’s civil service (Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2019); • Brunei Darussalam has recorded progress of women in positions of power and decision

				<p>making in various fields – women accounted for more than 60% of the top two divisions in the civil service and recorded a rate of 37% in women holding middle and senior management positions in the private sector – the highest in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, there are three women Legislative Council representatives who continuously discuss various women’s issues during our parliamentary sessions. • During COVID-19, the Government of Brunei Darussalam has introduced measures to protect the jobs and providing support for individuals, including for women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing online training free-of-charge through Coursera, an online learning platform that has over 300 courses related to business matters; ○ Life-long Learning: Companies are encouraged to conduct upskilling and reskilling trainings for their local staff, as provided for by Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC); ○ Contract extension for i-Ready
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				<p>apprentices for a period of six months, especially for those whose contract expired before September 2020 in the public and private sectors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding the i-Ready Apprenticeship Program to Level 5 Diploma (HND or Advanced Diploma) and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET); ○ Providing work-from-home and more flexible time arrangements in order to sustain work-life balance, not only for women but for all who needed it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brunei Darussalam, as the recent Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Women, has led some significant achievements, such as producing the inaugural ASEAN Gender Outlook publication with United Nations Women and the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Framework, an initiative with ASEAN Commission on Women and Children. ● Brunei Darussalam, as the Chairman of ASEAN 2021, will also highlight women's development as one of
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				<p>the deliverables under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst, as the Chair of the AIPA 42nd General Assembly this year with the theme “Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion towards ASEAN Community 2025”, Brunei Darussalam wishes to put forward a resolution to empower women’s economic participation through digital and financial inclusion which it believes could provide new avenue for the economic empowerment of women and contribute to greater gender equality. • In March 2021, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) through the Community Development Department (JAPEM), hosted the Wanita Weekend: Women Empowered Conference and the #YouGoGirl Marketplace with an objective to empower women and promote work-life balance for women.
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: CAMBODIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : CAMBODIA

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted			

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ COVID-19 poses some serious challenges, especially in the textile, tourism, aviation and service sectors. In this situation, the Royal Government of Cambodia has already set out five rounds of measures to help maintain the balance of production and business for both domestic and foreign supply, especially to ensure the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Tourism has issued a press release on "Roadmap on the Plan for the Rehabilitation and Promotion of Cambodia's Tourism in and After the COVID-19 Crisis" and the "Siem Reap province Tourism Development Master Plan 2021-2035". ➤ The Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a press release on the 	

		<p>stability of the lives of people who are severely affected. These interventions include: tax incentives and concessions, payment of insurance premiums, occupational risk and health insurance, facilitating credit conditions, increasing market liquidity, providing subsidies to garment and tourism workers; establishing special financing programs to help rehabilitate and promote the business of small and medium enterprises, organize skills training for workers and prepare financing projects for working capital to meet the needs of factories, enterprises and businesses in the country.</p> <p>❖ Financial and monetary intervention: The Royal Government of Cambodia has provided tax deductions to the affected sectors. The Royal Government has provided additional capital to the Rural Development Bank and the Agricultural Sector and established the SME Bank to support agriculture, agro-industry, food processing, and small and medium enterprise development. The Royal Government has</p>	<p>Royal Government of Cambodia's Guidance on Additional Measures to Continue to Manage Impacts on Key Sectors of the Economy in the Context of the Post-Crisis Recession COVID-19 crisis (Round 7, December 23, 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a press release on the Royal Government's guidance on additional measures to further manage the impact on key sectors of the economy in the context of the crisis, rehabilitation and growth of the Cambodian economy during and after the COVID-19 crisis. (Round 8, March 25, 2021). ➤ Sub-Decree on the establishing of SME Bank of Cambodia (2019). ➤ National Policy on Science Technology and Innovation 2020-2030. ➤ Sub-Decree on Establishment of Techo Startup Center (2020). ➤ Cambodia ICT Master Plan 2020. ➤ Law on Telecommunication (2016). ➤ Sub-Decree on Digital Signature (2018). ➤ Sub-Decree on ICT Licence Regime (2017). ➤ Strategic Framework for Cambodia's Digital Economy. ➤ Law on Consumer Protection (2019). 	
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		<p>also reduced minimum obligatory reserves to support the financial sector and encourage financial institutions; in particular, the bank restructures loans to facilitate clients affected by the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Royal Government has increased funding for the program “Labor Cash” which has created more jobs and infrastructure in rural areas.</p> <p>❖ Cambodia promotes and inspires a culture of sharing, which includes sharing from state institutions to the people, sharing from development partners and NGOs to the people, sharing from the rich to the socially disadvantaged and the poor and sharing between local people. This culture has not only eased the pressure on the national budget, but also formed a national unity movement and a driving force in combating COVID-19.</p> <p>❖ Economic Recovery Measures</p> <p>1. The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) established a task force to control supply and prices of strategic goods,</p>	<p>➤ Law on adoption of the Free Trade Agreement in Service of Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India (2018).</p> <p>➤ Law on Remedy 2017.</p> <p>➤ Law on adoption of 3rd Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods of Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and Republic of Korea (2017).</p> <p>➤ Law on adoption of ASEAN Free Trade Area (2009).</p> <p>➤ Law on adoption of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China (2011).</p> <p>➤ Law on the Adoption of the Framework Agreement and the Protocols for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (2010).</p> <p>➤ Law on the Adoption of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (2008).</p> <p>➤ Law on the Approval of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (2008).</p>	
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		<p>including rice, salt, vegetables, fish, meat, face masks, disinfectant alcohol, pharmaceutical and medical equipment and other essentials for daily consumption during the fight against COVID-19.</p> <p>2. The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) also built a task force responsible for planning the budget policy on financing and social assistance, which the team has to study and determine the required budget to fight against COVID-19 based on three preventive measures, such as preventing COVID-19 outbreak, stabilizing the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people and promoting business recovery (2020).</p> <p>3. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) informed businesses to reopen starting from early July 2020, but schools are still operating online. In addition, entertainment clubs and KTV owners allowed converting their business into restaurants.</p> <p>4. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) officially launched "Cash Transfer Program for Poor and Vulnerable Households during COVID-19" on 24 June 2020 to provide reliefs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Law on adoption of Agreement Under Framework and Protocol ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (2007). ➤ Law on adoption of Framework Agreement in Goods Under Framework of ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (2007). ➤ Law on the Adoption of the Protocol Amending the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (2005). ➤ Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Tax Elimination Program under the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Australia, New Zealand (2019). ➤ Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Customs Tariff Reduction and/or Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia in line with the ASEAN Class of Harmonious Customs Tariff 2012 of Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and Republic of Korea (2017). ➤ Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the 	
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		<p>as temporary social support to contribute to poverty reduction and improve the livelihoods and well-being of rural vulnerable households. The RGC's cash subsidy program is aimed specifically at poor and vulnerable families adversely affected by COVID-19. USD 25 million per month was allocated to help these poor and vulnerable families. As of 13 July 2020, at least USD 23 million was transferred to approximately 520,000 people to temporarily support their living expenses, according to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.</p> <p>5. Promotion of Cambodian agriculture and agro-industry: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused difficulties on farmers' daily activities, but COVID-19 has also created an opportunity for the agriculture sector to grow. The Cambodian Farmer Federation Association of Agricultural Producers (CFAP) and its Cambodian farmers continued to farm normally, but their products cannot be exported due to import and export difficulties and quarantine measures without specific deadlines.</p>	<p>Customs Tariff Reduction and/or Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia in line with the ASEAN Class of Harmonious Customs Tariff 2012 of Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China (2017).</p> <p>➤ Sub-Decree on the Implementation of the Customs Tariff Reduction and/or Elimination Program of the Kingdom of Cambodia in line with the ASEAN Class of Harmonious Customs Tariff 2012 of Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of India (2017).</p>	
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		<p>6. In order to help the farmers, the government suspended the export of fish, rice and paddy rice to ensure domestic supply. In addition, Prime Minister Hun Sen continued to call on workers returning from Thailand to seek jobs in the agricultural sector, including livestock and aqua farming.</p> <p>7. The garment sector, the main source of government's direct revenue, has also received an intervention. For factories that have been impacted by COVID-19, the RGC paid \$40 and factories paid \$30 to employees whose jobs have been suspended.</p> <p>8. Businesses and workers in tourism and hospitality sectors, including the airline and aviation firms, have also received government support, among which, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and businesses affected by COVID-19 have received tax holidays of up to 6 months, while workers whose jobs have been suspended or have lost their jobs are able to receive about 50% of their basic pay for between two to three months.</p>		
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		9. The National Bank of Cambodia has devised financial support strategies, such as the relaxation of interest and loan payment obligations, to help microfinance businesses as lenders, and make borrowers resilient to the domestic growth shock caused by COVID-19.		
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III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the field of social affairs, the Royal Government has launched a cash-for-work project to develop rural infrastructure and support farmers, which will help promote better community infrastructure and provide some additional employment opportunities for the people during this difficult time. In addition, the Royal Government has launched a cash subsidy program to provide additional temporary assistance to the poor and vulnerable in order to maintain their livelihood during the crisis. For the education sector, after the closure of schools for a while, the Royal Government has launched a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Planning has issued additional guidelines on emergency measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in large communities. The Ministry of Interior has announced the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in connection with the "February 20" community event. ➤ The Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a sub-decree on administrative measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other deadly and dangerous infectious diseases. ➤ The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has issued a notification on the provision of 	

		<p>"Strategy for the reopening of educational institutions", which requires educational institutions to implement a diverse learning approach: Electronic distance learning, along with classroom learning, combines rigorous implementation of the "social gap" policy and other safeguards as determined by the Ministry of Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social Support and Assistance: The Royal Government of Cambodia initiates and develops cash support programs for poor, vulnerable families, pregnant women and children, and families affected by COVID-19; providing subsidies to garment and tourism workers; and social assistance during the closure of the city, such as rice, foodstuffs, as well as alleviating the cost of electricity and water for high-risk people living in the red zone and those affected by the leaks. At the same time, COVID-19 sufferers, both Cambodians and foreigners, are treated with the utmost care by doctors free of charge, including accommodation, health care and food. 	<p>allowances to garment workers who have had their employment contracts suspended in accordance with the spirit of the Royal Government's Measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has informed foreigners living and working in Cambodia that they can receive the free COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with Cambodia's COVID-19 vaccination plan. ➤ The Ministry of Health has issued a proclamation on the duty to wear a mask and the duty to maintain a safe distance during the outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. ➤ The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has issued a notice on the temporary suspension of public and private educational institutions at all levels throughout the country. 	
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IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	<p>Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIAN S IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS</p>	<p>❖ The implementation of the Cambodian social protection system started with pregnant women to be implemented first: women with twins, women workers and women civil servants, where women who give birth to one child received a subsidy of 400,000 Riels; twins received a subsidy of 800,000 Riels and triplets received a subsidy of 1,200,000 Riels, a high initiative and direct support by the Prime Minister. Workers in factories as well as informal workers in 2021 will have their salaries increased to \$192 per month, on average; each worker will receive between \$210 and \$220 per month. For foreign workers, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has provided additional skills training to prepare for legal work abroad in</p>	<p>➤ The Royal Government of Cambodia continues to place a strong commitment on the advancement of women and gender equality through the empowerment of women and girls as agents for change in Cambodia’s socio-economic development. The government political platform called the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency Phase III 2014-2018 and Phase IV 2019-2023 recognizes the interconnection between gender equality, women’s roles, poverty reduction and socio-economic development of the country and highlights the need to “further improve the status of women considered as the backbone of Cambodian society and economy.</p> <p>➤ The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has issued a notification on the provision of allowance to the garment workers and tourism-related sector that had their</p>	

		<p>industries, such as industry, agriculture and fisheries. Separately, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation also rescued and facilitated the repatriation.</p> <p>❖ Developing and enhancing programs for the development of women with disabilities, such as employment, rehabilitation and fitness, vocational training and free services. Poor people with disabilities in the community receive a women's policy; registered land and used this land as well as provided property to poor women and widows, settled housing, allocated land for social concessions for women and families. They also receive training in agricultural techniques that can adapt to climate change; as well as strengthen the relevant capacity to establish savings</p>	<p>employment contract suspended in accordance with the spirit of the Royal Government Measure. (Sources: Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has issued a notification on the provision of allowance and the monthly salary of April for Factories and Firms to provide for its workers during the pandemic lockdown covering the geography of Phnom Penh city, Takmao city of Kandal province in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (Sources: Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training). ➤ The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has issued a notification on the 1st and 2nd doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine (Sinovac) for workers and leaders of the Professional Associations. (Sources: Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training). ➤ Law on the Adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. 	
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		<p>communities and farming communities.</p> <p>❖ In the National Economic Promotion Program, the capacity of women officers at the Women's Development Centers in the capitals and provinces has been strengthened on the use of information technology to increase the understanding of information technology communication in business affairs, which promotes the advancement of information technology for women.</p> <p>❖ At the same time, the Rural Development Program improves the livelihoods of women and families through the provision of primary health services and community hygiene education, the New Village Movement, the construction of housing latrines, clean water, vocational training and credit. It is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Neary Ratanak II Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2014-2018). ➤ The National Policy on Health Education (2019). ➤ National Strategic Development Plan (2019-2023). ➤ National Policy on Lifelong Learning 2019. ➤ National Programme on Public Administration Reform (2019-2030). ➤ National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (2020-2030). ➤ National Strategy on Financial Inclusion (2019-2025). ➤ The Education Strategic Plan (2019-2023). 	
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		<p>providing economic potential for women and families to create new jobs, expand businesses, increase agricultural productivity and reduce migration, and provide legal and related services.</p> <p>❖ Cambodia has set the following priorities:</p> <p>First, explore new opportunities to enhance the participation of young women in education and skills in line with the context of the labor market and higher levels, especially those related to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education.</p> <p>Second, continue to promote the economic development of women in the family, especially in the community and rural areas, and the entrepreneurial development of women, micro and small and medium enterprises, by examining the</p>		
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		<p>functions of the Women's Development Center, examining the potential in the context of the fourth generation industrial revolution. And the digital economy in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery framework.</p> <p>Third, expand the scope of work, promote social morality and women's values by strengthening the implementation of parenting programs, non-violent culture, and promote the implementation of laws and strategic plans to prevent violence against women and children in all forms, including the welfare of women and girls in particular, within the framework of social protection.</p> <p>Fourth, examine the strategies and scope of work to promote women's leadership in the public, political and private sectors, and especially in the upcoming 2022</p>		
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		<p>Commune/Sangkat Council elections.</p> <p>Fifth, strengthen the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in policies, development plans in all sectors at all levels, especially focusing on strengthening the system and capacity for statistical monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Sixth, explore new potentials and initiatives for gender mainstreaming in climate change, disaster management and green development.</p> <p>Seventh, expand cooperation within the ASEAN community and globally in promoting the rights of women and children, especially with Cambodia as the chair of the ASEAN Commission on Women 2021.</p>		
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: INDONESIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : INDONESIA

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTED	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted	Yes	As reported in the AIPA Caucus 2020.	

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTED	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN	Yes	1. Law No.1/2020 on State Financial Policy and Stability of Financial Systems for the Management of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and/or Encounter the Threat to National Economy and/or Stability of Financial Systems. 2. Law No. 20/2008 on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that	Under the Law No. 1/2020, the government is authorized to implement state financial policies by setting a budget deficit limit to exceed 3% of GDP during the management of COVID-19 and re-allocating extra spending to the COVID-19 responses.

			<p>promotes institutional and policy supports for MSMEs' development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Law No. 1/2013 on Micro Financial Institution to support access to finance for MSMEs. 4. Law No. 36/1999 on Telecommunication to enhance digital connectivity across Indonesia and encourage progress on e-commerce. 5. Law No. 7/2014 on Trade as the legal basis for further regulation of e-commerce. 6. Law No. 4/2018 on the Ratification of Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement Services to facilitate open trade, investment and free movement of goods, services and capital. 7. Omnibus law on Job Creation (Law No. 11/2020) 	
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SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTED	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law No. 6/2008 on Health Quarantine. 2. Law No. 20/2004 on National Social Security System. 3. Law No 20/2003 on National Education System. 4. Law No. 6/1994 on 	Law No. 6/2008 on Health Quarantine is the legal basis for the issuance of several regulations on measures and approaches to mitigate and

			<p>the ratification of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</p> <p>5. Law No. 32/2009 on the Protection and Management of Environment.</p>	overcome the pandemic.
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III. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTED	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law No. 12/2011 on Gender Equality. 2. Law No. 13/2003 on Manpower. 3. Law No. 7/1984 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. 4. Law No. 21/1999 on ILO Convention No. 111 concerning Anti-Discrimination in Position and Occupation. 5. Law No. 80/1957 on the Ratification of ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Wage Equality. 6. Law No. 39/2004 on Placement and Protection of Migrant Worker. 	<p>Law No. 13 Year 2003 on Manpower is the umbrella legislation for non-discrimination and gender equality in recruitment and treatment in the workplace.</p> <p>The legislations have been translated into implementing regulations, among others, Regulation No 03/1999 on Prohibition on termination of employment on the basis of marriage, pregnancy and childbirth, Circular Note No.04/1996 on Non-discrimination against women workers in the company.</p> <p>Law No. 12/2011 on Gender Equality has become the basis for</p>

				mainstreaming gender equality and gender responsive policies into national long and medium term development plans.
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: LAO PDR

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : LAO PDR

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN	Yes	<p>0 The National Assembly approved the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2016-2025 with a central vision to structural economic transformation.</p> <p>0 During the Inaugural Session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, the National Assembly made recommendations to the Government in recognizing challenges to sustainability of current growth model and supports the government's efforts to remove growth constraints of non-resource industrial sector, improve</p>	

			<p>business environment, increase agricultural productivity and unlock the potential of the services sector.</p> <p>0 Laos, as a member of ASEAN, recognizes the fundamental role of SMEs to the country's economic development, employment and income generation.</p> <p>0 The Lao government has begun efforts to support the growth of SMEs, starting with the legislative framework governing the promotion of SMEs and the establishment of the SME Promotion and Development Office and SME Development, Promotion and Productivity Committee under this framework.</p> <p>0 The SME Development Plan (2016-2020) builds on and complements existing SME promotional efforts through: (i) improving the enabling environment for SMEs; (ii) enhancing the competitiveness and sustainable growth of Lao SMEs; and (iii) enabling their integration into regional (especially the ASEAN Economic Community) and international markets.</p>	
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II. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA’S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	Yes	<p>c The National Assembly, as a member of AIPA, plays an important role in supervising the Government to develop and enhance the national policy and action plans in order to promote the Development of e-government to support the utilisation of digital-technology in all sectors at the central and local level, in order to accelerate socio-economic development in order to facilitate transformation towards industrialisation and modernisation with focused targets and areas, as well as in response to the current COVID-19 outbreak and in the post-COVID-19 era under the ‘New Normal’.</p> <p>o The National Assembly has put into action the roles, rights and duties in monitoring the implementation of measures to prevent, control and solve the spread of the disease COVID-19 with the appointment of the National Assembly’s COVID-19 Ad-Hoc committee to monitor the implementation of measures at disease analysis centers, quarantine centers,</p>	<p>There shall be ASEAN common initiatives on Vaccination Passport</p>

			<p>treatment facilities and vaccination facilities to ensure the safety of the health of the people and resolve its impact on society and make sure that no one is left behind.</p> <p>0 The National Assembly encouraged the government to focus on improving the teaching system in line with the pandemic through online teaching in cities and districts that have access to the Internet and for rural tutoring to be taught through television programmes.</p> <p>0 A Special Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) was convened on 20 February 2020 in Vientiane and the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies (ACCWG-PHE) was established in March 2020 to review the status and report on the challenges and implications of COVID-19 in ASEAN, and to consider ways to respond to the pandemic through coordination among the three pillars and related sectors.</p> <p>0 The Government of the Lao PDR has introduced the National COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (2020-2025) that is harmonized with the</p>	
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			<p>2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>0 Since January 2021, the Government has implemented a mass nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme under which more than seven hundred and ten thousand people (as of 13/06/2021) have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while more than three hundred and nine thousand people (as of 13/06/2021) have completed the second dose. The Government of the Lao PDR has put in their utmost efforts to vaccinate 22% of population by 2021; 50% by 2022 and 70% by 2023.</p>	
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III. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	<p>Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01</p> <p>RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS</p>	Yes	<p>0 The National Assembly has made significant progress by passing and adopting the Law on Gender Equality in December 2019, which is a key legislation tool to ensure the implementation of the policy on women's advancement.</p> <p>0 The 8th NSEDP has incorporated numbers of targets on gender quality. In addition, the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly of Lao PDR</p>	

			<p>has a five-year plan to monitor and promote the employment of women with an emphasis on monitoring and encouraging stakeholders to build a model business for women. The women parliamentarians have exercised their rights to comment at the 10th Ordinary Session of the 8th legislature of the National Assembly and at the most recent inaugural session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly of Lao PDR.</p> <p>0 The National Assembly supports the 9th NSEDP on enhancing and creating more opportunities conducive for women to run for seats in the National Assembly and Capital/Provincial People’s Council to cover more than 30%;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease Gender Inequality Index to 0.430; • Increase Gender Equality Index to 0.984. 	
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: MALAYSIA

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : MALAYSIA

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. ECONOMIC MATTERS

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19	IN PROGRESS	NO LEGISLATION	1) ASEAN COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY FRAMEWORK (ACRF) MALAYSIA IS IMPLEMENTING THE ASEAN COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY FRAMEWORK (ACRF) ADOPTED DURING THE 37TH ASEAN SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER 2020. MALAYSIA HAS AGREED TO ADDRESS NON-TARIFF BARRIERS OF 152 ESSENTIAL GOODS AND AN ADDITIONAL 163 TARIFF LINES ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
		IN PROGRESS	NONE	<p>2) DIGITALISATION MALAYSIA HAS SET UP THE NATIONAL DIGITAL ECONOMY AND FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 2020. SEVERAL POLICIES AND ROADMAPS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE, INCLUDING MYDIGITAL ECONOMY BLUEPRINT, THE NATIONAL POLICY ON INDUSTRY 4.0, THE NATIONAL E-COMMERCE STRATEGIC ROADMAP, MALAYSIA GREEN TECHNOLOGY MASTERPLAN 2017-2030.</p>
		IN PROGRESS	CUSTOMS ACT COPYRIGHT ACT PATENT ACT TRADEMARK ACT	<p>3) REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP MALAYSIA HAS SIGNED THE RCEP IN NOVEMBER 2020 AND IS UNDERTAKING DOMESTIC PROCEDURES TO COMPLETE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS OF THE RCEP.</p>
		NOT IMPLEMENTED	NO LEGISLATION	<p>4) FRAMEWORK ON THE ASEAN TRAVEL CORRIDOR ARRANGEMENT FRAMEWORK DISCUSSION ON THE FRAMEWORK ON THE ASEAN TRAVEL CORRIDOR ARRANGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ATCAF) IS PENDING AND EXPECTED TO BE FINALISED BY JULY 2021. MALAYSIA HAS SET</p>

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
				UP A ONE-STOP CENTRE AND DEDICATED WEBSITE TO FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE THE ENTRY OF BUSINESS TRAVELLERS TO MALAYSIA.

II. SOCIAL MATTERS

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
2.	ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	IN PROGRESS	-	<p>APPGM-SDG INITIATED 10 PILOT PROJECTS IN 10 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES TO LOCALISE THE SDG.</p> <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA INITIATED SEVERAL MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19, INCLUDING:</p> <p>A) EXPEDITE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED RECIPIENTS;</p> <p>B) PROVIDING TELE-COUNSELLING AND HOTLINE TO PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT</p> <p>C) REVIEW TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SAFETY NETS</p> <p>D) 4K FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</p> <p>E) INITIATE SQUAD WAJA PROGRAMME TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</p> <p>F) EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME FOR SINGLE MOTHERS</p>

III. THE WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (WAIPA)

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
3.	THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	IN PROGRESS	EMPLOYMENT ACT 1955	<p>THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXECUTED LONG-TERM STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT UPHOLD GENDER EQUALITY BY IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON WOMEN.</p> <p>THERE ARE INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT WOMEN IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME, SUCH AS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) CHILDCARE SUBSIDY B) CHILDCARE SERVICES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS C) WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME D) WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME E) CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME TO INJECT CAPITAL FOR WOMEN INVOLVED IN E-BUSINESSES OR DROPSHIPPERS



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: MYANMAR

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : MYANMAR

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted	Yes	Yes	

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN	Yes	Yes	

III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	Yes	Yes*	

IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	Yes	Yes*	



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: PHILIPPINES

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : PHILIPPINES

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. ECONOMIC MATTERS

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020//01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST COVID –19	Yes*	<u>STATUTES</u> Republic Act No. 11534 – “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act” or “CREATE” Republic Act No. 11525 – “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021” Republic Act No. 11523 – “Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act” Republic Act No. 11521 – “An Act Further Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering Law, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9160, Otherwise Known as the ‘Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001,’ as Amended” Republic Act No. 11520 – “An Act Extending the Availability of the 2020 Appropriations to December 31, 2021, Amending for the Purpose Section 60 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 11465 or the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2020”	

			<p>Republic Act No. 11519 – “An Act Extending the Availability of Appropriations Under Republic Act No. 11494, Otherwise Known as the ‘Bayanihan to Recover as One Act’”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11494 – “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11469 – “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11293 – “Philippine Innovation Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11165, the “Telecommuting Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11057 – “Personal Property Security Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11337 – "Innovative Startup Act"</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11032 – “Ease of Doing Business Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10881 – “An Act Amending Investment Restrictions in Specific Laws Governing Adjustment Companies, Lending Companies, Financing Companies and Investment Houses Cited in the Foreign Investment Negative List and for Other Purposes”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10863 – “Customs Modernization Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10744 – “Credit Surety Fund Cooperative Act of 2015”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10708 – “The Tax Incentives Management and Transparency Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10693 – “Microfinance NGOs Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10668 – “An Act Allowing Foreign Vessels to Transport and Co-Load Foreign Cargoes for</p>	
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			<p>Domestic Transshipment and for Other Purposes”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10667 – “Philippine Competition Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10644 – “Go Negosyo Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10641 – “An Act Allowing the Full Entry of Foreign Banks in the Philippines, Amending for The Purpose Republic Act No. 7721”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10175 – “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9182 – “Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Act of 2002”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9178 – “Magna Carta for Small Scale Industries”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 8792 – “Electronic Commerce Act of 2000”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 8762 – “Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7882 – “Assistance to Women Engaged in Micro Cottage Enterprises”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7844 – “Export Development Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7721 – “An Act Liberalizing the Entry and Scope of Operations of Foreign Banks in the Philippines and For Other Purposes”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7652 – “Investor’s Lease Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7042, as amended by Republic Act No. 8179 – “Foreign Investments Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 6977 – “Magna Carta for Small Enterprises”</p>	
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			<p><u>HOUSE BILLS</u></p> <p>House Bill No. 9089 – “P10K Emergency Cash Aid or EC Act of 2021”</p> <p>House Bill No. 8628 – “Bayanihan To Arise As One Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 8597 – “Bangon Pamilyang Pilipino (BPP) Assistance Program Act of 2021”</p> <p>House Bill No. 8080 – “Instituting Services for Learners with Disabilities (LWDs) in Support of Inclusive Education Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 8059 – “Bayanihan to Rebuild as One Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 8025 – “An Act Establishing a National Evaluation Policy”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7749 – “Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE) Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7715 – “Balik Probinsya Incentives Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7620 – “An Act Providing for a People’s Strategy for Strengthening Health, Social Protection, Economic and Local Industrial Development (SHIELD) in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its Economic Impact, and Appropriating Funds Therefor”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7610 – “Restaurant Industry Revival Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7609 – “Philippine Circular Economy Act of 2020”</p>	
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			<p>House Bill No. 7367 – “Department of Economic Planning and Development”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7310 – “Balik Probinsya Financial Assistance Fund to LGUs Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7153 – “National Digital Transformation Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 7102 – “Strengthening the Culture of Development Planning Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6922 – “Broadcast-based Learning Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6920 - “COVID-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus (CURES) Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6874 – “Digital Philippines Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6864 – “Better Normal for the Workplace, Communities and Public Spaces Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6818 – “Monthly Amortization Moratorium Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6815 – “Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy of the Philippines” or “ARISE Philippines Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6802 – “Universal Wireless Internet Connection Act of 2020”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6764 – “Telecommute Act for the Public Sector”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6734 – “Adopt a Poor Household Program Act”</p>	
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			<p>House Bill No. 6715 – “Loan Program Assistance for MSMEs Affected by COVID-19 Act”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6654 – “Reorganizing and Converting the Insurance Commission into a Collegial Body, Amending Sections 437, 438 and 439 of Republic Act No. 10607, Otherwise Known as ‘The Insurance Code’”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6430 – “Providing for a Reinvestment Framework for Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Sponsors”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6377 – “The New Public Service Law of the Philippines”</p> <p>House Bill No. 6243 – “An Act Strengthening the Powers of the Philippine Competition Commission and Legislating the National Competition Policy, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 10667, Otherwise Known as the ‘Philippine Competition Act’”</p> <p>House Bill No. 0399 – “An Act Amending Sections 4 and 8 of Republic Act No. 7042, As Amended, Otherwise Known as the ‘Foreign Investments Act of 1991’”</p> <p>House Bill No. 0059 – “Setting the Minimum Paid-up Capital and Locally Produced Stock Inventory Requirements for Foreign Retail Business Enterprises, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8762, Otherwise Known as the ‘Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000’”</p>	
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II. SOCIAL MATTERS

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	<p>Res41GA/2020/SOC/03</p> <p>RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA's ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19</p>	Yes*	<p><u>STATUTES:</u></p> <p>Republic Act No. 11534 – “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act or ‘CREATE’”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11525 – “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11519 – “An Act Extending the Availability of Appropriations under Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as the ‘Bayanihan to Recover as One Act’”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11520 – “An Act Extending the Availability of the 2020 Appropriations to December 31, 2021, Amending for the Purpose Section 60 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 11465 or the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2020”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11509 – “<i>Doktor para sa Bayan Act</i>”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11494 – “<i>Bayanihan to Recover as One Act</i>”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11469 – “<i>Bayanihan To Heal as One Act</i>”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11466 – “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11332 – “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events on Public Health Concern Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11310 – “<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act</i>”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11223 – “Universal Health Care Act”</p>	

			<p>Republic Act No. 11199 – “Social Security Act of 2018”</p> <p>Republic Act 11165 – “Telecommuting Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9502, amending Republic Act No. 6675 – “Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 8291 – “The Government Service Insurance System Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7875 – “National Health Insurance Act”</p> <p><u>HOUSE BILLS:</u></p> <p>House Bill No. 09111 – “An Act to Mandate a Comprehensive Research for the Prevention, Control, and Medical Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08650 – “An Act Classifying Students and Teachers of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences Courses Who Attend Face-To-Face Classes as Frontline Health Workers Thereby Including Them Among those Prioritized Groups for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccination”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07620 – “An Act Providing for a People’s Strategy for Strengthening Health, Social Protection, Economic and Local Industrial Development (Shield) in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its Economic Impact”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07613 – “An Act Instituting Continuous Social Amelioration Subsidy to Every Urban Poor Household to Help Them Survive the COVID-19 Pandemic”</p>	
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			<p>House Bill No. 07459 – “An Act Granting Hazard Pay to Private and Public Healthcare Workers During the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07165 – “An Act Providing for the Protection Against Pandemic and the Development of the Healthcare and Manufacturing Industries”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06871 – “An Act Establishing an Infectious Disease Hospital and Research Center with Quarantine Facilities in Every Region in the Country”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06802 – “An Act Providing for a Universal, Comprehensive, Reliable and Accessible Wireless Internet Connection in Order to Facilitate the Delivery of Digital Education Amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06793 – “An Act Establishing the Philippine Virology Science and Technology Institute”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06760 – An Act Requiring the Establishment of Quarantine Facilities in Every Region in the Country”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06755 – “An Act Granting Hazard Pay to Private and Public Healthcare Workers During the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06715 – “An Act Mandating Banks and Government Financial Institutions to Offer Flexible Loan Programs to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic”</p>	
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			<p>House Bill No. 06676 – “An Act Prohibiting Discrimination Against Persons Who are Confirmed, Suspect, and Probable Cases of COVID-19 Virus, Repatriated OFWs, Health Workers, Responders, and Service Workers”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06650 – “An Act Establishing A National Response and Preparedness Strategy in Addressing Pandemics and Outbreaks”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06649 – “An Act Mandating a Tax Holiday for All Qualified Health Workers Serving at the Frontlines During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Global Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06618 – “An Act Establishing an Epidemics and/or Pandemics Preparedness Plan”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06096 – “An Act Creating the Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Providing Mechanisms for Epidemic Control”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00061 – “An Act Establishing the Philippine <i>eHealth</i> System and Services in the Delivery of Health Services with the Use of Information and Communications Technology in the Philippines”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00022 – "An Act Providing Security of Tenure for Barangay Health Workers, Amending for the Purpose Section 6 (D) of Republic Act 7883, Otherwise Known as the ‘Barangay Health Workers’ Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00008 – “An Act Establishing the National Health Passport System and Strengthening the Primary Healthcare System”</p>	
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III. WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON AIPA (WAIPA)

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	<p>Res41GA/2020/WAIPA/01</p> <p>RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN</p>	Yes*	<p><u>STATUTES:</u></p> <p>Republic Act No. 11466 – “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11313 – “Safe Spaces Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11310 – “<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Program (4Ps) Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11261 – “Fist Time Jobseekers Assistance Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11210 – “105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11199 – “Social Security Act of 2018”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11165 – “Telecommuting Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11148 – “<i>Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay</i> Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10931 – “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10906 – “Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10869 – “<i>JobStart Philippines</i> Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10691 – “An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8759, otherwise known as the Public Service Employment Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10644 – “<i>Go Negosyo</i> Act”</p>	

			<p>Republic Act No. 10364 – “Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10361 – “Domestic Workers Act” or “Batas <i>Kasambahay</i> Act of 2012”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10354 – “The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10151 – “An Act Allowing the Employment of Night Workers, Thereby Repealing Articles 130 and 131 of Presidential Decree Number Four Hundred Forty-Two, as Amended, Otherwise Known as the Labor Code of the Philippines”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10022 – “An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known as “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act, Further Improving the Standard of Protection of Promotion of the Welfare of Migrant Workers”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9710 – “Magna Carta of Women”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9501 – “Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9262 – “Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 9208 – “Anti-Trafficking of Person Act of 2003”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 8972 – “Solo Parents’ Welfare Act of 2000”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 8759 – “Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999”</p>	
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			<p>Republic Act No. 7796 – “Technical Education and Skills Development Act of 1994”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7688 – “An Act Giving Representation to Women in Social Security Commission”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7882 – “An Act Providing Assistance to Women Engaging in Micro and Cottage Business Enterprises”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 7192 – “Women in Development and Nation Building Act”</p> <p>Republic Act No. 6656 – “An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization”</p> <p><u>HOUSE BILLS:</u></p> <p>House Bill No. 08932 – “An Act Mandating All Broadcasting Companies, Including Cable Television Systems, to Conduct Gender- and Disability-Awareness and Sensitivity Trainings and Seminars for All its Employees Involved in Content Creation”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08571 – “An Act Prohibiting Gender Discrimination in Employment Advertising”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08567 – “An Act Creating a Lending Assistance Program to Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs from Low-Income Families”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08541 – “An Act Creating a National Women’s Business Enterprise Policy and Prescribing Arrangements for Developing, Coordinating and Implementing a National Program for Women’s Enterprise”</p>	
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		<p>House Bill No. 08491 – “An Act to Establish the National Commission on Entrepreneurial Education”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08490 – “An Act to Prohibit Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08345 – “An Act Establishing the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Development”</p> <p>House Bill No. 08187 – “An Act Prescribing the Penalties for an Immediate Superior or Senior Official of an Agency, Public or Private, Who Denies Application for Leave of Absence by a Victim-Survivor of Violence Against Women and their Children as Provided Under Section 42 on the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9262, Otherwise Known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, Amending for the Purpose the Said Law”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07698 – “An Act Providing Support Services for Small Entrepreneurs in Online Spaces, Providing Mechanisms for their Integration into the Formal Economy”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07671 – “An Act Establishing a National Skills Program to Provide Training Services Linked to Labor Demand and Assist Displaced Workers Regain Employment”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07661 – “An Act Mandating the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to Update the Existing Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP), Special Training for Employment Program (STEP),</p>	
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			<p>and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”</p> <p>House Bill No. 07179 – “An Act Promoting Women Participation and Equitable Representation in and by Political Parties, Giving Incentives Therefor, Creating the Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06920 – “An Act Establishing a Covid-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus (CURES) Fund and Instituting Mechanisms for the Implementation Thereof”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06755 – “An Act Granting Hazard Pay to Private and Public Healthcare Workers During the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06715 – “An Act Mandating Banks and Government Financial Institutions to Offer Flexible Loan Programs to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06659 – “An Act Providing for a Wage Employment Assistance Program for Displaced and/or Vulnerable Workers, institutionalizing for the Purpose the <i>Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers</i> (TUPAD) Program of the Department of Labor and Employment”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06619 – “An Act Providing a National Stimulus Strategy to Restore Economic Growth and Employment,”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06613 – “An Act Appropriating the Amount of Three</p>	
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		<p>Billion Pesos to Fund an Emergency Employment Program of the Department of Labor and Employment to Mitigate the Effects of COVID-19 on the Employment Sector”</p> <p>House Bill No. 06463 – “An Act Expanding the Prohibition of Discriminatory Acts Against Women on Account of Sex, Amending for the Purpose Presidential Decree No. 442, as Amended, Otherwise Known as the ‘Labor Code of the Philippines’”</p> <p>House Bill No. 05954 – “An Act Providing Assistance to Minimum Wage Earners by Waiving Government Fees and Charges Collected in Connection with the Issuance of Documents Required in their Application for Employment”</p> <p>House Bill No. 05609 – “An Act Strengthening Republic Act No. 9208, as Amended by Republic Act No. 10364, Entitled ‘An Act to Institute Policies to Eliminate Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Establishing the Necessary Institutional Mechanisms for the Protection and Support of Trafficked Persons, Providing Penalties for its Violations and for Other Purposes’”</p> <p>House Bill No. 04472 – “An Act Mandating the Provision of Maternity Packages to Pregnant Filipino Women Belonging to the Low-Income Group”</p> <p>House Bill No. 03719 – “An Act Providing for Women Empowerment”</p> <p>House Bill No. 03531 – “An Act Granting Capitalization Loan Assistance to Women Seeking to Become Entrepreneurs</p>	
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			<p>or Those Intending to Put Up Their Own Business”</p> <p>House Bill No. 02392 – “An Act Providing for Equal Employment Opportunity and Equitable Treatment in Employment to All Persons and Providing Penalties Therefor”</p> <p>House Bill No. 01569 – “An Act Creating an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Defining its Powers and Composition”</p> <p>House Bill No. 01552 – “An Act Providing for Rural Employment Assistance”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00666 – “An Act Mandating 14th Month Pay for All Employees in the Government and Private Sector Regardless of Status of Employment”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00610 – “An Act Providing Protection to Working Women by Granting Them the Right to Know Working Conditions Affecting their Health and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof”</p> <p>House Bill No. 00136 – “An Act Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Ethnicity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, Language, Disability, HIV Status, Educational Attainment and Other Forms of Discrimination”</p>	
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: SINGAPORE

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : SINGAPORE

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19	Yes	Infectious Diseases Act; Environmental Public Health Act; COVID-19 Temporary Measures Act 2020; Healthcare Services Act; Supply Act 2021	See Country Report

III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	Yes	Infectious Diseases Act; Environmental Public Health Act; COVID-19 Temporary Measures Act 2020; Healthcare Services Act; Supply Act 2021	See Country Report

IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	Yes	Employment Act; Employment of Foreign Manpower Act; Workplace Safety and Health Act; Child Development Co- Savings Act; Retirement and Re- employment Act; Trade Unions Act; Industrial Relations Act; Central Provident Fund Act; Penal Code; Supply Act 2021	See Country Report



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: THAILAND

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : THAILAND

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted	No	-	-

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST- COVID-19	Yes	Monitoring the “Emergency Decree Authorizing the Ministry of Finance to Raise Loans to Solve Problems, to Remedy And Restore the Economy And Society as Affected by the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, B.E. 2563 (2020)” and Land and	<u>considering</u> - the comments and observations on government policies to tackle the impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic and proposals for future economic recovery - the use of money in accordance with the three emergency decrees for

			<p>Building Tax Act, B.E. 2562 (2019)</p> <p><u>Reviewing</u> Tourism business and Tourist Guide Act (NO.2) B.E. 2559 (2016) and Hotel Act, B.E. 2547 (2004)</p>	<p>economic and social recovery and rehabilitation affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and to supervise the government in issuing relief measures and policies to mitigate the impact, including monitoring of budget disbursements and results of budget disbursement.</p>
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III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO- CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID19	Yes	<p><u>Launching</u> the preventive measures of the COVID-19 pandemic under the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 (2015)</p> <p><u>Taking action</u> to access medicines and medical supplies, including health products, to handle with COVID-19 under the Cosmetics Act B.E. 2558 (2015)</p>	<p><u>Launching</u> - Measurement for 3 Groups of Vulnerable Populations affected by the Spreading of Coronavirus Infectious Disease (COVID-19)</p> <p><u>Setting up</u> - the Centre for the Administration of the Situation due to the Outbreak of the Communicable Disease Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) - Thailand's NDC Roadmap on Mitigation 2021-2030. - the project on planting 100 million trees within year 2022</p> <p><u>Cooperating with</u> - Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund</p>

				<p>(JAIF) launched the project on strengthening capacity for marine debris reduction in ASEAN region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- World Bank launched the project on the market study for plastics circularity for Thailand. <p><u>Achieving</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the target of 15.6% emission of the greenhouse gas produced in Thailand in 2020
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IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLE- MENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	Yes	<u>Implementing on women social security and labour protection and equal treatment under</u> - Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) and revision, Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994) and revision - Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998) and revision - Home Workers Protection Act, B.E. 2553 (2010) - Labour Protection Act (No. 7), B.E. 2562 (2019)	<u>Studying</u> - The information operation and obstacles of the Thai Women Empowerment Fund - the promotion of employment of the disabled in accordance with Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, B.E. 2550 (2007) <u>Implementing</u> Ethics Code for Members of Parliament to solve the violence and sexism in the Parliament <u>Welcoming</u> a principle of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to ensure that government's planning, budgeting and auditing contribute to gender equality



**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

SUMMARY TABLE: VIETNAM

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
41ST AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTRY : VIETNAM

Yes	Implemented
Yes*	Partially Implemented
No*	Has not been implemented, however, other legal provisions could apply
No	Has not been implemented

I. POLITICAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Only resolution on the adoption of the Interface and Caucus report were adopted			

II. ECONOMIC MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/ECO/01 RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic: - Continue to implement measures to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a Strategy of inclusive, comprehensive and effective vaccination. - Recently established Viet Nam's national COVID-19 vaccine fund. - Viet Nam will contribute US\$100,000	- Regularly review and complete the legal framework to promote trade facilitation; develop an open, sustainable and responsible investment policy. - Law on Investment, Law on Enterprises, Law on Investment in the form of Public-Private Partnership among others (2020)	

		to the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund and is committed to contributing US\$5 million worth of medical supplies to the Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies		
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III. SOCIAL MATTER

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/SOC/03 RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING AIPA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19	<p>1. Regarding completing the legal basement, promoting national health coverage, guaranteeing no one is left behind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct more supervision and surveys on the implementation of health policies and laws every year. <p>2. Regarding strengthening measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating the impacts of the pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt the Resolution regarding the supplementation of medical items to the national reserves. - Study thoroughly and comment on the Government's Resolution Draft on mechanisms and policies to socialize the vaccine purchase, import, research, domestic production 	- Law Amending and Supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Prevention and Control of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).	

		<p>and vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urge the Government to develop and submit to the National Assembly the Law on Improvement of People's Health to complete the legal basement in the field of preventive medicine, including the prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic. - Adopt Resolution on the use of savings from recurrent expenditures of VND 12,100 billion in 2020 for COVID-19 vaccine purchase. <p>3. Regarding support in labor and employment, ensuring the lives of workers in facing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider and approve the Government's proposal to deploy a social security package of up to VND 62,000 billion to promptly support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, conduct 06 surveys on policy implementation. - The President of the National Assembly assigned the National Assembly Delegations and Municipal People's Councils of 63 provinces and cities, Committees of the 		
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		National Assembly to report on COVID-19 prevention and control and support for people and enterprises affected by COVID-19.		
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IV. WAIPA

NO.	RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTATION	LEGISLATION	REMARKS
1.	Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS	<p>Regarding promoting supervision of policies related to employment and income of female workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine the Government's report on the implementation of the national target on gender equality in 2019 and in the period of 2011-2020. - Make specific proposals and recommendations in the field of labor and employment in the process of building the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2021-2030 period. - Supervise the 6-year results of the implementation of Resolution No. 76/2014/QH13 on accelerating the implementation of the achievement of sustainable poverty reduction goals by 2020. - Currently, review and verify the Investment Policy Proposal for the National Target Program on Poverty Reduction and 	- Law on Vietnamese workers working abroad under the contract (amended)	

		<p>Sustainable Social Security for the 2021-2025 period and coordinate on verifying the Investment Policy Proposal for the National Target Program on new Rural Development for the 2021-2025 period. The issue of gender shown in the National Target Programs will be carefully evaluated to ensure that the gender is covered and taken into account in all contents of the Programs.</p>		
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**12TH MEETING OF THE
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) CAUCUS
VIRTUAL MEETING
16 JUNE 2021, SINGAPORE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY HOST OF 13TH AIPA CAUCUS
MEMBER OF THE SENATE, HEAD OF DELEGATION FOR THAILAND
MRS PIKULKAEW KRAIRIKSH
AT THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 12TH AIPA CAUCUS
WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021**

Mr Chairperson,
Dear AIPA colleagues,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, we would like to convey our gratitude to the Parliament of Singapore for the success of this virtual meeting of the 12th AIPA Caucus meeting. Thailand believes that the meaningful outcomes resulting from our discussion today will bring about the concrete implementation in regional and domestic area.

2 Due to the outbreak of the pandemic, economic and social development in AIPA countries has been severely affected. As the Parliaments belong to the Peoples, AIPA should continue to work more closely to strengthen inter-parliamentary partnership to ensure our government's policies that truly reflected the voices of our people to get their life's back on track after the pandemic.

3 In order to make such continuity possible, it is my honour and great pleasure to inform you that we, on behalf of the Thai Parliament, will host the 13th AIPA Caucus meeting next year, 2022. The National Assembly of Thailand will work side by side with our AIPA colleagues and will do our best to assure you that the results of the meeting will bring benefits for ASEAN people. Thank you.
