

ANNEX P

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

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**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS**

His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia
Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib,
The President of 42nd AIPA and Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam

Your Excellencies,
Honorable Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to submit the following Report of the Committee on Economic Matters.

1. The Meeting was held virtually on 24th August 2021 at 01.45 pm GMT +8. It was presided over by Honourable Ms. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abdul Rahman, Member of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam as the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson from the next host country for the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA, Cambodia, was appointed for the meeting.
2. The following Parliamentarians from 9 AIPA Member Parliaments attended the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam

- a) Hon. Ms. Nik Hafimi Abdul Haadii
- b) Hon. Pehin Dato Haji Judin Haji Asar
- c) Hon. Mr. Pengiran Haji Ali Pengiran Maon
- d) Hon. Mr. Haji Mohimin Haji Johari
- e) Hon. Mr. Awang Hanapi Bin Mohd Siput

Cambodia

- a) Hon. Mr. Ty Sokun
- b) Hon. Mr. Ai Khan
- c) Hon. Mr. Chay Borin
- d) Hon. Mr. Kheav Phearith
- e) Hon. Mr. Ouk Damry

Indonesia

- a) Hon. Mr. Hafisz Tohir
- b) Hon. Mr. I Gusti Agung Rai Wirajaya

Lao PDR

- a) Hon. Assoc. Prof. Dr Linkham Douangsavanh
- b) Hon. Mr. Thanta Kongphaly

Malaysia

- a) Hon. Mr. Ahmad Fadhli Shaari
- b) Hon. Mr. Datuk Zakaria Mohd Edris

Philippines

- a) Hon. Sharon S. Garin

Singapore

- a) Hon. Mr. Saktiandi Supaat
- b) Hon. Mr. Shawn Huang
- c) Hon. Ms. Ng Ling Ling

Thailand

- a) Hon. Mr. Manoon Sivapiromrat
- b) Hon. Mrs. Pikulkeaw Krairiksh
- c) Hon. Mr. Krisda Tanterdtit

Vietnam

- a) Hon. Pham Thi Hong Yen
- b) Hon. Vu Thi Luu Mai
- c) Hon Thai Quynh Mai Dung
- d) Hon. Bui Hoai Son

3. The Meeting of the Committee on Economic Matters was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation. The AIPA Member Parliaments discussed and approved 2 resolutions as follows:
 - a) **Resolution on Promoting Inclusive Digital ASEAN to Empower MSMEs And Strengthen the ASEAN Economic Integration.**
4. The resolution was introduced on the recognition that the impact of COVID-19 has affected the economy, especially MSMEs, and also acknowledged the importance of economic integration as the main agenda of the ASEAN Economic Community as well as the digital inclusion in ASEAN.
5. The Committee affirmed the important role played by digital technology in strengthening ASEAN's economic connectivity and readiness to respond to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also highlighted the importance of MSMEs as the backbone of ASEAN's diverse and dynamic economy. The Committee discussed further concerning the development of MSMEs capabilities and networking, including digital upskilling and reskilling of MSMEs.

6. Therefore, the Committee resolved to promote legislation and policies towards harmonization for ASEAN economic digital integration, which prioritize connectivity, especially sub-region and remote area connectivity, regional integration and narrow the development gap among AMS in coordination to capture the opportunities of transitioning into the Fourth Industrial Revolution in attaining and achieving integration in key sectors for overall ASEAN economic integration. Further, the Committee encouraged the digital economy and transformation as the way forward of doing business for the MSMEs to provide better opportunities and overcome the effect of economic disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

b) Resolution on Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Tourism Cooperation in ASEAN.

7. The Resolution highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe damage to tourism worldwide especially in ASEAN where the economy is heavily dependent on the tourism sector. However, the Committee underscored that the tourism sector will play a significant role in delivering sustainable solutions for ASEAN region on the post COVID-19 by strengthening the cooperation among each Member States.
8. During the discussion and deliberation of the Resolution, the Committee reaffirmed the commitment of the AIPA to fully support the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 by re-prioritizing activities and projects aimed at revitalizing tourism in the region after overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Resolution, the Committee also supported the vision of ASEAN Tourism 2025 whereby ASEAN aim to be a safe and quality tourist destination offering a unique, diverse ASEAN experience, and commit to be a responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development, so as to contribute significantly to the socio-economic well-being of ASEAN people, especially during the post pandemic period of COVID-19.
9. The Committee also encouraged Parliamentarians of the AIPA Member Parliaments to support and facilitate the integrated and coordinated approach towards the essential movement of the people in the ASEAN region. Further, the Committee call upon AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to foster regional cooperation through sharing best practices, policies, and capacity building.
10. I hereby present the Report of the Committee on Economic Matters to the 42nd General Assembly of AIPA.

Your Excellency and Honorable Delegates,

As we navigate the roads of recovery from the devastating economic impact of the pandemic, governments in the region need to seize the opportunity to support MSMEs in building resilience and emerge stronger by accelerating digitalization and building an inclusive digital future. Furthermore, with the current relentless vaccination rollouts, our travel sector will also need to prepare for its revival.

“Let us Care and Recover, Prepare for Stronger Unity and Prosper Together –Sama Sama”

Thank you, Your Excellency and Hon Delegates.



**HON. MS. SITI ROZAIMERIYANTY DATO
SERI LAILA JASA HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN**
CHAIRPERSON



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(Res 42GA/2021/Eco/01)

**RESOLUTION ON
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ASEAN TO EMPOWER MSMEs
AND STRENGTHEN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

Jointly Sponsored by Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the AIPA Resolution Res39GA/2018/Econ/03 on “Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN”; the AIPA Resolution Res40GA/2019/ECO/01 on “Fostering Inclusive Development in ASEAN”; the AIPA Resolution Res40GA/2019/ECO/03 on “Improving Digital Connectivity to Support the Growth of MSMEs”; and the AIPA Resolution Res41GA/2020/Eco/01 on “*The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19*”; adopted at the 39th, 40th and 41st AIPA General Assembly respectively, which highlights the importance of improving digital connectivity as one of the contributing factors to accelerate ASEAN Economic Integration and in particular the growth of MSMEs as well as affirming the important role played by digital technology in strengthening ASEAN’s economic connectivity and readiness to respond to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Acknowledging the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnerships (RCEP), both of which aim to create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would engender a more equitable and inclusive economic growth; support sustained high economic resilience even during global economic shocks, volatilities, and pandemic as well as to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is safe, secure, sustainable and transformative, capable to further leverage and enhance the use of ICT for an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN;

Remaining Mindful of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic development and integration of the ASEAN region in addition to its direct and indirect disruption of the financial market, market and supply chain including the vulnerable sectors for MSMEs; supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on e-Commerce, ASEAN Framework for Personal Data Protection and ASEAN Digital Masterplan to enable the vision of ASEAN being safe and secure digital economy and digital society;

Welcoming the result of the 1st ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting and Related Meetings in January 2021 that stressed the importance of accelerating inclusive digital transformation in ASEAN, which is one of the key strategies adopted under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, which serves as a consolidated exit strategy from the COVID-19 crisis;

Emphasizing the importance of MSMEs as the backbone of ASEAN's diverse and dynamic economy, which is currently lagged behind in digital connectivity, resources, skills and strategy of digital transformation. Hence the development of MSMEs capabilities and networking, including digital upskilling and reskilling of MSMEs to achieve significant uplift in productivity; efficiency and market expansion within the region, and other supports of MSMEs participation in the digital economy to boost economy and improve society during the post-COVID-19 as identified in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 so that they may continue to play a pivotal role in the growth of ASEAN economy;

Further emphasizing the priority areas identified in the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP) 2019-2025, which aims are to facilitate seamless trade, to protect data and privacy while supporting digital trade and innovation, to enable seamless digital payments, to broaden digital talent base, to foster and promote the policy on STEM and entrepreneurship learning in coordinating actions and to effectively implement and enable the acceleration of digital integration within ASEAN.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to promote policies and legislation towards harmonization for ASEAN economic digital integration, which prioritize connectivity, especially sub-region and remote area connectivity, regional integration and narrow the development gap among AMS in coordination to capture the opportunities of transitioning into the Fourth Industrial Revolution in attaining and achieving integration in key sectors for overall ASEAN economic integration;

Call for the acceleration of digital integration by further enhancing the affordable, accessible digital infrastructure and regional consensus on data governance needed to support the increasing demand for digital connectivity in the region including developing domestic regulations that seeks for mobilizing and allocating adequate budget and resources supporting the objectives of the ASEAN economic integration through digital connectivity and inclusion; especially investment in education and training to upskill and reskill people to ensure that the impact of new technologies will not lead to widening the gap of development inequality;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to promote digital economy and transformation as the way forward of doing business for the MSMEs to provide better opportunities and overcome the effect of economic disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic by enhancing national efforts including on the provision of supporting governments' efforts in delivering assistance and working with business sectors to support the integrated digital connectivity in order to increase ASEAN trade and support the development of MSMEs;

Support efforts of Governments of ASEAN Member States to effectively implement the Broad Strategy 4-Accelerating Inclusive Digital transformation of ACRF and the development of the ASEAN Consolidated Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage the establishment of roadmaps for digitalization of MSMEs with focus on restructuring business models to optimize their performance and productivity and to improve their capacity and competitiveness, contributing to the development of digital economy in each country;

Strongly advise the exploration of potential partnerships among ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to promote excellence, innovation and productivity; share best practice of supporting MSMEs digital transformation and digital platforms in the region; to facilitate and enhance market access, digital financial inclusion and improve the

internationalization of MSMEs to promote entrepreneurship and human capital development towards a thriving economic environment in ASEAN;

Urge ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to adapt laws and regulations to protect our digital economy, including MSMEs from various cyber threats, so that an ethical environment for digitalization can be created by considering the various pitfall of digitalization such as digital dementia, data privacy, fake news and cyberattack;

Strengthen cooperation with stakeholders in the region to advocate awareness on the benefit of digital society as well as on education and digital inclusion in order to improve the ICT skills and digital literacy of people in ASEAN Member States;

Support research on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and all forms of financial technology to enhance MSMEs performance as well as in shaping international regulations, standards, norms, values, and ethics in financial technology.–

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.



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(Res 42GA/2021/Eco/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
THE POST – COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY: TOURISM
COOPERATION IN ASEAN**

Sponsored by Thailand

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling AIPA Resolution Res 41GA/2020/Soc/03 on “Enhancing AIPA’s Role in Supporting ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Responding to COVID-19” that AIPA deeply sympathizes with the unprecedented impact of the Corona Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which tremendously affected the ASEAN socio-cultural community, particularly the people’s health, well-being, safety, social welfare, income, employment, education, and other socio-cultural fields;

Firmly Supporting the resolution’s aim which calls for ASEAN’s resolve to consolidate the ASEAN Community; in achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 of building a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community by stepping up the ASEAN Member States’ efforts and cooperation through deepening the integration to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and the pandemic on ASEAN’s citizens;

Recalling also the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan and the ASEAN Declaration on Digital Tourism adopted at the 37th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2020, which provides coordinated and consolidated strategy for post-pandemic recovery, inter-alia in tourism sector, including through digital technology and innovation;

Reaffirming the commitment of AIPA to support the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025, amended in February 2021 by re-prioritizing activities and projects aimed at revitalizing the tourism in the region after overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic; which reflects the strategic direction of future tourism cooperation in moving forward to sustainable, inclusive and resilient tourism in the region;

Reaffirming the ASEAN’s commitment to care for its people and prepare for the future opportunities and challenges, in order to advance sustainable development for shared prosperity in the region as stated in the 54th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM);

Welcoming the development of a Post COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism linked and strengthened the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025, which provides coordinated measures for ASEAN Member States to proactively respond to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on tourism sector with existing activities and new initiatives;

Emphasizing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, so that tourism can and may play a significant role in delivering sustainable solutions for the people by creating jobs and enhancing the economic and social outcomes whereby the tourism sector must adopt Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) models of preserving energy, water, waste, and biodiversity, by creating jobs and enhancing the economic and social outcomes as well as cultural diversity;

Welcoming ASEAN initiatives to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD) as well as other post-pandemic recovery plans.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to closely engaged in the ASEAN post-pandemic recovery plans for the regional resilience and development as well as urge the Governments of ASEAN Member States to urgently implement the Action Plan for the ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Resilience, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework;

Strengthen public health cooperation by creating vaccine security and self-reliance particularly in the implementation of the Regional Strategic and Action Plan on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR) 2021- 2025; to make the COVID-19 vaccines available and affordable as a public product and as global public goods, which would support the recovery of tourism sector in the post-COVID-19 era;

Support the vision for ASEAN Tourism to 2025 whereby ASEAN aim to be a safe and quality tourist destination offering a unique, diverse ASEAN experience, and commit to being a responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development, so as to contribute significantly to the socio-economic well-being of ASEAN people, especially during the post pandemic period of COVID-19;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to support and facilitate the integrated and coordinated approach towards the essential movement of people in the ASEAN region, for tourism and other travels, while safeguarding public health in line with the efforts to combat the pandemic;

Encourage innovation and research by ASEAN Member States to diversify tourism products and services to meet the new trend of post-COVID-19 tourism including safe destinations and healthcare tourism;

Urge all ASEAN Member States to successfully implement the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and to strengthen the ASEAN Community by promoting green recovery, choosing not to exploit our resources and biodiversity and cultural diversity for the sole purpose of pursuing economic growth since the result of such action would come to a cost of resource degradation, the decline of biodiversity and a number of pollutions which would result to environmental damage and health problems as well as cultural conflicts in the long run;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to foster regional cooperation through sharing best practices and policies as well as capacity building such as providing better access to skill development, educational exchange programs and regional research networks for tourism professionals in areas such as digital technologies, innovation, eco-tourism and entrepreneurship, which will contribute to empowerment and resilience of tourism sector in the post COVID-19 recovery and adversity of future crisis to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient tourism that can overcome future challenges;

Encourage tourism travel bubbles, by specializing routes to tourism sites in member countries. People traveling from and to different destinations are tested to make sure they are not infected with the novel coronavirus and go straight to the safe zones.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.
