



**THE 45<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
17-23 October 2024  
Vientiane, Lao PDR**

*The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and  
Inclusive Growth of ASEAN*

(Res.45GA/2024/Eco/07)

**RESOLUTION ON  
IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO PROMOTE TRANSPORT  
CONNECTIVITY IN THE ASEAN REGION**

***Sponsored by Viet Nam***

***The Forty-fifth General Assembly:***

**Recalling** the [ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025](#), also referred to as the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan sets forth comprehensive objectives aimed at promoting regional connectivity, supporting the realisation of the vision of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by focusing on road, air, maritime transportation, sustainable transport and transport facilitation across ASEAN Member States, including the strengthening of coordination with sub-regional initiatives in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint's second pillar of creating a single market and production base;

**Further recalling** the [Joint Ministerial Statement on the 29th ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting](#), adopted in 2023, which affirmed the commitment to enhancing regional transport cooperation and facilitation of cross-border transport, covering all forms of transportation, including road, aviation, and maritime sectors, and outlined a series of initiatives to further promote air, road, rail, and sea connectivity within the ASEAN region;

**Recalling** [AIPA Resolution No. Res.40GA/2019/Eco/04](#) on Standardization and Liberalization of Air Services Under the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, adopted in 2019, which called upon AIPA Member Parliaments to enact enabling domestic legislation and develop supportive policies to facilitate the liberalisation of air services within the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, thereby contributing to a unified ASEAN air transport market;

**Acknowledging** the transport sector strategy as laid out under the [Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area \(BIMP-EAGA\) Development Path 2025](#) aimed at establishing a sub-region that is interconnected by seamless, safe, and multimodal transport;

**Recognising** ASEAN's strategic geographical location with different ASEAN sub-regions, straddling the Pacific and Indian Oceans, as a key transportation hub for global and regional maritime and aviation routes, which offers unique opportunities for strengthening connectivity and economic growth across the ASEAN region and beyond;

**Affirming** that ASEAN has consistently prioritised connectivity and regional integration as essential elements of its strategy to realise the ASEAN Economic Community's vision and goals, narrowing development gaps, contributing to the creation of a dynamic and central economic zone with vast potential for growth and development;

**Expressing** the need to address persistent inadequacies in infrastructure and disparities in transport rules, regulations, and legal systems among ASEAN Member States, which continue to create barriers and pose significant challenges to achieving comprehensive transport connectivity and regional integration;

**Acknowledging** the crucial role of parliamentary institutions as representatives of the people in advancing regional connectivity to promote inclusive economic growth that benefits all citizens by exercising their legislative, budgetary, oversight, and diplomatic responsibilities in support of regional integration.

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to prioritise the enhancement of all modes of transport connectivity by strengthening regional cooperation, updating the ASEAN transport networks and facilitating the revision of existing routes design standards to ensure harmonisation across Member States and supporting future infrastructure developments;

**Enhance** the existing dedicated ASEAN transport coordinating bodies to facilitate policy dialogue, harmonise regulations and coordinate cross-border projects for safe, efficient, sustainable and environmentally friendly transport connectivity;

**Call upon** ASEAN Member States to strengthen the ASEAN Single Aviation Market by, among others, advancing safe and secure skies, enhancing air traffic management efficiency and capacity through a seamless ASEAN sky, and fostering greater air connectivity; prioritising the expansion and upgrading of international airports in line with general planning, and promote the development of air freight services;

**Call upon** ASEAN to continue working on the effective implementation of ASEAN's commitments in promoting transport, contributing to enhancing ASEAN Connectivity, including by promoting synergies with key connectivity initiatives as well as other sub-regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks;

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen institutional frameworks and legislative mechanisms aimed at fostering regional transport connectivity by enacting laws and regulations that incentivise investments in all modes of transport infrastructure projects;

**Urge** ASEAN Member States to continue strengthening the capacity and market share of maritime transport among ASEAN countries and international transport market share in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia, Europe, America, and Africa; participating in providing transport services in the global supply chain;

**Call for** AIPA Member Parliaments to effectively exercise their oversight functions by instituting a robust monitoring and evaluation system to monitor and evaluate the progress of their respective governments in supporting the implementation of regional transport connectivity projects, identify gaps and challenges, and areas for improvement, while also ensuring that cooperative initiatives and partnerships between ASEAN Member States are rigorously pursued and executed;

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to enhance the region's preparedness by ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted operation of critical transport infrastructures;

**Enjoin** ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to establish a database of harmonised transport standards, which shall serve as the basis for the revision and harmonisation of rules in ASEAN;

**Urge** ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to organise regular specialised training programmes, workshops, and technical exchanges in the field of transport infrastructure management while also fostering intergovernmental consultations and the sharing of expertise on multilateral platforms to build capacity and address common challenges in the transport sector;

**Further encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen substantive and cooperative engagement with one another through bilateral and multilateral parliamentary forums aimed at building institutional capacity, sharing best practices, and supporting each other's initiatives within regional and global parliamentary settings, including the adoption and implementation of resolutions that promote seamless connectivity within ASEAN.

Adopted on the twenty-first day of October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO  
PROMOTE TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY IN THE ASEAN REGION**

Situated at the crossroads of regional transportation networks stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean, ASEAN holds a critical geostrategic position, home to key maritime and aviation routes that are vital not only to the region but to the world at large.

The strategic programs and action plans for ASEAN transportation over the years reflect the vision of ASEAN leaders to build the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), affirming that an integrated and efficient transport system is essential for ASEAN's integration into the global economy, enhancing competitiveness and attracting foreign direct investment. To realise these goals, ASEAN countries must intensify regional activities to promote multimodal transport connectivity, simplify the movement of people and goods, and further liberalise air and maritime transport services.

At the [29th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting](#), held in Lao PDR in 2023, the ministers adopted a Joint Declaration, which endorsed a range of key measures to strengthen transport cooperation in the region. In particular, the declaration called on the ASEAN Member States to continue close cooperation to successfully implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Air Traffic Management, aimed at advancing the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM).

During the 40th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA-40) held in Thailand in 2019, a resolution on [Standardization and Liberalization of Air Transport Services for a Unified ASEAN Aviation Market](#) was adopted. The resolution called on AIPA Member States to promote domestic laws and policies to support the liberalisation of air transport services under the ASEAN Single Aviation Market framework.

Currently, ASEAN Member States are working toward enhancing transport connectivity in an efficient, harmonised, and environmentally friendly manner. ASEAN considers connectivity and integration as one of the top priorities in implementing measures to realise the ASEAN Economic Community, leveraging the advantages of a dynamic and central ASEAN economic region with vast potential.

In this context, ASEAN countries need to develop appropriate national solutions, focusing on the following key measures:

1. Strengthening road transport connectivity: Updating ASEAN Road networks and facilitating revisions to road routes and road design standards for future ASEAN Member States;
2. Advancing the ASEAN Single Aviation Market: Ensuring seamless air traffic management with a focus on safety, environmental harmony, capacity, and efficiency;
3. Institutional development and improving legal frameworks in the field of transport connectivity, with mechanisms to encourage investment in aviation and maritime infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity;
4. Enhancing the region's preparedness for future crises and unpredictable challenges;
5. Regularly organising training programs for technical and management personnel in the transport sector;
6. Increasing the effectiveness of regional cooperation within ASEAN and with external partners such as New Zealand, the European Union, Japan, the United States, and China, among others.