



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**33rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
16 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2012, LOMBOK, INDONESIA**

RES.33GA/2012/SOC/01

**RESOLUTION ON
ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PROMOTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN PROGRAMS RELATED TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS**

The 33rd AIPA General Assembly;

Recalling AIPA Resolution 30GA/2009/Soc/04 on Disaster Management which encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to support the development and implementation of ASEAN's initiatives to respond to climate change, natural disaster management and pandemic diseases prevention; and ***recalling also*** AIPA Resolution 31GA/2010/Soc/01 on Climate Change, Disaster Management and Pandemic Prevention which encourages people-to-people assistance in disaster preparedness, disaster relief and control, and rehabilitation;

Reaffirming the ASEAN Declaration on Mutual Assistance on Natural Disasters adopted on 26 June 1976, which encourages ASEAN Member States to cooperate in the effort to improve disaster management capacities and to extend necessary assistance to an affected Member Country, and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) adopted in 2005;

Emphasizing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint which stipulates that implementation or enhancement of public awareness and education programs on a regular basis, and promotion of public participation in programs related to disaster risk reduction and emergency response in order to promote community resilience to disasters is one of the strategic objectives of ASEAN in the effort of building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities;

Considering that AIPA member countries are exposed to extreme climate change and natural experiences of geological, seismic and volcanic origins; and that the risks posed by climate change and natural disasters are borderless and affect many social aspects including health, security, food supply, water, and sanitation. Considering also that natural disasters pose threats to the development progress of AIPA Member Countries by disrupting economic activity, devastating infrastructure, and damaging environment;

Acknowledging that both Governments and Parliaments provide necessary information on disaster mitigation efforts to the public;

Acknowledging also the responsibility of ASEAN and AIPA to promote regional cooperation in disaster management, disaster relief, mitigation, preparedness, and prevention efforts;

Taking note that increasing public awareness and understanding on disaster relief, including to build public knowledge and preparedness on adapting to climate change is crucial in supporting the effort on disaster risk reduction;

Highlighting that due to the disaster-prone condition of the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN Member Countries are compelled not only to increase early warning system technologies, but also to build societal defence in emergency response by increasing social awareness towards disaster risk, climate change and environmental damage, as well as encouraging societal participation in managing the risks;

Being aware that public institutions and civil society organizations should be involved in disseminating information in order to develop public awareness on disaster and to build their capabilities in adapting to climate change;

Recognizing a world-wide paradigm shift in disaster management from a ‘relief-centric’ and ‘post-event’ response to a regime that lays greater emphasis on preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

Recognizing that the inclusion of disaster mitigation and relief efforts, climate change and environmental preservation in the educational curriculum, is crucial;

Recognizing also that effective cooperation and regional partnership are important to ensure the success of building public awareness through educational efforts; and that to develop a consistent and harmonized regional efforts to promote community resilience is important to build a stronger ASEAN Community;

Hereby resolves to:

Improve public awareness and increase community preparedness through educational efforts as a foundation to minimize the risk of disasters, including promoting the inclusion of disaster risk reduction efforts and climate change in educational curriculum in the effort of building public capacities to adapt to climate change;

Strengthen the efforts to explore local values and practices, and harness them in the context of environmental preservation, and climate change, in order to increase public awareness regarding disaster risk, adaptation, and mitigation efforts;

Support ASEAN Member States and other stakeholders in taking responsive steps and coordinating the communities in the effort of building public awareness and disaster-resilience communities;

Encourage the mass media to increase their roles in disseminating information on environmental preservation, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction efforts to the public as part of their social responsibilities;

Foster regional cooperation in natural disaster risk reduction through a concerted effort in providing necessary basic assistance to an affected AIPA Member Country to minimize the loss of life and to control socio-economic disruption caused by natural disasters;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen regional cooperation in providing assistance and resources for emergency response, in support to the government and people of affected country;

Encourage also ASEAN Member States to strengthen their efforts in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at every level of public policy, by prioritizing it, and ensuring adequate financial allocation

Encourage developed nations to provide necessary assistance to developing countries in the region to conduct assessment on disaster-damage effects and to build an advanced early-warning system and disaster-resistant infrastructures;

Call upon AIPA Member Countries to create and develop relevant legislation and policies that promote and provide necessary guidelines for public participation in disaster risk reduction and emergency response;

Support the national commemoration of the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM) which takes place on the second Wednesday of October every year as one of the strategies to increase people's awareness on disaster risk reduction;

Take notice and to take appropriate prevention steps to the impacts of natural disasters on basic facilities, in particular to provide healthcare services, to sustain food supply, and to provide safe houses by encouraging the ASEAN Member States to support a regional disaster emergency logistic system;

Recommend ASEAN to increase, extend, and promote the use of existing ASEAN agreement on disaster management and emergency response information system as a major source of information on climate change, potential damages, disaster risk prevention and mitigation efforts;

Adopted on the 21st day of September 2012 during the 33rd AIPA General Assembly in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.