

40TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 25 - 30 AUGUST 2019 BANGKOK, THAILAND

Advancing Parliamentary Partnership for Sustainable Community

(Res 40GA/2019/ECO/02)

RESOLUTION ON ASEAN COOPERATION TO PREPARE FOR THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR)

The Fortieth AIPA General Assembly:

Recall AIPA Resolution RES.39GA/2018/ECON/03 on Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN aiming to enhance cooperation among member parliaments to build strong institutions in preparing ASEAN for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the digital economy, with an aim of bringing about benefits to the region and creating new business opportunities from innovation, creativity and new technologies;

Also recalling AIPA Resolution number 39GA/2018/WAIPA/02, on Empowering Women in ASEAN to Harness the Potential of Industrial Revolution 4.0, and on the need for the AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen joint efforts on applying new technologies to tackle inequality and achieve inclusive growth in ASEAN Member States;

Welcome the role of the ASEAN Leaders and the ASEAN Economic Ministers in recognizing the need for ASEAN to be well prepared and to be able to maximize opportunities from 4IR, as well as for coming up with a well-organized plan and initiatives to build a collective readiness for ASEAN Member States to foster the region's economic growth, and promote inclusive and equitable economic development;

Recognize the importance of 4IR, as highlighted in ASEAN both at the national and the regional levels. Various existing elements under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, as well as work under the other two pillars of the ASEAN Community, also serve as building blocks towards achieving a 4IR-ready ASEAN Community;

Acknowledge that 4IR has been bringing about unprecedented, transformative, and dramatic changes to the way people produce, work, live, and interact. Driven by new technologies such as big data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced manufacturing, and the Internet of Things (IoT), 4IR provides new opportunities for urban and rural areas to access to the technologies and could play a key role as the main driver of economic progress and engines of growth to improve the quality of life, productivity, efficiency, transparency and even reduce inequality in the socio-economic system;

Understand 4IR also presents challenges to ASEAN. Without effective measures, new technologies can widen the social gap and digital divide through uneven access to knowledge and technologies. 4IR awareness and technology accessibility are also not equally distributed among the ASEAN people. Hence, ASEAN needs to have a holistic approach to come up with appropriate policy responses, roadmap, governance, and regulations to address 4IR and to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth for all;

Accept that 4IR and the digital revolution will impact workforce, especially low-skilled workers, in the near future. Advanced robotics and artificial intelligence will increasingly replace low-skilled employees in routine manufacturing. At the same time, highly-skilled workers could also be affected thereby the need for reskilling and upskilling for those people to be able to work alongside emerging technologies;

Hereby resolves to:

Assert the importance for ASEAN member states to consider the potential of financial inclusion to overcome challenges of the development stage, as well as to efficiently distribute technology resources, invest in human capital development and contribute to inclusive economic development;

Urge ASEAN member states to support the economic activities and initiatives related to the preparation of ASEAN for 4IR in several dimensions including enhancing knowledge through scientific and technological research, develop human capital in preparation for the new technologies, improve the regulatory framework in support of digital development, promoting technological and policy exchange to bridge the digital divide , develop digital infrastructure and connectivity, digital government, digital inclusion for all citizens and facilitate inclusive growth by promoting MSMEs adoption of new technologies;

Encourage ASEAN governments and parliaments to develop a favorable regulatory framework to provide full support directly and indirectly while achieving shared benefits for financial accessibility for e-commerce and Start Up businesses;

Call for the development of an ASEAN roadmap or action plan related to the preparation for 4IR to support the interaction among parliament, government, academia and industry, which will help to identify ways and means to deal with the highlighted challenges and to move the ASEAN member countries towards a common goal in which all countries join hands and share benefits in impartial and equal manners as well;

Encourage AIPA Member Countries to not only review their existing laws and regulations, but to also endorse an up-to-date legislative framework concerning the emergence of the 4IR that consider both its feasibility and important challenges;

Promote AIPA parliamentarians to be educated on the 4IR, digitalization, and adoption of new technologies to gain knowledge, share information and better understanding, as well as insight into its importance, so that they can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges effectively;

Request AIPA Member Countries to consider budget allocation to ensure the ASEAN people, especially those in rural areas can access fundamental infrastructure to be able to access and utilize technologies to improve their standards of living and well-being without leaving anyone behind;

Suggest AIPA Member Countries to promote technological literacy to people so as to enable them to use, understand, and to make the most of latest technologies.