



**THE 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
20-25 NOVEMBER 2022
Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient ASEAN

(Res 43GA/2022/Eco/02)

RESOLUTION ON

**PROMOTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MICRO, SMALL
AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

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The Forty-Third AIPA General Assembly:

Supporting the Joint Media Statement of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Chair's Statement on Addressing Challenges Together, which was adopted respectively on 15 September 2022 in Siem Reap and on 13 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia;

Acknowledging that in ASEAN Member States, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are predominant in number and provide vital sources of income, employment, and economic security;

Further acknowledging the outcomes of the Second ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit in October 2022 and the declaration on "Building a More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future: Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN" which was adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits in November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia;

Acknowledging Resolution number Res. 42GA/2021/Eco/01 on Promoting Inclusive Digital ASEAN to Empower MSMEs and Strengthen the ASEAN Economic Integration, adopted in Brunei Darussalam, which underline the crucial roles of MSMEs and tourism sector for economic development;

Reaffirming the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 that supports the adoption of technology by MSMEs to ensure that MSMEs leverage digital technologies, ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 and its vision for ASEAN as a leading digital community and vibrant economic community of capable MSMEs in supporting post-pandemic economic recovery, especially in the age of digital transformation;

Committing to the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap on the ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economy Integration and the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 to achieve an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth in ASEAN;

Underlining the importance of and necessity for building resilient micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as an engine of inclusive growth and sustainable recovery, while

encouraging the AMS to operationalise the ASEAN SME Academy 2.0 as a vehicle to promote upskilling, reskilling and cross-skilling of the MSMEs to embrace the inclusive digital society and economy;

Recognising the potential menace that cyber threat in all form can pose to the region's effort to achieve a digital society, especially during the fast process of digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) toward a full-fledged digital economy, which will transform the ecosystem of MSMEs and thus affect their data security;

Further recognising the need to implement the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2024, jointly developed by ASEAN through the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) which aims to contribute to the achievement of ASEAN's strategic goals and desirable outcomes for MSMEs, as outlined in the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025.

Hereby resolves to:

Proclaim our conscious and deliberate efforts to fully support the capacity development for MSMEs in the region for their active and inclusive participation in regional integration and regional connectivity;

Call upon the governments of the ASEAN Member States and all relevant stakeholders, including the parliaments, to promote capacity development for MSMEs such that they will be able to survive and remain economically active and resilient, competitive, continuing their contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic development. In fact, the parliaments of ASEAN Member States can work together, including through sharing of information and exchange of best practices, and facilitating activities and/or programmes that promote the capacity of MSMEs;

Urge the AIPA member parliaments to support the lawmaking and adoption of legal frameworks about and related to the ASEAN regional economic integration, ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements as well as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement;

Urge the AIPA Member Parliaments to play its legislative function in creating laws and legal frameworks that ensure inclusivity, promote participation of MSMEs, including women-led MSMEs, and eventually support economic integration of ASEAN as well as the implementation of ASEAN regional frameworks on digital connectivity and digital transformation, including the 4IR for ASEAN;

Call for governments, parliaments and the private sector to keep markets open, maintain supply chain resilience, support the development of MSMEs, and increase trade inter-linkages that will support the growth of MSMEs in the region;

Further call upon AIPA Member Parliaments and the AMS to intensify close and meaningful cooperation, including but not limited to the exchange of information and best practices, and capacity building, as well as the acceleration of the digital connectivity, to address the existing and emerging challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises to the MSMEs;

Strengthen the role of business associations in the process of international integration, supporting enterprises in labor relations, legal advice, training and corporate social responsibility;

Urge the governments of the ASEAN Member States to enact and act upon the digital connectivity plans and strategies under Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for ASEAN to expedite the adoption of digital technologies in our economies and societies and fully embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) for ASEAN;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to allocate appropriate financial support to the digital infrastructure development to maximize competitiveness; provide fairer and more equal access to people from all segments of society to take full advantage of the internet and digital technologies; **reduce affordability and accessibility barriers to getting online**; and establish an environment resulting in the advancement of the digital economy and advanced digital innovation such as 5G technological solutions based on artificial intelligence, industrial internet of things, smart city systems, consumer rights;

Commit to providing timely and effective support for legislation making in areas of MSMEs, including those in the informal sectors and related matters, such as intellectual property rights, taxation, women's and young entrepreneurship development and business-friendly policy interventions of the AMS in the process of enhancing the participation of MSMEs in the digital economy of the region as well as in cross-border trade and supply chains;

Encourage ASEAN as a region to develop the capacities of the governments, private sector and the public as a whole in embracing the digital transformation process in an inclusive manner as well as in governance of personal data protection and privacy, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and cyberspace, so as to support regional efforts to advance regional digital connectivity that promote the digital trade, logistic network and cross-border e-commerce;

Promote universal use of digital signatures and e-invoices, building an ecosystem to support digital transformation by further developing partnership network, which also comprises of digital transformation consulting organizations and individuals and businesses providing excellent digital platforms;

Further encourage the governments and the private sectors in ASEAN to work together in enhancing the public-private partnership programmes in realising the ASEAN Economic Community Building and deepen investments in promoting productivity, technology and innovation, entrepreneurial education and skills, and social enterprises and inclusive MSMEs.

Adopted on the Twenty Third day of November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
