



**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/03)

RESOLUTION ON

**OPTIMIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF MICRO, SMALL AND
MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs) IN THE TOURISM SECTOR FOR
ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Sponsored by Indonesia

The Forty-Third AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the AIPA Resolution on “The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19” that stresses the importance for ASEAN Member States to implement measures to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses across ASEAN, including in tourism;

Firmly supporting the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers on Strengthening Cooperation to Revitalise ASEAN Tourism adopted on 29 April 2020 that underscores the need to strengthen ASEAN coordination mechanism to overcome challenges in the tourism sector;

Reaffirming the Resolution number Res. 42GA/2021/Eco/02 on the Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Tourism Cooperation in ASEAN adopted in Brunei Darussalam, and 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 the MSMEs and tourism sector for economic development;

Reaffirming ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 that encourages responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development to advance the socio-economic well-being of ASEAN people further;

Acknowledging the reliance of ASEAN member states on travel and tourism to realize economic development, as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Deeply concerned about the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector, including travel restrictions that halted worldwide and national travel, adversely affecting businesses, employment, and livelihood of local communities;

Emphasizing the important role of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism sector, particularly their participation and contribution to advance economic recovery in the tourism sector;

Recognizing the significant role of AIPA Member Parliaments through their legislative, budgeting, oversight as well as parliamentary diplomacy function to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic recovery in the tourism sector;

Affirming that all inclusive approach of traditional and digital for promoting and preserving culture diversity, open access to culture for everyone in person and online and raising effectiveness of work and interaction in the sphere of culture and tourism.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage ASEAN Member States to ensure the meaningful participation and contribution of MSMEs in the tourism sector, as part of measures to advance economic recovery and development;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to ensure that economic recovery measures in the tourism sector encompass access to financing, technical assistance, digital technologies and innovation and other types of assistance needed for MSMEs to retain and gain access to markets and consumers as well as to innovate develop and well manage in the tourism destinations;

Call for the acceleration of MSMEs' digitalization and tackle digital technology challenges, including digital ID, security, and privacy as well as encourage digital access to culture and tourism destinations;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to increase participation of MSMEs actors in the tourism sector, including women-led MSMEs, in the policy or law formulation process in order to ensure inclusiveness of such policy or law;

Urge ASEAN Member States to effectively use the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 as a guidance and strategy for economic recovery in the tourism sector;

Promote more research, cooperation, and develop new tourism products such as connecting tours and routes with countries that have managed pandemic to create a vibrant tourism ecosystem, supporting MSMEs to easily enter the market;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to galvanize efforts and intensify close and meaningful cooperation, including but not limited to sharing of information, exchange of best practices and capacity building, in view of confronting the existing obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on MSMEs in the tourism sector.

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