



**THE VIRTUAL MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AIPA ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS (AIPACODD)  
MONDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**



***THEME: PREVAILING THE CONTEMPORARY AND RESPONSIVE  
CHALLENGES TOWARDS DRUG-FREE ASEAN***

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**CONCEPT NOTE ON  
PREVAILING THE CONTEMPORARY AND RESPONSIVE CHALLENGES TOWARDS  
DRUG-FREE ASEAN**

The menace which illicit drugs impose on our people, along with implications of socio-economic damages, remains to be a serious challenge amongst all governmental institutions and societies in addressing and countering the global drug issue. Globalisation and technological advancements has consequently had an impact on the increase of illicit crop cultivation, production, distribution and trafficking among other factors.

The emergence of new stimulants, manufacturing of synthetic drugs, the increasingly sophisticated sales, trafficking and abuse pose a massive challenge for ASEAN which requires an interdisciplinary, consistent and ongoing coordination between ASEAN Member States, and the drug issue in ASEAN has never been fiercer. In addition, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly affected the prevention and control of illicit drugs in ASEAN countries. Therefore, it is suitable for ASEAN's response to this drug issue to be fiercer in nature as well, hence ASEAN's adopted zero tolerance approach to drugs.

As this threat knows no limits and boundaries, there is a resounding need to continuously ensure the implementation of measures in order to prevent, reduce and eliminate the influence and abuse of illicit drugs as the region fights for a drug-free ASEAN. The recent development of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 has been effectively implemented to address illicit drug activities, increasing awareness on the dangers of drugs and increasing studies on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the drugs market in order to provide the suitable response through increased regional and international bilateral cooperation. This can be achieved through information sharing, reinforcement of implemented policies and establishment of new effective measures, cross-border cooperation, technical assistance and increasing capabilities to tackle the regional drugs problem more effectively.

The Resolution emphasises on commanding AIPA Member Parliaments to reaffirm its stance of zero tolerance approach, introduce effective measures, reinforce existing policies, promote further cross-border cooperation and strengthen cooperation with drug law enforcements agencies, national authorities and other institutional bodies to ensure the commitment of AIPACODD in its strive towards a drug-free ASEAN. It is hoped that with the adoption of the AIPA Resolution on 'Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN', it shall contribute to reassert AIPA Member Parliaments' commitment in creating an ASEAN which is capable of the prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit drug advancements, steering closer to a zero tolerance, drug-free ASEAN.