



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
THE ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES OF AIPA-ASEAN DIALOGUE**

As stipulated in the AIPA Statutes under Article 3, the AIPA is aimed to facilitate the achievement of ASEAN goals and offer parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration, as well as to familiarize the ASEAN community with policies to accelerate the realization of an ASEAN community. From this standpoint and with the adoption of “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together,” as the sole inter-parliamentary organization associated to ASEAN, AIPA is expected to contribute in its implementation. Ideally, AIPA Member Parliaments shall coordinate and work closely with executive arm of their respective governments, and pass necessary parliamentary measures to support the implementation of the ASEAN Blueprint 2025. Moreover, exercising their oversight function, AIPA as the legislative branch of ASEAN shall monitor the implementation progress of the Blueprint, and make sure that the required parliamentary measures to be acted upon are appropriate in form and in substance.

From the above-described perspective, upon the initiative of the AIPA Secretary General, the First Dialogue between AIPA Delegation and ASEAN Secretariat was conducted at the 40th AIPA General Assembly in Thailand. The overall objective of this dialogue is to establish a formal platform to exchange information, knowledge, and insights on the partnership between AIPA and ASEAN, as well as to discuss the plan and the implementation status of the ASEAN Integration Plan and other matters. As recorded in the report of the first dialogue, the ASEAN Secretariat, represented by the Deputy Secretary General of ASCC, Hon. Kung Phoak, supported the enhancement of AIPA-ASEAN collaboration following the ratifications of the ASEAN Agreement. He further conveyed his support in institutionalizing the AIPA Delegation and ASEAN Secretariat Dialogue on an annual basis. Further, recognizing the important role of AIPA as the concord lawmakers in the region, he recommended ASEAN parliamentarians to prioritize the ASEAN Leaders’ vision for ASEAN Community in their legislative agenda. Echoing the statement by the DSG Kung Phoak, all AIPA Delegations present at the meeting expressed their agreements on the proposal of having a regular dialogue between AIPA Delegates and ASEAN Secretariat to collaborate on the realization of the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan 2025.

Taking into account the above-mentioned initial agreement made by the representatives of ASEAN Secretariat and AIPA Member Parliaments, it is ideal to maintain the format of the dialogue: between the Delegations of AIPA and ASEAN Secretariat. Further, the basic mandate of the ASEAN Secretariat which is to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities, makes the ASEAN Secretariat the most appropriate interlocutor for AIPA to obtain comprehensive information on the implementation progress of the ASEAN Blueprint in all 10 ASEAN member countries.