



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

33rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
16 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2012, LOMBOK, INDONESIA

RES.33GA/2012/ECO/04

**RESOLUTION ON
BETTER ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY, MARKET AND ESPECIALLY FINANCING
FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs)**

The 33rd AIPA General Assembly:

Mindful of the role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as an important engine of the economy in ASEAN Member States and the largest source of domestic employment both in rural and urban areas;

Noting that SMEs are confronted with a wide-range of challenges such as limited access to financial services, technologies and markets, as well as limited human and organizational capacities;

Aware of the challenges and opportunities for SMEs in the implementation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in the region;

Reaffirming the importance of the timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity to the development and support for SMEs in the region;

Recalling the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development (APBSD) 2004-2014 which provide the basic foundation for the development of SMEs in ASEAN;

Recalling also the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2010-2015 which identified the following actions: (1) Enhancing internationalization of SMEs and SME Marketing Capabilities, (2) Improving SME Access to Finance, (3) Strengthening SME Human Resource Development and Capacity Building, (4) Incubator and Local SME Development, (5) Establishing an SME Service Center/ASEAN SME Service Desk, (6) Setting up an ASEAN SME Regional Development Fund;

Noting the 31st AIPA General Assembly Resolution on the Promotion of Dialogue with Private Sector which underlined the importance of government and private dialogue as a key element in creating a coherent policy framework for economic development;

Stressing the need of parliamentary involvement to strengthen SMEs' capacity, capability and to provide more conducive business environment for SMEs development that will ensure the sustainable, inclusive and broad-based economic and social development in ASEAN;

Hereby resolves to:

Support the full implementation of ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2010-2015;

Encourage ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure the timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which will greatly benefit SMEs in the region;

Disseminate information on regional and international economic development as well as its opportunities and challenges, including FTA-related information on the liberalization of trade and investment within ASEAN and among ASEAN and its partners for the benefit of SMEs, through the role of parliamentarians as public figures in their respective constituencies;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to make use of **the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA)** and **the ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements** for the development of SMEs in the region;

Enhance parliamentary support to provide SMEs, including women-owned SMEs, better access to technology, markets and financing to strengthen their competitiveness in the global market;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to support SMEs by providing them adequate budget for promotional activities;

Encourage the ASEAN Member States to find innovative ways to promote the SMEs in the region and in the international market and provide them better access to financing such as underwriting credit fund for SMEs;

Encourage further inter-parliamentary diplomacy to support the establishment of ASEAN SME Regional Development Fund with a view to contributing further to the development of trade and investment in the region;

Promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the development of SMEs at the regional and international level, with particular focus on improving their organizational capacities;

Adopted on the 21st day of September 2012 during the 33rd AIPA General Assembly in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.