



**THE 35<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

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**35GA/2014/Rep/Eco**

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS**

**Honorable Madame Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I have the honor to submit the report on the meeting of the Committee on Economic Matters:

1. The Committee on Economic Matters convened on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 9.00 am with Honorable Dr. Ms. **Souvanhpheng Boupphanouvong** and Honorable Dr. **Sisaliao Svengsuksa** as Chairperson and Rapporteur, respectively, of the Committee. Parliamentarians from the AIPA Member Countries attended the meeting are as follows:

**Brunei Darussalam:**

1. Hon. Haji Awang Ahmad Morshidi
2. Hon. PKLD DP Goh King Chin

**Cambodia:**

1. Hon. Chheang Vun
2. Hon. Sar Sokha
3. Hon. Kimsour Phirith

**Indonesia:**

1. Hon. Jefirston R. Riwukore
2. Hon. Narazudin Kiemas

**Lao PDR:**

1. Hon. Bounpone Sisoulath
2. Hon. Dr. Ms. Buakham Thippavong
3. Hon. Latsanivong Amalathithada
4. Hon. Dr. Khammani Inthilath
5. Hon. Dr. Ketkeo Syhalath

6. Hon. Pingsham Lasasima

**Malaysia:**

1. Hon. Senator Dato' Lim Nget Yoon
2. Hon. Senator Khairiah Mohamed
3. Hon. Dato' Abdul Manan Ismail

**Myanmar:**

1. Hon. Zaw Myint PE
2. Hon. Win Than

**Philippines:**

1. Hon. Giorgidi B. Aggabao
2. Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

**Singapore:**

1. Hon. Zainudin Nordin
2. Hon. Ang Wei Neng
3. Hon. Vikram Nair

**Thailand:**

1. Hon. Mrs. Suwannee Sirivejchapun

**Vietnam:**

1. Hon. Nguyen Van Giau
2. Hon. Le Bo Linh
3. Hon. Dinh Thi Phuong Lan

2. The Committee meeting in the traditional ASEAN Spirit of Peace, Friendship, Unity and Cooperation has approved resolutions on the following topics:

**A. Fostering Green Growth Development Strategy in ASEAN**

The Committee noted that given the negative impact on the environment at a global and regional level, ASEAN countries share the common vision on the necessity to shift from a quantitative to a qualitative growth approach.

Qualitative economic growth must be related to the sustainability of natural resource development, reducing the negative effects of climate change, maintaining land fertility, ensuring food security, energy and the balance and sustainability of environment and biodiversity. Qualitative growth also means to ensure social inclusion, empowering the poor and marginalized groups, providing them with equal access to all aspects of life. Only with qualitative growth, we may ensure ecological sustainability and social equity. This is the essence of the green growth concept.

In addition, low carbon, resilient economic growth could be a possible solution to ensure a sustainable ASEAN Community.

Mindful of the existing global framework on climate change, considering ASEAN's recent efforts on promoting a common legally binding agreement on green growth, the committee thus recommended the following:

- 1) ASEAN Member States to develop national green growth strategies, including:

- i. Developing green policies, promoting green investment in sectors of finance, industries, agriculture, forestry, energy, transportation, infrastructure, etc. ;
  - ii. Implementing a sustainable management system for natural resources, biodiversity and environment protection;
  - iii. Focusing on the reduction of emissions in key socio-economic sectors.
- 2) ASEAN Member States to promote regional partnership on renewable energy and low-carbon market-oriented solutions, considering the establishment of an ASEAN Green Growth Centre to facilitate and coordinate regional efforts;
- 3) AIPA Member Parliaments to develop relevant policies, a comprehensive legal framework and coordination mechanism on the protection and management of natural resources, attracting the private sector's participation in greening economic growth;
- 4) ASEAN Member States to assist CLMV countries to adopt climate-friendly technologies to ensure sustainable, effective and efficient uses of materials and natural resources.
- 5) ASEAN Member States to promote partnership, science and knowledge-sharing among the diverse group of international and regional organizations, including development partners, to develop a green growth strategy.

## **B. Promoting the Development of Entrepreneurship in the process of Narrowing the Development Gap in ASEAN**

The Committee recognized the regional efforts in narrowing development gap as part of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) building. Entrepreneurs are key actors for socio-economic development and thus, building strong and skilled ASEAN entrepreneurs and AEC cooperation for entrepreneurship development will help to effectively narrow the development gap.

While the transformation of economic structures from natural resource based to knowledge-based economy is the critical challenge in ASEAN, human resource development, including ASEAN entrepreneurs, has become one of the key solutions. The existing gaps i.e. in political support, financial capacity and accessibility, incentive policies for young entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs and limited regional cooperation have impacted on the entrepreneurship development in ASEAN.

- 1) The Committee thus recommended ASEAN Member States:
  - i. to ensure strong political support for entrepreneurship education;
  - ii. to effectively utilize the existing funds in ASEAN and to consider the mobilization of new appropriate funds for further strengthening entrepreneurs' skills for CLMV countries;
  - iii. to further support the development and possible standardization of entrepreneurship-based curriculum in education system;
  - iv. to support young dynamic entrepreneurs and to prioritize the support of women's entrepreneurial development, promoting gender specific training programs;
  - v. to support the networking and closer cooperation amongst national chamber of commerce and industry in ASEAN;

- vi. to support the establishment of the ASEAN SME Regional Development Fund and ASEAN SMEs Service Centre.
  - vii. To intensify the cooperation in all economic aspects, especially for the CLMV countries to benefit from the integration of the 12 priority sectors and from the 8 Mutual Recognition Arrangements services sectors.
- 2) The Committee also asked AIPA Member Parliaments to create an enabling policy and legal framework to attract all relevant stakeholders, including development partners to participate in entrepreneurship education for the purpose of narrowing development gap in the region.
3. The Committee approved two resolutions concerning all issues discussed in the committee meeting.
  4. I hereby present the Report of the Committee on Economic Matters to the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Thank you.

**Hon. Dr. Ms. Souvanhpheng Boupphanouvong**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**Hon. Dr. Sisaliao Svengsuksa**

**RAPPORTEUR**