



**RESOLUTION ON  
NARROWING THE ECONOMIC GAP**

The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly:

*Conscious* that the different levels of development among ASEAN Member Countries requires technical cooperation and capacity building to address the development divide and accelerate the economic integration of the less developed ASEAN Member Countries;

*Aware* of the need for the ASEAN-6 to continue assisting the less developed Member Countries to increase the latter's rate of economic growth in line with "Prosper Thy Neighbour" concept;

*Stressing* the important roles of the ASEAN Development Fund, Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and other related international financial institutions and support of dialogue partners in financing programmes to reduce the development gap between ASEAN members, and the financing for the programmes on infrastructure and human resource development for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to be given priority; and

*Realising* that the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development 2004-2014 (APBSD) outlines the framework for SME development in ASEAN, stimulating economic growth and increasing the region's economic diversity and capacity;

*Resolves to:*

*Enhance* the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) to serve as a platform for identifying and implementing technical assistance and capacity building programmes for both public and private sectors in AIPA Member Countries;



***Urge*** for the effective and timely implementation of the IAI Work Plan 2009-2015 and the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development 2004-2014 (APBSD) by all AIPA Member Countries to enhance the competitiveness and strengthen the resilience of ASEAN SMEs; and

***Encourage*** best practices among SMEs and promote networking and technical exchanges of SMEs and their participation in the building of regional production and distribution networks.