



ASEAN Inter - Parliamentary Organization

The 23rd General Assembly

8-13 September 2002, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Res. 23GA/2002/Eco/02

RESOLUTION ON NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP AMONG ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Twenty- third General Assembly:

Acknowledging that ASEAN is confronted with numerous opportunities and challenges posed by the actual growing economic globalization, particularly the declining investment inflow to the region, and the decreasing competitiveness built upon traditional advantages like raw materials and labour due to changes in the world economy;

Realizing that ASEAN is compelled to narrow the wide development gap among its Member Countries, as well as between the Association and other parts of the world so as to enhance its role and position in the process of regional and international integration;

Noting the results of the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and plans and projects to assist newer Member Countries in four major areas, namely human resource development, infrastructure, information and communication technology and regional economic integration;

Emphasizing the importance of the development of sub-regional projects (such as the Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia – Malaysia – the Philippines – East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Indonesia – Malaysia – Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), the West – East Corridor

(WEC) and the Cambodia – Laos – Viet Nam Triangle) as well as of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement to the common development of the region and of each Member Country;

Reaffirming the need to mobilize resources and increase efforts for the region's sustainable economic development, to narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries and to raise ASEAN's competitiveness in the world economy,

Hereby resolves:

- a) **To welcome and support** efforts, in the past and at present, made by ASEAN Member Governments for narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries, and in implementing programmes and projects under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI);
- b) **To call upon** ASEAN Member Countries to increase their efforts in accelerating the implementation of agreements on stepping up regional economic co-operation and further promoting economic reform in each Member Country with a view to increasing the ASEAN competitiveness in the world;
- c) **To recommend** ASEAN Member Countries to give priority to implementing programmes and projects on human resource development, infrastructure, information and communication technology and regional economic integration under the framework of the IAI; and in that process, to encourage older Member Countries to actively support newer Member Countries in their regional economic integration efforts;
- d) **To call upon** AIPO Member Parliaments to assist efforts made by ASEAN Member Governments in mobilizing internal and other resources for the development of sub-regions and implementation of the region's important infrastructure projects;
- e) **To urge** ASEAN Member Countries to work closely with one another and with their partners in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international fora with a view to ensuring genuine trade liberalization between developed and developing countries, to removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers on goods and services, especially agricultural produce of developing countries; and to call upon ASEAN Member Countries, which are WTO members, to continue supporting the early accession to the WTO of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam;
- f) **To call upon** AIPO Member Parliaments, through their legislative activities, to maximize each Member's internal strength in order to harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks of countries in the region with a view to strengthening intra-ASEAN co-operation in the spirit of the ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi, encouraging businesses and the private sector to be actively involved in development investment

in the region, and play a greater role in the process of regional economic integration; and

- g) **To reaffirm** the determination to stand united and strive for narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Countries, raising the competitiveness of ASEAN Member Countries, and to assist ASEAN Member Governments' efforts to this end.

