



# ASEAN Inter - Parliamentary Organization

The 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

8-13 September 2002, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Res. 23GA/2002/Eco/03

## RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION IN ICT AND E-COMMERCE AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES

**The Twenty-third General Assembly:**

**Recognizing** the gap between ASEAN Members in ICT digital divide and therefore in e-commerce;

**Recognizing** that the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement is an important milestone for narrowing these gaps;

**Approving** that the fundamental objectives of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement are to facilitate the establishment of ASEAN information infrastructure in each country and in ASEAN as a whole; to promote and facilitate the liberalization of ICT goods and services; to step up the use of ICT in providing e-government's public services; and to develop ASEAN e-societies;

**Acknowledging** the significant initial results of the implementation of the eASEAN initiative: efforts in each Member Country to enhance its capacity in ICT, establishment of a common e-commerce legal framework to be used as a source of reference, formulation of a number of projects funded by dialogue partners (namely Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, Australia and New Zealand...);

**Reaffirming** the need for continued actions to promote the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement,

**Hereby resolves:**

- a) **To welcome** and support the signing and the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement;
  - b) **To call on** the Governments of the ASEAN Members who are more advanced in ICT to continue to share experiences and to provide assistance to the less advanced Members in ICT in general, and e-commerce in particular, especially in human resources training and development;
  - c) **To call on** the Governments of ASEAN countries to continue narrowing the digital divide among ASEAN Members by taking measures such as developing common programmes for ICT infrastructure development in ASEAN Countries. Some other examples include developing a lingual conversion tool, formulating a project on e-commerce implementation in ASEAN Countries, creating a common legal framework, establishing an ASEAN e-Commerce Portal and e-commerce website of each Member Country with a view to promoting intra-regional trade and formulating standards for information exchange;
  - d) **To call on** the Parliaments of the dialogue partners to recommend their Governments to take measures in assisting ASEAN Countries, especially the less advanced Members in ICT, to develop ICT; and
  - e) **To recommend** the Parliaments of ASEAN Countries to request their Governments to elaborate policies and programmes on ICT development, human resources training and development, dissemination of information to inform widely in the society the role of information technology and of e-commerce in business and production with the aim to raise the awareness of parliamentarians, civil servants, and people.
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