



THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic



The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

As of 28.08.24 (12.00 GMT+7)

CONCEPT NOTE 45TH AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

The world is becoming increasingly complex, with rapid development leading to a diverse global society facing a range of challenges, including terrorism, extremism, military conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics, and climate change. These issues have had a profound impact on socio-economic development and the well-being of people worldwide, underscoring the importance of collaboration and mutual support. It is clear that no single country can tackle these challenges on its own. Therefore, cooperation for development, economic and social integration, and interdependence are essential in today's world, especially for ASEAN member countries and the global community.

The ASEAN integration process is widely recognized for paving the way to the establishment of the ASEAN Community, creating a more cohesive and powerful region with seamless integration across various sectors. Strengthening ASEAN connectivity brings numerous benefits to member countries, including enhanced infrastructure, institutions, and people-to-people exchanges. The foundation of regional integration is rooted in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 Master Plan, which prioritizes building an ASEAN Community centered around economic integration. This includes enhancing connectivity in transportation, telecommunications, and energy to facilitate the free movement of people and boost trade, investment, tourism, production, services, and supply chains. The ultimate goal is to establish a robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic infrastructure, narrow development gaps within ASEAN countries, and position the region to effectively compete on the global stage while addressing future crises and challenges.

Developing interconnected infrastructure throughout the ASEAN region is vital for economic growth and cooperation. Integrating transportation systems will not only boost economic opportunities, supply chains, trade, and investment, but also enhance connectivity and collaboration in the Sub-Mekong Region and other ASEAN sub-regions.



THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

17-23 October 2024

Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic



The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

Moreover, it will strengthen cooperation in areas such as environmental protection, smart agriculture, and natural resource management, ensuring food, water, and energy security within the region. Additionally, regional integration offers greater opportunities for cultural exchange among ASEAN's people.

Prioritizing education integration within ASEAN is crucial for advancing the knowledge and skills of the region's human resources, which will ultimately support economic growth, enhance competitiveness, and ensure the successful implementation of initiatives like the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Despite ASEAN's focus on regional integration in advanced skills development, vocational training, and higher education, disparities in education quality among member states persist and need to be addressed.

The 45th AIPA Meeting focuses on "The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth in ASEAN." This theme aims to create a platform for delegates to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights on regional integration and connectivity. The meeting will further explore the Parliament's role in ensuring the establishment of the ASEAN Community and achieving its goals.

Several key topics will be addressed during the meeting, including:

1. How can AIPA, ASEAN, the Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, and the Observer Parliaments of AIPA enhance collaboration in law-making and legislative information sharing to advance connectivity within the ASEAN framework and other cooperation frameworks?
2. How can AIPA, ASEAN, the Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, and the Observer Parliaments of AIPA strengthen cooperation mechanisms to promote investment in ASEAN infrastructure development, facilitating trade, attracting investment, and boosting tourism, ultimately advancing ASEAN's connectivity and inclusive growth?
3. How can AIPA, ASEAN, the Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, and the Observer Parliaments of AIPA enhance cooperation mechanisms to address natural disasters, environmental issues, and climate change? This is crucial for safeguarding natural resources, such as forests and water, and ensuring energy and food security within the region and globally.

All things considered, the theme ***"The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth in ASEAN"*** has been thoughtfully chosen to highlight the pivotal



THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic



The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

role that parliaments play in advancing regional integration and collaboration. As ASEAN navigates the complexities of a rapidly evolving global landscape, the capacity of its member parliaments to engage in constructive dialogue, harmonize legislative efforts, and foster cooperation between public and private sectors is increasingly essential. By focusing on connectivity and inclusive growth, this theme reflects the core objectives of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, while also reinforcing our collective commitment to building a resilient, cohesive, and prosperous region capable of effectively addressing future challenges and opportunities.