



**THE 46TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**
16-22 September 2025
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Parliament at the Forefront for Inclusive Growth and
Sustainable ASEAN*

(Res.46GA/2025/Soc/04)

RESOLUTION ON

**PROMOTING HARMONISATION OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS
AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL
SKILLS TO DEVELOP ASEAN'S DIGITAL HUMAN RESOURCES**

Sponsored by Viet Nam

The Forty-sixth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the [ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work](#) (2020), the [ASEAN Economic Community \(AEC\) Blueprint 2025](#), the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#), the [ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan](#), [ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan](#), the [ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021–2025](#), and the [ASEAN TVET Council Work Plan 2021–2030](#) which affirm the importance of developing a skilled, adaptive, and digitally literate workforce;

Recognising the [ASEAN Community Vision 2045](#)'s emphasis on developing high-quality human capital and narrowing the digital divide to build a competitive, resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented ASEAN;

Referring to AIPA Resolutions such as [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/02](#) on Enhancing Digital Transformation for Inclusive Social Protection, and [Res.45GA/2024/Soc/03](#) on Digital Healthcare Innovation, which underscore the importance of digital skills and infrastructure to socio-economic progress;

Acknowledging that harmonised education standards and mutual recognition of technical-vocational qualifications and frameworks are important for mobility of skilled labour, regional economic integration, and inclusive digital transformation across ASEAN;

Recognising the growing demand for digital competencies, technical skills, and reskilling/upskilling opportunities in the face of rapid technological advancement, automation, and artificial intelligence under the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

Stressing the importance of inclusive access to quality digital education and training opportunities for all, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities in both urban and rural areas; and

Highlighting the role of parliaments in advancing legislation, oversight, and policy harmonisation to support human capital development, education reforms, and ASEAN-wide mutual recognition frameworks for skills and competencies.

Hereby resolves to:

Urge ASEAN Member States to strengthen regional cooperation in harmonising educational standards at all levels: general education, technical-vocational education and higher education through measures such as the development of regional reference benchmarks and mutual recognition and accreditation mechanisms, where appropriate, as well as coordinated policy dialogues among education ministries and relevant stakeholders, with particular focus on digital and emerging technology-related disciplines;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to operate and expand the implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs), especially in digital and ICT-related sectors, to support the recognition of skilled professionals, including technical-vocational workers, across the region, taking into account national contexts and regulations;

Encourage the development of National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs) aligned with AQRF, including the establishment of national assessment and certification where appropriate to improve transparency, consistency, and comparability of qualifications, with the support of AIPA Member Parliaments in adopting appropriate legislation and budget allocations, if applicable;

Recommend that ASEAN Member States invest in upgrading technical-vocational education and training (TVET) systems to ensure alignment with industry demands and technological changes, including through curriculum modernisation, immersive experience, flexible modes of learning, digital infrastructure enhancement, teacher capacity-building, and integration of practical digital skillsets such as coding, data analytics, cybersecurity, and AI literacy, as well as strengthening language proficiency and technical-vocational skills to facilitate regional labor mobility and employability;

Promote partnerships between governments, the private sector, and educational institutions including the establishment of the ASEAN-level Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) platforms to foster innovation in skills development, co-design industry-relevant training programs, facilitate apprenticeships and digital internships, and expand lifelong learning platforms with flexible delivery models including blended and online learning;

Explore the establishment of a voluntary ASEAN Digital Skills Recognition Platform or database, where appropriate, that facilitates mapping, comparison, and verification of technical-vocational qualifications, training programs, and digital credentials across ASEAN Member States, enhancing regional labour mobility and skills development and transparency for employers and workers alike, while respecting national labour regulations;

Call upon ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to prioritise inclusive policies that ensure equal access to digital education and technical-vocational skills training for all, supported by targeted scholarships, subsidies, and assistive technologies where necessary, especially women, persons with disabilities, rural and remote communities, and marginalised groups, thereby narrowing the digital divide, contributing to equitable human resource development, and enhancing employment and career progression of TVET graduates;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen national education and skills development strategies with a future-ready focus, integrating foresight and labour market intelligence at ASEAN level to anticipate emerging job trends and future skills needs, and to embed these insights into education planning and policy-making;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to engage in legislative and budgetary support to facilitate regional collaboration in education and skills development, including the ratification of relevant ASEAN instruments, funding support for digital infrastructure in educational institutions and training centres, and monitoring of national implementation of ASEAN educational frameworks; and

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation and dialogues on education policy reforms and digital human capital development, share best practices on national legislative models, and work collectively to support ASEAN's vision to become a digitally connected, skilled, and inclusive community by 2045.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twentieth Day of September, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Original Version

In the context of rapid technological change and digital transformation across all sectors, ASEAN is facing an increasingly urgent need to address growing disparities in digital skills and workforce readiness. The expanding digital economy has introduced new demands for advanced competencies, particularly in areas such as cybersecurity, data analytics, and artificial intelligence, while simultaneously revealing a significant skills gap both within and between ASEAN Member States.

This resolution acknowledges that without proactive, coordinated efforts, ASEAN risks deepening the digital divide, limiting inclusive growth, and weakening regional resilience. To build a truly connected, future-ready, and self-reliant ASEAN Community, the resolution proposes the development of a shared regional reference framework for digital skills and vocational qualifications. Such a framework would help align standards, enable transparent certification, and support regional mobility of digitally skilled workers.

A key proposal in the resolution is the establishment of a unified ASEAN platform for the recognition and validation of digital and vocational competencies. By facilitating mutual recognition of digital qualifications, particularly in emerging and cross-border economic sectors, ASEAN can accelerate the deployment of skilled talent to where it is needed most, addressing local labour shortages while strengthening overall competitiveness.

Moreover, the resolution highlights the critical role of AIPA Member Parliaments in reviewing, enacting, and harmonising relevant legislation to support this process. Legislative action is needed to institutionalise national qualification frameworks, promote interoperability among certification systems, and create enabling environments for lifelong learning and inclusive access to digital education and training.

By investing in the digital empowerment of its people, especially youth, women, and underserved communities, ASEAN can ensure that its human capital is well-equipped to thrive in the digital era. In doing so, the resolution contributes to the broader goals

of sustainable development, equitable growth, and a cohesive ASEAN Community as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.