



**43rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Cambodia, 20-25 November 2022**

*Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient
ASEAN*

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE ON
ESTABLISHING AIPA DIGITAL LAW LIBRARY**

Sponsored by Cambodia

RATIONALE

- As ASEAN regional integration and Community building are gaining steam, more legal and institutional issues are emerging, requiring its Member States to respond systematically and promptly.
- ASEAN Centrality, rules-based regional and international order and multilateralism are collectively the bedrock of regional peace, stability, and prosperity. To strengthen them, ASEAN needs to promote understanding and accessibility to the knowledge of the laws, regulations, and norms of its Member States and dialogue partners.
- As ASEAN is embracing digital transformation and technological development to diversify its economic partnerships, particularly with the recent entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), it urgently needs an effective institution or mechanism capable of assisting the Member States, economic partners, and relevant stakeholders in understanding the expanding scope and increasing complexities of the laws and regulations in the region and beyond.
- Because laws in the region are within the purview of the ASEAN parliaments, AIPA has a crucial role to act as a conduit for managing and sharing these legal knowledge as well as promoting a broader awareness and capacity building for their people in the region. Therefore, AIPA needs to establish the **AIPA Digital Law Library**.

OBJECTIVES

The **AIPA Digital Law Library** aims to:

- Create a digital platform to store, manage, and archive various laws, regulations, rules, and procedures from the ASEAN Member States and dialogue partners, as well as research and publish different areas of law about the region and beyond to respond to the need for indepth legal knowledge in a rapidly changing regional and international context.

- Provide a freely accessible platform to the public and various stakeholders in the region to increase accessibility and inclusiveness to legal knowledge and create opportunities for immersive experiences in research, lifelong learning, and exchanges of views about laws and related regulations.
- Enhance human resource development and capacity building in ASEAN in various areas of law to ensure a successful regional integration and a robust ASEAN Community.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- Collecting published and unpublished materials from various sources about laws and regulations from the ASEAN Member States and dialogue partners and digitising them into an online database.
- Establishing partnerships and cooperation with parliaments, governmental agencies, law schools, law research centres and associations, law firms, as well as law scholars and practitioners from the region and beyond to ensure comprehensive access to all areas of law as well as to create a vibrant networking ecosystem conducive to knowledge sharing among law communities in ASEAN.
- Organising events, seminars, conferences and training sessions for knowledge dissemination, public awareness-raising, and exchanging of views on these areas of law in the ASEAN Member States and dialogue partners.
- Conducting research and publication on different areas of law in ASEAN and beyond.

FUNDING AND LOCATION

- The AIPA Digital Law Library is funded by the AIPA Member Parliaments through either an annual obligatory or voluntary financial contribution or an endowment fund.
- The library can also raise funds from other sources to support its activities, programmes, and projects.
- The library shall be based in Cambodia as an initiative of the Cambodian Parliament and the host of the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA.
