



INBAR's Proposed Vision on Bamboo and Rattan for ASEAN Sustainable Development Announced during the Event on Bamboo and Rattan for Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia

Philippines Embassy, Beijing, China

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Background:

The theme for World Earth Day 2017 on April 22 is Environmental and Climate Literacy. This vision highlights the opportunities for bamboo and rattan to play a key role in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development among ASEAN's ten member states, six of whom are members of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR). As bamboo and rattan are plentiful among at least nine of ASEAN's ten members, these resources represent a unique opportunity to promote ASEAN centrality during the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. Furthermore, ASEAN member states together account for approximately 20% (USD393 million) of the global trade in bamboo and rattan. Bamboo and rattan can therefore be a real driver for green growth and sustainable development.

Vision: Bamboo and Rattan for ASEAN Sustainable Development

- 1 Recalling that the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025) calls for the necessity of adopting sustainable management practices for non-wood forest products, such as bamboo and rattan;
- 2 Recognising that bamboo can contribute significantly to achieving many of the social, economic and environmental objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- 3 Furthermore, noting that bamboo is a climate-smart resource that adds value to forestry and agriculture strategies via mitigation, adaptation, landscape restoration, and rural income and livelihoods;
- 4 Pointing to the fact that bamboo and rattan are sustainable replacements for higher carbon emissions materials and serves as an excellent carbon sink;
- 5 Underscoring that bamboo-based renewable energy shows great potential;
- 6 Underlining bamboo's 10,000 documented uses for products that create jobs and contribute to sustainable livelihoods;
- 7 And whereas bamboo can provide affordable, resilient infrastructure to disaster-prone communities in Southeast Asia,
- 8 Acknowledging that many ASEAN countries have yet to realise the full potential of these



- resources due to a lack of awareness, technical capacity, and supportive policy and finance environments;
- 9 Recognising that bamboo and rattan are strategic natural resources for South-South cooperation that grow predominantly in the Global South close to millions of rural communities, and that much of the expertise required to manage and develop these resources resides in Asia;
 - 10 Underscoring the Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan (GABAR), which aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of opportunities and challenges, policy and strategy recommendations, detailed inventories, and an information and knowledge sharing platform;
 - 11 Pointing to the utility of bamboo and rattan for implementing the ASEAN Community Roadmap 2009-2015, including the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC), the ASEAN Forging Ahead Together 2025, the ASEAN Post 2015 Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN), and ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2016-2020;
 - 12 And further recognising that this effort will require partners to mobilise resources, INBAR calls for the following actions;

Recommendations

The INBAR Secretariat commits to establishing a Southeast Asia Regional Office in order to have a dedicated presence in Southeast Asia to advance the sustainable use of bamboo and rattan in the region, and recommends the following:

1. ASEAN member states, together with INBAR, commit to developing appropriate policy frameworks that support the sustainable management of bamboo and rattan resources, the development of local industry, and the production and trade of bamboo and rattan goods.
2. ASEAN member states, together with INBAR, pledge to do natural capital accounting so that they know where their main bamboo and rattan forests are, which species are present, what ecosystem services they provide, and where there are opportunities for use in reforestation and landscape restoration.
3. ASEAN member states, together with INBAR, call for investment and the establishment of value chains with access to local, regional, and international markets via standards setting, implementation of sustainable forest management, and quality control.
4. ASEAN member states, together with INBAR and the ASEAN Secretariat, commit to strengthen the role of bamboo and rattan in national, regional, and global policies in order for our countries to reach the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goal targets.
5. ASEAN member states, together with INBAR, aim to identify where bamboo and rattan could be incorporated into national programmes for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).
6. ASEAN member states resolve to work together and with INBAR to jointly mobilise resources, including through the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and China's South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change funding mechanisms, to support reaching these targets.
7. ASEAN member states call for identifying easily scalable and replicable projects that can be spread among INBAR member states as best practices using bamboo and rattan.
8. ASEAN member states call upon all countries to consider the benefits of joining INBAR and its existing 42 member states, including six ASEAN states.
9. ASEAN member states pledge to use this vision as a framework for launching a political



commitment during an official ASEAN meeting in 2017.

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NOTES

International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

INBAR is a multilateral development organisation of 42 Member States for the promotion of bamboo and rattan, including 6 members of ASEAN: Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Myanmar. INBAR plays a unique role in supporting its members to find and demonstrate innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to protect environments and biodiversity, and alleviate poverty. INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and not-for-profit sectors to define and implement a global agenda for sustainable development with bamboo and rattan.

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