



“VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC”

Welcome Remarks

By His Excellency General Kun Kim, Senior Minister, Vice President and Secretary-General of Cambodia Veterans Association and President of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries
Opening Ceremony of the 19th VECONAC General Assembly
Phnom Penh, 10 December 2019

- My highly respected Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Padei Techo, Top Rank 5 Gold Star General **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of Cambodia Veterans Association, and **Samdech Kitti Prithbindit!**
- Samdech, Excellencies Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Secretaries of State, national and international distinguished guests!
- Excellencies Vice Presidents of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries, leaders of the Veterans Associations of the VECONAC member countries, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to extend my respect and great appreciation to **Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of Cambodia Veterans Association** for taking your busy time to preside over the 19th VECONAC General Assembly in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia at this moment.

On behalf of Cambodia Veterans Association and as the rotating president of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries, I am pleased to warmly welcome and to profoundly thank Samdech, Excellencies, national and international distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen for joining as guests of honor and as members of this important General Assembly of ours at this moment.

This is special occasion with great pride that Cambodia Veterans Association hosts the 32nd Executive Board Meeting and the 19th General Assembly of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries at the time when the Kingdom of Cambodia has been able to firmly maintain peace, independence and sovereignty and development of the country towards more growth, under the wise leadership of **Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.**

In this great occasion of closeness and delight, I have the honor to respectfully report to **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** and all members of the General Assembly that for this year 2019 Cambodia is the host country and the chair, taken over from Laos, to organize the 32nd Executive Board Meeting and the 19th General Assembly of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries, which have been planned with the terms and agendas of the meetings to be held for 5 days from 08 to 12 December 2019 in Phnom Penh.

- **Samdech Techo Prime Minister and Samdech Kitti Prithbindit!**
- **Members of General Assembly!**

Taking this precious opportunity, I would respectfully like to give a brief summary of the history, vision and mission of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries: The Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries was established in 1980 with then 5 member countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. Now there are 10 member countries, which includes Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Thanks to VECONAC's activities and efforts, the organization has been recognized by the ASEAN as a humanitarian body who has been carrying out activities directly with the war veterans and their families. ASEAN have is also reviewing the qualification of the Veterans Confederation to include the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries as part of the ASEAN activities.

VECONAC members have always regularly carried out as per the objectives of the Confederations such as exchange of visits by delegates of the member countries to understand and learn about provision of services and encouragement to veterans. Member countries have always mutually cooperated and provided trainings of skills to veterans pursuant to the protocol of understanding between the member countries and mutually provided aid and support directly to veterans of the member countries.

- **Samdech Techo Prime Minister and Samdech Kitti Prithbindit;**
- **Members of the General Assembly;**

Before ending, I would like to report to **Samdech Techo** and the whole General Assembly of the activities and results of the 32nd Executive Board Meeting, which was held yesterday on 9 December 2019. Draft report and a number of resolutions were discussed and reviewed for submission to the General Assembly, as follows:

1. Draft on protection and conservation of military historical sites and events;
2. Formation of a VECONAC permanent account;
3. Development of VECONAC vision and mission;
4. Solution to the creation of VECONAC permanent office;

5. Appointment of Veteran Legion of the Republic of Indonesia as the coordinator and contact person for the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries and ASEAN Secretariat;
6. Creation of VECONAC Office of Economy;
7. Conferment of VECONAC Chairmanship Decoration of Honor to Veterans Association of Brunei Armed Forces;
8. Increase of annual membership fee;
9. Conferment of VECONAC Chairmanship Decoration of Honor and VECONAC Decoration of Honor;
10. Conferment of VECONAC Decoration of Honor to the host country;
11. Financial report and budget plan;
12. Certificate of Admiration for the President, Secretary-General, and Treasurer-General of the host country;
13. Praise of the host country;

Last but not least, as the rotating president of the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries, I would like to extend gratitude towards both Samdech and wish both Samdech good health, strength, longevity, and wisdom to lead the Cambodia ship towards more growth and prosperity.

I wish Samdech, Excellencies, national and international distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, members of the whole General Assembly good health, energies, and more new success.

I would now like to highly respectfully invite **Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of Cambodia Veterans Association**, to kindly give your speech to open the 19th VECONAC General Assembly.

Thank you.