

OPENING REMARKS
BY LT GENERAL (RET) NGUYEN SONG PHI
AT THE VIRTUAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
Hanoi, 21 October 2020

Esteemed delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Veterans Association of Vietnam (VAVN), I would like to convey our warm welcome to the delegates representing 10 VECONAC member countries available at the WCM today. To begin with, I would like to convey the warmest greetings and wishes of good health from Senior Lt General Nguyen Van Duoc, President VECONAC/VAVN to all the delegates. May our WCM be a fine success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past 40 years of VECONAC growth and development, this is the first time VECONAC organizes a meeting in the form of video conference. I would like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere thanks to the Leaders and colleagues of all VECONAC member countries for the cooperation and support that you sent to the VAVN in holding the WCM today virtually.

As you know, since its outburst in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused loss of life of over one million people, impacted badly the world economy and changed many practices in the life of the humankind

At present, the COVID-19 pandemic is still progressing complicatedly in many countries in Southeast Asia and the world, causing negative impact to various aspects of the social life in many countries, including diplomatic activities. Therefore, the Leadership of the Vietnamese State and Government recently has decided to hold all meetings within the framework of the Vietnam Chairmanship 2020 Year including the 33rd EBM and the 20th GA in the form of video conference. The VAVN is deeply convinced that with the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance, we will

certainly win the COVID-19 pandemic, helping each other to carry out our tasks successfully in this difficult period.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In December 2019, we were together in Phnom Penh to attend the 19th GA. On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere admiration and appreciation for the hospitality and professional skill of our Cambodian colleagues in organizing the 19th GA successfully. I suggest that we will give a big hand to thank our Cambodian friends.

Today, we are present at this meeting to review what have been done, discuss and consult on matters relating to the upcoming 33rd EBM and the 20th GA which will be incorporated in one agenda and held in the form of video conference on 15 December 2020. I believe that with our determination and knowledge, we will achieve our goals successfully, contributing to the success of the coming 33rd EBM and the 20th GA.

To conclude my remarks, I would like to wish our esteemed delegates good health and our WCM a great success.

VECONAC forever, forever VECONAC !

Thank you.