



## **EX-SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

### **VECONAC 29<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

#### **COUNTRY REPORT – PEHIN'S DELIBERATION** **ON FRIDAY, 07<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Thiri Pyan Chi San Oo, President of VECONAC cum President of Myanmar War Veterans Organisation (MWVO).

His Excellencies the Presidents of VECONAC Member Associations,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and a very Good Morning,

First and foremost, on behalf of Ex-Soldiers Association of Brunei Darussalam, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Recipients of "VECONAC Honorary Presidency" and "Medal of Honor".

We would also like to take another opportunity in this meeting that after some considerations on most of VECONAC members' age and health condition, and as we have witnessed this morning during the official opening of VECONAC 29<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> EBM) and 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (16<sup>th</sup> GA), we hope positive responses from Your Excellencies that we trooped-in the VECONAC and ASEAN Flags in one drill movement.

We also would like to convey our appreciation to member countries for giving us the honor to host this 29<sup>th</sup> EBM & 16<sup>th</sup> GA and also to materialize the VECONAC Honors and Awards presentation ceremony.

Your Excellencies,

Following my Country Report during the 28<sup>th</sup> EBM in Yangon, Myanmar, last year, among the main agendas raised have been realized i.e. today's VECONAC's 29th Executive Board Meeting and 16th General Assembly, here in Brunei Darussalam in 2016, and apart from that, as per previous resolutions, we take the steps to minimize costly printing and adopt the usage of IT and go paperless as much as possible. Thus we unanimously support the effort by our Singaporean counterpart to materialize the establishment of VECONAC Website. Well done.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Recalling the Core Factors for the formation of VECONAC in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December 1980, WELFARE is always our Top Priority and this was also stressed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Since our last meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, we also take the initiative to change the ways we approach to WELFARE. We preferred to organise not only group visits to sick members and non-members, we also organise big group events such Big Family Outing and Family Fun Day by having them organised in rotation in different districts.

Apart from that, based on recent informal visit by Veterans Association of Malaysian Armed Forces from Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia, we also consider of organising group oversea visits not only consisted of association members but bringing along family members. This is one of the ways to strengthen our current relationship and to foster family-orientated activities.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I end my speech, congratulation to the Myanmar War Veterans Organisation Secretariat for the challenge to prepare this 29<sup>th</sup> EBM and 16<sup>th</sup> GA from thousands of miles away and even though we only managed to sit down and coordinated just few days prior to this meeting and assembly, the VECONAC Secretariat has done well to materialize, well done.

Sincerely we are more than happy to see the old comrades whom we met during the 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting here in Brunei Darussalam back on 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August in the year 2000.

**“VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC”**

With Honours,

**HIS EXCELLENCY PEHIN DATO PADUKA RAJA MAJOR GENERAL (RETD)  
DATO PADUKA SERI HAJI SHARI BIN AHMAD  
PRESIDENT OF THE EX-SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

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