

# **COUNTRY REPORT INDONESIA**



Presented by  
**Lt. Gen (Ret) Soekarto**  
**Vice President of the Veterans Legion of the Republic of Indonesia**

Honourable VECONAC President, Lt. Gen Hsan Oo  
Honourable Vice Presidents,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to convey the best wishes and deep regrets from Lt. Gen (Ret) Rais Abin, President of the Veterans Legion of the Republic of Indonesia, for not being able to attend this General Assembly due to his previous commitments at home. He is still healthy for a gentlemen that just commemorate his 90<sup>th</sup> year old on August 15 this year. I am honored to represent him attending this important 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Observing Indonesian developments to achieve the ideals and goals of independent, we strive to continue containing challenges at a national, regional and global level. The Indonesian Veterans Legion joins efforts to raise the spirit of the Indonesian youth to face the nation future. One of the tasks of the Indonesian Veterans Legion Central Executive Board is to enhance the spirit and the moral attitude of the next generation. This activity has been carried out by the socialization of the 1945 values and setting up some veterans to pass the message.

Since 2013 LVRI has exercised the socialization program attended by the youth generation such as junior high to university students, military cadets and other youth organizations. We have already trained a number of veterans as socialization agents. At the end of 2017 when the leadership will be rejuvenated, we expect all veterans from 33 provinces to enhance this program.

Honourable VECONAC President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Indonesian government continues to be committed to improving the welfare of veterans. Recent developments in the efforts to improve the Rights of

Veterans ruling the Veterans Benefits can be inherited by their Widow. Another development is the Peacekeepers had the legal rights to veteranship. As we all know, Indonesia has been participating in Peacekeeping operations since 1957 and we are still doing so.

Worldwide to know is the appointment of the United Nations Security Council of the MG Rais Abin as Force Commander UNEF II Middle East in 1976, to create peace between 2 warring parties since 1973, Israel and Egypt. Until today, Rais Abin is the only Asia officer to be trusted with this highly commendable task. In fact he did quite well to have the Camp David Agreement signed between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Honourable VECONAC President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

One of the problems we faced today is the recruitment of the younger personnel to run the organization, since at present around 80% of the veterans are Freedom Fighter Veterans (the youngest is 86 years old). We are fortunate to have the Peacekeeping Veterans which are still healthy enough to carry on the fighting values and to strengthen the organization. During 2014-2015, in order to refresh and rejuvenate the organization, Indonesian Veterans has organized Regional Assembly for 27 of the 33 Regional Executive Boards to select the Regional Leaders and the rest will be completed in 2017.

Since our last meeting in EBM 28 we celebrated some calendar events at national level such as:

Heroes Day on 10th November 2015,  
National Veterans Day on August 10, 2016,  
71th National Independence Day on August 17,  
Arms Forces Day on October 5, 2016.

The National Veterans Day was celebrated all over the country with wreath laying ceremony at the National Hero Cemetery as the main program.

Honourable VECONAC President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

As we mentioned in the last General Assembly we realized that there is still lacking of VECONAC involvement in supporting ASEAN missions. The development of the escalation of the South China Sea today, should strive VECONAC to promote freedom of navigation and a peaceful ASEAN solution according to the 2002 China-ASEAN Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in

the South China Sea. We also observe the developments after The Hague verdict on the so called nine-dash line area.

May we remind that Indonesia's territorial claim over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Natuna Islands in the South China Sea was based on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Thus, Indonesia had no territorial waters that overlapped with the so called nine dash line.

Therefore, once again I suggest that VECONAC seeks more ways to increase the involvement in supporting the activities of ASEAN peace mission. As the WVF credo said:

*None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war.*

Honourable VECONAC President,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I hope this short Country Report will give you a picture of what is going on with the Indonesian Veterans. Last but not least may I wish the 16th VECONAC General Assembly a great success and I would like to express my deep appreciation to our host, Ex-Service Association of Brunei Darussalam for their excellent efforts to host this General Assembly and for your warm hospitality during our stay in this beautiful city of Bandar Seri Begawan.

Thank you

“VECONAC FOREVER – FOREVER VECONAC”