



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Welcome Speech to the Opening Ceremony  
of VECONAC 30<sup>th</sup> EBM & 17<sup>th</sup> GA  
on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 @ 0900hrs

by



HE MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) PEHIN DATO  
HAJI SHARI AHMAD  
PRESIDENT OF VECONAC

Your Excellency Our Guest of Honour, Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih Bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Delegates, Observers and Spouses of VECONAC Member Countries, distinguished Advisers of the Ex-Soldiers Association of Brunei Darussalam, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah Hiwabarakatuh and good morning.

On behalf of VECONAC Heads of Delegations and delegations, I would like to convey our deepest appreciation to our Guest of Honour for giving a top priority to be with us all here this morning and to officially open the VECONAC 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting and 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly later. It is still not late to thank Your Excellency for the honour to attend this colourful and regimentally veteran event last year.

Before I go further, let me take the opportunity to share something that is not usual to be expressed during a welcome speech. This year, Brunei Darussalam is celebrating “Once In A Life Historical Event” that is His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam’s Golden Jubilee. Thus, I would like to draw your attention to the **backdrop on the stage**.



There is a very significant reason for designing this backdrop and in fact it was almost the same design as per last year **but not the colour**.

The colour Golden Yellow signifies the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the tropical forest colour represents our support to the awareness in Brunei Darussalam to be green and eco-friendly, and the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge itself is a very iconic structure. Therefore, the bridge signifies VECONAC as a Bridging Tool for us to cross and meet each other to uphold the core business of VECONAC on friendship and welfare of the veterans. VECONAC is in fact an **Enabling Tool**.

On behalf of VECONAC, once again thank You to Your Excellency as our Guest of Honour, thank you to all our distinguished guests and our appreciation to our Advisers to the Ex-Soldiers Association of Brunei Darussalam, who have been caring and very supportive, and not forgetting the VECONAC Secretariat and Supporting Agencies.

Wabillahittaufiq Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum  
Warahmatullah Hiwabarakatuh,  
and thank you.

**VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC**