



VECONAC 18TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

APPRECIATION SPEECH

Your Excellency, Mr Bounngang VORACHIT (BUNYANG VORACHIT), the President of Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Your Excellency, Brigadier General Retired Somphone Keomaxy, the President of Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries.

Your Excellencies, the Vice Presidents of Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen.....

It is a great honour to firstly thank Your Excellency for sacrificing your very busy schedule to accept our audience here this morning. We have been looking forward for this grand moment and finally here we are with Your Excellency. We sincerely appreciate it.

Your Excellency,

The Lao Veterans Federation (previously known as Lao National Veterans Federation) was officially admitted as a member of VECONAC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2012. In fact, even prior to become a permanent member, Lao Veterans Federation has played a very significant role in VECONAC. Under the capable leadership of His Excellency Brigadier General Retired Somphone Keomaxy, Lao Veterans Federation has also been a very important member in VECONAC and back in Brunei Darussalam in 2017, His Excellency Brigadier General Retired Somphone Keomaxy voluntarily declared Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic to host the Thirty First Executive Board Meeting and Eighteen General Assembly.

Therefore, on behalf of the Vice Presidents of VECONAC, delegates and observers of Eighteen General Assembly, we would take this honour to thank His Excellency Brigadier General Retired Somphone Keomaxy and his team for the amount of time and resources required to prepare this Eighteen General Assembly is tremendous. The big success of the Thirty First Executive Board Meeting last June in Luang Prabang was also due their hard work, efficiency and diligences. Well done indeed.

Your Excellency...

We all know that this year is VISIT LAOS YEAR and we would like to convey to Your Excellency that Lao Veterans Federation is playing their role not only as Veterans BUT also as very effective diplomats on promoting tourism. They managed to invite and welcome us not only as comrade veterans from nine other ASEAN Member Countries but also as TOURISTS to this country. The warmest welcome and hospitality we received reflect the humbleness, politeness and kindness of the Lao people.

Your Excellency...

During the year term of 2017 to 2018, many topics and agendas were discussed and we achieved a lot and one of them is “to get VECONAC recognised as an active Entity Associated to ASEAN” thus back in Jakarta last August the seventh, His Excellencies the President and Vice Presidents of VECONAC have made courtesy call to His Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the ASEAN Secretary-General, and attended the Fifty First ASEAN DAY at the ASEAN Secretariat the next day. On the 15th of October this year, VECONAC was represented by the Legiun Veteran Republik Indonesia in the Second Forum of Entities Associated to ASEAN in Jakarta.

Your Excellency...

We as members of VECONAC will continuously play our role to strive the Aim, Vision and Mission of VECONAC as one “Veteran Community of ASEAN”. Lastly, once again on behalf of the President and Vice Presidents of VECONAC, delegates and observers

of Thirty First Executive Board Meeting and Eighteen General Assembly, we thank Your Excellency.

VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC

