

VECONAC 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 December 2021

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

1. Due to the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and globally, for the first time in its history, the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC) agreed to organize the 33rd Executive Board Meeting (EBM) and the 20th General Assembly (GA) virtually.

2. The President and Vice Presidents of VECONAC attended the virtual 20th GA convened on December 15, 2021 and presided by H.E. Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VECONAC and President of the Vietnam Veterans Association. Joining the virtual meeting from 10 connection points were Leaders and Representatives of the VECONAC Member Countries.

The List of Participants is in Appendix “A”.

THE 33RD EBM

3. The 33rd EBM was held virtually back-to-back with the 20th General Assembly on December 15, 2021, according to the VECONAC Constitution and By-laws. The 33rd EBM was attended by the Presidents/Vice Presidents of VECONAC members and presided by H.E. Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Song Phi, Vice President of VECONAC and Vice President of the Vietnam Veterans Association. The 33rd EBM reviewed and approved seven (07) new Resolutions to be submitted to the 20th GA for endorsement.

The 33rd EBM Report is in Appendix “B”.

THE OPENING OF THE 20TH GA

4. The 20th GA commenced with the Flag Ceremony and the hoisting of the national flags of VECONAC Member Countries, the VECONAC flag and the

ASEAN flag, executed in military tradition. An event of important historical significance was that the 20th GA was convened at the time of the 41st anniversary of the founding of VECONAC (December 19, 1980 - December 19, 2021).

5. In his opening speech, H.E. Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VECONAC and President of VAVN wished the Leaders of different generations and all members of VECONAC good health, happiness and success. He appreciated highly the ideas that showed care for the veterans, the wounded combatants and ailing ex-servicemen, to lead happy and prosperous lives. On this occasion, the President expressed his deep sympathies over the losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the people of our respective countries. He acknowledged the effective coordination and cooperation between the Governments and the peoples of ASEAN member countries to fight the pandemic.

6. Vietnam assumed and successfully accomplished the role of ASEAN Chair in 2020 and Non-permanent Member of the Security Council of the United Nations during the term 2020-2021. VAVN also assumed and performed the role of VECONAC Chair with a high sense of responsibility in the last two years. Before declaring the 20th GA opened, H.E. the President wished VECONAC further successes, while making an important contribution to the cause of peace, stability and well-being of Southeast Asia and the world. He wished the virtual 20th GA success.

THE 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Agenda

7. The 20th GA adopted the agenda in Appendix “C”.

Country Reports

8. VECONAC members took turns to present the latest developments in their associations for 2020-2021.

The Country Reports are in Appendix “D”.

Secretary-General’s Report

9. The Secretary-General reported to the 20th GA the main activities from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

The Secretary-General's Report is in Appendix "E".

Treasurer's-General's Report

10. The Treasurer-General reported to the 20th GA the financial position of VECONAC up to December 31, 2021.

The Treasurer-General's Report is in Appendix "F".

Resolutions

11. The 20th GA reviewed the progress of two Resolutions which were endorsed at the 19th GA as follows:

11.1. Resolution 19-1: "Safeguarding and Preservation of Military/Historical Events".

The four countries which have submitted their lists are Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam. The remaining members have agreed to submit their lists to the Secretariat of the succeeding VECONAC Chair soon.

11.2. Resolution 19-3: "Resolution to Develop a Vision and Mission Statement of VECONAC".

All VECONAC members are of the opinion that this is a difficult issue, so we will do it slowly. The VECONAC Chair will draft the content, and then ask members for their opinion. When all members agree with the draft, the Chair will submit it as a proposed Resolution.

12. After reviewing the draft resolutions, the 20th GA has endorsed seven (07) new resolutions which are elaborated in this Joint Communiqué as follows:

12.1. Resolution on Calamities Affecting the Holding of VECONAC Meetings.

12.2. Resolution on Adding the Meaning of VECONAC Flag to the VECONAC Constitution.

12.3. Resolution on Commemorating the VECONAC Founding Day Annually on December 19.

12.4. Resolution on Acknowledging and Thanking the Cambodia Veterans Association on successfully holding the 32nd EBM and the 19th General Assembly.

12.5. Resolution on Recommendation to Confer VECONAC Honorary Presidency title on GENERAL KUN KIM, Senior Minister Responsible for Veterans and Disabled Affairs, Vice President and Secretary-General of the Cambodia Veterans Association (CVA), and Awarding the VECONAC Medal of Honour to GENERAL MEAS SAVAN, Director of General Department of Military Service and Permanent Deputy Secretary-General, CVA, for their dedication and contributions to the success of the 32nd EBM and the 19th General Assembly, and the investiture ceremony for the awards to be held at the 21st GA.

12.6. Resolution on Conferring VECONAC Presidency title on BG (Retired) SOMPHON KEOMIXAY, President, and Awarding the VECONAC Medal of Honour to LCOL (Retired) KHAMSING SOSENGINH, Secretary-General of the Lao Veterans Federation for their dedication and contribution to the success of the 31st EBM and the 18th GA, and presenting both awards at the investiture ceremony, at the 20th GA.

12.7. Resolution to Record a Statement of Appreciation to recognize the outstanding leadership, dedication and contributions of the last LT-GEN RAIS ABIN, Honorary President of Legiun Veteran Republik Indonesia and President of VECONAC 2010-2012.

The list of Resolutions is in Appendix “G”.

Adoption of the War Veterans Organization of Thailand (WVO) as VECONAC Chair 2022

13. The 20th GA unanimously appointed WVO as Chair of VECONAC in the year 2022.

14. The WVO accepted the appointment as VECONAC Chair 2022 with pleasure.

Office Bearers for Year 2022

15. The 20th GA endorsed the following members for the year 2022:

- 15.1. President: General SIRIPONG WONGKHUNTI- President of WVO
- 15.2. Secretary General: *(TBC)*
- 15.3. Treasurer General:*(TBC)*
- 15.4. Vice Presidents:
 - 15.4.1. Maj. Gen (Ret) PEHIN DATU PADUKARAJA DATO PADUKA SERI HAJI SHARI AHMAD, President of VARBAF
 - 15.4.2. Lt. Gen EK KRET – Vice Secretary General of C.V.A
 - 15.4.3. Maj. Gen (Ret) SAIFUL SULUN – President of LVRI
 - 15.4.4. Brig. Gen (Ret) SOMPHON KEOMIXAY – President of LVF
 - 15.4.5. Capt. (Ret) DATUK SHARUDDIN BIN HJ OMAR– President of VAMAF
 - 15.4.6. Maj. Gen (Ret) MYA WIN – President of MWVO
 - 15.4.7. Lt. Gen RAUL S. URGELLO AFP (RET.) – Executive Vice President of VFP
 - 15.4.8. Brig. Gen (Ret) WINSTON TOH BEE CHEW – President of SAFVL
 - 15.4.9. *(Name to be confirmed)* of WVO
 - 15.4.10. Senior Lt Gen (Ret) – NGUYEN VAN DUOC - President of VAVN

Adoption of Venue of the 34th EBM and the 21st GA

16. The WVO has confirmed to host the 34th EBM and the 21st GA in *(name of place to be confirmed)*, Thailand in 2022.

Investiture Ceremony of Conferring VECONAC Presidency title on BG (Retired) SOMPHON KEOMIXAY, President, and Awarding the VECONAC Medal of Honour to LCOL (Retired) KHAM SING SOSENGINH, Secretary-General of Lao Veterans Federation.

17. As the 20th GA was organized virtually, the Lao Veterans Federation agreed to appoint *(name to be confirmed)* as the Representative on behalf of the LVF to receive the awards. In a solemn ceremony, Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VECONAC and President of the Vietnam Veterans Association conferred the VECONAC Presidency title on BG (Retired) SOMPHON KEOMIXAY, President, and awarded the VECONAC Medal of Honour to LCOL (Retired) KHAM SING SOSENGINH, Secretary-General of the Lao Veterans Federation via the LVF authorized Representative.

Chairmanship Handing-Taking Over

18. H.E. Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VAVN handed over the VECONAC Presidency to H.E General SIRIPONG WONGKHUNTI, President of WVO.

19. H.E. Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VAVN handed over the VECONAC flag and gavel to (TBC) of the Royal Thai Embassy in Hanoi, who received them on behalf of H.E General SIRIPONG WONGKHUNTI, President of WVO.

20. The two Presidents agreed on the handing and taking over of the VECONAC budget after the conclusion of VECONAC 20th GA.

Acceptance Remarks

21. In the acceptance remarks as the incoming President of VECONAC, H.E General SIRIPONG WONGKHUNTI, President of WVO thanked VAVN for a successful execution of the virtual 20th GA.

Closing Remarks

22. H.E. Senior Lieutenant General (Ret) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of VAVN thanked the Leaders of the VECONAC Member Countries and all delegates for their active support and assistance that enabled the 20th GA, which was organized virtually for the first time, to be conducted successfully.

Joint Communiqué

23. The Joint Communiqué was adopted by the Twentieth General Assembly of VECONAC on the Fifteenth of December in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One.

VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC !