



## Welcome Speech to the Dinner Reception of VECONAC 30<sup>th</sup> EBM & 17<sup>th</sup> GA on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 @ 2000hrs

by



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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah Hiwabarakatuh and a very good evening.

Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen.

First, may I on behalf of the host nation, Brunei Darussalam, once again "Warm Welcome & Selamat Datang" to Your Excellencies Heads of Delegates from our VECONAC member nations & their entourages.

It had been about 16 years since our beloved nation, Brunei Darussalam hosts such an event last year and this year, here we gather again in this evening reception. We do remember, a few of our colleagues have passed away since then but our thought and pray are with them and forever with them.

I would also like to thank our distinguished guests and their spouses for kindly accepting our invitations to this evening Welcome Reception.

This morning's Opening Ceremony, marked the commencement of our 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting and 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly sessions. We also would like this year's gathering a bit different by not focusing a lot in the meeting rooms but we would like to continue our meetings, discussions, and laughter by taking you all outside of this meeting venue for a ride to visit MUKIM LABI in the district of BELAIT tomorrow.





Our apology that the Committee Sessions have to continue early in the morning so as to allow more time for this adventurous visit.

And on this coming Sunday too, again we will take you all out to Bandar Seri Begawan to watch Brunei Regatta 2017, in conjunction of His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Golden Jubilee.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me stop here, and let the dinner served for us to enjoy.

Wabillahittaufiq Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullah Hiwabarakatuh, and thank you.

VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC