

Presented by Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Nguyen Song Phi, Vice President,  
Head of Delegation of VAVN at the VECONAC's GA 16<sup>th</sup>  
Brunei, 06-10 Oct. 2016

- Honorable Lieutenant General Hsan Oo, VECONAC's President,
- Honorable Maj. Gen. Dato Shari Esabd, President of Ex-Soldiers Association of Brunei Darussalam
- Honorable Vice VECONAC Presidents, Head of Delegations,
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Authorized by Senior Lt. Gen. (ret.) Nguyen Van Duoc, President of the Veterans Association of Viet Nam (VAVN) (*due to his busy work at home*), on behalf of VAVN and in my own name, I would like to express our warmest greetings and best wishes to the Presidents, distinguished guests, delegates and observers attending this 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I also would like to express our deep appreciation to Maj. Gen. Dato Paduka Shari Esabd and members of the Ex-Soldiers Association of Brunei Darussalam for providing a warm welcome and excellent hospitality to our delegation.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to inform you that Vietnam has recently conducted the 12<sup>th</sup> Party Congress (Jan 2016) and the General Elections (Apr 2016) for the 14th National Assembly and People's Council at all levels for the period 2016 – 2021, very successful. A new government has been established with the motto of "a government of creativeness" These three big events are creating new pulse on the whole society to promote the industrialization and modernization of Viet Nam. In this success, VAVN's contributions are very active; more than 210,000 members were elected to the Party and People Council at all levels; it has been a credible support of the Vietnamese Administrations and people throughout country.

The Association's development works are focused. Up to now, 64 provincial Associations and 45 Veterans Associations in Central ministries and Agencies have been developed (increasing by 2 from 43 in the year of 2014), with totally 2.9 million members. There are also 33,630 Clubs with nearly 1.1 million ex-

servicemen participating. Vietnamese veterans in Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and Czech have just established clubs and associations themselves to help stabilize their lives and economic development.

Members of VAVN have actively helped each other to reduce poverty, developed economy and improved livelihoods. To date, 118 districts and 23 provinces and cities are no longer have poor veteran households. In the first 6 months of 2016 alone we've removed 2,256 dilapidated houses and 1,258 poor veteran households.

The veteran owned enterprises and cooperatives have overcome many difficulties, maintained production and business, ensured stable employment for workers had increased in number to 6,740 entrepreneurs, 1,300 cooperatives 75,200 farms, attracting nearly 500,000 veterans as employees, beneficiary policy for their children and families. To date, 27 provinces and cities have established the Business Veterans Associations.

Currently, VAVN's branches have completed reviewing **“the 5 year movement of veterans helping each others to reduce poverty and doing well economically”** are ready to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> National Meeting next week with that theme, in order to summarize the movement and replicate advanced examples nationwide.

VAVN have signed and effectively implemented regulations coordinating with the Prime Minister, central ministries, agencies and socio-political organizations to strengthen responsibility of coordination in performing its duties.

VAVN at all levels have encouraged their members to actively participate in movements, coordination programs such as “All people unite to build new cultural life in residential areas”; Ensuring safety traffic; making policy suggestions, donating money or labor work to build a new style countryside. In the year of 2015, and first 6 months of 2016, veterans have offered 3.1 million square meters and 120 billion VND, to build 500 new bridges with veterans' donations. These activities have made great contributions in changing the face of the new countryside.

VAVN actively proposed to the government and authorities at all levels to implement policy in favor of veterans, families of war invalids, martyrs and beneficiaries of social policy to solve problem for about 3 million people who participated in wars for independence and defending the country. The Vietnam Friendship Village has increased its ability to nurse more than 100 children affected by Agent Orange Dioxin and 500 veterans yearly.

VAVN has cooperated closely with the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to educate younger generations of patriotic and dedication spirit. The people to people relations have continuously improved. In the past 18 months, VAVN sent 8 delegations abroad and honored 6 foreign delegations, besides receiving about 30 veteran groups from USA, Korea, Australia, and China, visiting Vietnam to exchange ideas and make contribute to solve war legacies and improve relations.

In general, VAVN at all levels, have successfully completed their duties in all fields, making good contributions to improve relations with veterans and people in our region and the world.

Thank you for your attention.