



**Opening Speech by Mr. Pham Quoc Anh,  
Chairman of the Vietnam Lawyers Association**

*His Excellency, the Member of the Politburo of the Vietnamese Communist Party, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet;*

*The Honourable ASEAN Secretary-General;*

*The Honourable the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, President of the Asean Law Association, Mr. Atthaniti Disatha Amnarj;*

*The Honourable Mr. Vichai Aryanuntaka, the Honorary Judge of Thailand's Supreme Court, the General Secretary of ALA;*

*The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam;*

*The Honourable Chief Procurator of Vietnam;*

*Distinguished Guests;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It was three years ago that the Vietnam Laywers Association, for the first time, held an very important event in the ALA's political and legal life, the meeting of ALA's Governing Council. This event evidences full participation of the Vietnam Lawyers Association in the comprehensive organization of lawyers who work and practice law in the nations of ASEAN. Today, in Hanoi, Vietnam Lawyers Association has great honor to hold the ALA's General Assembly and to welcome our colleagues, friends who stand side by side with us in the cause of protecting justice, of building and developing democracy for prosperity of every nation and for the whole ASEAN community. On behalf of Vietnamese lawyers, I would like to warmly welcome all members of ALA coming from the beautiful and fanciful island-State such as of Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines; from the nations of peaceful temples of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand; from Malaysia, the country of



endless palm forests with the people hospitality, and from Singapore, the country of plenty fantastic technology and development achievements. I wish our distinguished guests very good health, enjoyment and fruitful days in Hanoi. Meanwhile, on behalf of the Vietnamese lawyers, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Indonesia for the extremely serious losses of lives and property caused by recent earthquake. We believe that the Government and the people of Indonesia will overcome severe consequences of natural catastrophe and quickly return to normal life soon.

The ALA General Assembly held in Hanoi has several special features. This is the first General Assembly of ALA after the signing ASEAN Charter for establishment of ASEAN's Community. This General Assembly shall transfer the presidency of the Association to Vietnam's ALA National Committee for the first time. This coincides with taking by Vietnam of the presidency of ASEAN. The General Assembly also takes place before the Great Ceremony for 1000 Years of Hanoi that will take place in the coming year. With such lucky features, we do believe that the ALA General Assembly in Hanoi will mark a new step in development history of the Association. As we all know, this General Assembly's theme which has been approved by the Governing Council in Brunei is "ASEAN Charter – Taking ASEAN to New Heights". The development of ALA, especially when the ASEAN Community shall be established by 2015, requires a lot of various efforts including firstly those in political, economic, social life, in security area and in the legal system. ASEAN Community would not be in the expected development without adequate legal basis. We would not have a community with a developed common market without a compatible and harmonized trade law system; we would also not have a community based on a common security pillar without the law system capable to ensure effective prevention of crimes, particularly terrorism in each country and in the whole Community.

In order to successfully build a powerful and sustainable ASEAN Community, we must reach to new heights in developing the legal system of each nation and gradually build up the Community Law. In the cause of development of laws towards the ASEAN Community in 2015, ASEAN's lawyers play a crucial role



and we, the lawyers of ASEAN countries are the factor promoting the stronger solidarity and cooperation given to the fact that we stand under the common roof of ALA's house.

With all the above-mentioned reasons, I would like to wish the ALA General Assembly successful in achieving greater developments, in supporting the governments of every country to take ASEAN to a new heights.

To conclude, I would like respectfully to wish Mr. President Nguyen Minh Triet, Mr. General Secretary ASEAN, and Mr. President of ALA good health.

I wish Ladies and Gentlemen health.

*I wish our ALA General Assembly brilliant success!*