

**CLOSING SPEECH BY MR. PHAM QUOC ANH, CHAIRMAN OF
VIETNAM LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION AT 10TH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION**

17TH OCTOBER 2009

- H.E. Antanithi Disatha Amnarj, Chief of Justice of Supreme Court of Kingdom of Thailand, Chairman of ASEAN Law Association;
- H.E. Vichaii Aryanutaka, Honorable Judge of Supreme Court of Kingdom of Thailand, Secretary-General of ASEAN Law Association
- H.E. Chairmen of ALA of ASEAN Member States;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have spent almost four days of working together in Hanoi in order to solve huge workloads, with fruitful discussions and gaining memorable and friendly experiences. The 10th General Assembly, for the first time held by Vietnam, has been successful. Nevertheless, by the time of organizing such event, there were certainly unavoidable mistakes from the organizers that we would like to apologize and seek sympathy from all of you.

Four days ago, we have discussed many issues, raising solutions to strengthen the position and reputation of ALA as well as enhancing the contribution of ALA in a process to bring ASEAN to the newly high position. Subsequently, Vietnam will take the chairmanship term of ALA, since ASEAN Charter has been adopted and the process of establishing ASEAN communities is being started. As stated by H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, it is right to say that: "We need to make ASEAN Charter to live forever with our generations". To gain objectives of the ASEAN Charter, thus, ASEAN Lawyers needs to make great efforts and to have more effective and close cooperation amongst ASEAN countries.

With that spirit and the present context as well as challenges and opportunities, the Vietnam Lawyer's Association concerns about its mission in the new term where, according to the Charter of ALA, Vietnam will undertake works and duties of ALA for a period from 2009 to 2012. I, personally and my colleague as well Mrs. Le Thi Kim Thanh, would like to express our sincere thanks to the General Assembly for appointing us in the position of Chairman and Secretary-General of ALA, respectively. We deem that these honors, firstly, belong to Vietnamese lawyers in general and Vietnam Lawyer's Association in particular.

On this occasion, we also thank to Thailand's ALA, Chairman and Secretary-General of ALA and predecessors who have compete successfully their positions and transfer us valuable experiences accumulated through their terms by performing responsible and creative activities.

Having been assigned by the General Assembly in this historical time, we understand that the mission could not be implemented if there is no close cooperation of ALA members. We firmly believe in friendly assistances and effective cooperation from ALA committees of Member States, formers of Chairmen and Secretaries-General. On the side of Vietnam Lawyer's Association, we will make great efforts to complete assignments receiving from the ASEAN Lawyer Association. Hopefully, our Association will have a significant development step in next coming years based on the ASEAN Charter.

After responsible and active working days, the General Assembly has been successfully organized. The Vietnam Lawyer's Association and the organizers highly appreciate and acknowledge the advice, assistances and supports from the Chairman, Secretary-General and ALA committees of the Member States.

The Vietnam Lawyer's Association and the organizers express our sincere thanks to H.E. Nguyen Minh Triet, the State President and Government of Vietnam for their concerns and making favorable conditions for the success of the General Assembly.

Thank for the participations of ALA delegates from countries and lawyers from provinces and ministries of Vietnam who has been involved in active and effective discussions of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the Vietnam Lawyer's Association, I also thank to those being on behind the scenes preparing all services and materials for the success of General Assembly. They are officials of Vietnam Lawyer's Association, volunteers and Sheraton hotel staff.

Tomorrow, everyone has to go back to his or her own country. I, on behalf of the Vietnam Lawyer's Association and the organizer would like to wish you good health, happiness and prosperity. By saying good-bye, I would refer to a sentence in the traditional folk-song of Bac Ninh recognized by the UNESCO as a intangible cultural heritage of the world that is: "Please don't go". Due to no longer stay with us, therefore, I would like to say: "see you again" and wish you health, happiness and safe trip to your home countries.