

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

ROYAL ADDRESS

BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BAJRAKITIYABHA OF THAILAND
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION
AT THE GRAND HALL, THE PLAZA ATHENEE HOTEL
THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2006

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn has graciously entrusted me to represent His Royal Highness in presiding over the Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Session of the General Assembly of the ASEAN Law Association. It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this event.

A crucial and unique responsibility of the legal profession is the duty to maintain justice. To this end, the legal profession, apart from being knowledgeable and well-learned, must also uphold their morals and integrity, possess fine discretion independent from all types of prejudice, and have a clear understanding of prevailing societal and cultural conditions as well as the people's ways of life. Only when these elements are present could the legal profession enact and enforce the law in a right and appropriate manner, rendering real happiness and justice to the people at large.

It is, however, widely accepted that society and the people's ways of life have changed over time, in accordance with surrounding circumstances and prevailing conditions. In this regard, I am delighted that this Ninth General Assembly of the ASEAN Law Association will debate and exchange views under the title 'Challenge of Globalization to Legal Services', which is the common challenge of our region. I am also very pleased that workshops are organized to discuss contemporary problems faced by the legal profession. I truly believe that the outcome of this meeting will positively contribute to development of laws and judicial process and sustainable cooperation among ASEAN countries.

It is now the propitious time. On behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, I have a pleasure to declare open the Ninth Session of the General Assembly of the ASEAN Law Association. I wish your deliberations will meet with success and achieve all the desired objectives.

I thank you.
