

**HO CHI MINH CITY DECLARATION
AT THE 4TH ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES' MEETING**

(1st April, 2016, Ho Chi Minh City, Socialist Republic of Vietnam)

WE, the Chief Justices of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the representatives of the Chief Justices of Malaysia and Thailand, at the 4th ASEAN Chief Justices' Meeting (ACJM) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam;

RECALLING the significant insights and gains generated by the first, second and third ACJM as a suitable venue to address high-level policy matters affecting our legal systems, share best practices, and assess legal trends among the ASEAN Member States;

REAFFIRMING the consensus of the ASEAN Chief Justices on the pursuit of the objectives to strengthen the partnerships among the Judiciaries of the ASEAN Member States as noted in the Boracay Accord of 2015;

UNDERLINING the need and importance of an official, stable, sustainable and effective cooperation channel among the Judiciaries of the ASEAN Member States alongside the cooperation channels among the executive and the legislature within the ASEAN framework, in order to ensure the comprehensiveness in cooperation among the Member States amidst the establishment of the ASEAN Community;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. **THE AGREEMENT** to rename the ASEAN Chief Justices' Meeting as the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ).

2. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT** of the consensus on the intention to institutionalize the CACJ for it to become an entity associated with ASEAN under the ASEAN Charter, setting the foundation for long-term, stable and sustainable cooperation among the Judiciaries of the ASEAN Member States within the spirit of institutional independence and principled partnerships.

3. **THE AGREEMENT** to authorize that necessary steps be undertaken with a view to securing accreditation of the CACJ with ASEAN.

4. **THE AGREEMENT** to authorize the Chief Justice of Vietnam, the current Chair of the CACJ, to present the request for accreditation of the CACJ to the ASEAN, with the assistance of Singapore.

5. **THE AGREEMENT** to designate a representative from each of the respective Judiciaries to form a Study Group to study the future work of the CACJ in light of the presentation of the Chief Justice of the Philippines and the various contributions made and concerns expressed by the other Chief Justices, and direct the Study Group to submit a report of their findings and recommendations at the next meeting of the CACJ.

6. **THE AGREEMENT** to authorize Singapore to pursue negotiations on funding the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal project.

7. **THE PLEDGE**, within our powers and mandates, to exert our best efforts to achieve the objectives approved in previous and this Meeting.

Signed this 1st April 2016 at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.




**The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin
Dato Paduka Haji Kifli**
Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam




The Hon. Dith Munty
President of the Supreme Court of Cambodia




The Hon. H. Muhammad Hatta Ali
Chief Justice of Indonesia




The Hon. Khamphanh SITHIDAMPHA
President of the Supreme Court of Laos



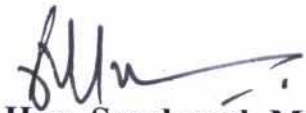
The Representative of the Chief Justice of Malaysia
The Right Hon. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkefli bin Ahmad Makinudin
Chief Judge of Malaya




The Hon. Htun Htun Oo
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar



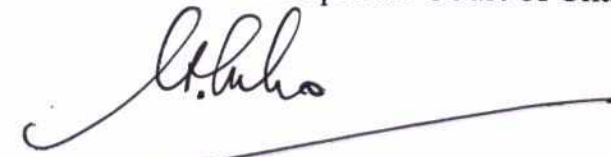
The Hon. Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines



The Hon. Sundaresh Menon
Chief Justice of Singapore



The Representative of the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand
The Hon. Wichai Euaungkanakul
President of Labour Division of the Supreme Court of Thailand



The Hon. Chief Justice Truong Hoa Binh
Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam