

**SESSION 12**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT THE 9<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES MEETING**

**IN JAKARTA**

**JAKARTA (VIRTUAL), 7 OCTOBER 2021**



**Chief justices of the ASEAN Supreme Courts whom I hold in the highest esteem.**

**May peace and blessing of God be upon you**

**Good afternoon, good tidings.**

We have come to the end of the ninth CACJ meeting convened virtually in Jakarta.

It is an immense pleasure for me to find that we have successfully undertaken this ninth CACJ Meeting and all proposed Jakarta declarations have been unanimously agreed upon by the ASEAN judiciaries. This reflects the strong commitment and optimism of all ASEAN judiciaries to continue the judicial cooperation within the ASEAN region in order to establish prosperity, justice and security in the region.

We are all concerned that the pandemic still forces us to conduct the meeting without strong handshakes, without the warm discussion among friends, and without any other friendship-fostering activities that I believe play no small part towards maintaining judicial collaboration in ASEAN, and no single event has been conducted physically throughout 2021.

It is also a source of distress for me to see some ASEAN countries still struggling to overcome the pandemic with its ebbs and flows. I can only hope that the solution to our predicament can soon be found and we can all again pursue our ASEAN cooperation in the normal manner.

**Honorable Chief Justices,**

Please allow me to take this opportunity to once again express by highest appreciation and deepest gratitude to the Honorable Mulia Nguyen Hoa Binh, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Viet Nam, Chairperson of CACJ for the period of 2020-2021, whose leadership in the past one year has kept the gears of CACJ running smoothly and made sure that all its activities were able to be implemented despite the pandemic.

I would also like to convey my sincerest gratitude to the Chief Justices of ASEAN Supreme Courts, who have unfailingly rendered their support and cooperation to

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CACJ's work, and who have been able to produce concrete results in all the working groups, despite the logistical difficulties that were faced, constituting a testament to the determination and resourcefulness of the ASEAN judiciaries in tackling this highly adverse situation.

**Honorable Chief Justices,**

As agreed upon during the eighth CACJ meeting, the tenth CACJ meeting is planned to be held in Malaysia, while the eleventh CACJ will be hosted by Myanmar. I am fervently hoping that when the time comes, the situation will be more under control, allowing the CACJ meetings to be held in a warmer setting and leave a larger impression on all of us.

The appointment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairperson of the CACJ does not mean that that it will alone hold the helm of the Council, since as stated in Article 3 of the CACJ Charter all decisions made by the Council must be made through consultation and consensus, entailing that many issues will need to be consulted and thus it becomes ever more important to foster collaboration among the Chief Justices of ASEAN, in order for the council to perform its mandate ensure success for CACJ in the future.

My gratitude also goes out to all delegates of ASEAN judiciaries, representatives of working groups, liaison officers, focal points, local organizers, technical teams, interpreters, and those whose names I cannot mention on by one, for their tremendous work during the last few months to make sure that this event can be implemented as plan in a timely manner/ and to make sure that this meeting leaves a long-lasting impression on all of us, despite being organized in a virtual setting.

Lastly, but by no means less important, I extend my highest appreciation to the Supreme Court of Singapore, who for the last five years have undertaken the role of CACJ's Permanent Secretariat, mandate that it will again be assume for the next five years. I believe without reservation that the CACJ Secretariat plays a crucial role in holding together all the elements of this cooperation within CACJ and guaranteeing that members of the CACJ as an organization continue to be connected and able to work together effectively, rather than become a series of disconnected uncoordinated activities.

It is my belief that the CACJ Secretariat is an important investment for all of us as it offers support to any entity that assumes the chair of the council.

**Honorable Chief Justices,**

In closing, let us reflect on our gratitude to God the Almighty and pray that He will protect us all and allow us to meet once again next year without any failing.

Until we meet again next year in Malaysia.

May peace and blessing of God be upon you.

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**Prof Dr. H, M, Syarifuddin, S.H., M.H.**