

**OPENING SPEECH BY
THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF MALAYSIA
TUN TENGKU MAIMUN BINTI TUAN MAT**

**9TH COUNCIL OF ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES' MEETING
VIA ZOOM**

**ON
7TH OCTOBER 2020**

Honorable Chair, the Rt. Hon. The Chief Justice of the Republic of Indonesia, Prof Dr. H.M Syarifuddin,

Fellow Chief Justices, and Justices from the ASEAN Region,

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu and a very good morning.

[1] On behalf of the Malaysian Judiciary, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Chief Justice of the Republic of Indonesia and his team for organising this virtual 9th meeting of the CACJ.

[2] Before I proceed, please allow me to introduce members of the Malaysian delegation:

- (i) Chief Judge of the High Court in Malaya Azahar bin Mohamed, and Chairman of the CACJ Working Group On Facilitating Service of Civil Processes Within ASEAN;

- (ii) Chief Judge of the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Abang Iskandar bin Abang Hashim, and Chairman of the CACJ Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology;
- (iii) Federal Court Judge Hasnah binti Mohammed Hashim, and CACJ representative for the Working Group on Judicial Education and Training;
- (iv) Court of Appeal Judge Kamaludin bin Md. Said, and CACJ representative for the Working Group on Future Works of the CACJ;
- (v) High Court Judge Faizah binti Jamaludin, and CACJ representative for the Working Group on Cross Border Disputes Involving Children;
- (vi) High Court Judge Celestina Stuel Galid, and CACJ representative for the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings;
- (vii) Mr. Ahmad Terrirudin bin Mohd Salleh, Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia;
- (viii) Dr. Noradura binti Hamzah, Deputy Director, Policy and Legal Affairs Division, Chief Registrar's Office; and
- (ix) Judge of the Sessions Court Mr. Edwin Michael, and CACJ Liaison Officer and representative to the CACJ for the Working Group on the ASEAN Judicial Portal.

[3] I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations to **The Rt. Hon. Prof Dr. H.M Syarifuddin**, for being elected as the new CACJ Chair. I would also like to take this occasion to thank **The Rt. Hon. Justice Nguyen Hoa Binh**, the immediate past CACJ Chair for his commitment, wisdom and leadership throughout his chairmanship.

[4] The Covid-19 pandemic has drawn out the importance of maintaining access to justice and has no doubt reinvigorated our commitment to upholding this fundamental tenet of the rule of law.

[5] Our meeting today marks the 4th year since the CACJ was recognised as an entity associated with ASEAN. More than that, CACJ has now entered the 9th year since its foundation in 2013.

[6] Our union is a true testament to our commitment to discussing and resolving common issues and concerns. Although each ASEAN member state may have different histories, cultures, languages, and legal systems, we share the same goal, namely, to render justice to those who seek, perhaps even more so now. By leveraging on synergy and combined influence, there is much more that we can achieve together than if we act alone.

[7] The Malaysian Judiciary is united in its belief that the continued cooperation among the ASEAN Chief Justices will further strengthen the ASEAN Judiciaries individually and collectively. To this end, the Malaysian Judiciary wholeheartedly supports the activities of the various CACJ Working Groups.

[8] On that note and in conclusion, I hope that CACJ will remain steadfast and that through our deliberations in this meeting, we will succeed in laying down concrete blueprints for judicial cooperation in the development of the legal landscape of the ASEAN region.

Thank you.