

Speech
of
Chief Justice Chotiwat Leungprasert
The Inaugural CACJ ASEAN+ Meeting
5 November 2022

Honorable Chief Justices of ASEAN Countries,
Honorable Chief Justice Zhou Qiang of the Supreme People's Court of The People's Republic of China,
Honorable Chief Justice KIM Myeongsu of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea,
Esteemed representatives from the Supreme Court of Japan and
Distinguished participants,

It is my great honor and pleasure to be here in the inaugural meeting of the CACJ ASEAN+ Meeting today. This is the very first, significant milestone of judicial cooperation between the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices and the Judiciaries of The People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Before we begin our meeting, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to The Honorable Chief Justice of the Republic of Korea, the delegation and people of the Republic of Korea for the tragedy that happened in Itaewon. Our thoughts are with the families that have lost their loved ones and we wish for a quick recovery of those who are injured.

In 2018, the 6th CACJ Meeting in Singapore, the council agreed to form the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings to expand judicial cooperation to cover ASEAN+ countries, namely The People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea with an aim to share best practices, knowledge, as well as judicial education, court administration, and court technology. It is a shared belief in the CACJ that the judiciaries of The People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea have progressed significantly in terms of administration of justice and judicial development, and many of the issues faced by the judiciaries in ASEAN countries might as well have occurred in the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, not only because of

the proximity to ASEAN, but also the closeness in terms of trade, business, investment and cultural relationship. Therefore, it should be of mutual benefit to share these experiences and knowledge.

The journey toward establishing this bridge of cooperation has not been easy, especially because of the pandemic that still causes concerns even to these days, which is why we still need hybrid meeting today even though almost three years have passed. Despite these issues, we still strongly believe that today cooperation will be the dawn of the new and strengthened cooperation.

The Court of Justice of Thailand is honored to have chaired this working group. We are delighted and honored to welcome Honorable Chief Justice Zhou Qiang of the Supreme People's Court of The People's Republic of China and Honorable Chief Justice KIM Myeongsu of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea who join us online, and the observers from the Supreme Court of Japan to the Inaugural CACJ ASEAN+ Meeting. Even though Honorable Chief Justice TOKURA Saburo of the Supreme Court of Japan could not be present in the meeting, he has sent us a VDO record which is deeply appreciated by all present.

As evidenced in the working group report, we have witnessed the determination and dedication of the members from all ASEAN judiciaries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the working group members for your dedication and great effort.

Last but by no means the least, I would like to thank and congratulate our host, the Judiciary of Malaysia, for the great success in organizing this meeting. I truly and sincerely believe that this forum will lead us to closer judicial cooperations at every level. Distinguished participants, we painstakingly establish this forum not for the benefit of our judiciaries, but for the people within our respective jurisdictions who will be the ultimate beneficiaries from better administration of justice resulting from this knowledge sharing and cooperation.

Thank you.