



**OPENING REMARKS
13th CACJ MEETING
BANGKOK, THAILAND
CHIEF JUSTICE SUNARTO**

Honorable Chief Justice Adisak Tantiwong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Thailand,

Honorable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore,

Honorable ASEAN Chief Justices and Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, Assalamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh.

Before I proceed, allow me, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Indonesia and the Indonesian delegation, to convey our deepest condolences to His Majesty the King, the Royal Family, the Royal Thai Government, and the people of Thailand on the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati. Princess Bajrakitiyabha was a distinguished jurist in her own right, and her tireless advocacy for the rights of women in the criminal justice system, embodied in the Bangkok Rules, has left a lasting mark on our region and on the international community. We join our Thai colleagues in mourning this profound loss.

Allow me now to express my sincere appreciation to the Supreme Court of Thailand, under the distinguished leadership of Chief Justice Adisak Tantiwong, for the warm hospitality extended to us here in Bangkok. The excellent arrangements made for this 13th CACJ Meeting reflect the same spirit of dedication and professionalism that has long defined this Council.

Chief Justices,

This year marks a truly historic milestone for our Council. With Timor-Leste's official accession to ASEAN, it is my great honor to formally welcome Timor-Leste as a full member of the CACJ. I extend my warmest congratulations to Chief Justice Afonso Carmona and the entire judiciary of Timor-Leste. What began as their participation with us as an observer has now grown into full partnership, and we look forward to their active contribution in strengthening judicial cooperation across our region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude and admiration to Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, whose exemplary leadership as Chair of the CACJ has left a lasting legacy. Under his stewardship, the Council achieved remarkable progress in advancing regional judicial cooperation, and Singapore's outstanding hosting of the 12th CACJ Meeting remains a benchmark for us all. Chief Justice Menon, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, we thank you most sincerely.

At the same time, I extend my warmest congratulations to Chief Justice Adisak Tantiwong on assuming the Chairmanship of the CACJ. Indonesia looks forward to working closely with you and the Thai judiciary in the years ahead, and we are confident that under your leadership, this Council will continue to grow in strength and relevance.

Chief Justices,

The 13th CACJ Meeting carries forward our shared commitment to strengthening judicial cooperation, upholding the rule of law, and promoting access to justice throughout ASEAN. As our region continues to evolve, so too must our collaboration, and I am confident that the discussions here in Bangkok will yield meaningful outcomes for all our judiciaries.

In closing, I once again thank Chief Justice Adisak Tantiwong and the Supreme Court of Thailand for their gracious hospitality, and I congratulate both Chief Justice Menon on his outstanding leadership and Chief Justice Tantiwong on his new role.

I am confident that our time together here in Bangkok will be both productive and memorable.

Thank you very much.

Walaikumussalaam Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh.