

*HE. Mr. Mounkeo Oraboun, Minister of Information and Culture of Laos PDR,  
Chairman of the workshop,*

*ASEAN Ministers of Information,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Firstly please allow me to express my gladness upon the warm welcome and hospitality that we have received since arrived in your beautiful country, which certainly affirms the fruitful friendship and cooperation between Laos PDR Government and ASEAN countries in general and between Laos and Vietnam in particular. Thank you for your arrangements to make the workshop successful.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

In this forum, I would like to extend our sympathy to the countries among ASEAN who have suffered from the devastation of earthquake, tsunami and typhoons. Through these natural disasters, we see more the importance of the integration and linkage among the member countries for the sake of sharing, relief and information cooperation.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

In recent years, ASEAN countries have reached the comprehensive cooperation with more effective response to the arising challenges, including the negative impacts of the current global financial and economic crisis; have endeavored to make the ASEAN Chapter coming into life, creating the legal and mechanism framework for ASEAN to create the regional connection, firstly focusing on building ASEAN Community in 2015. The cooperation in all relevant fields, especially in information and communication, have united us in a community for better understanding and sharing with each other.

Since becoming ASEAN member up to now, Vietnam has actively participated in ASEAN activities and has considerable contribution into the development of the Association. In fostering the information cooperation, Vietnam has built and updated the websites on different areas; cooperated with other members for the development of IT and broadcasting. We have developed different programs to be broadcasted in ASEAN channels. The radio and press programs produced for the mass media of Vietnam always guarantee the unbiasedness, not affected by the unfriendly information of our community and on the spirit of making the ASEAN community more united. The exchange activities and cultural cooperation with the ASEAN countries have always been enhanced, taking part in making ASEAN community more united, cooperative and friendship for the sake of building up the prosperous ASEAN community.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Vietnam will hold the role of Chairman of ASEAN in 2010, this is a great honor, but also important responsibility. Viet Nam acting as ASEAN Chairman-2010 in the context of the 2010 - an important transitional year for ASEAN with the focus on promoting the efforts to build up the Community in the remaining five years. Simultaneously, this will also be the year for the Association to accelerate all necessary preparation to bring the Charter into life, creating a legal and mechanism framework for ASEAN Community. The year 2010 will also mark 15 years since the membership of Vietnam into ASEAN family, and this is actually a very meaningful year for Vietnam.

Vietnam will promote the spirit of "active, responsible" in ASEAN cooperation; further promote cooperation in information and communications to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation within ASEAN. Vietnam has chosen theme for 2010 of "Towards an ASEAN Community: From Vision to Action", expressing the consistent targets of the ASEAN in 2010 by the concrete actions, actively promoting the objective of building the ASEAN Community. We believe that the Work Plan of the Community and the member countries discussed at this meeting will be implemented positively and effectively.

In the field of information, along with the activities proposed in the Work Plan of the Community, Vietnam will implement more activities of cultural cooperation, delegation exchange, raise awareness of ASEAN image and promote regional identity. We also propose to hold a Video Clips and Photos Reportage contest about countries and people in the ASEAN community on the foundation celebration of ASEAN (8 August 1967) in Vietnam in 2010. We look forward to receiving the response of all of you and welcome you in Hanoi.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We understood about each other's countries, people and cultures through the activities of cooperation and cultural exchange. Such cooperation regarding to trade promotion and investment cooperation have brought us solidarity on the basis of economical benefits. However, that seems not enough. Separate communication activities just bring about individual voice. If we hold hands together to speak the common voice, that voice will have more spreading power over the world. That is also our expectation to promote communication collaboration to build the ASEAN community more powerful in the fields of security, economy, and socio-culture development.

Finally, I highly appreciate and sincerely thank to the warm hospitality of the people and Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Laos, as well as express our deep desire for the friendship cooperation among the ASEAN countries more strengthened and developed for the cooperation targets in ASEAN community, for the social and economic development of the people of the ASEAN countries.

I wish that our conference a great success.

Thank you.

***Mr Le Doan Hop, Minister of Information and Communications, Viet Nam***