

**OPENING SPEECH BY
DRS. WARDIYATMO, MSC., SECRETARY GENERAL OF
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM, INDONESIA
AT THE 3RD BEST OF ASEAN PERFORMING ARTS
GEDUNG KESENIAN JAKARTA, 30 APRIL 2009**

Your Excellency, Ambassador of Singapore, Mr. Lim Thuan Kuan

Your Excellency, Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN

Your Excellency Ambassadors to the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency, Director for Singapore International Foundation, Mr. Jean Tan

Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen

Good Evening

Assalamualaikum Wr.Wb.

First of all, let us express our deepest thanks to the Almighty God, because of His blessing that we are able to gather here for this important occasion, that is, the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts III, featuring Singapore (Singapore Showcase: Cultural Crossings).

The idea of the Best of Performing Arts of ASEAN was proposed by the Secretary General of ASEAN at the 3rd ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 12 January 2008. The excellent idea was responded by Ministers for Culture of the member states of ASEAN, and committed to make as an arena for ASEAN performing Arts in promoting ASEAN in international forum. Showcasing ASEAN's Best Arts and Cultural performances will allow the public in Jakarta to get to know about the region's rich and diverse cultures. As we all know, we have successfully held the two previous parts of this series event in Indonesia and Thailand.

Distinguished Guest, ladies, and gentlemen,

Indonesia got the first opportunity to conduct *The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts: The Mosaic Archipelago* at Gedung Kesenian held on 6-7 May 2008 in Jakarta. On the first night, most of special guests were present such as Secretary General of ASEAN, Minister of Culture and Tourism of The Republic of Indonesia, Ambassadors, cultural observers, and others. On that occasion, Indonesia proudly presented traditional performing arts. While on the second night, the event was for public, including students. The second series of The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts, Thailand presented "The Tapestry Thai Beauty and Grace".

I am very grateful to all parties who support this Best of ASEAN Performing Arts. The peoples, especially the art communities, respect and appreciate various arts and culture from member states of ASEAN. Tonight, it is Singapore's turn to show artistically to all of us that despite different races and tribes, Singapore succeeds to manage its politics, social and economic stability. Therefore, there must be several things that we can gain from this special event. Hopefully, this may enhance better relationship among the peoples of ASEAN member states. May peace and harmony always be upon us.

Distinguished Guest, ladies, and gentlemen,

In my view, The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts is an appropriate forum to preserve, to care, to develop and to utilize it, and it is also a good way to create appreciation the rich of cultural diversity of a nation and mutual understanding. Another important thing is the role of the youths as generation responsible for continuing the culture preservation. They should be dynamic, innovative, productive in continuing their duties. On this valuable occasion, I would like to invite your peoples to visit Indonesia.

Thank you.

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