

WELCOME REMARKS

On the Occasion of the Opening Ceremonies of the
10th Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Information
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by

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Secretary Conrado Limcaoco, Jr.,
Respective National Delegations,
Officials of the Philippine Information Agency, and Office of the Press Secretary,
Officials of the ASEAN Secretariat,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

On behalf of the Office of the ASEAN Affairs of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, I have the honor to welcome you all to this progressive town of Clark, Pampanga and, at the same time, take this opportunity to thank the local officials for their hospitality.

As we all know, information and media cooperation has always been a critical link that helped cement strong regional ties among the ten (10) Member States of ASEAN. Now, at this Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Information we once again acknowledge the importance and relevance of those ties, and more importantly, endeavor to find ways to further strengthen and enhance these.

From ASEAN's inception, media and information exchanges have been very effective means of relating with our fellow ASEAN members. Through the power of the printing press, the electronic tube, the radio frequency, the cinematic film, and the televised imagery, among others, the latest news and developments in our countries and our region, and virtually everything that happens around the world, now reach us in the multitudes in a matter of milliseconds. Indeed, thanks to the rapid strides in technology over the past several years.

The fast pace of technology in the realm of media and information continues to grow at a rate far greater than what we could have ever envisioned. And, as members of this esteemed regional body that is committed to the vision of an ASEAN Community by 2015, we hold great responsibility to take advantage of the possibilities in information and communication to create awareness and develop a truly ASEAN identity among our peoples.

As we commence this meeting, may we be reminded of the many challenges that lie ahead for ASEAN. As long as we all act cohesively as one united body working for our common good, for the interest of the region, we can no doubt succeed in the realization of a stable and prosperous ASEAN.

Let us now work closely together in the next few days to formulate substantial resolutions that will further develop and enhance our capability to utilize our abundant resources in information and media.

I am confident that the outcome of this meeting will yield fruitful agreements that will contribute to the further development of dynamic mass communication throughout the whole of ASEAN.

May I also take this opportunity to commend each delegation's preparations for its participation in this meeting. The synergy of advancing the interests of our respective nations, while at the same time advancing the regional mission of ASEAN, will redound to our collective benefit.

On this positive note, I welcome you all once again and wish you a productive and enjoyable stay in our beautiful country.

Magandang umaga at mabuhay ang ASEAN!