

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**His Excellency Ly Chantola**  
President of the Bar Association  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia

China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum:  
Promoting Legal Exchange and Cooperation between  
The People's Republic of China and ASEAN States

Hosted by Southwest University of Political Science and Law  
in cooperation with China- ASEAN Legal Research Center

It is with great honor to be in the presents of academicians and scholars from Southwest University of Political Science and Law, and to be sharing this wonderful moment with all of distinguished and talented ladies and gentlemen from the People's Republic of China and the ASEAN countries.

As the President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, it brings me great pleasure to express our full support for this 4<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum. The relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Cambodia has been always one that fosters friendship and pleasantry. This legal forum does indeed harbor that very sentiment.

We, at the Bar, always strive to promote legal education for our members, from ones who just starting out to seasoned ones in the legal field. Besides continuous educations, we promote legal skill refinement by opening avenues for our members to take part in resolving disputes in local communities. To name a few, programs such as defense attorneys for marginalize population and attorneys attached to the provincial halls of each provinces throughout the Kingdom not just bring legal access to the multitude but also bring legal equity to the forefront.

We, at the Bar, also are profoundly proud of our continuous engagement with Bar Associations around the globe. Be that by entering into memorandum of understandings to exchange legal skills, know-how, and continuous legal education abroad, we will continue to take this path forward because we believe in cultivation of legal talents. Even though the Kingdom of Cambodia is the outgoing Chairman of ASEAN for 2022, the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia is fully engaged with the legal framework of ASEAN. Just this past October 2022, as the Chairman of ASEAN Law Association of Cambodia National Committee, I led a delegation to join in the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting in Bandung, Indonesia. It was without a doubt an honorable enlightenment and most humble experience for we have gathered much good experience through great exchanges. Furthermore, we are proud to have been a part of the newly creation of ASEAN Law Institute where the core purpose is to promote ASEAN harmonization, regionalization, and dispute resolution. These desires shall be accomplished by undertaking the creation and dissemination of ASEAN legal knowledge, development of ASEAN capacity and cooperation on ASEAN legal matters, creation of ASEAN consensus on ASEAN legal matters and support ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION advocacies, and monitoring of implementation of ASEAN legal instruments. With the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and many other ASEAN instruments, we are very excited that our members and surrounding communities with ASEAN and others shall be able to garner much legal knowledge from the ASEAN Law Institute.

Your Excellencies, academicians, professors, scholars, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I believe that this China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation can bring our legal professionals and China-ASEAN closer. For this reason, I am looking forward to working with you continuously to foster exchanges in legal knowledge, leadership building, and other legal related matters. Furthermore, I am looking forward to see if our members can take advantage of any legal studies that Southwest University of Political Science and Law may provide to better their legal professions.

Without any doubts, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Southwest University of Political Science and Law and the wonderful organizers for making this 4<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Legal Cooperation Forum possible. We, at the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, are extremely happy to have been invited to this wonderful gathering. We are committed and shall look forward to further engagements in bridging our legal professionals closer just like the spirit of this event, closer together with the People's Republic of China and the ASEAN countries.

Thank you, have a wonderful day with much success.