

**PRESENTATION by Commander-in-Chief Myanmar Air Force
at the 10th AACC (3rd November 2013, Vientiane, Lao P.D.R)**

Theme: Partners for Peace and Development.

1. Good morning, Col Khamphat PHIMMAHXAY, Chief of Air Force Department, Ministry of National Defence, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Chiefs of the ASEAN Air Forces and representatives, distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

2. First of all, let me begin by thanking Col Khamphat PHIMMAHXAY for the excellent organizing of this conference and the warm hospitality during these few days in Vientiane and for the honour of giving our Myanmar Air Force the opportunity to address this distinguished forum.

Distinguished Participants

3. Before starting my presentation, I would like to introduce myself. I am Lt. Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Air Force, before taking my office in middle of February, as a Chief of Staff (Air), I've been attending these conferences every year since 2006 in Jarkarta. My last appearance was in 2010, Hanoi. So, I like to express my great happiness to get this chance again and I have the opportunity to meet my colleagues again.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

4. It is truly my pleasure to see the development of the cooperation among the Air Force of the ASEAN countries, moving forward in a very fast step. The air forces of the member countries have given higher priority to the strengthening of the cooperation and used the ASEAN Air Chiefs conference as a mechanism to consult and discuss in the matter of security in the traditional form and non-traditional form. During every year of conference, there were many opinions on the agreement related to the supports among the ASEAN airforces and reaches towards consensus and cooperation in meeting a common goal and objective.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

5. I am happy to note that the theme for today conference is "Partners for Peace and Development". As the theme notes, we already have a good foundation of cooperation within ASEAN for us to build strengthened cooperation. Our Myanmar Air Force is well aware of and always realizes the important of security and stability in the Region, first and almost, then peace and development must be well followed. Myanmar Air Force always plays a role in strengthening the cooperation for peace and development. As you all know, ASEAN is heading towards the establishment of the ASEAN community in the end of 2015. I'm very pleased to note that Myanmar will take the responsibilities of the ASEAN chair in next year. We have already chosen the motto as "Moving forward in Unity, To a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". I am here very pleased to announce that the 11th AACC will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, the Capital City of our country, in coming year.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

6. Now, please allow me to state the point of peace and development. The strategic landscape in the 21st century is full of opportunities, meaning that the regional and international conditions will relatively be peaceful and conducive. Factors that shape are mainly driven by economic and security interests. These two activities are key drivers in creating booming economic activities and a relatively peace and stable environment in the region. This is not possible without our strong relationships that had centuries of historical cooperation and partnership. This strategic cooperation has enlightened a distinct understanding of the Geo-strategic interest, economic, political, cultural and historical bonding between the regional nations.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

7. Currently, air power is now transformed to non-traditional role. It must be empowered to promote cooperation rather than conflict, towards achieving security, stability peace and prosperity of region which can be shared by the people. In enhancing ASEAN Air Force cooperation for peace and development, there are many areas that we can collaborate. Although security is a key issue in cooperation within ASEAN, we also need to emphasize more on other areas that mutually coincide and possible future cooperation. Here is a good opportunity for us as ASEAN air power and defense community to meet and constructively engage for peace and stability in this region. At the same time, we can enhance our strategic and collaboration and partnership.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

8. Next, please allow me to state the point of HADR. Our region is vulnerable due to its geographical location, a constant gate way of cyclones, typhoons, wild fire and earthquakes. Not only natural disaster risk, but we have some risk of human related crisis. When these crises are arisen to be managed, logistics soon emerged as the key problem. With roads, bridges and ports destroyed and blocked somewhere; the best solution was delivering aid by air. So the Air Force of today is certainly an important player in HADR. Although a military asset, especially, the Air Force is the most responsive and effective institutions to handle the time of crisis like HADR, we have some challenges to be resilient in the face of severe natural disasters. It is only by acting as one great body that we can ensure that we remain sturdy against the destructive power of the nature. I hope that through this forum, we will be able to intensify our various engagements in the area of HADR.

Mr Chairman and Colleagues

9. The last point to state is the Education and Training. As our region is driving towards the common goal of integration in all major aspects, strengthening the security cooperation among ASEAN armed forces, including the air arms, become an imperatives. According to our experiences, education and training are the most effective ways to promote cooperation and friendship between nations with different cultures and customs. So by mean of education and training, I hope we can transform this diversity to be unity. Here, we could evaluate and finalize the Terms of References of the ASEAN Air Force Education and Training in Yesterday – Working Group – Meeting, and it has to be adopted today.

Mr Chairman and Colleague Chiefs, Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman

10. In conclusion, ASEAN is catching the world's attention with its emergence as a platform for security cooperation an enhanced cooperation among ASEAN Air Force will contribute an active part to promoting and strengthening ASEAN defense – military cooperation as a concrete step forwards to realizing the ASEAN political security community by 2015. So the Air Force needs to develop and continue to comprehensively transform towards peace, stability and prosperity. Our ASEAN Air Forces will fly well together to the destination of practical cooperation with the results of this remarkable forum.

11. Finally, on behalf of all members and families of Myanmar Air Force, I would like to invite all chiefs of the ASEAN Air Forces to attend the 11th ASEAN AIR CHIEFS CONFERENCE in Myanmar next year.

12. Thank You.