

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Tran Cong Phan *

Mr. Seto Takeshi, Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI),

Mr. Shinichi Asazuma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to Viet Nam,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP) of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam closely cooperated with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to successfully co-organize the Eleventh Good Governance Seminar for Southeast Asian Countries from 17 October to 19 October 2017 in Ha Noi. The Eleventh Seminar focused on the theme of *Best Practices in Anti-Corruption: A Decade of Institutional and Practical Development in Southeast Asia*.

Today, it is a great honour for the SPP of Viet Nam to keep cooperating with UNAFEI to co-host the Good Governance Seminar for Southeast Asian Countries for the second time, the twelfth Seminar, in the glamorous city of Da Nang, one of the most livable cities in Viet Nam. On this occasion, on behalf of the leadership of the SPP of Viet Nam, I would like to give the warmest welcome to all of participants and the distinguished guests attending the Twelfth Seminar; wishing all of your good health, happiness and success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Corruption has become a global problem that gradually spoils the institutions of democracy and rule of law of each country. The countermeasures against corruption have been tougher and more effective in the Southeast Asian countries generally and in Viet Nam particularly, as it has been done in other regions worldwide.

Through co-organizing the international and regional Seminars or Training courses, UNAFEI and the judicial agencies of Japan have been the fellow-travellers with the Southeast Asian countries in the fight against corruption over the past decade. The SPP of Viet Nam highly appreciates and expresses the gratitude to UNAFEI and the judicial agencies of Japan for their kind cooperation and their dedicated support.

* Deputy Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuracy of Viet Nam.

Based on the accomplishment of the Eleventh Seminar organized in Ha Noi last year, at the Twelfth Seminar this year, we will focus our attention on the theme of “The Latest Regional Trends in Corruption and Effective Countermeasures by Criminal Justice Authorities”. I hope that, with the above-mentioned theme, our meaningful Seminar will be a legal science forum in the region for law enforcement officers, legal experts and all participants to share information about the latest trends of corruption in each country, to clarify the problems to be solved, to introduce the best practices and effective countermeasures taken by criminal justice authorities and to propose the direction and solutions for further effectively combating corruption crime.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To demonstrate the hardest determination and the strongest effort of the Party and State of Viet Nam devoted in the fight against corruption, the law enforcement agencies of Viet Nam have detected, initiated, investigated, prosecuted and adjudicated a number of large-scale corruption, and economic cases over the past years. These cases related to offenders who had committed crime by using artifice with extremely serious degree or by transnationally using high-tech. Corruption in Viet Nam has recently arisen in the fields of finance, banking, public-asset management, infrastructure-building investments, etc., Therefore, prevention and the fight against corruption are considered as the common responsibility of the whole political system and one of the most important, urgent and long-term tasks during the process of socio-economic development and building the State of the rule of law in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam has been putting a lot of effort into the improvement of legal framework on prevention and the fight against corruption. The National Assembly (or the Parliament) of Viet Nam adopted the Law on Prevention and Fight against Corruption (Revised) on 20 November 2018. It will officially come into effect on 1 July 2019. The revised Law stipulates in detail a variety of corruption acts, the prevention and detection of corruption in agencies, organizations and units, and the responsibilities of the heads of agencies, organizations, and units in the work of prevention and fight against corruption.

With the hardest determination and the strongest effort put into the prevention and fight against corruption, the SPP of Viet Nam, the Central Authority of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, is willing to further strengthen cooperation with judicial agencies of ASEAN member states and Japan for the more effective prevention and fight against corruption and other types of crime in the coming time.

Based on the traditional friendship and cooperation among ASEAN member states and Japan, as well as the close ties among agencies participating in the Seminar and UNAFEI, I firmly believe that the Twelfth Good Governance Seminar for Southeast Asian Countries will achieve success and obtain the designed objectives.

Finally, I would like to express my best wishes for the success of our Twelfth Good Governance Seminar for Southeast Asian Countries. To Mr. Seto Takeshi, Director of UNAFEI and all of you, I wish for your good health, happiness and successful careers.

Thank you very much.