

Remarks

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ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

ACWC Launching

Jakarta, 28 September 2016

Excellency Ambassador Sudjatmiko, Deputy for Protection of Women and Children, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia;

Excellency Lily Purba, Chair of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and Representative of Indonesia to ACWC for Women's Rights;

Excellency Fransisco Fontan Pardo, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN;

Excellency Nina Hachigian, Ambassador of the United States to ASEAN

Excellency Vonthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy-Secretary General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN Secretariat;

Representative of Embassies;

ACWC, AICHR, ASEAN Sectoral bodies, and UN representatives;

Distinguished speakers and participants,

A very good morning and warm welcome to you all.

First of all, I would like to congratulate ACWC that has finalized the Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of

Trafficking, especially Women and Children. The document is an important work for ASEAN and will be our reference in addressing trafficking in persons issue in our region, especially on victim-based approach.

Excellencies

Distinguished guest

Ladies and gentlemen

We have seen the increasing occurrence of trafficking in persons in recent years in every part of the world. It has become global trend on which our region is not immune with. It is not peculiar that we may be aware of people or family that fall prey to this crime

Trafficking in persons is an insult to human dignity and is a heinous crime as it exploit human vulnerability for the purpose of servitude, slavery, forced labour, sexual exploitation and other forms by means of fraud, deception, abuse of power, coercion and abduction.

ASEAN takes a strong stance against this crime by adopting the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and its ASEAN Plan of Action on the sidelines of 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, 2015. The adoption marked the enhancement of law enforcement cooperation against trafficking and human rights protection for the victim of trafficking. On this, early ratification by ASEAN member states is encouraged for entry into force of the Convention.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As an overarching human rights body in ASEAN, it is the duty of AICHR within its mandate, to support the work against trafficking by mainstreaming rights based approach in the protection of victims of trafficking.

In this juncture, I would like to extend my gratitude to ACWC whose work on the Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, especially Women and Children does complement AICHR effort in mainstreaming human rights-based approach in the implementation of ACTIP and APA.

To that end, it is necessary to develop a consistent cooperation between relevant bodies in ASEAN that handle the issue of trafficking since the implementation of any framework, especially on the cross cutting issue like TIP, fall in our hand, not only one body.

Tomorrow some of you will attend the Consultation Meeting of AICHR with the law enforcement mechanism of ASEAN the SOMTC (Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime) and the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies including the ACWC to ensure that we are sensitive to the needs of victims of and vulnerable people prone to trafficking and explore forms of inter-sectoral cooperation that will be effective.

In the spirit to mainstream human rights in every policy in ASEAN, let us work hand-in-hand including with our stakeholders the civil society organizations, the law enforcement bodies, the policymakers at national level, the policymakers at local level because in many ASEAN Member States every state or district has authority to design & implement policies, and the mass media. Alone we can only reach a limited segment of ASEAN but together we can make ASEAN central in the lives of ASEAN community members.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our work in combatting trafficking and protecting the victim is not only important for its own sake in eliminating this kind of crime. The output of our collaboration on anti-trafficking shall be very helpful to improve the protection of people, including labour, across borders in ASEAN.

We have opened the way to economic integration through ASEAN Economic Community, and now it our duty to ensure that the market mechanisms to invite and receive labor will not sacrifice the vulnerable people of ASEAN.

I thank you.

