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TOWARDS REGIONAL COOPERATION

Welcome address by Chang Hin Chong, Secretary-General of the Confederation of Asean Journalists

First of all, on behalf of the Confederation of Asean Journalists (CAJ), I wish to extend our warm welcome to all participants to this Seminar. I hope your stay in this island state will be memorable and enjoyable.

This is the second seminar organised by CAJ. The first one was held only two months ago in Jakarta. It was well represented by all major newspapers from Asean countries.

The objective of CAJ is to promote a closer cooperation and a deeper understanding among fellow journalists. Since the formation of CAJ, I am glad to say that concerted efforts have been made in this direction in the form of study tours, exchange of journalists and seminars.

The member countries of Asean share many things in common. It is our duty and responsibility as communicators to play a positive role in activating our social, cultural and economic development. The theme of this seminar 'Development Communication' indicates our awareness of the importance of mass media in the development of a nation.

We are now living in an era of technological advances and especially of speedier communications. We, the Asean journalists, should equip ourselves with up-to-date information and expertise that would enable us to continue playing a meaningful role in national and regional development.

The overall success of the seminar will not, of course, be measured purely in terms of the quality of the working papers. This must also take into account the quality of the discussions that will ensue. We do hope that our discussions will not only lead to concrete results, but will also contribute a great deal in enhancing and developing our regional cooperation in the field of journalism.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Tuan Haji Sha'ari Tadin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture for his opening address.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre and its professional staff in organising this seminar.