



Introductory Remarks

by

*His Excellency VONGSEY Vissoth, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister
Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and
Chairman of the Council of Jurists*

*At the Opening Ceremony of the Preparatory Committee for the Council
of Asian Legislative Institutions (CALI)
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1 November 2024*

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- Excellency Lee Wan-kyu, Minister of Government Legislation, Republic of Korea;*
- Excellency Pakorn Nilprapunt, Secretary General of the Office of the Council of State, Kingdom of Thailand;*
- Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. We gather here today to recognize the achievement made by the Ministry of Government Legislation of the Republic of Korea in its preparation for the establishment of the Council of Asian Legislative Institutions (CALI) as an international organization for legislative cooperation within the Asian region. The Preparatory Committee for the establishment of CALI represents the beginning of an unprecedented era of legislative collaboration among our diverse yet united Asian nations. CALI embodies our collective aspiration to foster mutual understanding, address shared challenges, and seize the immense opportunities that lie ahead for our region in the field of legislative cooperation.

2. In recent years, Asia has witnessed remarkable progress across various sectors, especially in the area of legislative development. The establishment of CALI will serve as a vital platform for legislative cooperation, enabling us to harmonize our legal frameworks, promote best practices, and support each other in navigating the ever-evolving

landscape of global governance. Through CALI, we intent to create a robust network of legislators, legal experts, and policymakers dedicated to enhancing regional integration and ensuring that our legal systems are responsive to the needs of our people.

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The rule of law is essential for maintaining order, protecting human rights, and ensuring that justice prevails. It is in upholding these principles that we can create a just and equitable society for all our citizens. I am humbled to say that in Cambodia, the rule of law is enshrined in our Constitution and is being developed and pursued in various segments of the society.

4. Simply put, the rule of law is derived from a consensus to establish precise, value-based measures, which can then become norms that applies to everyone equally, with no one above it. For the law to be respected by all, it must be beneficial and aligned with the needs of society, and it must serve the national interest and socio-economic development.

5. Furthermore, law is designed to resolve problems, not to create or to increase pressure or burdens on the people and society. My favorite example is one from a market economy perspective which is that the promulgation of a law should foremost support the market mechanism, which is an invisible hand to enhance its effectiveness and to maximize the strength and the benefit of the system. It should foster productivity and innovation and encourage citizens to work hard within a fair and competitive framework, with equal opportunities and progress for all.

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. As we embark on this journey, let us be mindful of the values that unite us which are mutual respect, solidarity, and a shared commitment to the common good. These values will guide our work and inspire us to overcome any obstacles that may arise along the way. Through CALI, we are affirming our commitment to working together, leveraging our collective wisdom and strengths to build a more cohesive, resilient, and prosperous Asia.

7. In conclusion, I applaud the launch of this preparatory committee for CALI as a historic step towards greater legislative cooperation in Asia. It is an opportunity for us to come together, transcend our differences, and work towards a brighter future for our region and beyond. I am confident

that with your dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment, we will build an institution that truly embodies the spirit of cooperation and serves as an inspiration of hope for generations to come, which will have positive impact on economic growth, prosperity and harmony in the region.

8. I look forward to the fruitful discussions and collaborations that will emerge from this important initiative.

Thank you.