

Welcome speech of H. E. Madam. Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

I am very glad to welcome all of you to the 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Vietnam. On this occasion, I warmly congratulate ICA-AP for its achievements in supporting and developing cooperatives in the region. I would like to express my thanks for your supports and close cooperations with Vietnam Cooperative Alliance in the past time.

It is the honor for Vietnam to host the organization of the 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference. With the position and strength after more than 30 years of the innovation, this is the time, when Vietnam can further contribute essentially to ICA-AP and bring the necessary benefits to the cooperatives and people. The economic cooperation reinforcement and the formulation of many cooperation programs with many member cooperative organizations, including Vietnam, are the lively evidence for the development of cooperative movement of ICA-AP and countries in the region.

Vietnam is a developing country, the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of Vietnam have been providing their concerns and supports to the development of the cooperative economic sector and cooperatives. At present, Vietnam has got over 150,000 pre-cooperatives, 20,000 cooperatives and 50 cooperative federations with nearly 30 million people participating in almost careers of the economy such as agriculture, small industry and handicraft, construction, transportation, trade, bank credit, health, environment The cooperative economy and cooperatives have significantly contributed to the cause of the poverty alleviation, building new rural areas (new villages) and protecting the sustainable environment in Vietnam.

A world is transforming and an ICA-AP is changing comprehensively.

Distinguished delegates!

It is the first time for Vietnam to host the 10th Asia – Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference at the historical time of the region and of the world with many changes, including both opportunities and challenges. The strong technology development along with the 4th industrial revolution are deeply changing our lives as well as the our ways to cooperate, link and exchange.

Economies and cooperatives in the region are facing the intermixture and multidirectional challenges, especially after the global financial crisis. The material price was reduced, the global trade, monetary policy and tightened fiscal year have had the great impacts on the regional economic growth and cooperatives. The increased protectism causes the deep anxiousness. The achievements of the globalization process is not allocated equally among countries in the region, cooperatives and population community. The scientific and technological advances can increase the development distance between economies and cooperatives as well as the rich and poor gap between people classes in the region.

In the worlds, where the linkage is increasing, ICA-AP is facing the new challenges in implementing the goals of the 12th ICA-AP General Assembly, that are sustainable development, poverty termination, environment protection and ensuring the prosperity for all people by 2030. Cooperatives are considered as one of the very important partners to achieve the sustainable development goals stated by the UN, that is: cooperatives promote the democracy, implement the social inclusion and environment concerns. In the agenda of the cooperative movement by 2030, there will be the increase of the cooperative members from 1 billion to 2 billion, 4 million cooperative enterprises, occupying 20% of the global economy.

Before the increasing formation of the associated and collaboration mechanism in the region, ICA-AP needs to self-renew to affirm its role as the bridge for the associated cooperation as well as supporting the cooperative economy in the region for its more active and essential development.

The New motivation for a responsible ICA-AP

Dear delegates,

During 57 years of its establishment and development, ICA-AP has improved its role, position and the good and human nature of cooperative organizations in the region and the world, especially in the difficult time. The Party and State of Vietnam have paid the special attention to the development of the cooperative economy and cooperatives in this area. Among more than 20,000 cooperatives of Vietnam, there are over 50% of the agricultural cooperatives; so we concern to formulate policies, support the credit interest and science and technology transfer, step by step to build up cooperatives and cooperative federations according to the large - scale value chains with the spreading power and ensuring the food safety and hygiene. In the criterion for building the New rural

commune, it is stipulated by the Government of Vietnam that there must be one cooperative in each commune, operating according to the regulation of the Law on cooperative 2012 and the commune must have the models associating the production with marketing the key agricultural products, ensuring the sustainability.

The impacts of the region and Vietnam

Dear delegates!

On 26 September 2015, the United Nation had approved the agenda with the expectation that through cooperatives to terminate the poverty, protect the environment and ensure the prosperity of all people by 2030.

Thus, cooperatives are very important in this decade to have a sustainable and democratic economy. This is more correct when the inequality in the region becomes more and more serious although the world economy has obtained some certain achievements and had chosen the sustainable cooperative model and good values of cooperatives shared and recognized by partners.

I think that ICA-AP should pay its attention to resolve current urgent problems through pushing up the cooperation with a long term vision. We are now standing in front of the new opportunity to reinforce the ICA-AP collaboration to bring benefits to all economies, cooperatives and people.

I would like to share with you some thoughts about ICA-AP cooperation and support directions in the coming time, as follows:

Firstly, we should push up the cooperative economy and cooperatives to grow sustainably, be creative and steadily hold the good and human natures of cooperatives. The structure innovation will be ICA-AP priority to promote the cooperation and improve the efficiency of cooperatives, grow creatively and narrow the development gap. We need to build up a strong and sustainable cooperative community, considering the people and cooperatives as the center of the development.

Secondly, we need to speed up the deep and wide regional linkage and integration. Making the trade and investment cooperation lively is an important factor to push up the regional economic growth and cooperatives. ICA-AP needs to reinforce the cooperation upon new generation trade and investment issues to ensure that all people can benefit. Especially, we need to make the most of opportunities brought by the mechanisms, which are existing and forming in the region, that are ASEAN community and FTAAP. And in order to strengthen the

regional and sub-regional and cooperative linkages, we need to build up the infrastructure with good quality, take the full advantage of the creative financial mechanism and public – private partnership.

Thirdly, entering the digital era, ICA-AP needs to support cooperatives to strengthen their competitive and creative capacity as well as to join the global value chains, that are the important motivation for the growth and job creation. ICA-AP needs to act stronger to implement the initiative: Trade facilitation for cooperatives, start up by establishing cooperatives headed by the youth and women. Being the region, where the number of people using the internet is the biggest, the Asia – Pacific has got a lot of potentials to build up the digital infrastructure, internationalization of small enterprises and cooperatives.

Fourthly, with such impacts, that we have never had before, from the climate changes, we need to reinforce the food security and develop the sustainable agriculture. ICA-AP needs to push up the new technology transfer and application to improve the agricultural productivity, quality and sustainability. We also need to strengthen the sustainable management of the natural resources, skill trainings for farmers and support them to access capital sources and markets. Especially, ICA-AP needs to promote trade and investment activities in the agricultural field as well as to push up the development of the creative and sustainable agriculture.

Fifthly, in the world being full of changes, ICA-AP needs to reinforce the role as a mechanism to initiate ideas and motivation for the economic growth and integration. We need further to affirm the global role in regulating linkages of cooperative economy and cooperatives in the multilevel region and support the open multilateral and transparent trade system ...

This is the time when we need to jointly build up the ICA-AP vision after 2020, for “Strengthening the support and cooperation of the government for the cooperative sector to implement the sustainable development goals”; an essential partnership for the peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region and in the world”

Thank you for your attention!