

**The speech by Mr. Vo Kim Cu, President of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance at  
the 10 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference**

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H. E. Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Honorable Vice President, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Dear Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President,

Dear Mr. Chales Gould, ICA General Director,

Distinguished guests,

It is a great honor for Vietnam Cooperative Alliance to host the organization of the 10 Asia-pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Vietnam. It is not only a very meaningful mutual foreign affair activities but also a chance for countries in the region, member cooperative movement and international organizations to understand more clearly about Vietnam and Vietnamese people as well as the cooperative movement in Vietnam, at the same time for introducing and respecting the significant contributions of cooperatives in the socio-economic development of each country.

On behalf of more than 20,000 cooperatives with 30 million people participating in the cooperative activities in the whole country, I would like to respectfully wish H.E. Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Honorable Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President, Mr. Chales Gould, ICA General Director, Asia- Pacific Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and all guests representing 94 member organizations, leaders of ministers, departments and agencies of Hanoi and all delegates a good health, wishing all international delegates to have happy days during the time in Hanoi.

Distinguished guests!

It may be said that in about 200 years of its establishment and development, the cooperative sector has experienced up and down steps, but it still always stands steadily, further develops and has many contributions to the socio-economic development of the countries in the world and it continues to develop in 100 countries, attracting over 1 billion members and workers, contributing to improve

the living standards of ½ population in the world. The former UN General Secretary – Mr. Ban Ki Moon affirmed that “Cooperatives reminds the world community that cooperatives can implement the social responsibilities and stable the economy”.

In Vietnam, passing over 70 years of its establishment and development, the cooperative movement under the leadership of the Communist Party, the concerns of the State and Government of Vietnam, the Parliament, ministries and agencies as well as the political system at all levels, the cooperative sector has continuously been constructed, strengthened, innovated and developed accordingly with the conditions of each revolution period of the country.

At present, in Vietnam there are over 20,000 cooperatives in all sectors from agriculture, trading and service, construction, industry and handicraft, transportation, credit, environment and other sectors, attracting the participation of more than 30 million people, being a huge socio-economic sector with the significant impact on the agricultural and rural area... Cooperatives have the positive contributions to the socio-economic development of the country, ensuring the social security, political stability and bring into full play the democracy at the grassroots level, contribute to build the new rural areas and restructure the economy. Recently, the economic, financial crisis and the global recession have had the certain impacts on Vietnam economy. However, in this context the cooperative sector has expressed its good nature and fierce vitality, trying its best to become better. Contributing to this common achievements, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance has been affirming its position and role in the fields of politics, national defense, society, economy and security, together with the whole country the cooperative sector continues to integrate widely and deeply into the world.

Distinguished guests!

The globalization process continues to develop widely and deeply, piece, cooperation and development are still the huge trends, reflecting the urgent requirements of the countries and nations in their development process, the world continues to witness many complicated and unforeseen changes. At the 70<sup>th</sup> session, on 26 September 2015, the UN General Assembly had approved the agenda 2030 on the sustainable development with 17 goals, such as poverty termination, environment protection and prosperity ensuring for all people in 2030. Cooperatives are considered as one of the important partners to gain the sustainable development goals set up by the UN, being the key factor to push up the

democracy, cooperation and to implement the social inclusion and take care of the environment. Thus, the agenda of the cooperative movement by 2030 has set out the goals to increase the cooperative members to 2 billion members, 4 million cooperatives and occupying 20% of the global economy. To specify and implement the agenda goals, the regional consultation conferences were organized, especially at the 12 ICA General Assembly and 9<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Forum in India at the end of 2016, a Common Announcement was set out with the title: “Cooperatives: the power to implement for a sustainable future”. Thus, the unanimity, solidarity, cooperation, concern and support from the governments of the countries become the most essential than ever.

This Asia – Pacific Cooperative Ministers’ Conference has extremely significant task in concretizing the actions of countries in the region to effectively implement the 17 global goals on the sustainable development by the year 2030. Vietnam Cooperative Alliance will be the active and responsible member together with the cooperative alliances of the countries in the region and the world to implement these noble goals.

In this spirit, I believe that this Conference will be the Conference of the action to make the ideas and proposals become the concrete and essential results. With the spirit of high responsibility and fully confidential contributions from you, our Conference will be fruitfully successful.

Distinguished guests!

On this occasion, let me express my sincere thanks to ICA-AP to choose and support Vietnam Cooperative to host the organization of this important event in Vietnam. Especially I would like to deeply thank for the presence of the international organizations, deputy prime ministers and cooperative ministers from the Asia – Pacific countries at the Conference

I also would like to extend my respectful thanks to H.E. Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Honorable Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for her presence and having an important presentation.

I would like to thank the central ministries, departments and agencies and from Hanoi as well as the related organizations and units, which has collaborated and facilitated Vietnam Cooperative Alliance to successfully organize this significant event.

Once again, I would like to respectfully wish H.E Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Honorable Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, ICA, ICA-AP leaders and all delegates a good health, happiness and great success.

Thank you very much for your attention!