

OPENING ADDRESS

**HONORABLE SAMDECH AKKA MONHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG
SAMRIN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 8TH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation, and Dialogue in Asia”

Sokha Hotel and Residence, 09 December 2015

- *Honorable Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia;*
 - *Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;*
 - *Honorable MIAN Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistan Senate and APA President;*
 - *Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the 8th APA Organizing Committee;*
 - *His Excellency Dr. MASOUD Islami, Acting Secretary-General of APA;*
 - *Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of the APA Member Parliaments and Honorable Delegations of Observer Parliaments and partner organizations of APA;*
 - *Excellencies, National and International Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;*
1. Today, the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia is deeply honored by the presence of Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Honorable Chairpersons of Member Parliaments, the observer parliaments and partner organizations, on the auspicious

occasion of the 8th Plenary Session of APA held in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

2. On behalf of the Cambodian National Assembly, I would like to warmly welcome and express my gratitude to Samdech Techo HUN Sen, who has been supporting the activities of APA since its inception.
3. I am very pleased to witness the progress of APA. Along these lines, I deeply appreciate the ongoing achievement and considerable advancement of APA which has been stepping forward for almost 20 years with the strong support of Asian nations.
4. I welcome and value the meaningful and insightful speeches which have been delivered by Samdech Prime Minister, Samdech Senate President, Honorable Chairman of the 8th APA Organizing Committee, Honorable President of Pakistan Senate, and His Excellency Acting Secretary-General of APA.
5. The concepts conveyed in the speeches highlight the collective spirit of politicians in the legislative and executive bodies of Asian nations with an indomitable will in quest of peace for the region and the world. These recommendations are indispensable inputs for the Plenary to use as a springboard for draft resolutions of the three APA standing committees which focus on the principles of friendship and cooperation with a view to upholding deep-rooted ties in terms of history, geography, culture, civilization, politics, and economy. These elements connect Asian people.
6. It is with great pride for the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Cambodian people that during the five-mandate legislature, we have actively joined with other regional and global legislative bodies in developing common legislation with a view to ensure the ideal and conscience of the legislative

bodies truly benefit, protect and offer harmony for Asian people.

7. I am optimistic that this historical gathering of the representatives of the Asian people will have a positive impact on ending violence and disasters that are triggering the region and the world to turn around as normal as the collective spirit of the Asian Representatives covers almost all positive aspects of Asian nations and curb any hostile attempts.
8. This is a great opportunity for all of us to establish a rational long-term vision to pave the way for fostering closer cooperation.
9. Our presence at this moment shows the world that it is our collective will to build a harmonious Asian region by seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts based on principles of co-existence and mutual respect. These principles are an instrument to solving challenges and a primary approach for APA to advocate building a legal framework to avoid competition in military strength.

Samdech, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

10. For the realization of the APA vision, we need to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation and fully implement agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and other existing legal instruments. And these includes the resolutions of the 8th Plenary Session will become the essential regulations to be implemented.
11. [In the context of globalization, countries shall never escape from the impact of the unintended risks, especially those that share geo-politic and economy in the region.](#)
12. The only solution to those challenges entails legal and legislative cooperation. It is an effective instrument to prevent and end suffering and violence.

13. From my point of view, APA should aim to set up a regional protocol which can serve as a legal tool for implementation and protection in case of any possible regional crisis.
14. Asia is not only a multiracial and multi-religious region of cultural diversity and glorious civilizations, but it is also a productive region of global economy and potential tourism which is an important source of income for sustainable development.
15. We also have to pay attention to climate change, transfer of technology, and financing from developed to developing countries to address environmental degradation. There is a need to introduce feasible internal regulations in the region. The purposes of doing so are to encourage respect for cultural and traditional differences; to cement cultural, economic, political, and educational relations among Asian countries; and to encourage interactions between APA and Asian Governments.
16. I do hope our plenary session today will proceed with friendliness and good cooperation. And we will address a multitude of issues by discussions and debates based on the collective will of Asian nations.
17. Finally, I would like to encourage the representatives of APA Member Parliaments who are present here to comment and share your best practices as a basis for the realization of the common vision of Asian nations.

At this point, I would like to declare the 8th APA Plenary Session open!

Thank you!