

**Welcome Remarks of H.E. Ambassador Min Lwin to the
Pre-Conference Meeting for the ASEAN High-Level Conference on
Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARYA)**

15 July 2014, Tuesday, 10:00 am, ASEAN Hall

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my honor and privilege to welcome all of you. I am deeply encouraged by your participation in today's meeting. Your presence sends a strong message: that we are united in our goal of continuing our support to the communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Our region is one of the most disaster prone regions in the world. Every year, our homes are visited by "uninvited guests" such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, and other disasters. Responding to these disasters and making sure that our communities are fully recovered and prepared demand huge resources. Undoubtedly, no one country or organisation can answer all of these needs. That is why it is only through working together, by cooperating with one another, that we can better prepare ourselves for the next disaster. And this meeting is a milestone in our work, as we continue to exchange ideas that would contribute to the recovery of Typhoon Haiyan-affected communities.

I would like to applaud Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and Her Excellency Elizabeth Buensuceso for championing the cause of these communities. They tirelessly articulated the need to organise events such as this so that our attention to the needs of these communities would not decrease or disappear. Your passion is an inspiration to all of us.

I would also like to commend the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for approving with much haste ASEAN's strategic assistance to these communities. The urgency with which all of

you facilitated the approval of ASEAN's support showcases our strength as a united region.

Lastly, I would like to thank our partners and the private sector. The outpouring of support that you have shown immediately after the typhoon hit the Philippines is truly praiseworthy. And your presence here today signifies your readiness and willingness to work once again with us in helping the affected communities.

I look forward to a productive meeting with all of you today.

Thank you very much.