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OPENING REMARKS

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Planning and Finance

Department of Transportation & Communications

“Logistics and Transport Conference to Exchange Best Practices on Regulations and Experiences in ASEAN”

10 December 2014

Hanoi, Viet Nam

A very good morning to our colleagues from the ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. I also extend a warm hello to all our speakers (Dr. Hermione Parsons, Dr. Poon Thiengburanathum, Mr. Michael Smith, Mr. Zaldy Ilham, Mr. Zahid bin Ismail, Mr. Erich Lingad, Ms. Kamolwan Kularbwong, Dr. Okan Duu, and Mr. Benny Irzanto),) to the representative/s of Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF), the ASEAN Secretariat and everybody.

As we are fully aware, logistics is critical to the ASEAN countries' export success and to the achievement of our vision of an ASEAN economic integration. Logistics costs now account for a significant portion of export costs, while export success is also determined by how much customer value can be created by delivering the goods to importers at the right place and at the right time. However, the logistics services in most ASEAN countries are still at their infancy state and in some cases highly fragmented and less internationally competitive. This is one major factor responsible for the slow progress in the implementation of commitments under the vision of ASEAN Economic Community. Domestic initiatives must be pursued to improve the ASEAN members' logistics capacity and level of competitiveness.

To admit, in most ASEAN Member States, there is no dedicated institution overseeing logistics services, and there is a need to establish mechanism to properly manage and regulate this important sector. Learning the best practices on rules and

regulations in logistic services from other countries would be the first to address the issue. Although the level of development in the logistics sector of some ASEAN Member States is higher than others, it is important to address the issue at the regional level to ensure seamless logistics services within the region in realizing the free flow of goods and services towards the ASEAN single market. The exchange of best practices in transport and logistics is seen as a step closer in the direction of attaining the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services' objective of further liberalization in the transport and logistics sector in the ASEAN.

Thus, the Philippines submitted this project: "Logistics and Transport Conference to Exchange Best Practices on Regulations and Experiences in ASEAN" in 2010 to the ASEAN LTSSWG. In 2013, the ASEAN Secretariat informed that the project was approved by ASEAN and will be funded by JAIF.

The Seminar/Conference aims to provide the participants with a better understanding of the best practices, regulations and experiences in the logistics and transport sector in each ASEAN Member State, as will lead us to a better plan of action in the review of rules and regulations of logistics and transport service sector for the future AFAS commitments.

I am very optimistic that this Seminar/Conference will provide each of the AMS participants the list of best practices regulations and experiences in the logistics and transport sector. In closing, I urge you to keep in mind the *traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity* as the driving force to meet our common goal. I would like also to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to our Project Coordinator, Viet Nam for the traditional hospitality accorded to all of us.

Thank you.

