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TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 19th General Assembly of the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ), Bangkok, January 24-28, 2018

(27 Jan, Bangkok): Cambodia is the latest member country to join the regional association for journalists to better serve the interests of media professionals and the dynamic industry.

The Club of Cambodian Journalists (CCJ) has been accepted by the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ) as its 8th member joining Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Laos.

Cambodia's membership has been acknowledged during the 19th General Assembly of CAJ in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Welcoming the new member country, outgoing CAJ President Thuan Huu said the assembly reaffirms the will of the member organisations to promote internal activities of each country and raise bilateral cooperation between CAJ and their own media partners.

"I believe in the future, CAJ is what should bridge the gap among us all.

"Despite diversities in our situation, we are all here gathered in unity in pursuit of our noble goals, such as the protection for the rights and legal profits of our colleagues as well as the promotion of journalist welfare," he said in his closing remarks at the assembly.

Huu, who took office in 2015 for two years, is the Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA) President.

He handed over the presidency to his Vice President Thepcai Yong, who is also the President of the Confederation of Thai Journalists (CTJ).

"I do hope that with the new position, CTJ will continue to receive more support and cooperation from our CAJ member countries.

"Certainly, VJA will continue to stand with you in the coming term to raise CAJ to become a more influential organisation in the region," Huu said.

The assembly also signed the Bangkok Declaration outlining its Action Plan for 2018-2020, which is expected to raise the awareness of the ASEAN identity and unity.

The action plan is aimed at strengthening cooperation, enhancing solidarity and cohesion among journalists and media organisations in the region for the common good.

CAJ reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to the integration of the ASEAN Community through its journalistic profession.

"We will continue to encourage the inclusion of journalist institutions in Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar in the future," Thepcai said.

CAJ calls for a stronger engagement among its member countries, affiliates and partners to raise their professional standards in the fast-changing media landscape.

Malaysia was represented by three members from the National Union of Journalists led by Vice President and CAJ Board member Chin Sung Chew.

On Behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

CHIN SUNG CHEW
Vice President