



Summary of the CAJ Board of Directors Meeting

Bangkok, January 25, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Directors of CAJ was held on January 25, 2018 at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok, hosted by the Confederation of Thai Journalists (CAJ)

Participants:

Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA): Ho Quang Loi, Dinh Thi Thuy Hang and Nguyen Do Hoa Mi

Indonesia Journalists Association (PWI): Teguh Santosa and Otto Munaf Iskandar

National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC): Paul Gutierrez and Minauer Navarro

Lao Journalists Association: Savankhone Razmouny and Vorasack Pravongviengkham

Creative Media and Publishing Union (Singapore): Mindy Kwok Sin Thang and Low Siew Lee Irene

National Journalists Union Malaysia (NUJM): Chin Sung Chew and Farah Marshita Binti Abdul Patah

Confederation of Thai Journalists (CTJ): Thepchai Yong, Chavarong Limpattamapane, Damrit Viriyakul, and Mongkol Bangprapa

Observers:

Club of Cambodian Journalists: Puy Kea and Sophors Nou

The BOD meeting was co-chaired by CTJ President Thepchai Yong and CAJ Secretary General Ho Quang Loi.

AGENDA NO. 1: Endorsement of Club of Cambodian Journalists' CAJ membership

The meeting discussed the Club of Cambodian Journalists' application for CAJ membership and unanimously agreed that it corresponds with CAJ's aim to work toward solidarity within the ASEAN Community. The Hanoi Declaration adopted at the 18th CAJ General Assembly in Hanoi in November, 2015 also emphasizes the need to encourage the inclusion of the journalist institutions in Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and Cambodia as the "CAJ 10." The meeting unanimously endorsed the CAJ membership application of CCJ and forwarded it to the General Assembly for formal approval.

AGENDA NO. 2: Discussion and approval of amendments to CAJ Constitution

The meeting took up the report by the Working Group mandated by the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ) during its 19th General Assembly in Hanoi in November, 2015 to recommend amendments to the CAJ Constitution with an aim of making CAJ more dynamic and in tune with changes that have taken place in the region. The meeting unanimously agreed to the following amendments:

- 1) **Article IV - Membership Categories, Sections 1 & 2.** In the spirit of cooperation and equality, CAJ will have only two categories of membership – regular members and associate members. The category of "charter members" which refers to the five founding CAJ members, be removed along with their privileges as stipulated in the Constitution. But the five original CAJ members will always be honoured as "founding members".
- 2) **Article XII - The Secretariat, Sections 1, 2 & 3.** While recognizing the role and contributions of the Permanent Secretariat that is currently based in Jakarta, Indonesia, the meeting agreed that in order to enable the CAJ Secretary General to be more efficient and more responsive in carrying out his or her duties, he or she shall be appointed on a rotation basis, based on the country which holds the presidency of CAJ. However, the office of the Secretariat shall continue to be located in Jakarta. It is also agreed that the auditor shall also be based in the country where the Secretary General is.
- 3) **Article IX - The President, Section 5.** In order to make the process of CAJ presidency election more flexible and practical, the meeting agreed that in the event that a change of presidency takes place in the Confederation member organization to which the current Confederation President belongs, its new President shall automatically assume the presidency of the Confederation unless

the Confederation member organization in question decides to nominate a different person for the Confederation presidency.

- 4) The meeting agreed to changes of some of the wordings and phrases in the Constitution for more clarity.

AGENDA NO. 3: Discussion and Drafting of Bangkok Declaration

The meeting discussed the future direction of CAJ and all participants concurred that media in the Southeast Asian region are facing unprecedented challenges brought about by the new media landscape. Participants agreed that there is a strong need for CAJ to work toward closer cooperation among its member countries to adapt to the changes and challenges. The meeting, therefore, drafted the “Bangkok Declaration” which spells out the vision and mission of CAJ for the next two years. The “Bangkok Declaration” recognizes contributions from CAJ members countries, the Working Group set up at the 18th General Assembly in Hanoi in 2015 and the Board of Directors. It also recognizes the leadership of Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA) which held the presidency of CAJ during 2015-2017. More importantly, the document reaffirms CAJ’s commitment to contributing to the integration of the ASEAN Community and to enhancing cooperation and engagement among its members with an aim of forging better understanding and raising their journalistic professional standard.

AGENDA NO. 4: Discussion and drafting of Action Plan for 2018-2020

In order to realize the goals set by the “Bangkok Declaration”, the meeting discussed and then drafted an action plan that specifically outlines actions and activities that CAJ members will undertake in the next two years. Known as “Action Plan 2018-2020”, it lists six main areas of cooperation that CAJ members are committed to realize. They include cooperation between Lao Journalists Association (LJA) and Confederation of Thai Journalists (CTJ) to jointly organize “working visit” for journalists from CAJ member countries to promote better understanding through tourism, a regional forum to be organized by CTJ with cooperation from CAJ on the issue of “fake news”, a media news contest on the topic “Sustainable Agricultural Development” to be organized by VJA, the “ASEAN Hero” project initiated by PWI to award people with outstanding contributions to their home countries, dissemination of guidebooks on media safety by the National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC), and a meeting of BOD to be held in Laos to deliberate the creation of an “Advisory Council” of CAJ as mandated by the CAJ Constitution.

AGENDA NO. 5: Discussion and approval of the turn-over of CAJ Presidency to Thailand and nomination of Indonesia as Vice President

Participants expressed their strong appreciation for the leadership role played by VJA which held the CAJ presidency between 2015-2017 in having greatly contributed to raising the regional profile of CAJ. The meeting then unanimously approved the transfer of CAJ presidency from Vietnam to Thailand for the years 2018-2020. The meeting also approved the nomination of Indonesia for the CAJ vice presidency for the same period, paving the way for it to assume the presidency for the years 2021-2022 at the 20th General Assembly of CAJ to be held in Jakarta.

The meeting also received a commitment from LJA to hold the CAJ presidency after Indonesia for the years 2023-2024 and to host the 21th CAJ General Assembly in Vientiane.

AGENDA NO. 6: Discussion and approval of the venue of the next CAJ Board of Directors' meeting

The meeting acknowledged a commitment from LJA to host the next meeting of BOD in Vientiane. LJA informed the meeting that the date for the BOD meeting and its schedule will be decided later on in consultation with CTJ.

AGENDA NO. 7: Deliberations on membership of CAJ Advisory Council

The meeting was of the opinion that the role and responsibilities of the CAJ Advisory Council need to be clearly defined. It, therefore, agreed to refer deliberations on the issue to the next BOD meeting to be held hosted by LJA in Vientiane at a date to be decided.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. Chavarong Limpattamapanee, president of the National Press Council of Thailand and a director of CAJ, proposed that the 19th General Assembly of CAJ pay tributes to Mr. Kamphol Vacharaphol, the eminent founder of Thairath newspaper, who has been honored by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for his devotion to promoting formal education through building of schools in rural areas. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

