

Acceptance Speech

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

OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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

**UNDER THE THEME “PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND
DIALOGUE IN ASIA”**

Sokha Hotel and Residence, 09 December 2015

- *Honorable MIAN Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistan Senate and President of 7TH Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly ,*
 - *His Excellency Dr. MASOUD Islami, Acting Secretary-General of APA;*
 - *Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of the APA Member Parliaments, Honorable Delegations of Observer Parliaments and Partner Organizations of APA;*
 - *Excellencies, National and International distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;*
1. Once again, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all honorable delegates for your presence and agreement to the agenda of the 8th Plenary Session.
 2. I deeply appreciate and sincerely congratulate Honorable MIAN Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistan Senate and 7TH APA President for his wise leadership in successfully leading the work of APA for the past two years.
 3. The progress and achievements of APA reflect solidarity and cooperation among our parliaments in Asia. This positive cooperation attracts the spirit and trust of our Asian peoples.

4. On behalf of the Cambodian people, I have great pleasure and honor to be the President of the 8th and 9th Plenary Sessions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2015 and 2016.
 5. I am truly gratified to take over this responsible task and strongly believe that with your good cooperation, APA will be more effective and closely integrated, fostering closer cooperation and coordination with the regional executive bodies.
 6. It is a great honor for the Cambodian Parliament, the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia to receive the gravel- that symbolizes Asian nations. At the same time, the support from all APA Member Parliaments is a key factor contributing to the success of achieving our common aspiration.
 7. At this present period, there are a number of challenges that stem from various causes, such as terrorism and crime, drugs, racism and xenophobia which are all conducive to violence. The causes include extremism, xenophobia, too much arrogance and social discrimination. As representatives of APA, we therefore all need to further promote and enhance parliamentary diplomacy more actively.
 8. Over the next three days, APA's historical achievements will be realized, adding to the previous ones. I urge all delegates to put in utmost efforts and contribution to prevent any possible risk and promote peace, security and safety, in particular to enhance solidarity, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between our respective member parliaments of APA.
 9. I strongly hope that within the spirit of close cooperation from all honorable delegates, the 8th APA Plenary Session will foster solidarity and fraternity among our APA family which is an invaluable asset for harmonization and prosperity of our Asian nations.
- Thank you.