WELCOME REMARKS AND KEYNOTE SPEECH

H.M. Prasetyo*

Assalaamu’alaikum warahmatullaahi
wabarakaatuh,

Good Morning, Peace be Upon Us All,

. Director and Staff of UNAFEI;
. Commissioner of the Corruption Eradication Commission;
. Expert Speakers;
. The Head of Legal and International Bureau of the Attorney General’s Office of the Republic of Indonesia, or the Respective Representative;
. Head of the Yogyakarta High Public Prosecution Office;
. Distinguished participants,
. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us praise God Almighty, for only by His grace that today we can gather here to attend the "10th Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries" co-organized by the UNAFEI, the Attorney General’s Office of the Republic of Indonesia and the Corruption Eradication Commission.

Allow me to convey warm regards from His Excellency H.M. Prasetyo, the Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia. Due to his duties, he has appointed me to deliver the speech on this important occasion.

I would like to take this opportunity to deliver my upmost gratitude to the Director and Staff of UNAFEI for your trust and your confidence in the Attorney General’s Office of the Republic of Indonesia to serve as the main host of this seminar. In that regard, my highest appreciation also goes to the Corruption Eradication Commission for the excellent cooperation which allowed this Seminar to take place.

Furthermore, I would like to welcome the expert speaker and all the participants from the Southeast Asia countries to this great city of Yogyakarta Special Region. Indeed, by sharing experiences and practices in our respective countries, we will be enriched with

new insights and ideas to explore various effective strategies in the field of law enforcement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In line with the theme of this seminar, contemporary measures for effective international cooperation are very essential, especially today when our region is walking together into the ASEAN Economic Community. The potential development of transnational crimes as well as the impact of globalization and the free market need to be answered by new breakthroughs in the field of law enforcement cooperation based on the principles of speedy process and mutual respect of our respective countries.

The need for new breakthroughs is imperative to face the rapid development of crimes which never stop evolving. The advance of information technology, banking methods and modes of transportation has given the criminals and proceeds of crime more advantages in conducting the crimes and requires our special attention.

Meanwhile, we have to admit that our effort in combating crimes still faces classic problems such as the limit of jurisdiction, the differences of legal systems, bureaucratic procedures and many other factors that make law enforcement seem always one step behind the criminals.

Therefore, law enforcement cooperation must be built based on the understanding that wherever crimes occur and whoever the victims, they are always a serious threat for every country and, thus, it is a responsibility of the law enforcement community to face them together as our common problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the other hand, many success stories in various countries show that the effort of combating crimes cannot lean solely on repressive measures, but also needs to be balanced with effective preventive and educative strategies.

In that regard, it is necessary to build government culture based on principles of good governance such as legal certainty, transparency, accountability, public service etc. in improving public trust that leads to the conducive environment for ensuring sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Based on the conditions mentioned above, the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Indonesia continues to develop new strategies to strengthen ongoing cooperation with its partners in various parts of the world. To implement our mandate in the field of prosecution, execution of court decisions and other authorities under the law, we know that we cannot work alone if we want to succeed in fulfilling our duties.

Through active participation in law enforcement forums such as the International
Association of Prosecutors (IAP), the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), the Conference of China-ASEAN Prosecutor Generals, as well as the participation in various international seminars as it is today, we hope to raise our apparatus’ awareness on their existence as an integral part of the international community, especially in the field of law enforcement.

In that regard, prosecutors must not only be equipped with technical expertise of their national law, but also need to have extensive knowledge about international cooperation instruments and how to apply them in real cases.

Besides formal cooperation frameworks such as Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance, the office continues to tailor effective direct cooperation with our counterparts in various countries, as an alternative solution for the procedural limitations which often arise in formal cooperation.

It is clear that although it can be distinguished, in practice both formal cooperation and direct cooperation are closely linked. Given the chain of bureaucracy, the direct communication and coordination can be used to prepare cooperation through formal channels. On the contrary, given the differences of legal systems in every country, direct cooperation often leads to the need for formal cooperation between governments, either in the form of extradition or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I hope that this important forum will contribute new formulas to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation to strengthen our commitment to bringing our society towards prosperity.

I also would like to recommend all the participants and guests from foreign countries to enjoy the beautiful city of Yogyakarta which is known for its traditional values, culture and hospitality. Please enjoy the city tour to Borobudur and Prambanan Temple, which are well known as the world's cultural heritage.

Finally, I wish you all a successful deliberation and may God the Almighty always bless us all with the strength and health so we can complete the entire discussion in this seminar until the end on 28th July.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Wabillahi taufik walhidayah,
Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahwabarakatu