His Excellency Khăm-phăn Xít-thị-dăm-pha, Chief Justice of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Heads of delegations from ASEAN judiciaries attending the Roundtable,

Justices, distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the leaders of the Supreme People’s Court of Vietnam, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to all the Honorable Chief Justices, Heads of delegations, justices and distinguished guest to Vietnam to attend the Fourth ASEAN Chief Justices’ Roundtable on Environment – Role of the Judiciary in Environmental Protection.

We have the great honor to co-host the Fourth Roundtable with Asian Development Bank. It is also our pleasure to welcome you all in Vietnam. I hope that besides the tight working schedule of the Roundtable, you will have chance to get to know more about Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. We, in return, consider this a precious opportunity to learn from your experiences and best practices.

As you all know, environmental issues have become more critical regionally and globally. The environmental adjudication at each country has contributed to promote environmental protection in general. However, environmental protection requires a global joint efforts and cooperation. I strongly believe that the Roundtable has been and always an effective forum for all of us to share information, experiences and best practices in environmental adjudication in particular and environmental protection in general.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe that you all here agree with me the significant role of the judiciary in guiding behaviors of the people through its decisions. The judiciary in each country, therefore, needs to affirm and further strengthen its role in guiding people’s behavior in and attitude toward environmental protection. We all acknowledge that the establishment and organization of annual ACJR on Environment is a strong evidence for the incessant and continuous efforts of all the judiciaries in environmental protection.

This is not just an opportunity to share experiences, information and best practices but also a forum for all of us to strengthen our mutual understanding, all together aiming at
protecting our environment. I understand that today all the delegates have joined the sightseeing tour to Vietnam Museum of Ethnology and Van Phuc Silk Village. I sincerely hope that, even though with our very tight schedule, it shall help you to have a look at Vietnamese culture and better understand our people. In the next two days at the Roundtable, I hope that we shall have a lot of interesting time to discuss matters of mutual interest and I look forward, as much as all my colleagues, to listen and learn from you all.

On this occasion, with the presence of Chief Justices, Justices and distinguished guests, on behalf of the leaders of the Supreme People’s Court of Vietnam, it is my great pleasure to have all the delegates attending the Fourth Roundtable for a dinner before we start the Roundtable tomorrow. I hope that all of us shall have a great time to enjoy Vietnamese cuisine and to know more about each other.

I would like to propose a toast for the success of the Roundtable!

Than you very much and bon appetite!