



ACCEPTANCE MESSAGE AS ASSA CHAIRMAN

PGM Wick Veloso

SEDA Manila Bay | 26 November 2024

Distinguished colleagues of the ASEAN Social Security Association, Esteemed delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with profound humility and deep sense of responsibility that I accept the chairmanship of ASSA for 2025-2026. First, allow me to express our collective gratitude to Chairman Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn and his team for their exemplary leadership over the past year. Your stewardship has strengthened the foundations of social security cooperation in our region.

I also extend my warmest congratulations to Brunei Darussalam as they assume the vice chairmanship of ASSA. Your willingness to take on this important role demonstrates the spirit of solidarity that makes our association strong. I look forward to work closely with you as we guide ASSA's initiatives in the coming year.

Let me commend our fellow member institutions who have been recognized today for their outstanding best practices. These awards represent more than mere accolades – they embody the spirit of excellence that drives our community forward. Each innovative solution, each improved process, each enhanced service delivery system recognized today demonstrates what is possible when we put our members and clients at the heart of everything we do.

Your achievements inspire us all to reach higher, to think more creatively, and to serve more effectively. They show us that continuous evolution in social security is not just an aspiration – it is achievable through dedication and vision.

As I take up this torch, I am mindful of both the privilege and the challenge that lies ahead. We gather at a pivotal moment when the very nature of work, society, and human connection is being reshaped by forces beyond our borders. Our mission – to protect and empower the workers and families of ASEAN – has never been more critical.

The theme that will guide our journey together – Integration, Innovation, and Inclusion – speaks to the heart of what we must achieve. Integration, because the challenges we face know no boundaries. Innovation, because yesterday's solutions may not serve tomorrow's needs. And inclusion, because every worker, every family, every member of our ASEAN community deserves the dignity of social protection.

Make no mistake – our work is cut out for us. The rapid evolution of the digital economy, the changing nature of employment, and the emerging social needs of our

diverse populations demand our immediate attention. Yet, I stand before you today not daunted, but inspired.

Inspired by the resilience I have witnessed in our member institutions. Inspired by the innovative spirit that drives our solutions. And most importantly, inspired by the unwavering commitment we share to serve our people.

As we look to the future, I see tremendous opportunities for ASSA to advance its mission. Through our shared wisdom and collective effort, we can explore new frontiers in social security delivery. We can harness the power of technology to better serve our beneficiaries.

Most importantly, we can work toward ensuring that social protection reaches every corner of our diverse ASEAN community.

In closing, let me say this: The strength of ASSA lies not in any single institution or country, but in our collective resolve to serve the greater good. Together, we will write the next chapter in ASEAN's social security story – one that aspires to greater protection, wider coverage, and stronger solidarity.

Thank you for your trust. Let us begin this important work together. (END)

WELCOME REMARKS

PGM Wick Veloso

Opening Reception, Goldenberg Mansion

25 November 2024

Distinguished delegates, Good evening,

Welcome to the Goldenberg Mansion, a historic gem within the Malacañang complex. Built in the 1920s, this architectural masterpiece stands as one of Manila's finest examples of neo-classical design, reflecting the timeless beauty of Filipino heritage.

After today's substantial discussions, we invite you to unwind and experience what we call "Easy Breezy Philippines – A Haven for All." Tonight is about stepping back from the formalities and savoring the simple joys of Filipino hospitality.

The evening ahead showcases engaging performances, excellent cuisine, and most importantly, the chance to forge stronger bonds with colleagues. We trust this evening will refresh and energize you for the days ahead.

In gatherings like this, we are reminded that ASSA's strength lies not just in our formal partnerships, but in the warmth of our fellowship.

Please, make yourselves comfortable and enjoy the evening.

Mabuhay!