

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY ASSA CHAIRMAN, MR OMAR BIN MOHD. DALI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF  
EMPLOYEE TRUST FUND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Thank you National Social Security Fund Cambodia.

Good Morning everyone.

Your Excellency Mister Ouk Samvithyea,  
Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as  
Director General of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Cambodia.

ASSA Board Members and Delegates, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

To all ASSA Board members and delegates, fellow speakers and everyone involved in this event,  
welcome to the 37<sup>th</sup> ASSA Board Meeting, the first ever virtual ASSA meeting.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, marks a historic day for ASSA, one that we have not experienced before, that is,  
conducting the ASSA Board Meeting via video conference. We understand it may not be an ideal  
situation, but this is considered as the new normal in the world today...

We do not know how long we need to take these extra precautionary measures, but I do hope  
that this would not be prolonged as we are missing out on visiting each other's beautiful countries  
and basking in our rich cultures. Most importantly, engaging in face to face ASSA meetings is ideal  
for fostering close relationships and strengthening our common bonds.

However, we have little choice in these matters at the moment. The pandemic has forced us to  
re-examine our priorities and re-evaluate our normal practices. If there is any silver lining to the

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situation we are currently facing, I would say that the pandemic has even served as a catalyst for many of us to harness our creative skills and engage in innovative ideas. The challenging times we are currently facing has prompted many of us to be visionaries in forging a way through uncharted territory, thus enhancing our leadership skills.

Although this year's meeting has been shortened to a day, nonetheless, I am sure that the quality of today's event is not compromised. We have exciting topics prepared by our fellow ASSA members lined up for the Good Practices session on this year's ASSA theme which is '*Expanding Social Security Coverage*'.

We have to acknowledge that the informal economy contributes greatly to a country's growth, especially in developing countries with large informal economies. Thus, expanding social security protection, mainly to those in the informal sector, helps these countries to have a more stable and robust economy.

This, I hope, will give us an insightful look as to how far these organizations have come in order to expand their social security net, especially towards those individuals that have not been adequately covered.

For the plenary session today, we have guest speakers from the International Social Security Association (ISSA), Mister Jens Schremmer who will be speaking on "Social Security Coverage and Covid-19: What Long-Term Impact?". And we also have Mister Nuno Meira Simoes Da Cunha, Senior Specialist Social Protection of International Labor Organization (ILO) who will be sharing on "How to Extend Social Protection to Workers in Informal Employment in the ASEAN Region". We would like to thank the guest speakers for taking the time to share useful insights.

I hope that both the Good Practice and Plenary sessions today will be insightful for us in our relentless efforts to learn and prepare our organizations in facing the challenges of the future.

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I shall not keep everyone waiting any further, thus, I would like to wish everyone a productive and an insightful day.

Finally, I sincerely hope that we will all stay safe and healthy.

Thank you very much.