

## **INCOMING ASSA CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

Greetings from Jakarta, the Capital City of the Republic of Indonesia

Good morning,

My name is Anggoro Eko Cahyo, the President Director of BPJS Ketenagakerjaan, the social security agency for employment in Indonesia. I am highly honored to be the ASSA Chairman for 2021-2022.

My gratitude goes to H.E. Mr. Heng Sophannarith, PH.D., Acting Director-General of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) of Cambodia as the ASSA Chairman for 2020–2021, and H.E. Mr. Ouk Samonn as the Secretary-General for your efforts over the previous year.

I am grateful for the support of NSSF Cambodia, which has been extremely helpful in organizing ASSA activities during this difficult time because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health emergency; it has societal and economic consequences. It is critical to assess the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on communities, economies, and vulnerable groups in order to improve its social protection policies in response to the crisis. This is necessary in light of the current economic uncertainty.

Social protection is a critical component of the development process and poverty alleviation, as well as reducing a country's economic disparities. Social protection is expected to prevent risks experienced by a country's population in order to avoid prolonged misery, increase the ability of poor and vulnerable groups to face socioeconomic inequities, and provide opportunities for a good standard of living.

One method of providing social protection is to strengthen the social security institution. In certain circumstances, social security is a form of risk reduction for the community. Although it is still in its early stages, social security is constantly confronted with new challenges, particularly in this uncertain environment. Uncertainty in the economy is a situation that needed anticipation. It must be handled through adaptation and innovation.

Conducting business and office activities online is one of the efforts to maintain and improve economic activity. Technology and the digital world are increasingly perceived as critical needs. It is the same with social protection, particularly for social security institutions which must innovate in order to continue to protect society in uncertain economic conditions and adapt to provide social protection benefits through digital means.

I am confident that we will continue to learn and share best practices especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. ASSA members have successfully collaborated in recent years to achieve the ASSA objectives. The advancement of social security through various media platforms, both online and offline. I also believe that in the future, ASSA will be able to more effectively share and collaborate in order to meet the ever-changing challenges.

Finally, as ASSA Chairman for 2021–2022, I look forward to working with you to further ASSA's goals of becoming a significant regional firm among social security organizations.