



5rd Asian Recovery Symposium

***6-8 December 2010 Jakarta, Indonesia* Speech by the Secretary-General of The Colombo Plan**

Drs. Gories Mere, Head of BNN,

Father Lambertus Somar, Founder and Chairman of KMF,

Mr. Max Fatime, the Director of Drug Social Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Affairs.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Selamat Pagi!

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the First Lady of the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Hj. Kristiani Herrawati Bambang Yudhoyono for gracing this Symposium as the Chief Guest. It gives me immense pleasure to be with the recovering people and their supporters in the 5th Asian Recovery Symposium in Jakarta. I also would like to acknowledge the collaboration of National Narcotics Board (BNN) and Kasih Mulia Foundation (KMF) for co-hosting this event.

Every year, the Colombo Plan celebrates the accomplishments of recovering substance abusers in the Asia-Pacific region by organizing the Asian Recovery Symposium. "Recovery: Back to Basics" is the theme for this Recovery Symposium which calls for an acceptance of one's own addiction, to seek help from external sources of support, to learn from each other and to surrender

to a 'higher power' which can restore sanity. Recovering from addiction is a long and complex process. There may be many lapses. However, the first step involves an acceptance of one's own powerlessness over addiction and the need to seek help.

The Colombo Plan, as a regional inter-governmental organization has been contributing to the economic and social development of its developing member countries in the Asia-Pacific region for 59 years, through the development of human resources and capacity building. The Colombo Plan has four permanent programmes, i.e. Public Administration and Environment; Private Sector Development and Long-Term Scholarship at Master Degree Level and the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP). Since 1973, the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme is the first and the oldest regional programme to address the drug abuse problem in the Asia-Pacific region. From its inception, the CPDAP has been contributing to the development of human resources in member countries by enhancing the capabilities of officials in drug related government and non-governmental organizations in drug demand reduction as well as law enforcement.

Asian Recovery Symposium is a celebration of a victory: a victory over drug addiction or alcoholism. It is a celebration of joy, happiness and freedom. We are happy to join the real heroes in this celebration who literally fought the battle against their powerful addiction and emerged winners.

Today as you gather during this 5th Asian Recovery Symposium to seek solutions, you no longer seek problems. I believe that the Symposium will provide an important platform for people in the region to share their success stories and an opportunity to learn the facts about addiction, treatment and recovery. I wish to congratulate all recovery persons for their success in their journeys in sobriety. I hope this celebration of your achievements and your courage to change will go a long way in your path to recovery.

I would like to thank the National Narcotics Board (BNN) and Kasih Mulia Foundation (KMF), Indonesia for their support and collaboration in organizing the 5th Asian Recovery Symposium. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the Bureau for International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of State for funding this great initiative, in celebration of the victory of those who have managed to change their lives for the better by breaking the cycle of addiction.

Terima Kasih. Thank you.