

OPENING SPEECH OF H.E. TRAN QUY KIEN
Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

at

TWENTY-FIRST ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON MINERALS
(21ST ASOMM)

Hanoi, 6 October 2021

Dear ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals,

Dear delegates, distinguished guests,

First of all, on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and the Government of Vietnam warmly welcome all delegates and distinguished guests to attend the "**Twenty-first ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals.**"

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2020 is a particularly memorable year when Vietnam is honored to recognize Vietnam's success as the 37th ASEAN Chair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic raging around the world, including the ASEAN region. Besides, 2021 is an essential pivotal year, mid-term reviewing of the implementation of the Master Plans on ASEAN Community Building for the five years 2021-2026, and importantly, this is also a pivotal year in Vietnam's tenure as the ASEAN Chair on mineral exploitation.

Within the framework of ASEAN cooperation, we have witnessed many cooperative activities on mineral exploitation implemented and achieved remarkable results. That is the successful development and implementation of the 2020-2026 ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP). In which, 4 AMCAP working groups were established to implement the Master Plan's objectives. Besides, step by step, we have jointly built and presented our views on sustainable mineral exploitation at Conferences around the world. The 2020-2026 ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) is updated and implemented for 2021-2025. On the other hand, we have also shared interest, discussed, agreed, and implemented other cooperation contents such as the ASEAN Geopark Program, the Mining Award Program in the ASEAN

community, promoting effective management in the region towards environmental protection and sustainable development.

In today's meeting, I am looking forward to promoting ASEAN regional integration and connectivity, enhancing the adaptability and taking advantage of the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: accordingly, extensive economic integration and comprehensive connectivity; promoting sustainable exploitation towards environmental protection and economic, financial and social inclusion based on innovation and application of digital and state-of-the-art technologies; continuing the efforts to narrow the development gap; building high-quality human resources in minerals; and build a green environment, etc.

Recognizing this role and importance to the development and prosperity of the country, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam wishes to promote sustainable cooperation and integration in the ASEAN community. At this meeting, with the participation of senior officials of the ASEAN minerals industry, we would like and suggest that the delegates exchange, share experiences, and have valuable recommendations to make the conference effective.

With that in mind, I would like to announce the opening of the "Twenty-first ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals."

I want to express my sincere thanks to the delegates who are ASEAN senior officials on mineral presenting today. We will contribute to the success of the conference, especially the ASEAN Secretariat, who has joined us in this meaningful work.

Wish the conference is successful. Thank you!