

AMAN 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Lisbon, June 22-25, 2008

SPEECH BY OANA SECRETARY GENERAL  
News Director of ANTARA News Agency  
Mr. Saiful Hadi

Distinguished the President and Secretary General of AMAN,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), I would like to congratulate the Alliance of Mediterranean-News Agencies (AMAN) for holding the 17th General Assembly in this beautiful city of Lisbon.

I would like to express my gratitude to AMAN for inviting us to represent OANA as observer in this important gathering. Our thank also goes to LUSA, as the host of this General Assembly, for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality extended to us.

We were delighted to have the presence of AMAN President Mr. Nacer Mehal, who is also Director General of APS, and AMAN Secretary General Mr. George Penintaex, concurrently Acting Director and Editor-in-Chief of CNA, in the OANA 13th General Assembly, which was held in Jakarta, last December 2007.

We had fruitful discussions in the Jakarta meeting and agreed to strengthen our commitment to the implementation of AMAN-OANA cooperation agreement, which was signed in Istanbul, in April 2003.

ANTARA, as the current Secretariat of OANA, is handling the OANA Website (<http://oana.antara.net.id>). And in accordance with the AMAN-OANA agreement, we place a hyperlink icon of AMAN on the new OANA website, to give direct access of OANA clients to the AMAN website, as it has been done on the previous OANA website manned by Bernama.

We are looking forward to further implementation of our agreement, such as on possible participation of journalists, photographers and technicians of OANA and AMAN member agencies in workshops or seminars to be organized by our respective organization. ✓

In this current global era, information and communication technology has significantly supported regional networking like what OANA and AMAN have been carrying out. The multimedia technology has also enabled us to foster and strengthen our cooperation for the benefit of our member agencies.

Not to mention that as news agencies, we rely a great deal on the multimedia technology in collecting, processing and disseminating our products. Therefore, we are very keen to follow the discussions on multimedia during this General Assembly.

In addition to our regional cooperation, we are also pleased to notice that our member agencies have in fact established bilateral relations, far before our organizations are tied in the agreement.

ANTARA, for instance, has signed bilateral agreements, mostly on news exchange cooperation, with LUSA, Anadolu Ajansi, ANSA, APS, EFE, HINA, MAP, MENA, SANA, Tanjug, TAP and WAFA. We believe that such bilateral relations will also help strengthen the OANA-AMAN cooperation.

Last but not least, we wish AMAN good luck and success in this General Assembly and its activities in the future. We are also looking forward to closer ties between OANA and AMAN.

Thank you.