

Remarks by Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Celebrating the Year of ASEAN Youth 2022 and Welcoming Indonesia
Chairmanship of ASEAN 2023

Universitas Jambi

17 December, 2022

Distinguished guests,

Students of i Universitas Jamb,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. Selamat siang.

My name is KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN.

It is a great honour to be invited to make remarks on this wonderful occasion organised by the Universitas Jambi Students' International Council.

Japan has been a long-standing friend of ASEAN.

The relationship between ASEAN and Japan started with the ASEAN-Japan Synthetic Rubber Forum established in 1973.

This means that next year, 2023, will mark the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

I am greatly honoured to work in the Mission of Japan to ASEAN at this important juncture.

I would like to make my utmost efforts with you all to enhance ASEAN-Japan relations, given the growing importance of ASEAN in the international community.

ASEAN has contributed to the development of the region based on the principles of unity and centrality while embracing its diversity.

The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) adopted in 2019 shares fundamental principles with Japan's vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Japan has extended its unwavering support for these principles and is currently implementing as many as 89 AOIP cooperation projects in line with the four priority areas; namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation.

In addition, Japan has been extending support to counter COVID-19 pandemic by providing vaccines, medical equipment, financial support loans, and support for the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) in the future.

In the field of socio-culture, Japan has been promoting people-to-people, sports and cultural exchange under the JENESYS programmes and the WA Project by the Japan Foundation.

Let me further explain this JENESYS programme. JENESYS stands for Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme. This was designed to promote mutual understanding between young people in ASEAN and Japan.

Since 2007, 15 years ago, 37,000 youths have participated in JENESYS and other youths exchange programmes between us.

During COVID-19, online exchange programmes were initiated, alumni reunions and online programmes were implemented, with approximately 6,500 ASEAN youths taking part.

These programmes have covered a wide range of fields such as politics, economy, society, culture, history and foreign policy.

Through lectures and study tours in each field, as well as exchanges of views and experiences, future leaders of Japan and ASEAN have deepened mutual understanding and built networks in various fields.

I hope that students of Universitas Jambi will take advantage of these programmes to deepen your understanding of Japan.

To conclude, I wish you a great success for today's ASEAN celebration event, and I look forward to seeing students from Jambi Universitas playing active roles in realising peace, stability and prosperity in this region and the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Terima kasih banyak.