

**Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**  
**No. 2 ASEAN under the new Chair and the new Secretary-General**

31 January 2023



Courtesy call on Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno (6 January 2023)

Happy belated New Year! It has already been two months since I arrived in Jakarta. I spent the year-end and New Year's holidays relaxing here, and I am now tackling my daily work with a renewed spirit. This January, Indonesia assumed the new ASEAN Presidency, and Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, became the new Secretary-General of ASEAN. We are also celebrating the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation this year. and we have gradually started working towards an ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held around December.

In this edition of the Ambassador's Newsletter, I report on new developments in Jakarta, focusing on Indonesia's assumption of the ASEAN Chairmanship and the appointment of Dr. Kao as ASEAN Secretary-General.



ASEAN Secretary-General Handover Ceremony  
(Photo: ASEAN Secretariat, 9 January 2023).

### ● ASEAN Secretary-General Handover Ceremony

Early in the new year, on 9 January, the [ASEAN Secretary-General Handover Ceremony](#) was held in the main hall of the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEAN Secretary-General serves a single five-year term, and is elected by the Member States on a rotating alphabetical order. I was invited to attend the event, which brought together Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States, Ambassadors of partner countries as well as ASEAN officials.

Outgoing Secretary-General Dato Lim Jok Hoi, who is from Brunei, oversaw the Covid-19 response, and achieved the signing and entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The newly-appointed Secretary-General, Dr Kao Kim Hourn from Cambodia, previously served key posts such as Director of a think-tank, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In his inaugural speech, he made a strong impression on those in attendance by highlighting the 'six Ps' of Peace,

Prosperity, Planet, People, Partnerships and Potentials as ASEAN's priorities. The event also made a strong impression on the attendees.

The ceremony was attended by the Foreign Minister of the host country, Indonesia, H.E. Ms Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, who reassuringly emphasised the importance of ASEAN, the need to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat and the improvement of the role of the Secretary-General.



Foreign Minister Retno's Annual Press Statement  
(Photo: Retno Foreign Minister Twitter, 11 January 2023,)

### ● Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno's Annual Press Statement

As Indonesia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship this year, I paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Retno on 6 January. On this important occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, we were able to exchange views on how to make most of Indonesia's priorities and leadership as ASEAN Chair of this year.

The following week, on 11 January, Foreign Minister Retno delivered her [Annual Press Statement](#), which I also listened to online. Although I did not understand bahasa Indonesia, I was able to get the gist of it from [the live webcast](#), where she

stated that the theme of the ASEAN Chairmanship is 'ASEAN Matters: the Epicentrum of Growth' and that she would strengthen cooperation to make ASEAN a growth centre.

Furthermore, Indonesia made the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) a priority and set out a policy to hold the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum on topics such as infrastructure, as "An Indo-Pacific region that is peaceful, stable, respecting international law and prioritising inclusive cooperation is key for ASEAN to become the Epicentrum of Growth in the region and the world. ".

Regarding with Myanmar issue, she said that a Special Envoy's office headed by herself would be set up to facilitate the realisation of a national dialogue with the involvement of all stakeholders in accordance with the Five Point Consensus (5PC) and the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter.



Courtesy call on ASEAN Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Kao Kim Hourn  
(Photo: ASEAN Secretariat ,13 Jan 2023)

#### ● **Courtesy call on ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn.**

On 13 January, I had the opportunity to [pay a courtesy call on the](#) new Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Kao Kim Hourn, shortly after his inauguration, and learned

ASEAN's priority placed on Japan through our discussion.

I reaffirmed that Japan has been a staunch supporter of ASEAN centrality and unity as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). I further expressed my determination to further enhance Japan's relationship with ASEAN upon the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation this year. I also stated that the Government of Japan would provide AHA Centre with 300 million JPY (Approximately 2.8 million USD) for ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar.

He expressed his appreciation for Japan's support to ASEAN, including humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. We agreed to work together on various events to commemorate the 50th anniversary and to further strengthen ASEAN-Japan cooperation in a wide range of sectors.

He is not only knowledgeable about ASEAN, but also very energetic and communicative. I will support him in his future endeavours.

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Courtesy call on Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn  
by Ms SHIBATA Noriko, Assistant Vice Minister of the Ministry of Justice.  
(Photo: ASEAN Secretariat, 12 January 2023)

● **Visit of Ms SHIBATA Noriko, Assistant Vice-Minister of Ministry of Justice**

The New Year has brought a series of business travels from Japan to ASEAN countries. On 12 January, Ms SHIBATA Noriko, Assistant Vice-Minister from the Ministry of Justice visited the ASEAN Secretariat. [ASEAN-Japan Special Justice Ministers' Meeting](#) (AJSMJ) is scheduled in Tokyo early July (with the G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting taking place simultaneously), The Preparatory Meeting for the this meeting (Senior Officials' Meeting) is scheduled for mid-February, and the visit of Ms Shibata this time was to pave the way for this Senior Officials' Meeting..

She [paid a courtesy call on Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn](#) and exchanged views with Deputy Secretary-General Tran Duc Binh and other officials. Prior to her visit, she also held meetings with legal authorities in several ASEAN Members States.

Japan hosted the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress) in March 2021, in which the Kyoto Declaration was adopted, and Japan has been promoting 'Justice Affairs Diplomacy' ever since.

In Asia, Japan has a record of accomplishment of providing support such as international training course/seminars by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) as well as bilateral legal technical assistance. We would like to follow up the visit this time from Jakarta towards the success of the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in Tokyo.



Dr SATO Yuri, the Executive Vice President of Japan Foundation, visit to the ASEAN Gallery (27 Jan 2022).

#### ●Visit of Dr SATO Yuri, Executive Vice-President of the Japan Foundation

On 26 January, the Executive Vice-President of the Japan Foundation, Dr SATO Yuri, visited to Jakarta to strengthening cultural and human exchange on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. She exchanged views with ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Ekkaphab Phanthavong (in charge of Socio-Cultural Community), Permanent Representatives of Thailand, Ambassador Urawadee Sriphriomya (coordinating country to Japan) and others, and visited the ASEAN Gallery.

Ten years ago, in 2013, on the occasion of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Prime Minister Abe set out one of his five principles of Japan's ASEAN diplomacy: We will "protect and nurture Asia's diverse cultural heritage and traditions together". At the ASEAN-Japan Special Summit later that year, he announced a new Asian cultural exchange policy, the "WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony", which embodies the concept of 'Heart-to-Heart Partner'. The Japan Foundation, which became the implementing agency, established the ['Asia Centre'](#) and has been developing Arts and Cultural Exchange Programmes and the Japanese Language Partners Programme.

We hope that various ideas put forward during the visit will lead to new cultural exchange initiatives for the 50th Year.

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Advancing the Fukuda Doctrine afresh

ASEAN CAMBODIA 2022  
10th ASEAN-Japan Summit  
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Banding together: ASEAN and Japanese leaders (from left to right) Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Singaporean President Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Laotian Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh and Malaysian lower house speaker Azhar Azizan Harun wave on stage during the ASEAN-Japan Summit as part of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits in Phnom Penh on Nov. 12, 2022. (AFP/Nhac Nguyen)

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Kenji Kanasugi and Masahiko Kiya (The Jakarta Post)

Jakarta • Sat, January 21, 2023

After Indonesia led the Group of 20 Summit to great success last year, the *Financial Times* praised the country as an "overlooked giant" and *The Economist* published the feature: "Why Indonesia matters".

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Joint contribution to the Jakarta Post with Ambassador Kanasugi  
(Photo: Website of the Jakarta Post, 21 Jan 2023)

## ● Joint contribution to the Jakarta Post

Public diplomacy has also begun. This year, on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Indonesia, with Indonesia assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship, I contributed a joint article to the Jakarta Post on 21 January under the joint title 'Advancing the Fukuda Doctrine afresh' with Ambassador of Japan to Indonesia KANASUGI Kenji.

We explained that the three basic principles of the Fukuda Doctrine, "Japan's determination not to become a military power in pursuit of peace", "mutual trust in heart to heart understanding as true friends" and "cooperation in consolidating ASEAN based on equal partnership in supporting its effort to strengthen their own solidarity and resilience", remain relevant today. Then, citing Prime Minister Kishida's speech at Johns Hopkins University in the US and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno's Annual Press Statement this month, we stressed the importance

of expanding ASEAN-Japan cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and promoting cultural exchanges, especially among the next generation.

The Fukuda Doctrine was discussed in a [paper](#) by former Ambassador of Japan to Indonesia EDAMURA Sumio on the circumstances at the time, which made me think deeply about it. I would recommend you to read this (though in Japanese).



# ASEANと日本

－友好協力50周年から未来に向けて－

日本インドネシア協会月例講演会（オンライン）  
2023年1月26日  
ASEAN代表部大使 紀谷昌彦



[Presentation material](#) for the Japan-Indonesia Association lecture  
(26 January 2022)

## ● Japan-Indonesia Association Lecture

On 26 January, I spoke at the monthly online lecture of the Japan-Indonesia Association on the topic '[ASEAN and Japan: from the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation to the future](#)'. This time, I asked six questions. "Why ASEAN now?"; "What is ASEAN?"; "How has ASEAN-Japan relations developed?"; "What are the priorities of Indonesia, 2023 ASEAN Chair ?"; "How can we make the most of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation?"; and "How can we create the future of ASEAN and Japan?" I reorganised the materials I read and the information I heard, and included the latest developments in the region and in Japan.

To conclude, I stressed that it is the sandwich of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' that

moves the world, and appealed to each and every one of us to take action from here and now, taking advantage of the opportunity of the Commemorative Summit in December. It is important for Japan and Japanese people to once again face the "mirror" that is ASEAN, to know their own strengths and those of ASEAN, to co-create solutions to common challenges, to scale up to the Indo-Pacific region and the world, and to connect "heart to heart" to the next generation as well as to create future leaders for Japan and ASEAN.

I would like to make use of the opportunity of this lecture to convey this message far and wide as I take the lead to do on my own. If you have time and interest, I would be grateful if you would take a look at the presentation material.



Kick-Off event of Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 (29 January 2023)

### ● Kick-Off event of Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2023.

Last weekend, in the early hours of Car Free Day on Sunday 29 January, Kick-Off of Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship was held at Bundaran HI in the city centre.

President Joko Widodo rode his bicycle to the Salina Mall, from where he led the

parade accompanied by Foreign Minister Retno and other Ministers, ASEAN Secretary-General Kao, Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and other diplomats, with marching bands, student groups and cultural organisations together, surrounded by cheering crowds. He proclaimed the ASEAN Chairmanship on the stage at Bundaran HI, and a group photo was taken.

And it didn't end there! From there we marched again to the Salina Mall for a breakfast meeting with the diplomatic corps, and I had the rare opportunity to have a breakfast with him, where I was able to get to know his friendly personality.

In participating in this event, I felt the Indonesian Government's strong determination to boost its efforts as the ASEAN Chair by involving the public at large. In leading ASEAN as the Chair, I thought it was very meaningful and effective for the President to take the lead in organising such an open event where the public and the diplomatic corps can interact with each other, in order to gain support from both inside and outside the country.

We have heard that 266 ASEAN-related meetings are scheduled to be held in Indonesia this year. These meetings will have a significant impact not only on ASEAN Member States, but also on Japan, the Indo-Pacific region and the world. Any conference depends on trust between people. I will cherish the relationship with the people I have spent time with at this parade and breakfast meeting, and will continue to do my utmost to ensure that Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship as well as the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation will be a big success. We would be grateful if you would also support us in this endeavour.

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN  
KIYA Masahiko