

**Statement at the Opening Ceremony of the Attachment Programme to
the ASEC for Officials from CLMV, 2022-2023,
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
ASEAN Secretariat, 2 February 2023**

Excellency Ekkaphab Phanthavong, Deputy-Secretary General, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Development,

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to attend the Opening Ceremony for the IAI Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Secretariat for Junior Diplomats of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, as the 17th Batch as well as Attachment of Officers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, as the 6th Batch, to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the commencement of duties.

Japan is greatly honoured to support the IAI attachment programme through the Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Japan has supported this Programme since its beginning, to assist ASEAN's efforts to narrow the gap between the CLMV and the rest of ASEAN Member States.

Dear participants, I suppose you are excited upon the start of this Programme. On the other hand, some of you may feel some pressure or anxiety. I would like to say, please be assured that this Programme has a long history with lots of success stories of Attachment officers. You may know that as many

as 100 Attachment officers have served in important positions including the one that we see today, H.E. Mr. Ekkaphab Phanthavong, ASEAN DSG for Social-Cultural Pillar.

This year, Indonesia is the Chair of ASEAN and I believe all of you will have a number of opportunities to witness various discussions participate here in Indonesia. Upon completing this Programme, I am confident that all of you will obtain good knowledge and skills as government officials of AMS, and establish a strong people to people network, which would certainly help you in pursuing your future carriers.

Furthermore, this year is a 50th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. The Mission of Japan is planning to conduct various commemorative events here in Jakarta to celebrate our golden friendship and opportunities. I hope all of you have opportunities to participate in these commemorative events here in Jakarta.

In closing, I would like to appreciate the dedicated efforts by the ASEAN Secretariat to conduct this Programme. Without your continuous cooperation, the Programme could not have resulted in the great success achieved so far. Japan is ready to continue its collaboration with you, hoping that this significant Programme will bring us another set of successful stories by all the participants.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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