

Closing Remarks by
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
at the Commemorative Symposium for the 50th Year of
ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation,
Jakarta, Indonesia, 13 February 2023

Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first express my sincere appreciation to all of you for kindly sparing your precious time to take part in today's kick-off event in Jakarta to celebrate together the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. I am greatly encouraged by a big turnout and extremely grateful for your warm support.

In particular, the speakers and moderators made their valuable contributions to make most of this important occasion to further deepen ASEAN-Japan cooperation for promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

I would also like to express my special thanks to Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Founder of Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), and his team for co-hosting this event and making it most successful.

As we get together to work for the future of ASEAN-Japan cooperation, it is very important to look back on our history.

ASEAN has been so successful in advancing its vision and making it a reality step by step. As ASEAN has faced and overcome successive challenges of conflicts and crises over decades, Japan has always been there as a partner that walks side by side with ASEAN, supporting their own efforts to strengthen their solidarity and resilience.

Japan will do the same, as ASEAN addresses new challenges through their own initiatives. ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) is definitely one of them. Japan will keep listening to the voices of ASEAN and their people and will always respond positively.

And it is the next generation that is so important for ASEAN and Japan. Today, we have invited 30 students 200 participants to this symposium, and many more are watching the livestream online across the region and the world.

The youth is a source of hope for our future, and we must double down on promoting people-to-people links and cultural exchange, with the greatest possible focus on the youth. This will be a testament to a long-standing heritage of our “heart-to-heart” relationship of mutual trust inscribed in the Fukuda Doctrine in 1977.

I would like to conclude my remarks by citing ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN in 2017: “We look to the next 50 years and beyond, confident in our ability to build on our past achievements and address future challenges effectively as one ASEAN Community.” This is exactly what I envision for a solid ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

Let us work together, not only for ASEAN and Japan but also for the Indo-Pacific region and the world, not only for the people living today but also for the people who will live in another half a century and beyond.

Thank you very much for your attention, and please enjoy Japanese and ASEAN food and drinks at the luncheon reception!

(End)