

**Keynote Speech for
“ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation, Co-Innovation”
Hosted by KADIN, JETRO and ASEAN-BAC
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Jakarta, 22 February 2023**

Good morning! First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to KADIN, JETRO and ASEAN-BAC for kindly hosting today’s event.

I would also like to congratulate Indonesia on the successful kick-off of ASEAN chairmanship this year.

Above all, it is my great pleasure to be with you all, including entrepreneurs and Generation Z, who are taking time to get together for “ASEAN-Japan co-creation and co-innovation”.

(Big Opportunity for ASEAN and Japan)

Today, I have just a few messages to share with you. First, this year is a big opportunity for ASEAN and Japan, including all of us in Indonesia.

The priority of Indonesia as ASEAN Chair this year has been made clear. Under the theme: “ASEAN Matters: the Epicentrum of Growth”, ASEAN, led by Indonesia, now aspires to play a central role as the engine of peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond, in an inclusive manner through innovation. ASEAN is now getting more important than ever.

This year is also the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation. Prime Minister Kishida expressed his commitment to raise our relationship to a new stage and to set out a new vision for cooperation this year.

There will be a number of important events, including Summit and Ministerial Meetings, to accelerate the momentum. Already, so many people are engaged to make most of these opportunities to make desirable changes and transformations to take place. We are among them.

(50-year Journey of ASEAN and Japan)

It is important, at this point, to look back on our history to understand the values of ASEAN-Japan cooperation. Simply put, Japan has always been with ASEAN to overcome challenges, and will always be.

It all started in 1973, when ASEAN was united to address the issue of growing export of synthetic rubber from Japan. The dialogue turned out to be the very first successful experience of ASEAN's external engagement. Japan is proud to be the first partner of ASEAN since that time!

In 1977, after the 1st ASEAN-Japan Summit in Kuala Lumpur, then Prime Minister Fukuda outlined Japan's vision for its relationship with ASEAN. This included our commitment to peace and not becoming a military power, "heart to heart" relationship based on mutual trust, and support for ASEAN's own efforts to strengthen their solidarity and resilience. This vision is valid till today.

From around that time, ASEAN achieved rapid industrialization as well expansion to "ASEAN 10" by the 1990s. You may remember that Japan was in full support of such developments.

When ASEAN faced the financial crisis around 1997, the first ASEAN+3 Summit was held. As a framework to prevent the recurrence of such crises, "Chiang Mai Initiative" was established and developed with Japan's active engagement.

As ASEAN accelerated its efforts to promote the ASEAN Community in the 21st century, Japan was again supportive, through Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

After the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, the AHA Centre was established. In response to Covid-19, it was agreed that ACPHEED would be established. Again, both were strongly supported by Japan.

As we face new challenges, such as climate change and decarbonisation, digital transformation, food and energy security, circular economy and protecting the

environment, economic security and supply chain management, Japan will always be there to work with ASEAN.

(ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-creation Vision)

On the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Japanese public and private sectors got together to make a working draft to lay out a vision of ASEAN-Japan cooperation for the future.

This initiative can only be complete with active engagement of the ASEAN side. Hence, today's event was organized.

I would just highlight the key elements of this draft. Toward the future, ASEAN and Japan can realise the society that we aim for by focusing on four pillars: sustainability, innovation, connectivity, and human capital. I am hopeful that there will be a lively discussion today on how to improve as well as realise this vision.

(Events this year for ASEAN and Japan)

Let me conclude by highlighting some of the upcoming events this year.

After a number of important events both in Indonesia and Japan, there will be important events around December in Tokyo: ASEAN-Japan Special Business Summit, Young Leaders Summit, Generation Z Summit, and above all, ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit. Prime Minister of Japan and ASEAN leaders get together to launch a new vision and to announce concrete actions.

I will do my very best to make most of your ideas and actions so that this year's opportunity for both ASEAN and Japan can be fully capitalized, not only for ASEAN and Japan, but for the region and the world, not only for those living today but for all living in the next 50 years and beyond.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)