

**Opening Remarks for CSIS/ERIA Seminar  
“Building on the ASEAN-Japan Golden Jubilee  
for a Shared Economic Future”  
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN  
Jakarta, 15 May 2023**

H.E. Arifin Tasrif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia,

Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri, Executive Director, CSIS Indonesia,

Distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning! First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to CSIS and ERIA for organizing today's seminar and to METI and AMEICC for their support.

I would also like to thank all the speakers and moderators for contributing to today's event.

It is a utmost pleasure to be with you all who are taking time get together for this seminar.

**(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 has clearly been demonstrated by a big success in the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo just last week.

This year is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Prime Minister Kishida expressed many times his commitment to raising our relationship to a new stage and to setting out a new vision for cooperation on this occasion. There are a number of important events, including this seminar, to accelerate the momentum toward the year-end Summit, which I explain later.

### (50-year Journey of ASEAN and Japan)

I would like to shed light on our history to fully 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 import 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 industrialisation as well as expansion to "ASEAN 10" by the 1990s. 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, the "Chiang Mai Initiative" was established and developed with Japan's active engagement.

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

After the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, AHA Centre, was established. In response to Covid-19, it was agreed that the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, ACPHEED, would be established. Both were strongly supported by Japan.

In March this year, Prime Minister Kishida announced the additional contribution of US\$100 million to JAIF under the new FOIP plan as a testament to our commitment to this region.

#### (ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-creation Vision)

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 organised.

I would just highlight the key elements of this draft. Towards 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.

We announced, on the occasion of the ASEAN Summit last week, that the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit will be held from 16 to 18 December. Various important events will also coincide in time with the Commemorative Summit, namely ASEAN-Japan Special Business Summit, Young Leaders Summit, Generation Z Summit. Prime Minister of Japan and ASEAN leaders will get together to launch a new vision and to announce concrete actions.

I will make most of your valuable contributions today so that this year's opportunity for both ASEAN and Japan can be fully capitalised, not only for ASEAN and Japan, but for the region and the world, not only for those living today, including us, but for all living in the next 50 years and beyond.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)