

**Opening Remarks**  
**Japan-ASEAN Business and Investment Forum:**  
**Road to ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum**  
**KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**  
**Jakarta, 20 June 2023**

Distinguished speakers, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning! First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the ASEAN-Japan Centre for organising today's forum, and KADIN and ASEAN-BAC for supporting this event.

**(Big Opportunity for ASEAN, Japan and Indonesia)**

Today, I have just 2 messages to share with you.

First, this year is a big opportunity for ASEAN, Japan and Indonesia. This year marks the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, 65th Year of Indonesia-Japan Diplomatic Relationship, as well as Indonesia's Chair year of ASEAN.

The priority of Indonesia as ASEAN Chair has been made clear. Under the theme: "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", ASEAN 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.

**(Japan's Commitment to ASEAN-Japan Cooperation)**

Prime Minister KISHIDA expressed many times his commitment to elevating ASEAN-Japan relations to a new stage on this 50th Year.

Just last month, Prime Minister KISHIDA made a policy speech on Asia at the "Future of Asia" Forum in Tokyo. He announced the establishment of a Digital Innovation Center at Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), here in Jakarta, and emphasized the importance of ASEAN companies and Japanese companies cooperating to co-create innovations to solve social issues in Asia.

In his earlier speech in March, he announced an additional contribution of 100 million USD to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund to promote ASEAN-Japan cooperation across sectors.

### **(Expectation towards This Forum)**

Second message is that business collaboration has the greatest potential among all areas of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

You will have opportunities of concrete discussions and consultations for tangible outcomes with participants, across ASEAN and Japan.

In fact, it is well-timed to discuss our future economic cooperation. This event is based on the fruitful discussions in Tokyo just two weeks ago during ASEAN Japan Business Week.

Eminent CEOs including Mr. Arsjad Rasjid, the chair of KADIN, and Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr. Kao Kim Hourn attended the event and met many political and business leaders as well as young and energetic entrepreneurs in Japan.

You may know that Japan is the largest investor of manufacturing industry in the region. I believe that there are still great potentials to advance investment in the following areas among others:

- i) green infrastructure and resilient supply chain,
- ii) inclusive digital transformation and creative economy, and
- iii) sustainable and innovative financing.

These are the topics of the upcoming ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum in Jakarta in September this year.

### **(Conclusion)**

Let me conclude by highlighting the important ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit will take place in Tokyo from 16 to 18 December. Prime Minister of Japan and ASEAN leaders will get together to launch a new vision and to announce concrete actions.

For this occasion, so many business-related events are being planned, such as

ASEAN-Japan Special Business Summit, Young Leaders Summit and Generation Z Summit.

It is my strong hope that we make the most of today's great opportunity, 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)