

Remarks
Ambassador's Commendation Reception
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Jakarta, 3 July 2023

Your Excellency, Dr. KAO Kim Hourn,
Deputy Secretary-Generals of ASEAN,
Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Welcoming Guests)

Good evening! I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you to come to my residence to celebrate the presentation of Ambassador's Commendation to Professor NISHIMURA Hidetoshi, the former ERIA President.

(Introduction of Professor NISHIMURA)

Everyone here knows that Professor NISHIMURA was an excellent ERIA President. He dedicated himself to this role for 15 years from the establishment of ERIA in 2008.

ERIA's development and evolution has always been there under Professor NISHIMURA's leadership.

Before becoming the ERIA's President, he entered the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), currently METI in 1976. In the 1990s, he became the Director for Asia and Pacific Division, Asia-Pacific Representative of Japan Overseas Development Corporation, and MITI representative of CLM Working Group under AEM-METI in Bangkok.

After the retirement of METI in 2002, he was appointed as an Executive Managing Director of the Japan-China Economic Association for 5 years.

I believe these experiences have been the foundation for Professor NISHIMURA'S tremendous achievements as ERIA's President.

(Achievements of Professor NISHIMURA)

After becoming the ERIA's President in 2008, Professor NISHIMURA led ERIA's evolution.

At the beginning, ERIA was a more academically focused organisation to extend research support to ASEAN and East Asia economic integration, including the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

With the establishment of the Policy Design Department in 2016, ERIA strengthened its function to provide practical policy recommendations.

Now, ERIA's contribution is widely recognised in ASEAN-led fora including the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit, as well as various Ministerial Meetings.

Currently, ERIA is further contributing to other platforms such as G7 and G20 to bring real voices and policy challenges of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region.

This year, on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, ERIA is also entering a new phase by establishing the Centre for Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy.

ERIA will strengthen its function of connecting not only academic and policy makers, but also inviting business leaders to form a wider "community of practice" to address emerging challenges.

(Closing)

Professor NISHIMURA, you have played a pivotal role in advancing economic integration, sustainable development, and enhancing the overall prosperity of the ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region.

Your visionary approach and unwavering commitment to promoting ASEAN's interests and fostering a harmonious relationship with its partners have been

exemplary.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable contributions and congratulate you, once again, on this well-deserved honour.

Please proceed to the front.

(End)