

Guest Remarks

KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN

**The 15th Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN and Federation
of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA)**

Jakarta, 2 August 2023

His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn,
His Excellency Mr. Satvinder Singh,
FJCCI Chair Mr. UEDA Hiroyuki,
Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the FJCCIA and JETRO for organising today's important 15th dialogue.

(Japan's Commitment to ASEAN-Japan Cooperation)

As everyone here knows, this year is a great opportunity for ASEAN and Japan, because our long-time and strong friendship and cooperation celebrate the 50th Anniversary.

Prime Minister KISHIDA expressed his commitment to elevating ASEAN-Japan relations to a new stage in this memorable year on so many occasions.

In March, Prime Minister KISHIDA announced an additional contribution of USD 100 million to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to promote ASEAN-Japan cooperation across sectors.

In May, he made a policy speech on Asia at the "Future of Asia" Forum in Tokyo. He announced Japan's support for the establishment of a new Digital Innovation Center at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), here in Jakarta.

(Importance of Private Sector Engagement in ASEAN-Japan Cooperation)

In this speech, Prime Minister KISHIDA also emphasised the importance of the private sector, in which ASEAN companies and Japanese companies cooperate to co-create innovations to solve social issues in Asia.

ASEAN and Japan have already been striving to promote cooperation to address new challenges in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on 4 priority areas of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), namely Maritime Cooperation, Connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Economic and Others.

I would like to echo Prime Minister KISHIDA's message that engagement of the private sector, especially in the field of innovation, is critically important to make ASEAN-Japan cooperation substantive and impactful.

(Importance of Private Sector-Led Initiatives)

I recognise that this year's ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers' Consultations are currently planning to endorse the Future Design Action Plan, which sets a new direction of ASEAN-Japan economic cooperation over the next 10 years.

A great feature of this Action Plan is that it incorporates the key elements of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision, which compiles and reflects real voices of the private sector locating in both ASEAN and Japan.

I myself participated in several events held in Jakarta to hear the voices of private companies. I was encouraged by their passionate discussions covering a wide range of important issues affecting our future generations.

(Expectations to the Dialogue and Conclusion)

I believe that the FJCCIA proposals present important opportunities to seize and challenges to address in order for us to jointly realise the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision.

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that today's dialogue will realise a fruitful exchange of views between the Japanese business community and Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, thereby further strengthening of economic relations between ASEAN and Japan for the next 50 years and beyond.

(End)