

Opening Remarks for
“International Workshop on Developmental Disorders
in the ASEAN Region”
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Jakarta, 31 August 2023

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Farhan, Member of the House of
Representatives of Indonesia

H.E. Mr. YAMAMOTO Hiroshi , Secretary General of National Diet
Members Caucus for Support on Developmental Disorder of Japan /
Member, the House of Councillors of Japan

Madam Prita Kemal Gani, CEO & Founder, LSPR Institute of
Communication & Business

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1 Introduction

Good morning! First and foremost, let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the LSPR Institute of Communication & Business and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia(ERIA) for organising today's workshop.

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

It is a great pleasure to be with you all who are taking time to join this workshop.

2 Challenge of development disorders

Development disorders are now recognized as a interrupt challenge

for both ASEAN and Japan.

Japan has developed a legal framework, including “the Developmental Disabilities Support Act”, and the Government of Japan and local governments have established support systems for individuals with developmental disorders and their families.

I understand that there are people with developmental disorders also in Indonesia and Philippine, Viet Nam other ASEAN countries. They must be in a challenging situation in need of support.

It is crucial to capitalise on Japan's expertise in supporting people with developmental disorders and to work towards establishing a support system across the ASEAN region.

3 ASEAN-Japan development disorder projects

ERIA, LSPR, Nozominosono and Dr. Sano, Hosei University, cooperate on “Current Status and Issues of Healthcare Policies for Persons with Developmental Disorders in Southeast Asia” project, which has been implemented over a period of two years since December 2021.

In the past, Japan also supported a project called “Autism Mapping Project in the ASEAN Region” with the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the period 2018-2020.

This project aimed to improve the rights and status of autistic patients in the ASEAN region. The project created a database of morbidity, legal systems, government agencies, private organisations, support activities related autism in ASEAN countries and published “Autism at a Glance in ASEAN”.

4 Conclusion

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing our commitment

that the Government of Japan will continue to support ASEAN countries in the developmental disorder sector, including that JAIF.

I hope today's workshop will contribute to strengthening cooperation and partnership not only between Japan and Indonesia but with the entire ASEAN region and beyond.

(End)