

**Opening Remarks**  
**by Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,**  
**at the Opening Ceremony of the AHA Centre Executive Leadership in**  
**Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme**  
**(ACE LEDMP)**

- H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong, DSG of ASEAN for Socio-Cultural Community,
- Mr. Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director of the AHA Centre,
- Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is my great pleasure to be here today to attend the Opening Ceremony of the AHA Centre Executive Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme (ACE LEDMP). I also warmly welcome 20 participants of the programme from across the ASEAN region.

(ACE programme and Japan's cooperation)

I understand that the ACE programme was initiated in 2014 as part of the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Logistic System (DELSA) project supported by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the participants from National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States and four batches were implemented from 2014 to 2016.

Subsequently, as a project independent from DELSA, three batches were implemented from 2018-2022. This makes a total of 7 batches (118 participants), including the study visits in Japan and New Zealand. For this latest batch, all the 20 participants are scheduled to make a study visit to Japan in mid-November. I hope that you will bring back the experiences in Japan and make good use of them in your respective positions back home. Please also enjoy a beautiful autumn season in Japan!

I recognize that this programme is one of the AHA Centre's flagship projects along with DELSA and ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), which has long been supported by Japan. I am pleased to witness the successful launch of this face-to-face programme here in Jakarta, in the momentous 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

(Supporting ASEAN's Initiative)

This ACE programme will contribute to capacity building in the priority area of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, which targets disaster management leaders in the area of global leadership. Through this project, we will contribute to enhancing disaster management capacity and capability of ASEAN Member States.

Our support for this programme is also in line with ASEAN's efforts on the mainstreaming and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, AOIP, which includes "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" as one of items under "Economic and Other Possible Areas of Cooperation".

(ASEAN's Response to Disasters Outside the Region)

On 18 and 19 September, Japan closely cooperated with the AHA Centre to organize the workshop on "Lessons Learned from Humanitarian Operations in Turkey and Syria." The workshop was attended by experts not only from the ASEAN region, but also from dialogue partners as well as the United Nations organizations which engaged in the emergency humanitarian operations in response to the Turkey-Syria earthquake that occurred in February this year.

The two-day workshop provided an important opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned and to discuss measures that ASEAN needs to take in the future to respond to emergency and humanitarian assistance outside the region.

From this perspective, I believe that the ACE programme and the role of participants has become even more important. I hope that this programme will be fruitful and successful for all the participants.

(Conclusion)

Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating Japan's commitment to supporting ASEAN and the AHA Centre in this field of disaster management in realizing "One ASEAN, One Response."

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(End)