

**Opening Remarks for
“Deepening AOIP Cooperation for The Epicentrum of Growth”
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Jakarta, 19 September**

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Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

Good afternoon! First and foremost, let me express my heartfelt
appreciation to the Institute for Development of Economics and
Finance (INDEF), Paramadina University for co-hosting today’s
seminar.

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
seminar.

(The 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation)

This year gives us a big opportunity, as we commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

Half a century since Japan started a dialogue with ASEAN, Japan and ASEAN have together followed a path of development of integration not only as major trade and investment partners, but also as true friends based on “heart-to-heart” relationship.

(“Epicentrum of Growth” and the AOIP)

Boosted by the dramatic development of ASEAN countries, our region has grown into a powerful driver of the world economy. I believe it very timely that Indonesia has adopted the theme of “Epicentrum of Growth” as this year’s ASEAN Chair.

Japan strongly supports the mainstreaming of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). We would like to work together to ensure that many countries share and cooperate with the principles and activities set forth in the AOIP, such as openness, transparency, inclusiveness, and a rules-based framework.

(Outcomes of the ASEAN-Japan Summit)

At the ASEAN-Japan Summit in Jakarta just two weeks ago, Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan will support ASEAN’s energy transition under the Asia Zero Emissions Community (AZEC) initiative.

Japan also promoting various initiatives such as the establishment of ERIA’s Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy Centre (DISC), comprehensive cooperation in the legal and judicial fields to promote the rule of law; cooperation in disaster management, food and energy security; and the construction of 5G infrastructure.

At the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF), Prime Minister Kishida newly announced the “Japan ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative” to further strengthen regional connectivity in both hard and soft cooperation.

I believe that our cooperation will greatly contribute to strengthening the region as the “Epicentrum of Growth”.

(Importance of Co-Creation)

I would also like to draw your attention to the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision. It was announced last month in August, on the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers’ Meeting in Sumarang.

This vision sets out a clear direction for our future cooperation. Let me highlight the key message: “the vision will aim to realise a secure, prosperous and free economy and society through fair and mutually beneficial economic co-creation, based on the trust established over the past 50 years”.

(Conclusion)

It is my hope that today’s seminar will provide a good opportunity for participants to consider how to co-create solutions to the common challenges that we all face.

I believe that the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held in December in Tokyo will surely enhance our cooperation to a new stage.

Let us build on the the achievements of our 50 years of friendship and cooperation to shape the future of ASEAN, Japan, the Indo-Pacific region and the world in the next 50 years and beyond.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(END)