

Opening Remarks
Pre-Event
ASEAN-Japan Generation Z Business Leaders' Summit
Jakarta, 18 October 2023

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning! First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to ASEAN-BAC, METI, JETRO, AMEICC and Polipoli for co-organising today's event as well as ERIA and ASEAN Foundation for its support.

(ASEAN and Japan Cooperation)

It is a great honour for me to make this opening remarks directly to you, the promising young people from ASEAN, Timor-Leste and Japan.

As you all know, this year marks the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. During the five decades, ASEAN and Japan has always been together to overcome challenges.

For example, when Asian countries faced the financial crisis around 1997, the first ASEAN+3 Summit was held and the "Chiang Mai Initiative" was established as a framework to prevent the recurrence of such crises.

After the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, Japan strongly supported ASEAN's efforts in the disaster management, including through the establishment ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, AHA Centre.

When Japan suffered from the earthquake and tsunami in 2011, immediate and significant assistance was provided by ASEAN countries.

(Importance of Co-Creation and Younger Generation Involvement)

Now, we are facing new challenges, such as climate change, rise of food and energy prices, vulnerability of supply chains, cyber crimes, as well as geopolitical issues.

These challenges cannot be solved by one country or simply utilising conventional or existing solutions.

From this perspective, this new initiative, ASEAN-Japan Generation Z Business Leaders' Summit, has great significance. We need your creativity and vitality.

(Expectations to the event and Conclusion)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude my address by wishing all of you to deepen friendship and networks as well as to become future leaders of ASEAN-Japan and the world, and to play an even more active role in realising a better society.

I look forward to witnessing new endeavors which will be initiated from the meaningful discussions today.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(END)