

Opening Remarks
by Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,
at the Reception for Attachment Officers and Supporters

H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community,

H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community,

Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us today at the reception for the Attachment Officers and their supporters. This time, taking opportunity of the participation of four additional Attachment Officers from Laos to the Attachment Programme, we have invited all the current Attachment Officers and those who have participated in previous programmes and are currently working at the ASEAN Secretariat and Permanent Missions of respective CLMV countries to this reception. We are pleased to be with you all.

We have also invited DSG Singh in charge of IAI, and Assistant Directors of the divisions that have accepted Attachment Officers, in other words, the supporters of this programme. We hope that the Attachment Officers will take today's opportunity to learn about the work of their peers in other divisions and a wide range of work in the ASEAN Secretariat.

As we host this reception, it is gratifying and encouraging to see so many of those who have participated in previous programmes and are currently working in Jakarta. It clearly shows that what we have been doing with ASEAN through this programme is moving in the right direction and that it has important meaning for the region and the beyond.

At the opening ceremony of the programme in February this year, Attachment Officers I met had just arrived in Jakarta and looked very fresh, but looking around at your faces now, you seem to be brimming with confidence and experience gained through your various assignments throughout the programme.

I am sure that you have had a hard time and gained invaluable experience

in Jakarta during Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship this year. I have also heard from my colleagues in Tokyo that your study visit in Japan was very fruitful. They were very impressed with the excellent performance of all of you.

This year marks the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. This anniversary will be an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the Attachment Programme as we, ASEAN and Japan, have fostered together with the ASEAN community throughout its long history. We now consider how we can expand the programme to new areas of cooperation based on this programme.

The programme will continue through March next year. We are confident that you will bring these experiences back to your home countries and contribute to the organizations you belong to. We look forward to seeing you all again and working with you as our counterparts in the future.

Please enjoy the reception and thank you for your attention.

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