

Remarks by Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,
at the Closing Ceremony of the Attachment Programme

- H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community,
- Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to meet you all again after a while since the reception at my residence last November. I hope you had a good holiday season and the New Year in Jakarta.

Also, it has been one year since we first met last February for the opening ceremony of the programme. I arrived in Jakarta at the end of November in 2022, so in terms of working duration with ASEAN, I have had just as much experience as you have had here. I have learned many things throughout the year like you all.

Indonesia served as the ASEAN chair last year, and various conferences and events were successfully conducted. You must have been extremely busy, but I am sure that you must have learned so many lessons that you can take back to your home countries.

In December last year, the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was held in Tokyo. I participated in the Summit as a member of the Japanese delegation.

What particularly impressed me during the Commemorative Summit was the common understanding about ASEAN-Japan relationship as “Trusted Partners”, which was made possible by a long history of cooperation and friendship with mutual respect and understanding over the years.

It is often said that the key to diplomacy is people, and I strongly agree to this view. The Attachment Programme is an initiative to support the future of ASEAN by connecting and strengthening the relationship between ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. I am pleased and honored that Japan has been supporting this fruitful initiative with ASEAN for such a long time with more than 100 alumni. I feel that this is a part of the important foundation of “Trusted Partners”.

I am confident that you will continue to play an active and important role in each organization after returning to your home countries. As the ASEAN-Japan relationship continues to celebrate its 60th, 70th, and 100th anniversaries in the future, I hope that we can further develop this relationship based on the mutual trust which we have built together through this programme. Have a safe journey back to your countries!

Thank you for your kind attention.

(END)