

## Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN

### No. 14: Start of the next 50 years

31 January 2024



Keizai Doyukai ASEAN-Japan Committee 4th Meeting  
(26 January 2024, Credit: [Tobitate](#))

The 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was concluded, and the next 50 years have just started. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the [messages of sympathies from across ASEAN](#), including the [ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement](#), on the Noto Peninsula Earthquake which struck Japan on the New Year's Day.

I came back to Jakarta after celebrating the New Year in Japan with my family for the first time in the last five years. My first task was to review the outcomes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and to list up and share the challenges for the next 50 years. In addition, I updated [my greeting message on our Mission's website](#) at the start of this year.

In this edition of the Newsletter, I would like to share with you our activities here

in Jakarta and consider with you the challenges we should address as we start the next 50 years.



Closing Ceremony of the Attachment Programme for Junior Officials from CLMV  
(24 January 2024)

### ● The New Year at the ASEAN Headquarters

At the ASEAN Headquarters, the work started with the New Year's greetings. Since DSG Michael Tene for ASEAN Political-Security Community, DSG Tran Duc Binh for Community and Corporate Affairs and Ambassador Will Nankervis of the Australian Mission to ASEAN were leaving, a number of farewell receptions and dinners were organised. Soon after the transfer of chairmanship from Indonesia to Laos, the first East Asia Summit (EAS) Ambassadors' meeting took place. I felt that we came back to the normal business mode.

As the Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr. Kao Kim Hourn marked one year in his office, he released a six-minute-and-a-half [video message](#), reflecting his first year and announcing policy directions for the future. Many photos related to Japan were also in the video. On the ASEAN Lao PDR 2024 website, the [annual calendar](#) was uploaded. On 26 January, the [ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers Meeting](#) was held in Vientiane, which was [attended by State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism KOKUBA Konosuke](#).

On 24 January, the Closing Ceremony of the [Attachment Programme](#) for Junior Officials was held at the ASEAN Secretariat. This programme is part of the



ASEAN Integration Initiative (IAI), supporting junior officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) to be dispatched to the ASEAN Secretariat for one year. It aims to enhance the administrative capability of participants as well as to reduce the gap within ASEAN, with the supported from [the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund \(JAIF\)](#). DSG Satvinder Singh for ASEAN Economic Community, DSG Ekkaphab Phanthvong for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and Permanent Representatives to ASEAN also joined the ceremony. I gave [my remarks](#) and handed certificates to 12 attachment officers. From this year, junior officials from Timor-Leste will join this programme.



Jakarta Japan Club (JJC) Corporate Division New Year Party  
(26 January 2024)

### ● New Year Party of Japanese Companies in Jakarta

On 26 January, the [Jakarta Japan Club \(JJC\)](#) Corporate Division held a New Year party. This party resumed last year after Covid lockdown, and this year it took place at a hotel in Jakarta with 300 participants. At the outset, JJC President UEDA Hiroyuki, Chargés d'affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia NAGAI Katsuro and I gave the New Year's greetings.

Japanese companies in Jakarta participated and supported many activities on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation last year. They include the dialogue between the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and the Secretary-General of

ASEAN in August, the ASEAN-Japan Fair in September, the Walk & Run event and Jakarta Japan Matsuri in November. I expressed my utmost gratitude for the contributions in fully demonstrating Japan's strength through public-private partnership.

Furthermore, I explained the [outcomes of the Commemorative Summit](#) and suggested that various initiatives announced on this occasion can be mobilised when Japanese companies expand their business in Indonesia to the rest of ASEAN. The development of Japanese companies throughout ASEAN contributes not only to ASEAN and Japan but also to the Indo-Pacific region and the world. As Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, I will continue supporting the development of Japanese companies across ASEAN. Please feel free to contact the Mission.



Keizai Doyukai ASEAN-Japan Committee 4th Meeting  
(26 January 2024, Credit: Keizai Doyukai)

### ● Initiative of Keizai Doyukai ASEAN-Japan Committee

Also on 26 January, the ASEAN-Japan Committee of Keizai Doyukai held [its fourth meeting](#) in Tokyo. Under the theme of 'Outcomes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and ASEAN-Japan Partnership for the Future', people from both public and private sectors of ASEAN and Japan were invited for presentations and dialogue with the next generation.



I made a [keynote speech](#) online, raising three issues: outcomes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the challenges from this year, and the actors and modalities of implementation. To conclude, I presented four action points. First, the “visualization” of “diverse actors” is the first step. Respective actors taking part in the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Commemoration are expected to take concrete actions, holding up their ‘torches’. Secondly, their collaboration through ‘platforms’ and the role of the ‘hubs’ are critically important. Diverse actors are expected to align their “orientations” to co-create ‘added values’. Thirdly, it needs to expand from “Japan” and “ASEAN” to the “Indo-Pacific” and the “world”. The “diversity” originating from respective countries and places needs to be incorporated to aim high for “universality”. Lastly, the “60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” and the “Centennial” need to be in perspective. Such “milestones” are good occasions to share and highlight the outcomes to eventually “realise the dream”.

Not only government officials and business people but also entrepreneurs and international students from both Japan and ASEAN took part in this forum in great numbers and engaged in lively discussions. I will continue to support this initiative toward the launch of the core programme for the human resource development and circulation for the next generation.



Japan-ASEAN Round Table (30 January 2024)

### ● Japan-ASEAN Roundtable

In the last week of January, I travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the first

time and participated in the [Japan-ASEAN Roundtable](#) organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. The roundtable aimed to analyse the geopolitical and geoeconomic shift affecting ASEAN-Japan relations and to strategise ASEAN-Japan political, security and economic cooperation toward the future.

In my [keynote address](#) entitled “Peace and Prosperity through Trust and Co-Creation: Next Steps for ASEAN-Japan Cooperation”, I stressed three key points: (1) strengthening multiple people-to-people networks with trust, (2) realising economic and social benefits through co-creation and (3) promoting the shared principles and values in the region and the world through mainstreaming and implementing AOIP. Lively discussions by participants from both ASEAN and Japan followed, covering both political security as well as economic issues.

Japan and ASEAN confirmed at the Commemorative Summit last year that they share a common vision and that they will promote concrete cooperation to realise this. The most important challenge for us today is to put this into practice. I would like to take every opportunity to convey this message to both Japan and ASEAN and to expand the networks of actors. I would greatly appreciate if you could join and cooperate in various ways for this endeavour.

Ambassador of Mission of Japan to ASEAN  
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