

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,  
at the Graduation Ceremony of the AHA Centre Executive Leadership in  
Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme  
(ACE LEDMP) Middle Level – First Batch**

- H.E. Nararya S. Soeprapto, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs,
- Mr. Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director of the AHA Centre,
- Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony of AHA Centre Executive Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme (ACE LEDMP) Middle Level First Batch and to deliver my remarks.

(ACE LEDMP)

A series of ACE LEDMP courses of this cycle started in August last year, and I would like to congratulate the ACE Middle Level First Batch participants on their successful completion of the course.

I am aware that the participants have already gained a lot of experience in the field of disaster management. I hope that through this intensive one-month online and one-month onsite course, you have accumulated even more knowledge and experience to lead your respective organizations in the future.

I also heard that you visited various government organizations and agencies related to disaster management in Japan by touring Tokyo and Kobe for one week. I hope you also enjoyed the atmosphere of early spring in Japan.

I am pleased and honored that Japan has been supporting this fruitful initiative with ASEAN for such a long time from 2014 with more than 150 participants.

(Commemorative Summit)

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 shared 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.

(Realising our Joint Vision)

This year marks the beginning of the important journey of actually realising the Joint Vision Statement and its implementation plan adopted at the Summit last December. In this context, I would like to highlight what I consider to be important elements for future ASEAN-Japan cooperation, namely, strengthening multiple people-to-people networks with trust, realising economic and social benefits through co-creation, and promoting the shared principles and values in the region and the world through mainstreaming and implementing AOIP.

Cooperation between Japan and ASEAN and the AHA Centre in the field of disaster management is one of important cooperation that covers all three elements I mentioned. In particular, by focusing on the next generation for the future and by implementing intellectual exchanges for shared visions and strategies, we can realise economic and social benefits for both ASEAN and Japan in this field.

(Conclusion)

I am convinced that we have much to contribute to the region and the world in this area, as we have experienced a number of natural disasters in our region. I look forward to continuing to further work with you to help advancing the One ASEAN One Response together.

Last but not least, congratulations again on your graduation and I wish you all the best and all the success.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)