

## **Guest Remarks**

**KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**

**The 16th Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN and Federation  
of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA)  
Jakarta, 17 July 2024**

His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn,  
FJCCIA Chair Mr. SAWAMURA Takero,  
Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my immense pleasure to attend this dialogue between the FJCCIA and the Secretary-General of ASEAN today.

I would like to express my great appreciation to Dr. Kao Kim Hourn for taking time to participate, despite his busy schedule. I would also like to thank the FJCCIA and JETRO for organizing today's important face-to-face dialogue.

### **(1. Growing importance of ASEAN)**

We are all familiar with rapid growth in Asia over recent years.

At the Asia Business Summit held in Tokyo earlier this month, Prime Minister KISHIDA expressed his high expectations for Asia, which is “the growth center driving the global economy”.

The Prime Minister especially focused on two specific challenges that ASEAN and Japan can cooperate to address.

The first is **advancing green transformation**. ASEAN and Japan share many common challenges surrounding industrial structure and energy supply, including the need to interconnecting power grids in the region. Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) will definitely contribute to ASEAN's efforts in achieving both decarbonization and energy security.

The second is **accelerating digital transformation**. Here, ASEAN and Japan also have synergies, especially in the realm of AI. Development of LLM (large language models) for our complex languages, deeply rooted in unique cultures, is a great example. ELYZA is a Japanese startup that developed LLM for the Thai language, after their experience in the Japanese language. Cooperation could be enhanced in capacity building, development, and community building for AI.

As I mentioned last year at this dialogue, the engagement of the private sector, especially in the field of innovation and startup, is critically important to make ASEAN-Japan cooperation substantive and impactful.

**(2. Japan`s commitment to future cooperation)**

Last year marked the 50th anniversary for ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. I still vividly remember this memorable year, including the release of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision and the adoption of the Future Design and Action Plan.

We can further enhance our cooperation in the next 50 years, developing deeper ties building on our great success. FJCCIA and Japanese companies have especially been playing a key role in underpinning ASEAN-Japan partnership through their concrete business activities, and the Government of Japan stands ready to support them.

Finally, I would like to express my hope that the exchange of views during today`s dialogue will be fruitful for each and every one of us. I wish you continued success of your joint endeavors.

(End)