

**Closing Ceremony of the Leaders for Free and Open Indo-Pacific
Sea and Human Security Training for Asia and Pacific Island Countries
Remarks by H.E. Mr. KIYA Masahiko,
Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**

– Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to have the opportunity to attend the closing ceremony of “Leaders for Free and Open Indo-Pacific - Sea and Human Security Training for Asia and Pacific Island Countries” and to deliver my remarks.

In this training course we had participants of government officials and leaders in 26 Pacific Island states and Asian countries. This training course has provided them with the skills, knowledge and capacity to enhance climate, social, economic, food and maritime security and to establish a coordination mechanism across the Indo-Pacific. Thus, I expect that this training will also lead to the realization of addressing challenges and needs in the Indo-Pacific and enhancing regional resilience.

We are honored to have all of you, the future leaders of your countries and the Indo-Pacific region, join us for this training course. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) for formulating and implementing this important project.

As you may be aware, in 2016, former Prime Minister of Japan, ABE Shinzo delivered a vision called the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific", or FOIP. Eight years have passed since then, and we have seen significant events that have been posing challenges to global governance and have been making confrontation in the international community more complex such as global pandemics and conflicts in various parts of the world. It is precisely because of this situation that we need an open, free, transparent and rule-based vision of cooperation.

The concept of FOIP has been flexible in evolving in a way that embraces various voices, along with the growing support and endorsement from the international community. Prime Minister of Japan, KISHIDA Fumio, described in his speech that this vision, nurtured by the voices of different countries and which can be characterized as "our FOIP", is becoming more important than ever toward the

goal of leading the international community in the direction of cooperation rather than division and confrontation.

To enhance the connectivity of the Indo-Pacific region, to foster the region into a place that values freedom, the rule of law, free from force or coercion, and to make the region prosperous. This is the fundamental concept of FOIP that has remained unchanged even at this major turning point. And importantly, this concept of FOIP shares relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace and cooperation with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), ASEAN's guiding principle for cooperation in this region.

What I consider very unique about this training course is that it brought together future leaders not just from ASEAN, but from across the region. I am confident that the opportunity to learn together with leaders, not only from government but from the private sector, connected by the Indian and Pacific Oceans will be invaluable for your future careers.

Last December, the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit was held to celebrate the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation. At that meeting, we shared the understanding of ASEAN-Japan relationship as "Trusted Partners".

I believe this applies to our relationship with everyone here. We will spare no effort in further promoting cooperation with all of you as Trusted Partners to promote "our FOIP" together.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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