

Video Remarks by H.E. Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, at the Regional Workshop “Sharing Good Practices and Effective Remedies for Migrant Workers in Business and Human Rights” on 24th Sep 2024

- H.E. Prof. Dr. Amara Pongsapich, Representative of Thailand to AICHR
- H.E. Ms. Pornprapai Ganjanarintr, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
- H.E. Amb. Yong Changthalangsy, Chair and Representative of Lao PDR to AICHR
- Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(1. Introduction)

It is my great honour to have the opportunity to make remarks at this important event. I would like to thank AICHR and Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum (SEANF) for organizing this valuable workshop. Japan is pleased to support it through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

(2. AICHR and Japan Cooperation history)

Let me start by explaining how Japan appreciates and contributes to AICHR's activities.

The protection and promotion of human rights is one of the key areas of cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and strengthening cooperation with AICHR was included in the Plan of Implementation of the Vision Statement adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in 2013, that was more than ten years ago.

The first AICHR-Japan interface was held in May 2015, and possible areas of cooperation were identified, which are: (1) combatting trafficking in persons, (2) women's empowerment, and (3) human rights for persons with disabilities.

Since then, various activities have been carried out between AICHR and Japan in these areas, including through the JAIF.

AICHR and Japan have thus built a relationship of trust and have now decided that “Business and Human Rights” will be the next major agenda to be taken up.

(3. Why we have BHR workshop now?)

Today, we are taking part in the Regional Workshop on “Sharing Good Practices and Effective Remedies for Migrant Workers in Business and Human Rights” .

Human rights matter not only in the political arena but also in the economic arena, as demonstrated by the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in 2011.

Addressing the issue of Business and Human Rights is important not only for ASEAN companies but also for Japanese companies in order to strengthen their supply chains in the region.

Japan can contribute to promoting “Business and Human Rights” in ASEAN, because Japan has developed an action plan on Business and Human Rights in 2020 and has a good track record of working with AICHR on human rights in this region.

In addition, “Remedies for Migrant Workers” is a pressing issue for us, since the pandemic is over and more and more people are migrating across borders for work. Guaranteeing recourse to remedies for these migrant workers will make our society and economy stronger. It will also contribute to the realization of a multicultural and harmonious society.

(4. Conclusion)

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that this workshop will be an opportunity to share knowledge on effective remedies for migrant workers in the ASEAN region, as well as to further advance ASEAN–Japan Business and Human Rights cooperation.

Thank you very much for your attention. (END)