

Opening Remarks by Mr. KIYA Masahiko,
Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, at the Opening Ceremony for the
IAI Attachment Programme for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and
Viet Nam (CLMV) and Timor-Leste Officers at the ASEAN
Secretariat (2024/2025)

- H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN,
- H.E. Dr. Ton Thi Ngoc Huong, Chair of IAI Taskforce,
- H.E. Natércia Cipriana Coelho da Silva, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to ASEAN,
- Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is a great honour for me to attend the Opening Ceremony for the IAI Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat and to say a few words.

My dear fresh attachment officers, welcome to Jakarta from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam (CLMV) and Timor-Leste and congratulations on your participation in the Attachment Programme. This is the second time I have welcomed attachment officers like you since I arrived in Jakarta. We are pleased to be with you all.

On this occasion, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the ASEAN Secretariat, especially the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Division, for all the efforts to make this programme possible.

(Importance of the Programme)

This Attachment Programme, which began in 2001, has accumulated almost 25 years of history. The programme has brought about 120 graduates so far, who have been promoted to senior positions in various ministries and agencies in their home countries, in diplomatic missions abroad, and at the ASEAN Secretariat here in Jakarta.

I am sure that some of the graduates from the programme are present at this opening ceremony as well. The success of these graduates and their careers clearly showcases the successful results of our efforts, both ASEAN and Japan, over the past 25 years.

This year marks the milestone of the launch of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its 4 Strategic Plans. As you begin your journey at the ASEAN Secretariat at the beginning of the next 20 years, I am sure that you will learn and experience many things. I have no doubt that these lessons and experiences will have a profound impact on your lives and careers.

I am also deeply moved that in this milestone year, we are able to receive participants from Timor-Leste for the first time. I am confident that the experience and networks gained through this programme will contribute to Timor-Leste's accession process as well as post-accession activities.

(ASEAN-Japan relations)

Time flies. It has already been more than a year since the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. However, I feel that the bonds confirmed two years ago between the leaders of ASEAN and Japan have been further strengthened.

We, ASEAN and Japan, share a common understanding that we are "Trusted Partners", which was made possible by a long history of cooperation and friendship with mutual respect and understanding over the years. I believe that this Attachment programme will further promote and deepen the cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

(Conclusion)

I hope that you will participate in the upcoming activities with a sense of responsibility and joy by knowing that your efforts and contribution during this Attachment Programme period will be a part of the foundation for the next 20 years of ASEAN.

Last but not least, congratulations again on the successful start of the programme and I wish you all the best and all the success.

Thank you for your attention.

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