

**Key Remarks by H.E. Mr. KIYA Masahiko,
Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,
at the ASEAN Blue Carbon and Finance Profiling Project launch event
21 May 2025**

- H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community,
- YBhg. Dato' Ts. V. Valluvan Veloo, Chair, ASEAN Coordinating Task Force on Blue Economy
- Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, Resident Representative, UNDP Indonesia,
- Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(1. Introduction)

It is my great honor to have the opportunity to attend this launch event for the ASEAN Blue Carbon and Finance Profiling Project and to deliver my remarks. I would like to extend my gratitude to each of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join us today.

Your presence here underscores our shared commitment to tackling one of the most pressing challenges of our time: climate change.

(2. Why We Work Together for Blue Carbon and Blue Finance)

Addressing climate change requires urgent and collaborative action. Our initiative today, focusing on Blue Carbon and Blue Finance, is a crucial step toward sustainable environmental and economic practices. Japan is honored to support this important initiative.

Blue Carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes, play a vital role as carbon sinks, helping mitigate climate impacts. Their preservation is key to maintaining ecological balance and biodiversity.

Blue Finance offers innovative financial solutions to support these ecosystems and promote sustainable economic growth. The ASEAN region, with its rich marine resources and vibrant coastal communities, is well-positioned to lead in this area.

This project reflects our deep commitment to climate resilience, ecosystem protection, and regional collaboration. Through the ABCF Project, we aim to share Japan's experiences in integrating Blue Carbon into national climate policy. This will enable Southeast Asian countries to access innovative financing models and practical tools for implementation.

Together, through strategic collaboration and partnerships, we can establish a regional platform to measure Blue Carbon and Blue Finance for climate action and sustainable growth.

(3. Achievements of the Blue Economy Project)

Last year, Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the ASEAN Secretariat collaborated on the ASEAN Blue Economy Innovation Project, highlighting 60 innovative startups and organizations across ASEAN and Timor-Leste.

These groups excel in promoting sustainable fisheries and blue tourism, combating plastic pollution and addressing climate change.

These innovators will join a network of stakeholders from the new project and showcase their successful community-led and institutional projects at high-profile platforms such as the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

(4. Introducing ERIA's Asia Zero Emission Center)

Japan is deeply committed to fostering collaboration in these areas. The establishment of the Asia Zero Emission Center in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) exemplifies our dedication to achieving energy transitions, economic growth, and energy security. This initiative aligns with our shared goal of achieving decarbonization while promoting economic growth, demonstrating the potential for synergy between environmental initiatives and economic development.

(5. Recent Diplomatic Efforts)

Recently, from May 3rd to 7th, Mr. Kishida Fumio, former Prime Minister of Japan, visited Indonesia and Malaysia as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Supreme Advisor to the Parliamentary Association of AZEC.

He met with H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN, where they

exchanged views on advancing decarbonization efforts across the ASEAN region, underscoring the importance of collaboration.

In Indonesia, Mr. Kishida also had an opportunity to meet with President Prabowo Subianto to discuss further cooperation through the Parliamentary Association of AZEC. President Prabowo welcomed the initiative, emphasizing the importance of decarbonization and energy transition.

In Malaysia, Mr. Kishida engaged in discussion with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who affirmed Malaysia's commitment to AZEC and cooperation as ASEAN Chair.

(6. Introducing Ministry of Environment of Japan)

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Ito Fumio, Director of the Decarbonized Society Promotion Office, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, has joined us for this important event.

As a panelist, Mr. Ito will share valuable insights from Japan's experience, focusing on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and global warming countermeasures. We look forward to his contributions, which will undoubtedly enrich our discussions and provide us with a deeper understanding of effective climate strategies.

(7. Conclusion)

ASEAN-Japan cooperation has just embarked on a new journey toward the next 50 years. Japan is determined to continue encouraging ASEAN's success in this new frontier of Blue Carbon and Blue Finance.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this project impactful to the people in the entire region. I am hopeful that this project will serve as a catalyst for further cooperation and investment in this field.

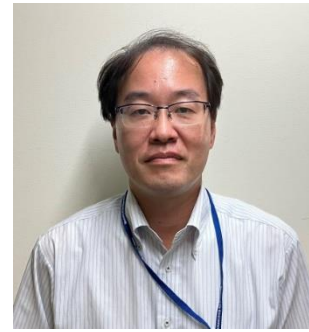
Thank you very much for your attention.

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(参考1)環境省からの参加者

伊藤史雄 環境省脱炭素社会移行推進室長

- ・ NDC（パリ協定で各国の温室効果ガス削減目標の国が決定する貢献）や地球温暖化対策計画（ともに本年2月閣議決定）の策定や、日本の温室効果ガス排出・吸収量（インベントリ）の算定・公表の責任者。
- ・ 日本のインベントリで温室効果ガスの吸収源の一部としてブルーカーボン（沿岸・海洋生態系が光合成によりCO₂を取り込み、その後海底や深海に蓄積される炭素）がカウントされている。日本国内のクレジット制度として、2020年度から「Jブルークレジット」制度を運用し、藻場の再生等による吸収量をクレジット化する取組が進行中。



(参考2)2023年度の日本の温室効果ガス排出量及び吸収量

- ・ 2023年度の我が国の温室効果ガス排出・吸収量は、約10億1,700万トン（二酸化炭素（CO₂）換算、以下同じ。）となり、2022年度比で4.2%（約4,490万トン）の減少、2013年度比では27.1%（約3億7,810万トン）の減少となりました。過去最低値を記録し、2050年ネット・ゼロの実現に向けた減少傾向を継続。
- ・ 森林やブルーカーボン等の吸収源対策については、2023年度の吸収量は前年度とほぼ同量の約5,370万トン（2022年度は約5,380万トン）となり、2013年度排出量からの削減量（約3億7,810万トン）の14.2%に相当する吸収量を確保。2022年度からの排出量減少の主な要因としては、電源の脱炭素化（電源構成に占める再生可能エネルギーと原子力の合計割合が3割超え）や製造業の国内生産活動の減少によるエネルギー消費量の減少等が考えられる。

(参考3)ASEAN気候変動戦略行動計画2023-2030(ACCSAP)※JAIF 支援

- ・ ACCSAPは、2030年までの行動に焦点を当て、ASEAN気候ビジョン2050の達成に向けた地域の様々なステークホルダーの関与と行動を、強靱で温室効果ガス排出量ネットゼロの共同体に導くことを目的とした行動指向型かつ期限を区切った対応策をとりまとめ。本年、ASEAN各国の同計画を策定支援。今週(5/13~15)開催の気候変動AWG関連会合にて議論し8月にWS開催予定。
- ・ ブルネイのASEAN気候変動センター(ACCC)の機能についても、8月のWSで議論予定。