

**Remarks by
H.E. Mr. KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,
at the Graduation Ceremony of the
AHA Centre Executive Leadership in Emergency and
Disaster Management Programme (ACE-LEDMP)
Middle Level - Second Batch,
Jakarta, 23 May 2025**

- H.E. San Lwin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community,
- H.E. Joanna Jane Anderson, Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN,
- Mr. Sithu Pe Thein, Director of Operations, AHA Centre,
- Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony of AHA Centre Executive Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme (ACE LEDMP) Middle Level Second Batch and to deliver my remarks.

(Recent Earthquake)

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of the victims, people and the governments of Myanmar and Thailand, that were affected by the recent earthquake. I sincerely pray for the swift recovery as well as the early restoration of the disaster-stricken areas.

Japan has been providing as much support as possible, including the dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Medical Teams and Japan Self-Defense Forces Aircraft, the provision of Emergency Relief Goods, Emergency Grant, and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. We will continue to work closely with Myanmar and Thailand, and ASEAN to overcome this great challenge

together.

(ACE Programme)

A series of ACE LEDMP courses of this cycle started in August in 2023. I would like to congratulate the ACE Middle Level Second Batch participants on their successful completion of the course. With this course, all ACE-LEDMP courses have been completed, and we will now move on to the coordination for the next phase of the programme.

The response to the earthquake this time reminded us that such a major disaster is difficult to deal with by the affected countries alone. Therefore, ASEAN collaboration through the AHA Centre and cooperation with its external partners is the key to a prompt and appropriate response.

The ACE Programme is a project to build the capacity of the promising officials who will play a central role in each country's response to natural disasters. I am pleased and honored that Japan has been supporting this fruitful initiative with ASEAN for such a long time from 2014, with around 200 graduates from 7 batches of ACE programme and ACE-LEDMP.

(Next 20 years of ASEAN and ASEAN-Japan relations)

This year marks the milestone of the launch of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its 4 Strategic Plans. Turning to ASEAN-Japan relations, the Commemorative Summit for celebrating the 50 years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was held in 2023. We shared the understanding about ASEAN-Japan relationship as "Trusted Partners". This was made possible by a long history of cooperation and friendship with mutual respect and understanding over the years.

You participated in this training course, in the memorable year of 2025 and immediately after a period of great accomplishment for ASEAN and Japan. I believe that your contribution in the future will solidify the

foundation for ASEAN's prosperity for the next 20 years as well as ASEAN-Japan cooperation for the next 50 years.

(Conclusion)

Last but not least, congratulations again on your successful completion of the training course. I wish you all the best and hope that you will be able to utilize your experience, knowledge and network from this training course for achieving even greater success in your future endeavors.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)