

VATHOUNIYOM DOUANGMALA ASSUMED THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF TOURISM & EXCHANGE OF THE ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE

The ASEAN-Japan Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Vathouniyom Douangmala as Director of the Tourism & Exchange Division of the ASEAN-Japan Centre in Tokyo, Japan, who is seconded from the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), as of April 1, 2016. He will be the head of the division in charge of vitalization of tourist traffic and expansion of personal exchanges between the ASEAN Member States and Japan.

Mr. Vathouniyom, with more than 16 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Lao PDR, was the Counselor of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR; Third Secretary of the Embassy of Lao PDR in France from March 2004 to December 2007; and Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was also the Chairman of National Organizing Committee for the ASEAN Tourism Forum and 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting from January 2003 to March 2004. Mr. Vathouniyom holds a master degree in public policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Japan, and speaks English and French in addition to Lao language.

Upon assuming the post of the Director of the Tourism & Exchange Division, Mr. Vathouniyom affirmed that he would contribute to expediting the Centre's reform process. He also mentioned that he wants to make the Centre's activities more visible and relevant so as to further strengthen the ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership.



Mr. Vathouniyom, newly appointed Director of the Tourism & Exchange Division, ASEAN-Japan Centre

<<ASEAN-Japan Centre>>

The ASEAN Japan Centre is an intergovernmental organization established by the ASEAN Member States and Japan in 1981. It has been promoting exports from ASEAN to Japan while revitalizing investment, tourism as well as people-to-people exchanges between the ASEAN Member States and Japan. URL : <http://www.asean.or.jp/en/>

\* ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a regional cooperative organization consists of 10 countries in the Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

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