



ASEAN-KOREA CENTRE

ASEAN 51st Anniversary Symposium in Tokyo

8 August 2018, Bellesalle Onarimon Ekimae Hall, Tokyo

Congratulatory Remarks

by H.E. Lee Hyuk, Secretary General of the ASEAN-Korea Centre

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- ❖ **H.E. Masataka Fujita, Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Centre,**
 - ❖ **H.E. Chen Dehai, Secretary General of ASEAN-China Centre,**
 - ❖ **H.E. Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Economic Community,**
 - ❖ **Excellencies of ASEAN Committee in Tokyo,**

Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. GREETINGS

Good afternoon and I would like to first extend my sincere congratulations to the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) and the ASEAN Committee in Tokyo (ACT) on hosting the ASEAN 51st Anniversary Symposium.

I would also like to express my gratitude to H.E. Masataka Fujita, Secretary General of the AJC, for kindly inviting me and Secretary General Chen Dehai to deliver remarks on this significant occasion.

2. ROLE OF THE AJC & ASEAN AS FACILITATORS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

Since its foundation, the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) has played an important role in fostering Japan's economic and sociocultural cooperation with ASEAN.

The AJC has been part of Japan's efforts in realizing the Fukuda Doctrine, a vision for Japan's peaceful cooperation with ASEAN, by actively strengthening partnerships among the ASEAN Member States and Japan, in a spirit of "heart-to-heart relations" and "equal partnership." In this regard, I would like to congratulate and commend AJC for the achievement made over the decades in making Japan and ASEAN special and indispensable partners.

The ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), which will celebrate its 10th Anniversary next year, has learned a great deal from AJC's experience and wisdom in enhancing Korea's cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN.

As the title of today's symposium shows, over the last five decades, ASEAN has been making a great stride in achieving regional integration in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, by initiating the establishment of the ASEAN+3 Framework in 1997, the ASEAN Regional Forum in 1994 and the East Asia Summit in 2005, ASEAN has been successfully playing its role as a facilitator of regional and global peace and prosperity.

3. ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the ambitious vision as shown in ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN has been actively working to push ahead with regional economic integration. I hope that the goals of the Blueprint will be realized in a fashion which can lay the foundation for a globally-engaged community where Korea, Japan and China together also can enhance trade, investment and other economic cooperation among ASEAN and our three countries.

Currently, there is a growing and worrying tendency towards protectionism among global economies, where policies can be easily undertaken to appeal domestic constituents. Amid this challenge, I believe the success of AEC Blueprint 2025 will prove to be a good model for an open and free market and an interconnected regional economic system.

4. ASEAN-KOREA RELATIONS

Ladies and gentlemen,

Next year will be a special year for ASEAN and Korea as it marks our 30th anniversary of Dialogue Relations. Over the past years, ASEAN and Korea have seen drastic increases in trade, investment, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, which makes ASEAN Korea's second largest trading partner with 149 billion USD last year, and its third largest investment destination with 4.9 billion USD.

Furthermore, there is an ever-expanding people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Last year alone, some 7 million Koreans visited ASEAN countries for tourism, business and etc. And also for residence, around half a million ASEAN citizens and roughly 300 thousand Koreans live and work respectively in Korea and ASEAN countries.

It is against this backdrop that the Korean government has placed ASEAN as one of its top priority partners with President Moon Jae-in's "New Southern Policy" as the vision and tool for realizing Korea's strategic goals toward ASEAN.

5. CLOSING

Considering the ever-changing and complicated dynamics surrounding East Asia, we cannot overemphasize the importance of invigorating dialogues and cooperation among three countries together with ASEAN, in promoting common peace and prosperity in this region. In that regard, I hope today's symposium will serve as an opportunity to consolidate the collegiality and partnership among our three centres.

Hoping that today's symposium will be a great success, I wish all the participants good health and success.

Thank you very much.