

## **40<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation**

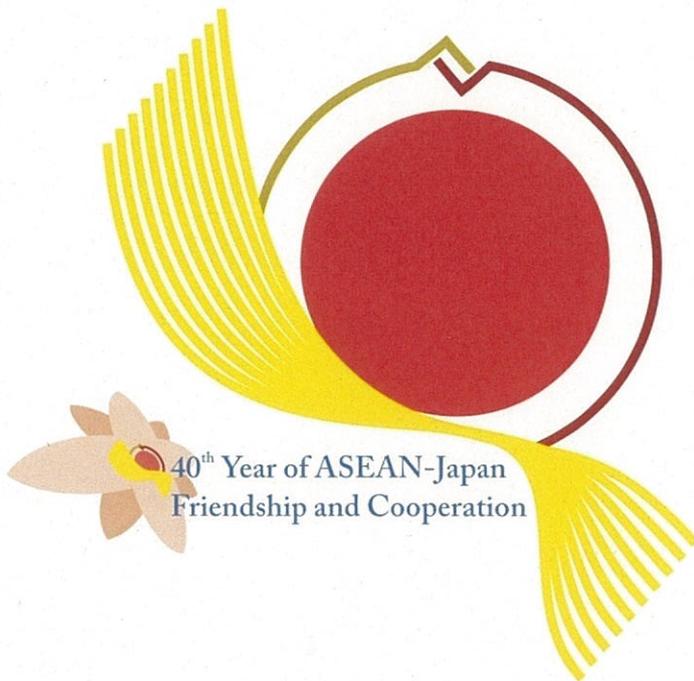
- The exchange partnership between ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and Japan was initiated in 1973 with the ASEAN-Japan forum on synthetic rubber, and the year 2013 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since the initiation of the exchange. In the ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministerial Meeting held in July 2012, the ministers agreed to carry out commemorative activities throughout 2013 to mark the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Also, it is agreed that the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit meeting to be held in Japan next year.
- Japan has supported the growth of ASEAN member states in the areas of infrastructure building and human resource development, which is believed to be the basis of current development of the ASEAN region. The “heart to heart” relationship, which was articulated in the Fukuda Doctrine in 1977, has already been well established among Japan and ASEAN member states, and Japan and ASEAN member states demonstrated true friendship by helping each other such as during the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997, the Sumatra Earthquake in 2004, and the Great East Japan Earthquake last year.
- ASEAN and Japan have also established close partnership as business partners. Total trade amount between ASEAN and Japan in 2011 reached 248 billion US dollars, and ASEAN is now the second largest trading partner for Japan next to China. Also, in 2011 the increase of Japanese foreign direct investment was amounted to 1.5 trillion yen (approx. 18.8 billion US dollars), making ASEAN the second major destination for Japanese enterprises behind the European Union (EU).
- During the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting in 2011, the leaders adopted the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration) and the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015 for further enhancing peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. ASEAN and Japan are strengthening cooperation according to the Declaration and the Plan of Action.

(distributed at the Press Conference by Chief Cabinet Secretary on November 8, 2012)

- In 2003, the year of the 30th anniversary, entitled ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003, Japan and ASEAN member states carried out more than 700 anniversary related events, and the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit was held in Tokyo.
  
- In 2013, the year of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Japan and ASEAN member states plan to carry out exchange projects in a wide range of fields including, political dialogue, economy, culture, sports, tourisms and youth exchanges. Exchange programs among concerned organizations and private sectors are encouraged, and joint efforts by public and private sector are expected.

END

【Logo】



(1)Creator

Name: Mr. YOU Ratanaksamrith

Nationality: Cambodian

(2)Explanation

(Red circle)

▪Japan

(10 yellow stripes)

▪ASEAN.

(The position of the circle and the stripes)

▪Sun rise from a horizon

(Outer curve with hook shape)

▪Handshake

(Flower)

▪Peace

(Logomark in the flower)

▪Emphasis of 40 years of peace

【Catchphrase】

(English) Thoughts connected, Future connected

(Japanese) つながる想い つながる未来 (Tsunagaru omoi, Tsunagaru mirai)

(1)Creator

Name: Mr. SATO Yoshiharu

Nationality: Japanese

(2)Explanation

The catchphrase stands for hope that Japan and ASEAN countries hold hands and work together towards the better future.