

THE 25TH ASEAN-JAPAN SUMMIT

On November 12, 2022, the 25th ASEAN-Japan Summit (Chair: Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Mr. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the meeting. An overview of the meeting is as follows.

Commemorative Summit for 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Following the opening remarks of Prime Minister Hun Sen, Prime Minister Kishida delivered his opening remarks. He stated that he would like to hold a Commemorative Summit in Tokyo around December 2023 as the next year would mark the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. He also said that he would like to listen to the views and interests of each country in preparation for the 50th Year.

In response, many countries expressed their support in their remarks. As the Chair, Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Leaders for accepting Japan's proposal and confirmed that the Commemorative Summit would be held following a regular annual ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2023.

ASEAN-Japan Cooperation

Prime Minister Kishida expressed concern over the soaring energy and food prices around the world caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

He also introduced Japan's financial support loans of approximately 295 billion JPY in total to ASEAN countries as part of Japan's support to the ASEAN Comprehen-

sive Recovery Framework (ACRF). He also reaffirmed Japan's continued commitment to assist the sustainable growth of ASEAN countries.

In addition, he also expressed his intention to continue supporting the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) including through the dispatch of Japanese health experts.

Prime Minister Kishida then provided the overview of Japan's cooperation in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as follows.

(a) Japan supports ASEAN unity and centrality and is among the first to express support to the AOIP which shares fundamental principles with the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Since the adoption of the 2020 Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on AOIP cooperation, there have been eighty-nine concrete cooperation projects in total.

(b) Heading towards the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation next year, Japan will enhance cooperation in the areas of maritime cooperation such as maritime traffic safety, assistance for connectivity such as quality infrastructure investment, healthcare including universal health coverage, measures to address climate change and disaster prevention, and also cooperation in a wide range of economic areas such as supply chain resilience, digital technology and food security.

(c) Japan would like to realize the Asia Zero Emissions Community by fully mobilizing its know-how and experience.

In response, ASEAN countries expressed appreciation and gratitude to the various

efforts mentioned above such as assistance for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and assistance for the establishment of the ACPHEED. They also highly valued Japan's cooperation on the AOIP and expressed high expectation for continued close cooperation. In response to these remarks from ASEAN countries, Prime Minister Kishida said that he was very encouraged to know that ASEAN countries and Japan shared the view on the importance of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

Regional and International Issues

Prime Minister Kishida stated as follows stressing that Japan and ASEAN shared the view on many points regarding regional and international issues.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed serious concerns over the deteriorating situation in Myanmar and his intention to continue supporting ASEAN's efforts as well as to directly urge the Myanmar military to implement the "Five-Point Consensus" at the earliest to improve the situation.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the illegal "annexation" infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and violate international law including the United Nations Charter, and emphasized that any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force should never be tolerated anywhere in the world.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed serious concern over unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China Seas as well as economic coercion.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that North Korea has been launching the spate of ballistic missiles with extremely high frequency since last month, including the one which flew over Japanese territory. These missile launches constitute a clear and serious challenge to the international community and cannot be tolerated.

Concluding Remarks

In concluding his remarks, Prime Minister Kishida said that he would like to make the Golden Jubilee of ASEAN-Japan relations a golden opportunity to demonstrate golden friendship between ASEAN and Japan as suggested by its official catchphrase.



Photo session

Photo: Courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office

Note: This article was created with the consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and on the basis of materials published by the Ministry.