

# **Sendai Joint Statement on “Future Partnership between ASEAN and Japan”**

## **Japan-ASEAN Student Conference**

**13 – 19 November 2009**

**Japan**

### **I. Introduction**

1. **We**, the youth of ASEAN and Japan, gathered on 13-19 November 2009 at Tokyo – Sendai, Japan on the occasion of the Japan – ASEAN Student Conference.
2. **We** noted the efforts of Japan’s assistance in realising the integration of the ASEAN Community by 2015, especially in narrowing the development gap as indicated in the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community encompassing the three Community Blueprints: ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan for 2009-2015.
3. **We** shared the goal of promoting people-to-people contact. In this regard, we appreciate the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange of Students and Youths (JENESYS) programme which was established in 2007.
4. **We** recognised the unique promise and contribution of youth – who have the social responsibility to take concrete initiatives and be open-minded, tolerant, active, energetic, dynamic and optimistic – in promoting ASEAN-Japan partnership towards regional integration. In this context, we commit to a significant and pro-active role in the promotion of the ASEAN Community as the basis of the envisioned East Asian community.

### **II. The Roles of Youth in Promoting ASEAN-Japan Partnership**

#### **A. The actions youth can undertake in the area of Environment:**

1. **Improve** their individual awareness and attitude towards environment by keeping themselves informed on environmental issues, being involved in environmental groups, and practicing eco-friendly habits;

2. **Promote** environmental awareness by sharing information with others through the use of youth-centered media such as the Internet and engaging in youth activities such as initiating or joining eco-clubs and organizations that serve as venues to share ideas, views and feedback;
3. **Participate** actively in governance by creating a youth body for greater representation in government decisions and policies, and use various means available to them (e.g. dialogue, blogging, forums, petitions, and other legal means) to urge governments to take action to improve their immediate environment; and
4. **Undertake** individual activities that contribute significantly to environmental solutions, such as practicing the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), following local waste segregation schemes, planting trees to mitigate air pollution; and volunteering to work in areas affected by natural disasters.

**B. The actions youth can undertake in the area of Politics/ Economy:**

5. **Promote** youth financial literacy and nurture future financial professionals by;
  - (i) Proposing to ASEAN University Network (AUN) to serve as an initial platform for financial knowledge exchange amongst Japanese and ASEAN university students, and financial professionals; media are created to spread knowledge to students to raise youth financial awareness; and
  - (ii) Forming financial clubs from AUN Member Universities to lead the establishment of a student investment fund with support from students, and grants from ASEAN governments. Returns will partly go to developing areas within ASEAN.
6. **Encourage** the creation the youth-centred organisations to spearhead contribution to intra-ASEAN development projects.

**C. The actions youth can undertake in the area of Regional Identity: *Culture and Politics***

7. **Push** towards the improvement of logistics, new media and industrial infrastructure, and participate in the utilisation of networks, student exchange programmes, student forums, and scholarships among member states through;
  - (i) Establishment of an East Asia travel network to broaden the horizon of the people of East Asia and to improve the perceptions of East Asian cultures;
  - (ii) Participation in Regional Student Exchange Programmes that encourage the interaction between students from developed and developing member states to increase the awareness of various perspectives of historical and political systems and to narrow the development gaps within the region; and
  - (iii) Formation of youth humanitarian volunteer groups that will extend aid to any country in the region in times of need.

**III. Recommendations for Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN Countries and Japan**

**A. In the area of Environment, the youth of ASEAN and Japan call on ASEAN Member States and Japan to:**

1. **Increase** the general public's awareness of the environment by providing public funds for community-based organisations, community environmental projects and campaigns, non-governmental organisations, and youth exchanges;
2. **Provide** the environmental education for students by incorporating environmental issues in the school curriculum, both in classroom and supplementary activities (e.g., educational visits and volunteer work);
3. **Promote** and strengthen more international cooperation in addressing environmental issues in the ASEAN and East Asian regions, and establish an institution to

implement framework policies and common country-based policies that stop or reduce the movement of pollution, mitigate climate change, and transfer technology and expertise;

4. **Enhance** environmental governance through more effective monitoring of environmental management practices, reforming laws and regulations, conducting environmental impact assessments, training and orientation of all stakeholders, and mainstreaming Polluter Pays, User Pays, and Emission Trading policies;
5. **Enhance** government consideration of public views in decision-making, and cooperation between the government and civil society;
6. **Provide** funds for adaptation to climate change and swift recovery of those affected by natural disasters, and mechanisms for information-sharing for purposes of prediction and early-warning; and
7. **Pursue** Sustainable Development policies such as long-term national and urban planning; incentives for eco-friendly industries; sharing of green technologies and finances for environmental management, education, and research & development; and use of preventive measures, integrated waste management, and environmental taxes.

**B. In the area of Politics/ Economy, the youth of ASEAN and Japan call on ASEAN Member States and Japan to:**

8. **Enhance** the development of capital markets in ASEAN region specifically, the establishment of a regional investment agency;
9. **Identify** comparative advantages and improve competitiveness of ASEAN Member States as a means to lessen socio-economic disparity and devote more resources to research, coordination and identification of the areas of comparative advantage in ASEAN;
10. **Enhance** knowledge and technology transfer to improve capacity of agricultural sector in ASEAN by using Japan as the role model in instituting a body to facilitate

and regulate technological exchange for the standardisation of quality and the improvement of production processes;

11. **Increase** the flow of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN Member States by establishing;

- (i) An ASEAN investment institute to gather information and encourage the simplification of investment procedures; and
- (ii) An ASEAN one-stop investment centre to coordinate among countries' investment regulations.

12. **Establish** an ASEAN standard certification in agriculture and manufacturing sectors, with support from Japan;

13. **Initiate** scholarship, internship and technical training programmes to encourage the development of human competence by;

- (i) Increasing awareness about the significance of agriculture among the youth,
- (ii) Installing mechanisms and frameworks to ensure the successful implementation of these programs.

14. **Create** a standard and comprehensive ASEAN definition of 'Human Security', with the ultimate aim of;

- (i) Prioritising Human Security in all circumstances; and
- (ii) Granting more power to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), allowing exclusive access into ASEAN nations to perform assessments and submission of confidential reports to ASEAN.

**C. In the area of Regional Identity: *Culture and Politics*, the youth of ASEAN and Japan call on ASEAN Member States and Japan to:**

15. **Promote** good governance and protect human rights through;

- (i) The introduction and utilisation of information technology in governmental work and processes (E-government) to promote efficiency, transparency and accessibility, with the involvement of private sectors to enhance accountable and effective governance and to give citizens stronger political rights;
- (ii) The establishment of a consultative mechanism and an independent regional body to monitor and fact-check mass media in East Asia so as to ensure the accuracy of portrayal of various cultures in East Asia; and
- (iii) The establishment of a mechanism to promote regional cooperation to prevent and combat corruption.

**16. Promote** regional identity through education by;

- (i) The establishment of a youth-government communication channel to increase youth participation in politics and the adoption of youth ideas into practical policies;
- (ii) The development of an East Asian Studies degree program and Curriculum across all nations;
- (iii) The awarding of scholarships to qualified students who pursue studies that contribute to the development of the East Asian regional identity as well as that of their own countries;
- (iv) The enhancement of joint research to generate reports among the East Asian universities to increase awareness of various perspectives of historical events;
- (v) The establishment of East Asian Alliance Centers, both within and outside the region to promote the study of East Asian languages and cultures;
- (vi) The declaration of an East Asian Day as a public holiday to commemorate East Asian regional identity;
- (vii) The utilisation of the existing regional sports events as platforms for cultural exchanges and regional awareness; and
- (viii) The creation of an East Asian Channel which would feature news, documentaries, films, dramas, music and cultural programmes to increase awareness of East Asian identity.

**17. Establish** better networks between East Asian nations through;

- (i) Facilitation of traveling and people-to-people contacts by improving and constructing new inter-state roads and other modes of transportation, including extension of visa waiver within ASEAN+3; and
- (ii) Utilisation of English as the common language in East Asia to facilitate better networking.

#### **IV. Closing**

The realisation of this Joint Statement will be accomplished only through the collective adoption of these recommendations that will enhance cooperation and partnership between ASEAN and Japan. This Joint Statement will be submitted at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit in Viet Nam.

**Adopted** in Sendai, Japan, this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.