

Joint Statement by  
the ASEAN Advisory Committee Members  
of the Japan Foundation Asia Center

WE, the Advisory Committee Members of the Japan Foundation Asia Center coming from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered in Tokyo, Japan on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016, for the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Japan Foundation Asia Center, noted with profound satisfaction the progress achieved by the Asia Center thus far since its inception in April 2014 to implement the “WA Project” initiated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in December 2013 during the ASEAN – Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting which was held in Tokyo to mark the milestone of 40 years of friendship and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN.

RECOGNIZING that under the “WA Project – Toward Interactive Asia”, the Japanese Government has made substantive fund available and established the Asia Center within the Japan Foundation to carry out various activities and objectives such as (1) to expand the range of interaction and cultural exchange to better improve mutual understanding; (2) to promote the development of human resource and ‘soft’ infrastructure for the support of sport and culture; (3) to form strong networks of experts from a diverse range of cultural fields, and lay the foundation to build platforms for sustainable cultural exchange; and (4) to generate new values and movements in Asia, and to raise issues and proposals with an eye toward a sustainable future.

ACKNOWLEDGING that steady progresses with visible achievements have been made by the Japan Foundation Asia Center in a short period of two years since its inception, particularly on two most important projects to (1) Promote and Support for Japanese Language Learning and Exchange and (2) the Art and Culture Program. All of these projects have been well executed and will definitely bring lasting benefits which in turn will deepen the bond of

friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and all ASEAN countries.

And, therefore, we would like to make the following statements:

1- We firmly realize the important role that the Asia Center has played to carry out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout Southeast Asia, dedicating specifically to achieve the goal of connecting people, expanding networks, and developing collaborative cultural programmes across Asia.

2- We are impressed with wide ranging cultural activities undertaken by the Asia Center designed to contribute to creating and enlarging circles of harmony and peace across Asia toward the future by nurturing among the people of Asia a common awareness for mutual coexistence and understanding and good neighborliness.

3- We are gratified by the Japanese Government's sincerity as expressed through the "WA Project" to create equal partnership between Japan and Asian Countries, promote two-way exchange, respect for diversity of identity, culture and tradition in respective countries, and enhance harmony amidst diversity.

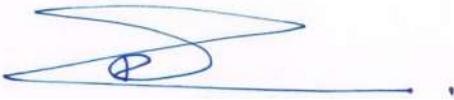
4- We note with satisfaction the strong commitment from the Japanese Government to subsidize 20.03 billion Japanese Yen as the total budget until 2020 to realize the many important activities related to the support for Japanese language education through the deployment of "NIHONGO Partners" which serve to assist local teachers in schools of each ASEAN countries to promote the teaching of Japanese language and the introduction of Japanese culture, and the support for Art and Culture Program which include the promotion and support for various projects related to the People to People Exchange, the Building of Networks, and Collaborative Projects. The implementation of these projects works both ways to promote stronger educational and cultural bond between Japan and ASEAN countries.

5- As we notice that the Japan Foundation Asia Center will undoubtedly increase its meaningful activities in the years to come, we would like to take this opportunity to respectfully call upon all the authorities concerned within the ASEAN Member States to offer necessary guidance, support, collaboration, and facilitate any action required to all of the overseas Offices of the Japan Foundation which have been established so as to allow them to fulfill their mandate in the realization of a diverse range of activities to promote and strengthen cultural exchange between Japan and other countries of Asia.

6- In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere congratulation and deep gratitude to the Japanese Government, especially to His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, for the dedication and commitment to support the multitude of useful projects undertaken by the Japan Foundation Asia Center in all Southeast Asian countries.

Signed on: 21th September, 2016

By:



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Dato Paduka Hamdil lah HA Wahab  
Advisory Committee Member – Brunei



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Pou Sothirak  
Advisory Committee Member – Cambodia



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Riri Riza  
Advisory Committee Member – Indonesia



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Thavixay Saythilath  
Advisory Committee Member – Laos PDR



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Datuk Lat  
Advisory Committee Member – Malaysia



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Lapai Seng Raw  
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Ambeth R. Ocampo  
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Goh Ching Lee  
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Kitti Prasirtsuk  
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Nguyen Van Chinh  
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\*Alphabetical order of countries