

# OECD東南アジア地域プログラム（SEARP） 地域フォーラム

2019年3月11日(月): 山田政務官スピーチ

## 1 冒頭

Honorable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Representatives of International Organizations,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in the 2019 Forum of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme on behalf of the Government of Japan.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the OECD Secretariat for hosting this forum.

I would also like to thank the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand for their excellent co-chairmanship.

## 2 SEARP の始動と日本の継続的コミットメント

Japan has consistently promoted the cooperation between the OECD and this region, which dates back to the late 1990s.

In 2007, the OECD designated Southeast Asia as a region of “strategic priority interest.”

At the 2014 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, the Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) was launched in the presence of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Ministers from Southeast Asia. SEARP has since supported ASEAN countries' priorities as well as regional integration efforts.

In March 2018, at the end of the co-chairmanship of Japan and Indonesia, the first SEARP Ministerial Conference was held in Tokyo.

Under the theme of "Inclusive ASEAN," the Ministerial Conference discussed "Inclusiveness through Connectivity" and "Inclusiveness through Participation."

Today, on the occasion of the SEARP Regional Forum, I would like to stress Japan's unwavering and continued commitment to SEARP. Japan will support the new co-chairs in order to further develop SEARP at "SEARP 2.0."

### **3 ASEAN 連結性と OECD の役割**

Under the theme of today's Forum "Connecting Southeast Asia," the participants have been discussing connectivity at three different levels, namely ① "ASEAN Connectivity," ② "Southeast Asia Sub-Regional Connectivity," and ③ "Inter-Regional Connectivity."

Connectivity is key to realizing "Inclusive ASEAN."

It is indeed one of the pillars of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

Infrastructure, trade, and investment, among others, are critical elements when we discuss connectivity.

In this connection, the OECD has played a key role in sharing its analysis and best practices as well as setting high standards.

Such contribution is of great help to the region in strengthening connectivity.

In this context, Japan attaches great importance to the role of the OECD in promoting quality infrastructure.

There still remains a huge demand-supply gap to be filled in infrastructure investment in Asia.

But focusing on quantity alone is not enough.

Sub-standard infrastructure may rather hinder an inclusive and sustainable growth.

That is why we need quality infrastructure that meets international standards.

I am pleased to note the progress made by the OECD in setting guidelines and compiling best practices of quality infrastructure.

I hope the OECD will further contribute to enhancing connectivity in Southeast Asia in collaboration with the G20 under the Japanese Presidency this year.

## 4 日本の取組

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Japan has been working closely with Southeast Asia to further promote socioeconomic development in the region as a “Partner for Prosperity.”

In terms of connectivity, the Government of Japan strongly supports the implementation of the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.”

Japan has also been supporting connectivity enhancement in the region bilaterally as well as through sub-regional frameworks such as the Mekong-Japan Cooperation.

In this manner, Japan has been promoting “Vibrant and Effective Connectivity” to strengthen the connection of not only physical infrastructure but also systems and business.

From an inter-regional perspective, at last year’s Japan-ASEAN Summit meeting, the leaders of Japan and ASEAN member states shared the view to promote a rules-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open.

Japan believes that, by promoting this vision, peace and prosperity can be enhanced in the Indo-Pacific as a whole with ASEAN at its core.

And we regard connectivity as one of the key components of this vision.

## 5 G20議長国

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me also take this opportunity to touch upon the G20 Osaka Summit to be held this coming June.

Japan is determined to deliver a strong message at the G20 Osaka Summit by leading global economic growth, promoting free trade and innovation, as well as reducing economic disparities, while contributing to the development agenda and other global issues.

In preparation for the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan has been working together with other members as well as the OECD and other international organizations to elaborate a set of principles on quality infrastructure investment, of which connectivity enhancement is one of the key objectives.

## 6 最後に

In concluding my remarks, I would like to stress once again that Japan will continue to support OECD-Southeast Asia cooperation through SEARP.

I have no doubt that their cooperation with the OECD will help Southeast Asian countries reinforce their efforts to adopt and implement the OECD standards, which will lead to their further prosperity.

And finally, I look forward to the day when we can welcome countries

from Southeast Asia as full members of the OECD.

Thank you.

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