

**Remarks at the Fukuda Doctrine Memorial Plaque Unveiling Ceremony**  
**Yasuo Fukuda, Former Prime Minister of Japan**  
**October 1, 2018**  
**Manila Hotel, Manila, Philippines**

**1. Opening**

His Excellency Mr. Francis C. Laurel, President of the Philippines-Japan Society, H. E. Ginandjar Kartasasmita, Chairman of the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association (PPIJ), Ladies and Gentlemen,

As just introduced, I am Yasuo Fukuda. Before I begin my remarks, I must express my deepest condolences to the victims in the northern Philippines who suffered from the terrible devastations of Typhoon Ompong two weeks ago. Many precious lives were lost and many people went missing. And on Sept. 28, huge earthquakes and tsunami caused enormous destructions to Sulawesi Island in Indonesia. I offer my sincere condolences to the Indonesian victims.

Japan, like the Philippines and Indonesia, is a country that suffers from frequent natural disasters. Living in a similar disaster-prone environment, it is especially heart-wrenching to see the devastation following the typhoon.

Japan has cooperated in a variety of ways with these countries in the area of disaster prevention, and I hope that further close collaboration will be planned in the future.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the great honor of speaking to you on this day, when the memorial plaque of the "Fukuda Doctrine" announced by my father, Takeo Fukuda, was just installed at this illustrious Manila Hotel.

A short while ago, the plaque was unveiled by H. E. Mr. Francis C. Laurel and other representatives from the Philippines, and the following persons from Japan witnessed the memorable ceremony: My siblings -- in other words sons and daughters of Takeo Fukuda -- his grandchildren,

Ambassador Tanino who took part in drafting the Fukuda Doctrine, former Minister of Justice, Mr. Seiken Sugiura, and Ms. Keiko Atsumi, organizers of the InterAction Council (created by Takeo Fukuda), Mr. Aburaki of the Japan Federation of Economic Associations, and others. They shared the great joy with me.

All of us thought fondly of the events of over 40 years ago -- on August 18, 1977, when Takeo Fukuda announced the "Fukuda Doctrine" at this hotel in Manila.

Now, let me introduce the story of how this plaque came about. In July of last year, on the 40th anniversary of the Fukuda Doctrine and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, I had the honor of receiving the Friendship Award from the Philippines-Japan Society. During the award ceremony, President Laurel and I conceived of the idea of building a monument in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Fukuda Doctrine.

Subsequently, repeated discussions were held among relevant parties with the great support from the University of the Philippines. The most appropriate conclusion we reached was that we should install a memorial plaque here at the Manila Hotel, where the Fukuda Doctrine was announced. With the great understanding and cooperation of Hon. Basilio C. Yap, Chairman of Manila hotel, today's ceremony became possible.

I would like to once again extend my gratitude to President Laurel and the various associates from the Philippines-Japan Society, the University of the Philippines, and the Manila Hotel, who worked tirelessly to realize this day.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Today, Japan and ASEAN have established a win-win relationship across a wide range of areas based on a relationship of mutual trust. I myself visit countries in Southeast Asia frequently and have seen everywhere cultural exchange based on heart-to-heart interactions.

These interactions are supported by the active participation of many people

like you gathered here today, who have been involved in exchanges with Japan. Whether through the public or private sector, we are pleased that multilayered exchanges continue to bring about genuine mutual understanding between Japan and ASEAN.

## **2. ASEAN's remarkable development**

Today, ASEAN is an indispensable partner to Japan. ASEAN represents a diverse region. While respecting the diversity of its members, ASEAN has fostered a strong sense of solidarity through consensus-driven decision-making process in the spirit of tolerance. The result has been magnificent.

ASEAN's economy has grown to account for 3.4% of the world economy today in terms of GDP. It has established its position as the world's growth center. The economy of the 10 ASEAN countries has the momentum to overtake that of Japan by the mid-2020s.

## **3. The historical significance of the Fukuda Doctrine**

ASEAN's development and integration that we see today is due mainly to the efforts of the ASEAN member countries. Japan has always had strong interest and actively engaged in ASEAN's development.

While the Fukuda Doctrine, honored by the memorial plaque today, has formed the foundation of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the path towards our close partnership has not always been smooth.

After World War II, Japan set the basic policy of "maintaining its position in Asia as one of its three main pillars of diplomacy. Along with the payment of postwar reparations that began in the 1950s, and the provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the mid-1960s, Japanese corporate activities in Southeast Asia increased rapidly.

Because Japanese companies were very aggressive, Japan's economic development came to be regarded as a threat by the Southeast Asian countries. It even made the people of ASEAN recall Japan's posture during WWII and made them apprehensive that this time they would be taken over

by Japan economically. It was a mistake on the Japanese side but Japan could not recognize the mistake.

It led to acute tensions at one period. At that very moment, Takeo Fukuda, as Prime Minister of Japan, expressed his policy that became the cornerstone of Japan's ASEAN diplomacy.

This is the Fukuda Doctrine that Takeo Fukuda announced precisely here at the Fiesta Pavilion in August 1977 to conclude his official visit to ASEAN countries in the Philippines. It became a historically important opportunity to mark a new phase of Japanese diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

The people of Southeast Asia regard the Fukuda Doctrine positively. Not only that, the speech remains steadfastly in their memory. I believe the late Takeo Fukuda himself would be very satisfied to observe today's scene.

Last year, a seminar commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN and 40th Anniversary of the Fukuda Doctrine" was held in Jakarta. I had the opportunity to speak about the "Fukuda Doctrine" on that occasion as well. I would like to thank Chairman of the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association (PPIJ), His Excellency Dr. Ginandjar Kartasasmita, who is present here today, once again, for his generous support during the event.

The Fukuda Doctrine disavowed the pending issue-oriented form of diplomacy of the post-war period and instead articulated the following three guiding principles: namely, 1) Japan will never become a military power, 2) Japan will build "heart-to-heart relations" with ASEAN countries, and 3) Japan and ASEAN are equal partners. These 3 principles are engraved on the memorial plaque which was just unveiled today.

#### **4. Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda's vision for Japanese diplomacy in Asia**

The three principles of the Fukuda Doctrine were revolutionary for the time. In particular, in order to develop heart-to-heart relations, Japan has implemented initiatives such as the "Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese

Youth Program (SSEAYP)" and the "Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENESYS)," among others. "ASCOJA (ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni)" is also one of these programs. ASCOJA is an organization of former ASEAN exchange students who studied in Japan, which was created at the behest of Takeo Fukuda. ASCOJA also celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

The ties created through such youth exchange programs have become a great asset to Japan-ASEAN relations. Taking the opportunity of today's symposium, I understand that a signing ceremony for ASCOJA's "ASCOJA Manifesto of Commitment to the Fukuda Doctrine" will be implemented as well. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all parties concerned who are actively involved in these activities.

## **5. Japan-ASEAN Relations ~ Prospects for the future ~**

Given the rise of protectionism worldwide and the current uncertainty of the foggy international climate, ASEAN's unity appears to be tested. It is important that ASEAN remains solidly unified in coping with new issues and challenges. Japan will consistently support ASEAN's unity and centrality

In an opinion poll conducted last November about views on Japan in 10 ASEAN countries, more than 90% of respondents across ASEAN felt Japan was "trustworthy." I believe what is behind this result is the spirit of the Fukuda Doctrine, which widely permeated Southeast Asia, and the mutual trust that Japan and ASEAN countries have been able to build by developing heart-to-heart relations.

As long as Japan can contribute in some way to the further progress of ASEAN, we find it deeply gratifying. Japan will continue to support steadfastly the integration and deepening of the ASEAN community in the future.

## **6. Closing**

ASEAN's momentum and energy is extraordinary and it is full of possibilities. I believe that ASEAN will continue to overcome numerous

challenges in the future, advance its regional integration, and build a solid foundation upon the world stage.

The Philippines, where Fukuda Doctrine was born, is a major ASEAN country with a population of 100 million people. It is an important country for Japan. Last year, the Philippines held the ASEAN chairmanship and played a valuable role during ASEAN's 50th anniversary since its establishment.

Dr. José Rizal, the Filipino hero, who visited Japan 130 years ago, predicted the future of our two countries as, "Japan and the Philippines will develop close ties in the future."

And now, as President Duterte stated, Japan and the Philippines "are entering a golden age of strategic partnership." It is my sincere hope that the relationship between Japan and the Philippines will continue to deepen in the future.

What will guide the relationship between Japan and ASEAN to new heights, is undoubtedly exchanges that are based on heart-to-heart relations. Both the Philippines and ASEAN have a bright future. Let's aim for a dynamic ASEAN, by envisioning its future together with us, and an ASEAN whose contributions extend beyond this region.

Let me extend my gratitude once again to all of you who have gathered here today.

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