

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE FOR THE 21ST ASEAN-JAPAN  
SUMMIT**

[Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Center | 14 November 2018]

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Allow me to thank Japan for its solidarity and offer of assistance after the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018.

Nations – especially those in Southeast Asia – continue to be vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters.

This is one area of major concern shared by both ASEAN and Japan.

We note how Japan quickly recovered from the impact of Typhoon Jebi. This is a testament to Japan's remarkable resilience and admirable ability to build back stronger communities. This is an area where ASEAN and Japan can clearly benefit from greater collaboration and sharing of best practices.

But this is only one facet of the growing multi-dimensional relations between Japan and Southeast Asia. With its positive engagement anchored firmly on the Fukuda Doctrine, Japan continues to make inroads and break new grounds for cooperation with ASEAN.

The Fukuda Doctrine was the blueprint that ushered in a new era of more meaningful partnerships between Japan and ASEAN. This year, we honored the significance of the Fukuda Doctrine with the unveiling of a memorial marker at Manila Hotel where then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda made the historic pronouncement that redefined Japanese diplomacy in 1977.

Today, we continue to see the impact of the Fukuda Doctrine. Japan actively engages relevant sectoral bodies in ASEAN, particularly in human resource development and policy developments in public health, labor, social welfare and media information literacy.

We acknowledge the importance that the annual holding of the ASEAN and Japan High Level Conference on Caring Societies provides.

ASEAN-Japan engagements likewise continue to broaden through collaboration in innovation and in helping micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs connect to the global value chain.

There is greater security cooperation in counter-terrorism and a wider support for a Drug-Free ASEAN. There is also an intensified interaction with the ASEAN

Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

We look forward to the anticipated signing of the ASEAN-Japan Technical Cooperation Agreement to further strengthen our people-to-people exchanges.

The Philippines appreciates Japan's commitment to ASEAN centrality. As active partners for greater peace, security and stability in Southeast Asia, we remain open to discussions on the regional structure, which include the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, with a view to enhancing ASEAN centrality.

Lastly, the Philippines welcomes Viet Nam as the new Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations. We are confident that Viet Nam will further build on ASEAN-Japan relations based on mutual trust and heart-to-heart understanding.

Thank you, Your Majesty and Excellencies.

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