The 12th ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting

on Caring Societies

Closing Remark

○ Good afternoon, distinguished delegates from the ASEAN member states, the People's Republic of China, the ASEAN Secretariat, the WHO Center for Health Development, ILO Office for Japan, JICA, and all of the other honored guests who have joined us here today.

○ My name is Akira Isawa, serving as Assistant Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. It is my great honor to have an opportunity to make closing remarks. First of all, let me congratulate every participant of this meeting on the successful outcome and productive results. There was an introduction of best practices for Active Aging from Japan. We had vigorous discussions. We exchanged valuable information. And we

finally adopted the meaningful recommendation. All these things have led to our success in this meeting.

○ In this meeting, we have reached the common message that communities in our society play a major role to support the elderly people in various aspects including health, welfare and such participation as employment. I am convinced through our discussion that governments hold an important key in responding to the upcoming aging society, including how to cooperate with communities, how to enhance the capacities and functions of communities and how to develop human resources to lead those communities.

○ While communities play an essential role for aging societies, we should remember that communities may be affected by various elements including international economic and social changes and mobilization of the population. I hope that we will have further opportunities to discuss in the

ASEAN region how to maintain resilient communities under such changing circumstances.

〇 Japan would like to continue to contribute to the discussion on Active Aging in the ASEAN region through platforms including this High Level Officials' Meetings and ASEAN-Japan Active Aging Regional Conferences. Thank you very much for your attention.