

**第 13 回 ASEAN・日本社会保障ハイレベル会合**  
**2015 年 10 月 20 日（火） ANA クラウンプラザ神戸**  
**政務からの御挨拶**

**The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting**  
**on Caring Societies**  
**Opening Remarks (draft)**  
**Tuesday, October 20, 2015, ANA CROWNE PLAZA KOBE**

- Good morning, distinguished delegates from the ASEAN member states as well as the delegates from the People's Republic of China, ASEAN Secretariat, WHO Center for Health Development, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, JICA, Asian Development Bank, Asian Disaster Reduction Center and all of the other honored guests who have joined us here today.
  
- I am Yuzuru Takeuchi, State Minister of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan. On behalf of the Ministry, I wish to express my gratitude to all delegates who have travelled great distances to participate in “The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Society”.
  
- In the meetings, which has been held since 2003, we have moved forward together with you for the purpose of sharing knowledge, thinking together, learning from good practices and strengthening cooperative relations between Japan and ASEAN countries about common challenges related to social welfare, health, labor and human resources.

○ The theme of this meeting is “People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction and Restoration.” As you, participants here, know, the Asian region has experienced the largest number of disasters in the world. In particular, floods, typhoons and cyclones are bringing about substantial human and economic damage to Asian countries every year. The region has incurred enormous damage from earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, volcanic eruptions, and others as well.

○ Here in Kobe, we also experienced a major earthquake disaster, the great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, 20 years ago. Since then, we have been making efforts toward recovery and reconstruction of affected areas and establishing disaster-resilient communities. At this meeting, we would like to share our experience of working with many challenges posed by disasters. We hope that, we generate active discussion among participants by sharing lessons learned from the great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake.

○ And in this March, the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai adopted the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.” The framework indicates that in order to reduce disaster risks, we need to enhance our disaster preparedness and to “build back better” with the support of international cooperation.

○ Through discussions in the meeting, we would like to think together about the followings: How can we prevent new risks and reduce existing risks of disasters? How can we organize communities so that local people can fully engage in disaster prevention activities? And how does the government formulate

related policies?

○ Japan has a long history of exchange with ASEAN countries and the People's Republic of China. We have worked together to build strong relationships in a variety of fields, and it is my sincere hope that we will continue to share this path together to build an even better future.

○ I believe that this meeting, which will continue over the next three days, will offer valuable opportunities for all of us to share our information and experiences, and to deepen our friendships. Thank you very much for your presence. I hope you enjoy your stay in Japan.