The 13th ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting

on Caring Societies

Draft 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 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, JICA, Asian Development Bank, Asian Disaster Reduction Center and all of the other honorable guests who have joined us here today.

○ My name is Masahiko Yamada, serving as Deputy Assistant Minister for International Policy Planning 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.

○ Under the theme of "People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction and Restoration", we have had vigorous discussions for the last three days. And we finally have adopted the meaningful recommendations. 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 for disaster risk reduction by paying attention to women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities and with their active participation. In addition to that, since damage caused by disasters can affect multiple countries, disaster risk reduction is a global challenge that requires trans-boundary efforts. Therefore it is important to promote disaster risk reduction activities globally in collaboration with related international organizations.

○ Japan would like to continue to contribute to the discussion on disaster risk reduction and restoration in the ASEAN region.

○ On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the host of this meeting, I wish the output from this meeting will be beneficial for policy consideration in your countries and organizations, and it will accelerate regional and international cooperation on this issue. Thank you very much for your attention.