

**Remarks by
Le Luong Minh
Secretary-General of ASEAN
at the Opening Ceremony
of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme Batch 2015
16 February 2015, Jakarta**

*Excellency Koichi Aiboshi, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN,
Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre,
Distinguished guests from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue
Partners and other partner agencies and organisations,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

With increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters in the region and having experienced their devastating impacts on our lives and economies of our communities, ASEAN has been working together to build its capacities to manage, plan and respond proactively to these disasters.

In the frontline of ASEAN's efforts is the AHA Centre – which has continuously supported ASEAN Member States through, among others organizing AHA Centre Executive Programmes under the flagship project Establishment of a Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN or DELSA.

These programmes have been made possible with the generous contribution of the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. I would especially like to thank Ambassador Aiboshi and the Permanent Mission of Japan to ASEAN for their strong support and commitment throughout the development and implementation of the DELSA project.

I welcome all the participants of the AHA Centre Executive Programme Batch 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As ASEAN is developing its Post-2015 vision to build a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to collectively respond to emerging trends and challenges, we will continue to innovate and develop our capacities, and with support from partners, to strengthen our coordinating mechanisms that facilitate the delivery of much-needed assistance to the countries and communities affected by natural disasters and calamities.

Together with the massive socio-economic costs, the impacts of these disasters impose enormous demands on the capacities of affected countries and their personnel. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management or ACDM has included capacity building of National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) as part of the AADMER Work Programme, particularly the ACE Programme.

Through this programme, ASEAN is enhancing the capacities of NDMOs in the region by developing the skills and competencies of key personnel, preparing them for the challenges. The AHA Centre will continue to implement the ACE Programme as a supporting component of the “One ASEAN, One Response” vision which seeks to include and provide opportunities for all stakeholders in ASEAN to jointly prepare and respond to disasters.

The participants of the AHA Centre Executive Programme Batch 2015, for the next six months will have a great opportunity to learn the recent developments in your field and further build knowledge and skills, enabling you to serve better your respective countries and ASEAN.

Through professional and personal networking, you will also form bonds of friendship and working relationships that will bring our nations closer together, serving as the strong foundation for ASEAN to build a resilient community that is collectively responsive to the existing and emerging challenges.

I wish you all a rewarding learning experience!

Thank you!