

TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT, DATUK ALI BIN ABDULLAH, ON THE OCCASION OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN ASEAN AND JAPAN FOR THE LATTER'S ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF THREE BILLION YEN (¥ 3,000,000,000) TOWARDS THE CAPITAL FUND OF THE ASEAN CULTURAL FUND, AUGUST 1, 1979 AT 10.00 A.M. IN JAKARTA

Your Excellency Ambassador Kira,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Many of us here this morning were also present at a similar occasion last December when H.E. Ambassador Kira and I had the honour of representing the Government of Japan and the Governments of ASEAN member countries respectively to formalize the initial contribution of two billion yen (¥ 2,000,000,000) made by the Japanese Government towards the capital fund of ASEAN Cultural Fund. With the additional contribution of three billion yen (¥ 3,000,000,000) which would be made available to ASEAN soon after what we are witnessing here, the Government of Japan would have so generously fulfilled her pledge of contributing a total of five billion yen towards the capital fund of the ASEAN Cultural Fund for the promotion of intra-ASEAN cultural exchanges.

2. I am indeed happy to mention that in the course of the last seven months, the initial contribution of two billion yen realized a fairly reasonable profit in the form of interest earnings, and the amount is available for immediate disbursement. At the same time, it is equally heartening to note that ASEAN has already endorsed an initial programme comprising a number of cultural activities, the first of which will soon be implemented by one of the ASEAN member countries.

3. Meanwhile, in order to maximise yields from the capital fund of the ASEAN Cultural Fund, ASEAN has already appointed two banking institutions operating in the region as investment managers of the Fund. Once the finalization of the necessary documents is completed, a sizeable annual cash flow would undoubtedly enable ASEAN to expand as well as to improve the quality of the intra-ASEAN cultural programme as a whole.

4. It may be useful to stress that only the proceeds from the capital fund may be made available for financing the cultural exchanges within ASEAN. Besides, such activities and proposals must be approved by the ASEAN Standing Committee and no portion of the proceeds may be used for the establishment of new institutions either on the national or regional level.

5. Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The total financial contribution of five billion yen by the Government of Japan towards the ASEAN Cultural Fund has greatly assisted the smooth and successful launching of the Fund. This significant effort by the Japanese Government gives substance to yet another important dimension in the over all ASEAN-Japan cooperation. An expanding programme with its many projects and activities in the field of culture and to be implemented throughout the ASEAN region would bring about results which may not be of less benefit and significance than those in the economic field as far as the awareness and solidarity of ASEAN are concerned. May I therefore avail myself of this opportunity and on behalf of the member Governments of ASEAN thank the Government of Japan, through H.E. Ambassador Kira, for this generous additional contribution of three billion yen towards the capital fund of the ASEAN Cultural Fund.

★ ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS
(A S E A N)
S E C R E T A R I A T
6, JALAN TAMAN PEJAMBON
JAKARTA - INDONESIA

No. CL 21.104-2

August 1, 1979

His Excellency

Mr. Hidemichi Kira
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Japan
Embassy of Japan
JAKARTA

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter dated August 1, 1979, informing me that in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government and the Prime Minister of Japan held in Kuala Lumpur on 7 August 1977, and pursuant to the discussions of the first and second meetings of the Joint Study Group on Cultural Cooperation (JSGCC) held in Jakarta on 9-10 January 1978 and in Manila on 16-17 March 1978 respectively and with reference to the exchange of letters dated December 20, 1978 between Your Excellency and myself regarding the disbursement of the initial contribution of two billion yen (¥ 2,000,000,000) to the capital fund of the ASEAN Cultural Fund, the Government of Japan is now ready to make an additional contribution of three billion yen (¥ 3,000,000,000) to the said capital fund on the understanding :

- (I) that the contribution to the capital fund of the ASEAN Cultural Fund shall be an endowment fund and only the proceeds thereof shall be made available for financing the cultural exchange within ASEAN; and
- (II) that the proceeds from the contribution as referred to in (I) above shall be used to finance activities and projects as approved by the ASEAN Standing Committee and shall not be used for the establishment of new institutions either at the national or regional level.

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On behalf of the Governments of ASEAN, I have the honour to affirm the above-mentioned understanding and to request the Government of Japan, through Your Excellency's Embassy, to disburse the sum of three billion yen (¥3,000,000,000) for the above-mentioned contribution.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.



(Datuk Ali bin Abdullah)

SECRETARY GENERAL