

International Seminar
“Transforming Urban Transportation in ASEAN Big Cities”
Greeting by Masafumi Shukuri,
Chairman, Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute

July 19, 2019 (Friday)

Hello, everyone. I am Masafumi Shukuri, Chairman of Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute. I would like to deeply thank all of you for attending this International Seminar on “Transforming Urban Transportation in ASEAN Big Cities” held by our institute today. In particular, I am grateful to Kozo Fujita, Vice-Minister of the Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) for taking time away from his many public duties to be present here.

To today’s Seminar we have invited three distinguished officials who attended the ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Officials (STOM) Leaders Conference held on the day before yesterday in Hiroshima: Mr. Le Tuan Anh, who is Director General of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Transport of Vietnam and Chair of this year’s ASEAN STOM Leaders Conference, Mr. Djoko Sasono Soemarno, who is Secretary General of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. Junn B. Magno, who is General Manager of Philippine National Railways, and they have graciously consented to give lectures today. In addition, these three personages have agreed to participate in a panel discussion after their lectures, together with Mr. Shigeru Morichi who is Director of the Policy Research Center of GRIPS, Mr. Satoru Mizushima who is Director General of the Railway Bureau of MLIT, and Mr. Hirotaka Yamauchi who is President of this Institute and Professor at Hitotsubashi University and who will serve as moderator.

At the ASEAN-Japan STOM Leaders Conference, the status of cooperative transportation activities of ASEAN and Japan such as Urban Public Transport Policy was reported upon. I understand that continuing and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of transportation fields, including approval for new projects such as ‘Proof of Concept on ICT Solutions for Over-loaded Vehicle Control’, was confirmed in the conference.

The big cities of ASEAN are carrying out dramatic economic growth, but they are struggling with serious problems such as traffic jams and environmental pollution caused by the rapid growth and excessive crowding of their populations. These cities are in situations that prevent healthy urban development such as life environment improvement.

Under these circumstances, for instance, in Vietnam, construction of the No. 2 A and 3 lines of the Hanoi Metro and the No. 1 line of Ho Chi Minh City has been proceeding. In Jakarta Indonesia, construction of the MRT North-South line and East-

West line has been proceeding. Phase 1 of the North-South Line, which was opened this March financed by Japan's ODA and this line has been further developed for extension. In Manila, the Philippines, construction of the North-South Commuter Railway and of the Mega Manila Subway started this February and has been proceeding at a rapid pace.

Also, due to an activity of the International High-Speed Rail Association last week I visited Singapore, which is not represented by a speaker today. I heard from a high official at the Land Transport Authority that this May Singapore formulated a new basic land transport plan in which its MRT railways, which presently are 180km in total length, are to be doubled to 360 km by 2030.

Further, in Bangkok, Thailand, whose MRT presently has a Blue Line and a Purple Line, construction of a Red Line and an Orange Line, and expansion of an urban railway network have been proceeding. In addition, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia new urban rail lines are being built and in Yangon, Myanmar the loop rail lines are being repaired. These all illustrate the great changes are now going on in the urban transportation systems of ASEAN big cities, centering on railways.

I would like this Seminar to be an opportunity to learn the present state and the future prospects of urban transportation, particularly urban rail transport, in the big cities of ASEAN, to discuss what form of future cooperation between ASEAN countries and Japan should be taken, to share the latest information and problems, and to more deeply consider solutions through the lectures and panel discussion.

Our institute plans to establish a base for research and surveys at one ASEAN city next year, in order to promote exchanges and cooperation with ASEAN countries in the transportation and tourism areas. Today's Seminar was held as a part of our plan.

Finally, let me end this opening greeting by mentioning the special support that the Nippon Foundation has provided for today's Seminar. I hope that all of you attending today will benefit from it.

Once again thank you very much for your participation in this Seminar.

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