

JTTRI-AIRO Logistics Symposium Part 2

“Aiming for Advanced Logistics in Thailand”

Opening Remarks by JTTRI Chairman SHUKURI Masafumi

Greetings everyone. I am SHUKURI Masafumi, the Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute (JTTRI). I am delighted to open this Logistics Symposium Part 2 under the theme, “Aiming for Advanced Logistics in Thailand.” The symposium is organized by JTTRI’s ASEAN – India Regional Office (JTTRI-AIRO) with cooperation from the Ministry of Transport of Thailand, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok.

In opening the Symposium, I’d like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to:

- Dr. Chayatan Phromsorn, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport (MOT),
- Mr. Punya Chupanit, the Director-General of the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning, and other members of the Ministry of Transport
- H.E. NASHIDA Kazuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, and
- Mr. OBA Yuichi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

for providing generous support and cooperation for today's symposium.

I would also like to express sincere gratitude to:

- Dr. Siradol Siridhara, Assistant Professor, CLARE, Mahidol University
 - Dr. Somsiri Siewwuttanagul, Lecturer, CLARE, Mahidol University, and
 - Dr. MORI Takayuki, Professor Emeritus, University of Marketing and Distribution Sciences,
- who will be giving keynote speeches today.

Let me also renew my gratitude to Mr. Punya Chupanit and other members of today's panel discussion, namely:

- Dr. Chackrit Duangprastra, Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University
- Mr. Bhanumas Srisukh, Advisor to Logistics and Supply Chain Committee, Board of Trade of Thailand
- Dr. SHIBASAKI Ryuichi, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo
- Mr. WAKE Soichiro, Executive Officer, JR Freight, and
- Mr. TOKONAMI Kiyoshi, Chairman of Transport Division, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone who have traveled all the way to the symposium venue or are watching the

symposium online despite your busy schedule.

Exactly a year ago today, we held the JTTRI-AIRO Opening Commemorative Symposium titled “ASEAN’s Logistics amid Turbulent Times,” inviting H.E. Saksayam Chidchob, Minister of Transport Thailand and H.E. NASHIDA Kazuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Thailand. This symposium had to be held online due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. One year has passed, and it is our delight to be able to hold this year’s symposium in both face-to-face and online formats.

In the previous symposium, we were able to share various issues that Thai logistics faced. Accordingly, the JTTRI-AIRO was tasked to explore improvement measures for each of those issues. For the last 12 months, we formed a taskforce consisting of experts representing both Thailand and Japan to consider hardware and software measures. Today, two researchers of JTTRI-AIRO will present the findings of their study. That will be followed by a panel discussion, where, in light of the findings, panelists will engage in in-depth debate for bringing greater efficiency in logistics in Thailand.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020 and Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine that started in February

2022 have dealt and are still dealing a significant impact on our society and economy around the world. These events have substantially damaged global supply chain, highlighting the importance of building an efficient, robust and stable supply chain.

The global community must also address common issues such as “decarbonization” and “sustainability” at the same time.

This global perspective is crucial in considering logistics in Thailand and Japan. Thailand is located at the center of ASEAN to act as a driving force for its neighboring nations. Given this role, Thailand has a very important relationship with Japan from the perspective of establishing a free and open Indo-Pacific. For the two countries, it has become an urgent mission to establish efficient, robust and stable logistics as a way of ensuring their socio-economic development and economic security.

It is my sincere hope that today’s symposium will reinforce bilateral ties between Thailand and Japan in the field of logistics, thereby paving the way to build efficient, robust and stable logistics between Japan and ASEAN nations.

JTTRI-AIRO, the organizer of this symposium, was launched in Bangkok, Thailand in April 2021 as the second overseas site of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute, i.e. Japan’s policy think tank for transportation and tourism. The organization entered its third year of operation in April this year.

The Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute and JTTRI-AIRO will continue to engage in down-to-earth cooperation and collaboration with the people of Thailand to develop the transportation and tourism of Thailand and Japan, while strengthening bilateral ties in the process. Let me close my speech by calling on the people of both Thailand and Japan for continued support and cooperation.

Thank you for participating in this symposium today.