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Organized by: ASEAN Youth Organization

## The first and largest Youth-Led Economic Forum in Southeast Asia: Building Cooperation for a Sustainable Future

The ASEAN Youth Organization has organized the first and largest youth economic forum, called the ASEAN Youth Economic Forum (AYEF) 2023 with the theme of *“Building A More Inclusive Youth Participation in ASEAN-Japan Friendship”* to celebrate the commemoration of the 50th ASEAN-Japan Relationship Anniversary.

The AYEF 2023 was opened by His Excellency Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of the Mission of Japan to ASEAN. In his speech, His Excellency remarked that “It is important, at this point, to look back on our history to understand the values of ASEAN-Japan cooperation. Simply put, Japan has always been with ASEAN to overcome challenges, and will always be.”

Closing the opening ceremony and officially opening the ASEAN Youth Economic Forum 2023, Senjaya Mulia, the Chairperson of the ASEAN Youth Organization and the Project Director of the AYEF, said he believes that youth inclusion is one of the most important elements to create a more sustainable future. This forum could be a platform for young people to freely exchange ideas on the circular economy and provide opportunities for the young generation to learn from the experts, as well as building cooperation with their fellow youths. It is the time for us, young people, to be heard, seen and involved in the policy making processes.

Many experts, government officials and professionals, among others the ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, the Japan Mission to ASEAN, the Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia,



*Building A More Inclusive Youth Participation in ASEAN-Japan Friendship*

the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN, Mekong Institute, United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and some Social/Environmental Enterprises were attending, along with the 20 main delegates of AYEF 2023 from 10 ASEAN countries, Timor-Leste, and Japan.

The public forum was attended by more than 300 people joining online and on-site from the ASEAN member states, Japan, and beyond. The public forum, which serves as the opening of the five-day forum, was conducted at the Le Meridien Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia. The final policy recommendations of this forum will be shared with Key Government officials to implement the ASEAN Framework on the Circular Economy in their national-level policies going forward.

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Picture 1 Opening session by Senjaya Mulia the Chairperson of ASEAN Youth Organization



Picture 02 Opening session by H.E. Kiya Masahiko the Ambassador of Japan Mission to ASEAN



*Picture03\_All Delegates from ASEAN+Japan together with H.E. Kiya Masahiko, the ambassador of the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, H.E. Bovonethat Douangchak, the ambassador of Laos to ASEAN, and Mr. Piyapong Nuntana, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to ASEAN.*



Picture 4\_Ceremonial Exchange between the Chairperson of ASEAN Youth Organization and the Chief Representative of AMEICC

