

Opening Remarks

by

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Distinguished guests from ASEAN, honourable Japanese guests, Ladies & Gentlemen.

On behalf of Thammasat University, I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to our distinguished guests from ASEAN and other countries to our seminar focusing on Japan's Role in the transfer of technology in ASEAN countries.

It can not be denied that advanced technology creates convenience and comfort for our way of living. Tremendous products and services resulting from advanced technology have become a part of our lives.

Like any other part of the world, ASEAN countries realize the importance of developing their technology in order to increase their productivity to compete in the international market. The development of technological capabilities requires conscious and sustained efforts by both commercial firms and government agencies in that country.

Commercial firms contribute to technological development through their choices of products and production techniques. The government's contribution is primarily in its efforts to establish a strong science and technology infrastructure.

In addition to those contributions, technological transfer is one of the significant elements in generating a technology program. This transfer is becoming even more important in its impact in strengthening domestic technological capabilities. It can be seen that Japan plays a major role in the transfer of technology throughout ASEAN countries. The relationship between Japan and ASEAN countries in terms of technology transfer is becoming an issue that has both its positive and negative consequences, some of which I expect will be discussed during this seminar.

This seminar marks the continuance of a long and enduring relationship between Japan and ASEAN countries. I am certain that all of us here will be enlightened by the discussion and probably some lessons on economic and technological development and problems can be drawn from the ASEAN countries' examples.

Upon the opening of this seminar, I would like to wish all participants the greatest success in developing Japan's role in technological transfer among ASEAN countries. Thank you.