

Japan AALA Statement on Myanmar

February 2,2021

On February 1, the Myanmar Armed Forces launched a coup d'etat and declared a state of emergency, detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, other executives of the ruling party, the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Japan's AALA, which has promoted a solidarity movement with Myanmar's democratic forces, strongly condemns this violence to subvert democratic institutions and demands that the military immediately release detainees and get the NLD administration back to its original state. We will also reiterate our solidarity with all those seeking democratization in Myanmar, including the NLD, call for support for them and urge the Japanese government to make strong diplomatic efforts to do so.

The military justifies the violence by a response to alleged voter fraud in last November elections without providing any evidence. What actually happened during the election was threats and obstructions to the NLD by the pro military forces. They were afraid of further advance of the NLD that have overcome those obstacles and won the landslide victory. Military's intention is clear, that is to reverse the democratization process at a single swoop,

Japan AALA attached importance to the solidarity with the democratic forces of Myanmar, because it is an original member state of the Non-Aligned Movement and active participant in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has been playing an important role for the peace in East Asia. In this context we welcomed the democratic transition that began in 2011 and engaged in various interactions.

In 2014, Japan's AALA delegation visited Yangon to have an important meeting with NLD executives including former vice president Ting Wu, and to interact with the leaders of the "88th Generation Student

Movement" in which we committed ourselves to further support for democratization in the country, and to the cooperation and solidarity in the movement for a peaceful community in East Asia.

We observed with a great expectation that the Suu Kyi 's "administration", faced with difficult problem such as the Muslim Rohingya issue and peace negotiations with ethnic minorities, taking into account domestic public opinion, has been making its efforts to gradually resolve them.

The military rule in the country, which is a great difficulty in the democratization, is linked to Japan's past wars of aggression and human rights violations under its colonial rule. In this sense we think that Japan has a special responsibility for democratization of the country. With this conscience deeply in our hearts, we express again our greater support and solidarity with the country's democratic forces and call on a strong cooperation in the world.

(END)