

【Asia】 December 6,2017

Message to the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of the Philippines

A group of Japan AALA visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of the Philippines on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, to submit a petition for a creation of Community of Peace and Cooperation in East Asia, with 13 thousand agreement signatures which had been collected in a signature campaign in Japan. In the meeting with 3 officials of ASEAN section of the ministry, Mr. Yasuhiro Tanaka, the president of Japan AALA read out the following message.

Thank you very much for taking the time to talk with us despite your busy schedule. I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of Japan AALA and the tour group. We have come today to convey our appreciation for the government of Philippines to make a great effort for peace as a chair of East Asia Summit (EAS).

Japan AALA was founded 62 years ago. Inheriting the spirit of the Bandung Conference, we have been solidarity with the national liberation movement in Asia and Africa, and we were engaged in a return movement to Japan of Okinawa which was under the military rule of the United States at that time. Now we are working for a just and peaceful world without nuclear weapons and foreign military bases.

Today, the situation in Northeast Asia surrounding Japan is very nervous due to the North Korea's nuclear and missile issues. What we are worried about is that there is no dialogue framework in Northeast Asia to discuss problems. In contrast, Southeast Asia has a permanent organization called ASEAN that has been established 50 years ago, has developed various frameworks of talks to address peace and security issues. Based on the principle of no interference in the internal affairs of other countries and peaceful resolution of disputes through negotiations, ASEAN has been successfully prevented various disputes from escalating a major war. We are aware that this year, under the chairman of President Duterte of the Philippines, a great progress has been made toward the peaceful settlement of the South China Sea issue.

On the occasion of the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015, leaders declared their intention to expand its dialogue framework to whole East Asia in the future to build a new peaceful order in the region. We appreciate this initiative and efforts of ASEAN, and hope further efforts will be made to create a Community of

Peace and Prosperity in East Asia. From this standpoint, we have launched a signature campaign three years ago with fund raising to send a delegation to the country which assumes the presidency of the East Asia Summit (EAS), conveying our message for appreciation and request to the government and NGOs of respective countries. This year we have brought together 13 thousand members' agreement signatures. I would like you to receive it as a strong appreciation and wish of the Japanese people. Thank you very much. (end)

Japan Asia Africa Latin America Solidarity Committee

12/5/2017