

Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association Chairman Fumihiko Ike and ASEAN Automotive Federation President Datuk Aishah Ahmad agreed on the following joint statement on the occasion of the 16th AMEICC-Working Group on the Automobile Industry meeting held on August 2-4, 2015, in Siem Reap.

Joint Statement between AAF and JAMA

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) has long enjoyed a close and friendly working relationship with the ASEAN Automotive Federation (AAF) and its member associations.

The automobile industry in the ASEAN region has been expanding rapidly in tandem with the growth of motorization in ASEAN member countries. Annually, about 4.5 million passenger cars and trucks are now produced in the region, making it the world's fifth largest auto-manufacturing center.

For more than half a century, JAMA member companies have developed their operations in ASEAN on the basis of technology transfer, including in research and development; steady increases in local parts procurement; and the nurturing of human resources. The region's thriving auto-production and supporting industries have been built up through a constructive partnership between Japan and ASEAN. Moreover, working with the relevant authorities, JAMA and AAF and its member associations have not only supported related government initiatives but also actively contributed to their implementation.

With competition in the global market steadily intensifying even as the ASEAN auto industries expand their exports worldwide, the need to strengthen their global competitiveness is now more urgent than ever.

The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) at the end of this year will provide the ASEAN automobile industries with a unique opportunity to pursue that goal. Achieving a true single market requires, however, a seamless business environment, in which harmonized automotive technical regulations and certification, through a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) that takes into consideration the individual situation of each country, are a key element.

At the same time, to enable motorization within the ASEAN region to progress in a sustainable manner, measures must be adopted to help ensure greater safety and increased environmental protection. Greater safety in road transport is achieved by addressing the three factors involved in safe

driving, namely, road users, road infrastructure, and vehicles themselves. With respect to greater environmental protection in road transport, practicing an integrated approach involving automakers, governments, fuel suppliers and vehicle users facilitates the implementation of comprehensive measures—including increased vehicle fuel efficiency, improvements in road infrastructure, the promotion of ecodriving, vehicle scrapping incentives, and a mandatory vehicle inspection system—to reduce CO2 emissions and conserve energy.

Acknowledging the broad scope of the efforts required, JAMA and the AAF will continue to work closely together to strengthen the international competitiveness of the ASEAN auto industries and secure their sustainable further development, in cooperation with all the stakeholders concerned including governments, private-sector entities, academia, and the public at large.



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Siem Reap, August 2, 2015