

Guest speaker address Tsukasa Nakaoka, from MEXT

1. Good morning, I am Nakaoka. Ladies and Gentlemen first of all please accept my warm greeting from the Ministry of Education to this AIMS International symposium on the New Directions in Higher Education, for implanting the Reinventing Japan Program.
2. On behalf of MEXT I would like to extend a warm welcome all the participants that came from abroad. In particular to Dr. Sauwakon, Director of SEAMEO RIHED. Welcome to Japan.
3. Currently, the relationship between Japan and ASEAN countries is very important in many areas and such topics as economics, security and culture. Prime Minister Abe, after renovation in January of last year chose Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia as destinations for his travel abroad. Within one year he visited all of the ASEAN member countries. This clearly demonstrates that Japan is placing a high value in ASEAN, overcoming conflict and differences in history between Japan an ASEAN
4. It is important to encourage mutual exchange for our young generations and promote mutual understanding.
5. Therefore in 2011 we started the Reinventing Japan Project, which focuses on quality assurance and promotes the exchange between universities from Japan and partner countries.
6. Under the framework of this project in 2013 Japan has become the first non-ASEAN country to enter AIMS Exchange Student Programme. Since then Japan has been promoting further the extents of the program itself and of ASEAN region.
7. Centered on the 11 Japanese distinguished universities participating in this program I am confident about this program for the student exchange. In particular on the undergraduate students to increase mutual understanding among them and to create stronger partnerships.
8. I have been informed today that in addition to the participants in the AIMS programme there are many participants including the representatives of EU in

Japan that can bring valuable insights in regards to the globalization of higher education.

9. I hope this symposium will contribute for the exchange of ideas on the topic of global human resources development for Japan and ASEAN.
10. Apart from the AIMS programme, supported by the *Reinventing Japan*, MEXT implements various measures to improve international competitiveness for Japanese universities and to foster stronger partnerships with universities abroad.
11. Originally, we implemented the *Global 30* to increase the number of outstanding international status at Japanese universities. We also started other Japan projects that aim to encourage Japanese students to study abroad.
12. From the beginning of next year we will start the 30+ Global Project with the aim of concluding the internationalizing of Japanese universities and other universities.
13. MEXT intends to continue a variety of projects to promote international partnerships with universities overseas in the future.
14. So for closing, allow me to wish for the success of this symposium and to express my sincere gratitude to the representatives of the University of Tsukuba for all their efforts in organizing this international Symposium.
15. Thank you very much.