

Japanese Keen On Asean Single Window, Self-certification System

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BANGKOK, June 26 (Bernama) -- The Japanese business community has expressed interest in the on-going implementation of the Asean Single Window and the introduction of the Asean-wide self-certification system.

The Japanese welcomed the abolition of free-on-board pricing disclosure in certificates of origin under the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement, Asean-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, South Korea and Japan free trade agreements, according to Asean Secretariat in a statement.

In a dialogue with Asean Secretary-General, Le Luong Minh, in Makati, Philippines on June 24, the Japanese also expressed interest in the consistent implementation of services liberalisation across sectors and improved procedures for the movement of natural persons, including the request for an Asean Business Travel Card, it said.

The dialogue is the seventh between the Federation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Asean and Asean secretary-general.

Meanwhile, Le said Asean and Japan had gained from this win-win relationship.

He said the Japanese industry must put in greater efforts to integrate Asean companies, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into the Japanese supply chain networks.

Other issues raised during the dialogue were related to the harmonisation of standards; protection of intellectual property rights; infrastructure development and energy supply improvements; and SMEs' development.

Japan is the second largest source of foreign direct investments (FDIs) inflow to Asean after the European Union.

In 2013, FDIs from Japan to Asean amounted to US\$22.9 billion, while two-way trade between Asean and Japan remained high at US\$240.9 billion in 2013, with Japan ranked as the third largest trading partner to Asean.

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