STATEMENT/ASEAN Secretariat

Session 1

Excellency, Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ministers and the Vice-President of the European Commission,

Distinguished Heads of International Organizations,

Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the ASEAN Transport Ministers present today, I am pleased to share with you relevant development in ASEAN on this very timely and important subject on Environment and Energy in the Transport Sector.

In noting that rapid urbanization and motorization in ASEAN put a heavy strain on the health, mobility and safety of the population, the ASEAN Transport Ministers in their 14th ATM meeting in Manila in November 2008, affirmed on the importance to pursue sustainable transport programs to improving road safety, as well as increasing energy efficiency and reducing consumption and emissions in the transport sector.

In the following 7th ATM + Japan , both ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers agreed to intensify efforts to promote the Manila Action Plan on ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (ATJP) 2009-2013, where Environment is one of the four policy areas for cooperation. In particular, ASEAN Member States welcomed Japan's new proposals for developing action plan on environment improvement measures.

We are very much grateful that H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso, intimated on this development in his Opening Address to the Conference.

In the same vein, we are happy to note Japan's readiness to enhance assistance and supporting efforts of developing countries for the establishment of action plans, to the formulation and implementation of measures for automobiles, low-carbon logistics systems and public transport, among others.

We in ASEAN look forward to Japan's assistance in preparing the ASEAN-Japan Environmental Action Plan referred to by the Honorable Tokio Kanou in his intervention, which ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers would consider and adopt when they meet in Viet Nam this year.

Thank you for your kind attention. A pleasant good afternoon to one and all.

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