

Nihon Shinbun Kyokai

一般社団法人 日本新聞協会

The Japan Newspaper
Publishers & Editors Association

002/16

March 10, 2016

Mr. Chin Sung Chew
President, National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia
30B, Jalan Padang Belia,
50470 Kuala Lumpur

Dear Mr. Sung Chew,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Since 1978, the Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association (NSK) has cooperated with the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists on an NSK-CAJ fellowship program. A total of 435 journalists visited Japan through this program. These journalists had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of Japanese politics, economics, society, and culture, and helped make it a successful fellowship program. For that, I would like to thank you for your cooperation.

At the NSK's International Committee meeting held on February 24, the future of international exchange programs was discussed. We previously indicated that it would be necessary to end the ASEAN journalist fellowship program eventually, first in 2008 during the 30th anniversary reception in Tokyo attended by editorial executives from 7 CAJ member countries, and again in 2009 when Mr. Toshihiko Uji, the International Committee Chair at the time, visited Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. Having once again reviewed the issue, the International Committee has made the decision to end the program as of this year.

Over the nearly 40 years the fellowship program was held, we were able to increase mutual understanding between Japan and ASEAN countries, as well as contribute to improving the skills of the participating journalists. The ASEAN nations have also undergone significant economic development since this program was first started. Therefore, it was decided that this fellowship program, in which several journalists are invited to Japan from overseas on an annual basis, has fulfilled its purpose.

As you are aware, media companies are faced with a difficult situation, and the Japanese newspaper industry is dealing with decreasing circulation numbers and declining advertising revenue. We are sorry for the suddenness of this announcement,

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but hope that you can understand our situation.

The friendly relations that NSK built with CAJ and the ASEAN nations through this program remain unchanged. Although the annual journalist fellowship program inviting journalists from ASEAN countries will end, we will try to provide whatever support is possible at the time regarding any requests for programs for visiting journalists.

I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to the CAJ for its cooperation on this fellowship program.



Akira KAWASHIMA (Mr.)
Managing Director
NSK (The Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association)