

**SPEECH BY MR ONG HIAN SUN, DIRECTOR CAD AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE ASEAN ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING (AML)/COUNTER FINANCING OF
TERRORISM (CFT) WORKSHOP 2011**

12 – 13 January 2011

Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay

First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Singapore

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome

1. Good morning. It is my pleasure to be here today to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the ASEAN Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism, or AML/CFT, Workshop.

Introduction

2. One of the aims in the founding of ASEAN was to facilitate cooperation of countries in the region. Over the years, ASEAN has spearheaded numerous initiatives to facilitate cooperation in many important areas.

3. To lend support to the ASEAN initiatives, the Japan – ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) was established in 2006. JAIF aims to fund projects that have regional applications or operations to deter or confront acts of terrorism.

4. This workshop, which is funded by Japan via the JAIF, was created to provide a dedicated platform for participants from ASEAN member countries to exchange valuable information and knowledge on their AML/CFT regimes. This workshop also seeks to promote co-operation among ASEAN member countries thereby enhancing the overall security environment, and facilitating ASEAN's progress towards the realisation of an open, dynamic and resilient community.

Efforts and Commitment taken to combat ML and TF

5. Money laundering and terrorism are borderless crimes that threaten the stability of the ASEAN region. Individual efforts taken by each ASEAN country in their own country may not resolve the root of the problem. Hence, a concerted effort involving a coherent regional cooperation among ASEAN members, to jointly tackle the problem through effective information and expertise sharing, and capability building is required.

6. To this end, ASEAN member countries have indicated strong commitment to enhance our AML/CFT regimes in line with international standards, such as those set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to combat crime. We have also indicated that we require training to keep ourselves abreast with evolving money laundering and terrorism financing modus operandi.

7. In Singapore's case, we have taken active steps to strengthen our regime. Our holistic approach consists of pro-active prevention and a rigorous regulatory regime across multiple sectors, reinforced by strong enforcement action and stern punitive measures for deterrence. With this strategy, we have managed to keep our crime rates low.

8. We have already implemented a number of the recommendations given by the assessors in their 2008 evaluation report of Singapore's AML/CFT regime. In 2010, we made significant changes to our key anti-money laundering law, the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act, or CDSA. These revisions enhanced the effectiveness of the CDSA in acting against third-party laundering and increased the number of predicate offences for money laundering. Another round of review is still ongoing. The revised Criminal Procedure Code, which came into effect early this year, allows law enforcement officers to order banks to monitor bank accounts. On the regulatory front, the Monetary Authority of Singapore has tightened the AML/CFT requirements for conducting simplified customer due diligence, and Singapore has ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

9. The first half of 2010 saw the opening of our two Integrated Resorts with casinos in Sentosa and Marina Bay. Casinos, being cash-intensive businesses with a high volume of daily transactions, are highly susceptible to money laundering risks. As such, we took steps to establish the Casino Regulatory Authority (or CRA) in 2008 – two years before the casinos opened. The CRA has mandated comprehensive AML/CFT regulations for casinos. These regulations are benchmarked against FATF standards, and on par with regulatory standards of

countries such as the United States and Australia. This preemptive approach is another example of our determination to keep money laundering and terrorist financing off our shores.

Conclusion

10. This workshop titled “The Twin Threats of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing”, organised by CAD / SPF, is part of Singapore’s contribution to enhance AML/CFT governance in the region and collaboration efforts within the ASEAN member countries.

11. On behalf of the organisers, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund for providing full funding for the travel, accommodation and venue for this workshop. I would also like to thank the speakers for taking the time to share their expertise. Last but not the least, thank you to all participants present for attending this workshop and I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Singapore.

12. I now declare this workshop open.