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It is not every day one can contribute to a good cause, have fun, and enjoy fantastic music. At the Second ASEAN-Japan Music Festival, held at NHK Hall and broadcast October 27, I had the opportunity to do all of that. MGM Resorts Japan was a proud sponsor of the event because it is a wonderful way to promote international exchange, and a great opportunity to highlight Japan as an international tourist destination, while showcasing the beauty of Southeast Asia.



I really admire the good works that Mr. Ryotaro Sugi, Japan's Special Ambassador to ASEAN, continues to do throughout the region and in Japan as well. I love his powerful music, and that of his talented wife, Ms. Natsuko Godai. It was also very humbling to be in the presence many distinguished leaders in the arts community, policy makers, and businesses.

Mr. Sugi, as he did five years ago, brought together some of the region's top popular musical talent. And coming from another generation, it was mostly new for me. What a treat! I didn't join the youthful audience in waving glowsticks and singing along with Nogizaka 46, w-inds., JSB III stars, and many others, but I was really impressed by their enthusiasm! And all that amazing talent from Southeast Asia!



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It was a pleasure hearing the comments from the Southeast Asian artists, and seeing their fun videos, about their sightseeing around Tokyo. These videos will be broadcast around Southeast Asia, while all of the Japanese viewers here will be able to see beautiful images of Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia. Among the ASEAN artists, I particularly enjoyed the performances of Vietnam's Dong Nhi, Singapore's Taufik Batisah, and Philippines' Sarah Geronimo.

For MGM, new to Japan, the first priority is to be a good corporate citizen. We were delighted to provide some support to Mr. Sugi's very worthy celebration of 45 years of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation.

MGM Resorts Japan President
Jason Hyland