

# JAPAN-ASEAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

*Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future*



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PHOTOGRAPH ON THE COVER: *Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting (December 2013, Tokyo)* ©  
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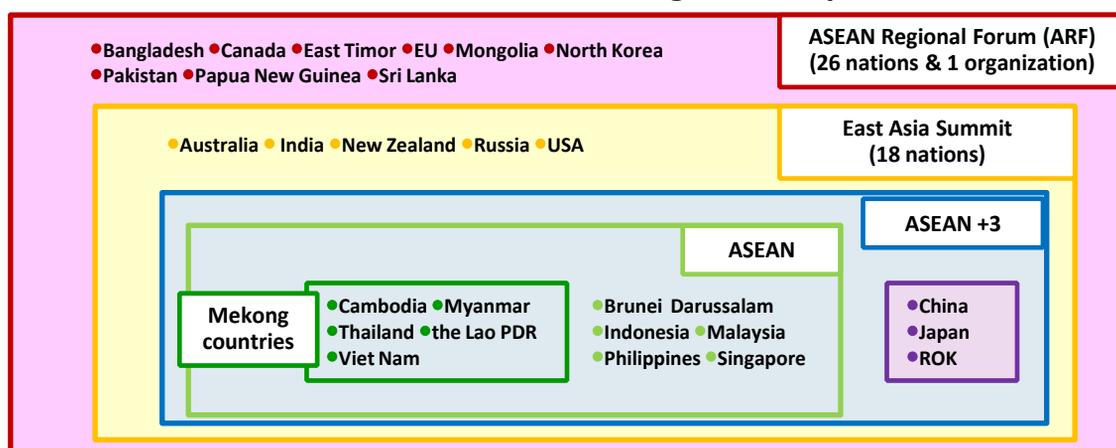
# About ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967 to promote peace and prosperity in the region. From the five founding member states of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, the membership of ASEAN today has expanded to include ten countries: Brunei Darussalam joined in 1984; and Viet Nam, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia joined from 1995 to 1999 after the end of the Cold War.

In response to political and economic structures changing in the region since the 1990s, ASEAN has strived to strengthen economic cooperation among its member countries: It agreed on the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 1992, and in 2003 announced the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2020. This will consist of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). In 2007, the target year for launching the ASEAN Community was brought forward to 2015.

In recent years, ASEAN has been experiencing remarkable economic growth by leveraging its enormous market, with a total population of more than 600 million, and an abundant labor force of young workers. As a result, the region is now recognized as a center of growth open to the world, and is attracting much global attention. ASEAN has also positively contributed to peace and stability in the region, for instance by playing a lead role in establishing the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994, and ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3) in 1997, as well as launching the East Asia Summit (EAS) meeting in 2005.

## ASEAN-centered frameworks for regional cooperation



## Long-established relations between Japan and ASEAN

The partnership between Japan and ASEAN dates back to 1973 when the Forum on Synthetic Rubber was held. In 1977, Japan's then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda attended the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was the first summit meeting between ASEAN leaders and the leader of a non-member country. In a subsequent visit to the Philippines, Fukuda made a historic announcement of the so-called "Fukuda Doctrine," Japan's diplomatic principles for ASEAN as follows: (1) Japan rejects the role of a military power; (2) Japan will do its best for consolidating the relationship of mutual confidence and trust based on "heart-to-heart"; and (3) Japan will be an equal partner of ASEAN. In the following year, 1978, the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held, where Japan started its collaborative relationship with ASEAN as the first Dialogue Partner. Since then, the two parties have built a close, collaborative relationship that has helped to bring peace, stability, development and prosperity to the Asian Pacific region for more than 40 years.



First Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting

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1967	Establishment of ASEAN
1973	Japan-ASEAN Forum on Synthetic Rubber (The beginning of the relationship of cooperation)
1977	<b>First Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting</b> Announcement of Fukuda Doctrine by PM Takeo Fukuda in Manila
1978	First Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting
2003	Adoption of the Tokyo Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium at Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting
2005	Adoption of the Joint Statement for Deepening and Broadening of ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership
2013	<b>40 Years of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation</b> <b>Adoption of Vision Statement on Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation at Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting</b>

# Close relationships between Japan and ASEAN

## Indispensable economic partners

The economies of Japan and ASEAN countries are becoming increasingly interdependent. With the growing cross-border movement of people, goods, money, information, etc., ASEAN has become the second largest trade partner of Japan, after China, as of 2013 and Japan is the second largest non-ASEAN investor for ASEAN after the EU. Japanese companies operate in more than 8,000 locations in the region. As these statistics indicate, Japan and ASEAN have a strong collaborative relationship as business partners.

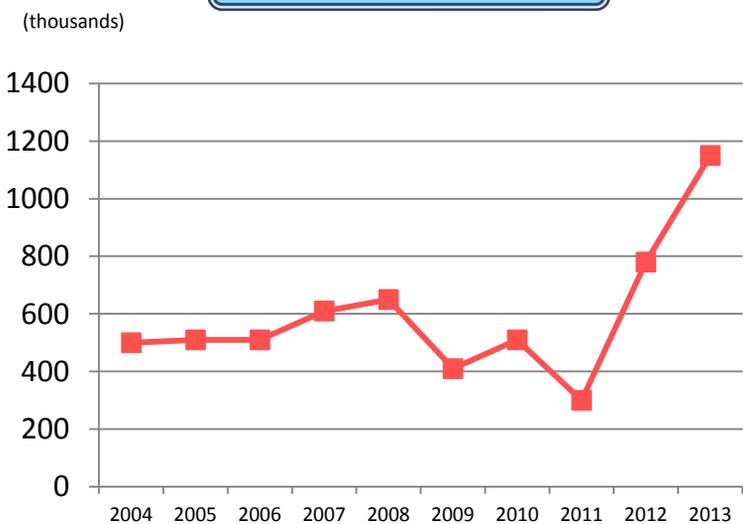
## Cooperation in building peace and stability in the Asian Pacific region

Given the dramatically changing strategic environment in the region, it is essential for Japan and ASEAN to cooperate through multilateral collaborative frameworks in order to maintain peace, security and stability in the region, which serves not only regional but also global interests. There exist multi-layered mechanisms for regional collaboration led by ASEAN, such as the ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which are operated so as to best leverage their respective characteristics. Among them, Japan and ASEAN place importance on EAS as a forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategically important regional issues. At the same time, both parties are working to build mutual trust in the region through functional cooperation via ADMM-Plus and ARF.

## Active cultural and human interaction

ASEAN is one of the most popular destinations for Japanese tourists. In 2013, about 4.7 million Japanese traveled to the region to visit beautiful resorts, World Heritage Sites, and other attractions. Among people in ASEAN countries, Japanese pop culture such as *anime* and "J-pop" music is very popular. Learning the Japanese language is also popular especially in Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and a growing number of students from the region are studying in Japan. The number of visitors to Japan is also increasing, exceeding one million people in 2013 for the first time, partly due to relaxed visa requirements for ASEAN citizens.

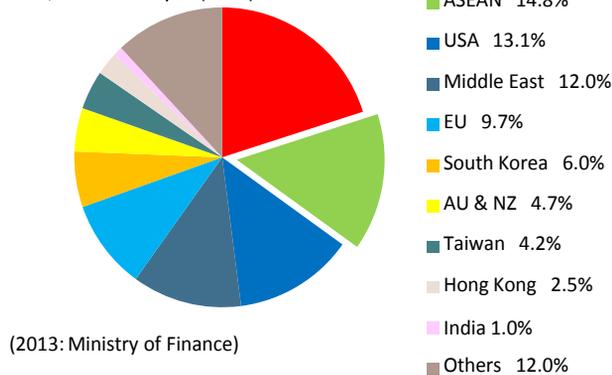
**ASEAN tourists to Japan**



Source: Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)  
The numbers include visitors from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

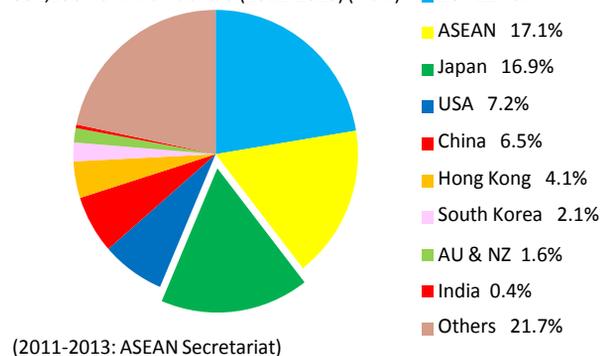
**Japan's trading partners**

151,016.7 billion yen (2013)



**Direct investment in ASEAN**

334,198.70 million dollars (2011-2013) (Flow)



# Building deeper and stronger Japan-ASEAN relations

## 40 Years of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation

Starting officially with the Japan-ASEAN Forum on Synthetic Rubber in 1973, Japan-ASEAN relations celebrated their 40th anniversary in 2013. In this commemorative year, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy and visited the 10 member countries of ASEAN. Following the visit, the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit was held in Tokyo in December 2013.

At this summit meeting, the national leaders adopted the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation<sup>1</sup> and its Implementation Plan<sup>2</sup>, announcing greater cooperation focusing on four key areas of the partnership: Partners of Peace and Stability, Partners for Prosperity, Partners for Quality of Life, and Heart-to-Heart Partners. In addition, they issued a Joint Statement of the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit<sup>3</sup> to express Japan and ASEAN's common recognition on regional and global issues in the context of Japan-ASEAN relations in the international community. To celebrate the milestone year of 2013, various other commemorative meetings, seminars, symposiums, and cultural and other events were held during the year in both the public and private sectors of Japan and ASEAN countries. Through this strong partnership, the two parties will constantly strengthen their friendship and cooperation.

1. See: page 8

2. See: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000022447.pdf>

3. See: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000022451.pdf>

### **Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy (announced by Prime Minister Abe in January 2013)**



Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit

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- (1) Protect and promote together with ASEAN member states universal values, such as freedom, democracy and basic human rights;
- (2) Ensure in cooperation with ASEAN member states that the free and open seas, which are the most vital common asset, are governed by laws and rules and not by force, and welcome the United States' rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific region;
- (3) Further promote trade and investment, including flows of goods, money, people and services, through various economic partnership networks, for Japan's economic revitalization and the prosperity of both Japan and ASEAN member states;
- (4) Protect and nurture Asia's diverse cultural heritages and traditions; and
- (5) Promote exchanges among the younger generations to further foster mutual understanding.

## Building an ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond

In March 2006, Japan established the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), a 7.5 billion-yen fund for assisting ASEAN's efforts to build the ASEAN Community by 2015. An additional contribution totaling 53.9 billion yen (excluding the contribution to JAIF 2.0) was also provided to the fund to promote youth exchange activities and economic partnership between Japan and ASEAN, extend emergency economic assistance, support natural disaster responses, and implement other measures.

To support ASEAN's ongoing efforts for its integration in and after 2015, Japan pledged ODA worth approximately two trillion yen over the following five years in the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December 2013. Japan also provided another 100 million dollars to JAIF in March 2014 (JAIF 2.0). Through these initiatives, Japan will continue to offer strong assistance to ASEAN in its efforts to develop infrastructure that provides greater connectivity, reduces poverty, improves healthcare access and other living standards, and narrows the development gap in the region.

# Partners for Peace and Stability

In line with the first pillar of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, “Partners for Peace and Stability,” Japan cooperates with ASEAN countries to promote peace and stability in the region and the international community. The major initiatives in this area are as follows:

## **“Proactive contribution to peace” based on the principle of international cooperation**

- Japan is determined to contribute even more actively to peace and stability in the region and in the international community from the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” policy based on the principle of international cooperation. Accordingly, Japan attaches particular importance to a closer partnership with ASEAN countries, which share universally recognized values and strategic interests.
- At the Japan-ASEAN Summit meeting held in Myanmar in November 2014, ASEAN nations welcomed Japan's policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace”. As a trusted partner of ASEAN countries based on long-standing friendships, Japan will strive to meet their expectations.

## **Active engagement in building regional architecture**

- To promote cooperative efforts for peace and stability of the region, Japan is actively involved in ASEAN-led cooperative frameworks, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus. Placing particular importance on EAS, which will mark its 10th anniversary in 2015, as a premier forum of the region for leaders to discuss strategic issues, Japan will contribute to strengthening the functions of EAS, while respecting ASEAN's centrality.
- In November 2014, the first Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting was held in Myanmar to exchange candid opinions on a range of non-traditional security issues, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and maritime security.



Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting

© Ministry of Defense

## **Support for building maritime security capabilities of ASEAN**

### **Three Principles on the Rule of Law at Sea:**

- 1. States shall make and clarify their claims based on international law.**
- 2. States shall not use force in trying to drive its claims.**
- 3. States shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means.**

- The ocean is important commons of the region. Southeast Asia is home to sea lanes vital to Asian economies, which makes it an extremely important region. In the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2014, Prime Minister Abe advocated the Three Principles on the Rule of Law at Sea, and emphasized the necessity of maintaining and strengthening a maritime order governed by the rule of law. He also expressed Japan's support for ASEAN's efforts in line with the three principles regarding the rule of law at sea.
- By providing patrol vessels, communications and security equipment, and navigation assistance equipment, as well as supporting human resources development, Japan is helping to build the maritime security and safety capacity of ASEAN nations. In the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2014, Prime Minister Abe announced plans to support training for about 700 people for the following three years.

## **Combating terrorism and transnational crime**

- Combating terrorism and transnational crime is a common task for Japan and ASEAN. Therefore, the two parties cooperate in this area through dialogues at ministerial-level forums, such as the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + Japan), as well as through working-level initiatives, such as launching a shared database of websites related to terrorism.
- The ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime was adopted at the Japan-ASEAN Summit meeting in November 2014. Japan will strengthen its cooperative efforts in this area with ASEAN countries.

# Partners for Prosperity

In line with the second pillar of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, “Partners for Prosperity,” Japan cooperates with ASEAN countries to promote economic partnership and cooperation toward prosperity in the region. The major initiatives in this area are as follows:

## ASEAN connectivity

- Enhancing connectivity will promote regional economic growth, ASEAN integration and Community building process as well as deeper social/cultural understanding and greater mobility of people. It will benefit Japan and ASEAN through enhanced trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.
- Japan and ASEAN are strengthening regional connectivity through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, as well as Japan's initiative to support ASEAN Connectivity.
- Japan also intends to enhance its cooperation, including through technical assistance, in the development of a sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure for increased connectivity, which includes the development of Public-Private Partnerships.



2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong Friendship Bridge which connects Thailand and Laos © Shinichi Kuno/JICA

## Narrowing the development gap



The 6th Japan-Mekong Summit

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- Narrowing the development gap in the ASEAN region and strengthening the region's competitiveness are vital for balanced development of ASEAN countries.
- Japan has held summit and ministerial meetings with countries in the Mekong region (Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam) every year since 2009. Japan also supports the development of these countries under the three themes; Enhancing Mekong Connectivity, Developing Together, and Ensuring Human Security and Environmental Sustainability.

## Strengthening aviation and maritime linkages



Regional Aviation linkages and Meeting on Air Talks in October 2014 in Japan © MLIT, Japan

- Japan will strengthen cooperation on regional air and maritime linkages as well as ensuring freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, as highlighted at the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in 2013.
- With a view to enhancing cooperation in air transport, a regional air services agreement between Japan and ASEAN is being considered. Through the framework of Japan-ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Japan-ASEAN Working Group on Regional Air Services Agreement was held in October 2014.

## Economic partnership agreement

- Further promotion of trade and investment between Japan and ASEAN is vital for economic development of both parties.
- In 2008, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement came into effect. In 2013, both parties welcomed the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the Services and Investment Chapters of AJCEP. Japan also provided 5.8 billion yen to ASEAN as part of its economic cooperation under AJCEP.
- Aiming to complete negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by the end of 2015, Japan is actively participating in talks among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and ROK).

# Partners for Quality of Life

In line with the third pillar of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, “Partners for Quality of Life,” Japan cooperates with ASEAN countries to address emerging social and environmental issues. The major initiatives in this area are as follows:

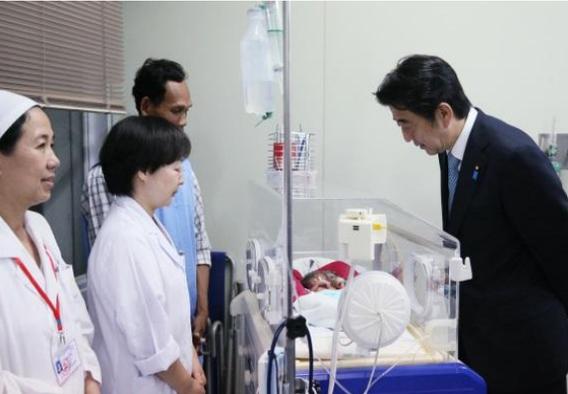
- ASEAN, a region prone to natural disasters, has been keen on cooperating with Japan, which has advanced knowledge and technologies in disaster management and preparedness.
- To support ASEAN in its efforts to build a disaster-resilient community, Japan has pledged in 2014 to provide support for human resources development of approx. 1,000 people and to offer a range of assistance worth a total of 300 billion yen over five years. The assistance include: support for the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), especially in strengthening the system for stockpiling emergency relief supplies and improving its ICT system; cooperation among defense authorities in the areas of humanitarian aid and disaster relief; and support for building stronger disaster response capabilities and high-quality disaster management infrastructure.

## Disaster management



Relief supplies for typhoon victims provided by JAIF © AHA CENTER

## Healthcare



Prime Minister Abe's visit in 2013 to a maternal and child health center in Cambodia established by funding from Japan © Cabinet Photography Office

- In recent years, with the widespread adoption of lifestyles of industrialized nations, ASEAN countries are facing problems of increasing lifestyle-related diseases including higher obesity rates.
- Japan is focusing on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)<sup>1</sup> in ASEAN countries. Accordingly, under the Japan-ASEAN Health Promotion Initiative, aiming for health promotion, disease prevention, and medical services improvement in the region, Japan will support the training of 8,000 healthcare professionals over the five years from 2015.
- Other types of support in this area include the sharing of Japan's healthcare experiences and best practices in other countries, as well as promotion of dialogues between Japan and ASEAN.

1. UHC means that everyone can access fundamental healthcare services at affordable costs.

## Environmental issues

- The rapid economic growth in ASEAN countries has caused environmental issues, such as increasing greenhouse gas emissions due to greater energy consumption, forest destruction, water degradation, air pollution, and increased waste generation. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address environmental issues in the region.
- Japan intends to contribute to sustainable development of the ASEAN economy by utilizing its experience and technologies for overcoming pollution problems during its rapid economic growth period.
- Japan will support capacity building in this field through the ASEAN Model Environmental City Program and its activities in the Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet). Japan will also contribute to developing a low-carbon society in the ASEAN region through such measures as promoting the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)<sup>2</sup> in countries interested in the mechanism.



Biomass development project in Viet Nam

© JICA

2. Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) is a mechanism through which Japan diffuses leading low carbon technologies, products as well as services and implements measures for the GHG emission reduction in developing countries, evaluates Japan's contributions to the GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner and uses the credits to achieve its emission reduction target.

# Heart-to-Heart Partners

In line with the fourth pillar of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, “Heart-to-Heart Partners,” Japan cooperates with ASEAN countries to build even stronger relationships of genuine trust. The major initiatives in this area are as follows:

## Youth exchange

- Cultural exchange, especially among Japanese and ASEAN youths, i.e., future leaders of respective countries. This can create an important foundation of Japan-ASEAN friendship.
- Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Student and Youth (JENESYS), a five-year youth exchange program launched in 2007 with annual invitation of 6,000 young people from mainly East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries to Japan. Aiming to provide a solid foundation for robust partnerships in Asia and to promote mutual understanding, the program invited more than 13,000 young people from ASEAN countries to Japan.
- JENESYS 2.0, which begun its operation in 2013, seeks to exchange a total of 30,000 youth people from participating countries. To date, roughly 10,000 young people have participated. Similar youth exchange programs are expected to be implemented in 2015 and onwards.



Football exchange among Japanese and ASEAN youths in April 2014 in Japan

© Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)

## Cultural Exchange through WA Project



Experiencing Japanese culture through calligraphy

©The Japan Foundation, Jakarta

- Asian countries' respect for and acceptance of each other's cultures, along with the creation of a new, broader Asian culture, will bring greater vitality to the region. With this in mind, Japan announced a new policy for cultural exchange programmes in Asia at the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December 2013. This policy, which will run through the year 2020, is called “WA Project - Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony”.
- Under this policy, more than 1,000 Two-way Arts and Cultural Exchange Program will be implemented offering Asian artists and other cultural figures opportunities to talk and interact with each other. Additionally, more than 3,000 Japanese students, seniors, and others will be dispatched as “Japanese language learning partners” to participating countries, where they work with local teachers to support Japanese language learners.

## Educational exchange



21st AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee Meeting in November 2014 in Malaysia

© AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat

- Human resource development is vital for the sustainable development of ASEAN countries. To help improve the research and educational capabilities of member universities and thereby build a platform for developing engineering skills in ASEAN, Japan launched SEED-Net Project in 2001. To date, the program has supported 900 teaching staff members in earning their master's or doctor's degrees, the implementation of 700 joint research projects, and the presentation of 1,000 academic papers. There is also a network of 600 university staffers in Japan and ASEAN countries under this program.



# VISION STATEMENT ON ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

## *Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future*

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration);

**NOTING** the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN diplomacy announced by the Prime Minister of Japan on 18 January 2013;

**COMMITTED** to the principles, common values and norms stipulated in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC);

**HEREBY** reaffirm that ASEAN and Japan strengthen cooperation in the following four areas of partnership:

### **Partners for Peace and Stability**

We reaffirm our enhanced commitment for the maintenance of peace, security, and stability, which is in the regional and global interests through:

- Further maintaining the stance as peace-loving nations and strengthening peace-oriented values through, *inter alia*, respect for universally recognised principles of international law, and upholding the principle of moderation;
- Resolving disputes by peaceful means including through dialogue and consultations, renunciation of the threat or use of force and in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;
- Enhancing dialogue and cooperation to promote the rule of law, good governance, democracy, and human rights; and
- Strengthening cooperation on disaster management, UN Peacekeeping Operations, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter-terrorism, transnational crime and maritime security, among others.

### **Partners for Prosperity**

We are committed to further enhancing our comprehensive economic partnership through:

- Strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods, trade in services and investment, including to enhance the utilisation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap;
- Supporting efforts to enhance ASEAN Connectivity and a wider regional connectivity, as well as the utilisation of enhanced connectivity by business sectors, further promoting sustainable economic development, knowledge-based and innovation-driven industries, and continuing cooperation to narrow the development gap in the region; and
- Strengthening cooperation in air and maritime linkages between ASEAN and Japan in the region as well as ensuring freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

### **Partners for Quality of Life**

We are committed to promoting human resource development and overcoming socio-economic and environmental issues by:

- Promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation, information and communications technology and cyber security;
- Strengthening partnership in agriculture, food security, energy security, nuclear safety, environmental protection and water resources management;
- Enhancing cooperation to eradicate poverty and tackle challenges arising from climate change, disasters, urbanisation, and aging population;
- Sharing experience and knowledge in improving healthcare systems toward universal health coverage, social safety-net, and in empowering women to participate in political, economic, and socio-cultural development; and
- Continuing to cooperate for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and beyond, as well as enhancing human security in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 66/290, in particular to further improve the wellbeing and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN and Japan.

### **Heart-to-Heart Partners**

We will continue to strengthen mutual trust and “heart-to-heart” understanding as well as nurture friendship by:

- Promoting cultural and art exchange, and people-to-people exchanges in tourism, youth, and sports;
- Enhancing cooperation in education, including, among others, language learning; and
- Preserving diverse cultures and traditions.

Adopted in Tokyo, with its Implementation Plan on the Fourteenth Day of December of the Year Two Thousand Thirteen.



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