

**Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
No. 3: “Golden Friendship” with “Epicentrum of Growth”.**

28 February 2023



Commemorative Symposium of the 50th Year
of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.
(13 February 2023, provided by the ASEAN Secretariat)

The 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was kicked off!! In February, two major events, the Commemorative Symposium and Japan’s National Day Reception, were held one after another. Ministerial level meetings between ASEAN and Japan also began, starting with the tourism and digital sectors.

In Japan, the Expert Panel for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation submitted a report to the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, and a meeting among relevant Ministries and Agencies has been established. Initiatives are also underway to promote public-private partnerships between Japan and ASEAN, including the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and the ASEAN-Japan Business Meeting.

In this edition of the Ambassador's Newsletter, I would like to introduce the latest activities in both Japan and ASEAN for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, which have been initiated in Jakarta and other parts of the region.



ASEAN Business Advisory Council Handover Ceremony (30 January 2023)

- **Cooperation with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)**

[The ASEAN Business Advisory Council \(ASEAN-BAC\)](#) is a body providing private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration.

A ceremony was held in Jakarta on 30 January to mark the transition of the ASEAN-BAC Chair from Cambodia to Indonesia, a major event bringing together high-level officials, from the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Indonesian Minister of Trade, and representatives of ASEAN-BAC countries.

Mr. Rasjid, Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) President took over as the new ASEAN-BAC Chairman, and announced this year's theme "ASEAN Centrality: Innovation for Inclusiveness" and new projects such as the Entrepreneur Wiki and the ASEAN-QR Code.

On this occasion, a ceremony was also held to extend the [ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network \(AMEN\)](#) launched in 2017 in cooperation with Japan, for all ASEAN Member States. In [my address](#), I expressed that we would continue our cooperation with ASEAN by supporting meaningful projects for the development of this region, as we closely listen to ASEAN's voice, which was greatly welcomed.

Discussions have already begun on a new project presented by the Indonesian Chair of ASEAN-BAC to cooperate with Japan.



Opening Ceremony of the Attachment Programme to
the ASEC for Officials from CLMV
(2 February 2023)

● **Training for Junior Attachment Officials from CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam) Countries in the ASEAN Secretariat**

On 2 February, I attended the [Opening Ceremony of the Attachment Programme for Junior Officials from CLMV](#) (Attachment Programmes to the ASEAN from CLMV).

This training programme dispatches young government officials from CLMV countries to the ASEAN Secretariat for one year, with a view to enhancing administrative capacities of the participants, as well as narrowing the gap between CLMV countries and other six ASEAN countries. The programme has been supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), and has turned out more than 100 outstanding talented persons. This year, 12 Attachment Officers arrived in Jakarta a few days ago, and expressed their enthusiasm with shining eyes at the ceremony.

Deputy Secretary General (ASEAN for Socio-Cultural Community), Mr. Ekkaphab, who is in charge of the project, himself was an 8th batch of attachments, and gave a heart-warming address based on his experience of experience. In my [address](#), I expressed my hope that they would establish a strong people to people network in the ASEAN Secretariat to help ASEAN and themselves to develop. Permanent Representatives of non-CLMV countries also attended the commencement ceremony, which showed the high level of interest in correcting intra-regional disparities and capacity building.

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Speech at the Joint EJIP-Suryacipta Industrial Estate New Year's party
(2 February 2023)

● Contribution of Japanese Industrial Parks.

In the afternoon of the same day, I visited the [East Jakarta Industrial Park \(EJIP\)](#) in the western suburbs of Jakarta, established in 1990, as the first private Japanese industrial park in Indonesia. It is now jointly managed by Sumitomo Corporation and two local partners, totaling 91 tenants, including 75 manufacturing companies and 70 Japanese companies. Around 20 industrial parks built one after another in the area, I was feeling the history of the area, triggered by the expansion of Japanese companies.

In the evening, I was invited to a Joint New Year's party co-hosted with EJIP and the neighboring [Suryacipta Industrial Estate](#), where I gave a lecture on ASEAN and Japan in front of about 60 business people ([Ref.](#)) Attendees asked questions on the Myanmar issue and the prospects of Timor-Leste joining ASEAN, indicating the great interest among local business people in the latest political and diplomatic developments.

I was reminded that the ASEAN-Japan cooperation in a wide range of fields is

largely based on the efforts and contributions as well as trust which Japanese companies and Japanese people have been built up from decades ago to the present.



Submission of the report of the Expert Panel
on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.
(3 February 2023, provided by Chairperson Oba)

● **Submission of the Report of the Expert Panel and the Establishment of the meeting among the relevant Ministries and Agencies**

Efforts are also underway in Japan in the New Year: on 3 February, the Expert Panel on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation held a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office and submitted a [report](#) to Mr. KIHARA Seiji, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary. The report lays out the results of the discussions held throughout a series of eight study groups from June to December after the establishment of the Expert Group in May last year.

The report presents three pillars of a new ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Partnership: (1) shaping a regional order which is free, open rules-based and fair; (2) building a society which fulfills economic development, sustainability and fairness; and (3) fostering mutual understanding and trust. The report also proposes concrete measures for each of these pillars. Please have a look if you have time.

In response, in the following week, on 7 February, the [first meeting of](#) the 50th

Year of ASEAN-Japan relevant Ministries Meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office. This meeting was set up to strengthen cooperation among the relevant Ministries and Agencies, ensuring efficient and smooth preparations for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held in Tokyo around December.

In the first meeting, Mr. KIHARA, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, instructed the relevant Ministries and Agencies to (1) proactively put forward cooperation projects and ideas, taking into account the priority areas of ASEAN; (2) work on strengthening public relations, cultural and personnel exchange to further promote grassroots exchanges among the civil society; and (3) to strengthen information sharing and cooperation among relevant Ministries and Agencies, and to work together as an “All-Japan” team.



Mr. ISHII, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
at the 22nd Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers Plus Three
(4 February 2023, in Yogyakarta).

● ASEAN-Japan Tourism Cooperation

On 4 February, the 22nd Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers Plus Three (22nd

M-ATM Plus Three) was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and was attended by H.E. Mr. ISHII Hiroo, Japanese State-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. This is the first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting this year in which Japan participated.

The meeting shared the tourism measures that have been implemented by the ASEAN and CJK countries, emphasising the importance of continuing to cooperate in the development of international tourism in the future. As an outcome, Chairman's Statement of the 22nd M-ATM Plus Three was issued by the co-chairs of Indonesia and Japan.

State-Minister ISHII addressed the importance of sustainable tourism and introduced Japan's efforts in tourism cooperation with ASEAN countries, for which many ASEAN countries expressed their appreciation. He also officially announced that the ASEAN-Japan Tourism Ministers Special Dialogue would be held in Tokyo, in October this year, to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. We look forward to seeing further progress in cooperation at the Special Dialogue in October.



Japanese language class visit

at SMAN3 Depok National Higher Secondary School (SMAN 3 Depok).
(9 February 2023)

● **Japanese-Language education (NIHONGO Partners Programme)**

On 9 February, I visited SMAN 3 Depok in the western suburbs of Jakarta, together with Ambassador KANASUGI, the Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia. Ms. INOUE Yuki, from Fukuoka Prefecture, has been dispatched to this school as a Japanese-language institutions and teachers' associations. We visited a Japanese class of 38 students of Grade 12 (equivalent to third grade of high school students in Japan).

[NIHONGO Partners Programme](#) is a project which dispatches Japanese citizens to Asian countries, including 10 ASEAN countries, to assist with classes and introduce Japanese culture. Most importantly, it is an opportunity for them to learn about their assigned country through exchange with their students, teachers, and the people of the community.

As part of the [Cultural WA Project](#), announced at the Special Summit on the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, more than 2,200 Japanese language partners have been dispatched in ASEAN countries. This time, I met with teachers and students who enjoy interacting each other, and effectively undertake the project. I would like to work even harder in the future to realise further projects.

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ASEAN-Japan Digital Minister's Meeting
(10 February 2023, in Boracay, Philippines)

● ASEAN-Japan Digital Cooperation

[The ASEAN-Japan Digital Minister's Meeting](#) was held in Boracay Island, Philippines, on 10 February, preceded by the ASEAN-Japan High Level Digital Working-Level Meeting on 8 February. Both meetings were attended by Mr. YOSHIDA, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, who co-chaired the meeting together with the Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines as a host country.

In both meetings, the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan 2023 on cooperation and coordination measures in the field of ICT between ASEAN and Japan over the next year was proposed and approved. In the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the MIC intends to work towards further deepening and materialising ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

In recent years, Japan has supported the establishment and operation of the

[ASEAN-Japan Cyber Security Capacity Building Centre](#). In this meeting, it confirmed that the centre has achieved its goal of training more than 700 cybersecurity experts in 2018-2022, and welcomed the launch of the next phase in 2023-2027.



Video message from Foreign Minister Mr. HAYASHI at the Symposium
(13 February 2023)

● **Symposium to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.**

On 13 February, the Mission of Japan, in collaboration with the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia - [FPCI](#), organised a symposium held in a hybrid format, to celebrate the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation under the theme of “Golden Friendship with the Epicentrum of Growth.”

[H.E. Mr. HAYASHI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#); [H.E. Ms Retno, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Chair of ASEAN, ; and H.E. Mr. Don, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand](#), dedicated video messages, followed by the opening remarks by the

Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hong, as well as sessions with Dr. Natalegawa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Arima, Director General of Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and other speakers. These were all heartfelt and in-depth.

In his [video message](#) set out three new pillars of support for mainstreaming the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which were widely reported, including by NHK. In my [closing remarks](#), I reflected on the history of ASEAN-Japan cooperation and expressed my desire to make maximum efforts for the next generation towards exchanges and future cooperation.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who attended and contributed to this symposium!



ASEAN-Japan Preparatory Meeting for the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers (AJSMJ)
(13 February 2023, provided by the ASEAN Secretariat).

- **ASEAN-Japan Preparatory Meeting for AJSMJ**

On the same day, a preparatory meeting was held in Tokyo for the AJSMJ to be

hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Japan on 6 July this year.

For nearly 30 years, mainly in the ASEAN region, Japan has contributed to the permeation and promotion of the “rule of law” and built a strong relationship of trust through the legal technical assistance, including the drafting of basic laws and regulations, the development of judicial systems and the capacity building to legal professionals these systems.

AJSMJ will be of crucial importance to send out a message of cooperation with ASEAN, based on universal values such: as the “rule of law” and respect for fundamental human rights. Furthermore, it will develop ASEAN-Japan's long-standing efforts of the legal technical assistance in the legal and justice fields, then commits to elevating the ASEAN-Japan cooperation in the field of law and justice to the next phase.

The Ministry of Justice of Japan will also host the [G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting](#) in Tokyo concurrently. Japan intends to take this opportunity to act as a bridge between ASEAN and G7 in promoting the rule of law within the international community.



KADIN, JETRO and ASEAN-BAC co-hosted event
“ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation, Co-Innovation” (22 February 2023).

- **Promoting Cooperation with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN).**

On 22 February, the event "ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation, Co-Innovation", jointly organised by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), JETRO and ASEAN-BAC to celebrate the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, was held in a hybrid format at a hotel in Jakarta.

Since last year, the Japanese public and private sectors have been jointly working to develop the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision, and an [interim note](#) of the vision was released in January this year. This event is designed to deepen discussions towards the final compilation of the vision with the participation of the Indonesian business community.

In my keynote speech at the opening ceremony, I expressed my hope that we would improve and realise four pillars of the vision, namely sustainability, innovation, connectivity and human capital by taking advantage of the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

It was immensely insightful to have a gathering of both Japanese and Indonesian managers and entrepreneurs from the region, including Mr. Bernardino, KADIN Vice President/ Vice Chairman of ASEAN-BAC, to share and discuss initiatives at the forefront of digital and green businesses.

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Toast at the Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception
(23 February 2023)

● Emperor's Birthday Reception

On 23 February, the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia and the Mission of Japan to ASEAN co-organised the Emperor's Birthday Reception at a hotel in Jakarta. It was the first time in three years that the event took place in person and was attended by more than 1,000 people, including the guest of honour, H.E. Mr. Arifin Tasrif, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

I was in charge of the toast, and this year the toast was raised in particular to celebrate the Emperor's 63rd birthday, and the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation under Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship as well as the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Indonesia.

Booths from JICA, JETRO, Japan National Tourist Organisation (JNTO), the ASEAN-Japan Integration Fund Management Team (JMT), the Japan Club of Jakarta (JJC) and a wide range of Japanese companies showcased Japan's contributions, along with Japanese food and drink such as sushi, tempura, sake

and Japanese wine, and attendees enjoyed them very much. If you have time, please enjoy watching a [video of](#) the atmosphere on site.

Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have attended quite a few Emperor's Birthday Receptions around the world, but this is the first one on such a large scale. I was reminded of the depth and breadth of Japan's relations with Indonesia and ASEAN.



Visit of Mr. Mizuno, Director General,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (23 February 2023).

● ASEAN-Japan Midori (Green) Cooperation Plan

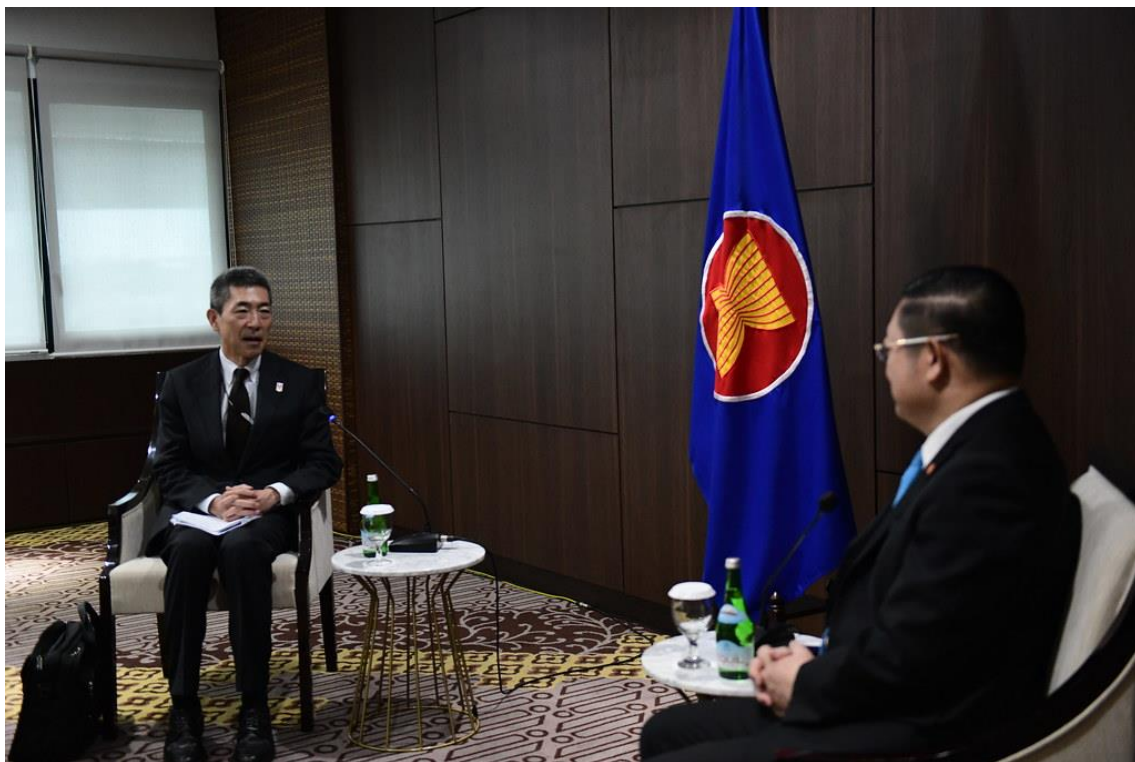
On the same day as the Emperor's Birthday Reception, Mr. MIZUNO Masayoshi, Director-General for Export and International Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF), visited Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the “ASEAN-Japan Midori (Green) Cooperation Plan” with H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hong, Secretary-General of ASEAN, among others.

In the agriculture sector, Japan has attended the ASEAN+3 Agriculture and

Forestry Ministers Meetings several times. Minister of MAFF Mr. NOMURA, attended online in October last year, where he launched the “ASEAN-Japan Midori Cooperation Plan”, a Japanese cooperation initiative for the ASEAN region, which was endorsed by ASEAN countries.

The plan seeks to build a resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system in the ASEAN region to ensure food security by improving agricultural production and productivity, while reducing environmental impacts through innovation. Specifically, the plan involves (a) development, demonstration and dissemination of technologies; (b) human resource development; and (c) other supports for the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines, with the intention of utilising public-private partnership mechanisms to promote these activities.

Based on the discussions, preparations will be made to further strengthen and deepen cooperation in the agricultural sector taking the occasion of the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.



Meeting between JETRO Bangkok President, Mr. KURODA
and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hong.
(24 February 2023, provided by the ASEAN Secretariat)

● **Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and ASEAN Cooperation**

On 24 February, JETRO Bangkok, Mr. KURODA Junichiro, who was on a business trip to the region, held [discussions](#) with Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hong.

During the discussions, they exchanged of views on the preparations for the annual dialogue between the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, which is scheduled to take place around July this year. JETRO Bangkok has been the Japanese contact point in coordinating this dialogue.

At the Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and [the Japanese business community in ASEAN](#) made requests to improve the business environment and made proposals to enhance cooperation between Japan and ASEAN, in order to reinvigorate business and investment by in ASEAN ([full text of requests and proposals](#)). Japanese companies also pledged to work with ASEAN towards the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

I was able to meet President Mr. Kuroda for the first time during his visit to Jakarta. We are looking forward to working closely together to ensure that this year's FJCCIA-ASEAN Secretary-General's Annual Dialogue to be impactful and befitting the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

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Discussions with officials of the Asia PT
of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (24-25 February 2023).

● Japan-ASEAN Management Conference

From 24 February to the weekend of 25 February, officials from the Asia Project Team (which is part of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives' international exchange programme) visited Jakarta. The purpose of their visit was to exchange views on the [results](#) of the 48th Japan-ASEAN Management Conference held in December last year, and towards the next conference as part of the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

Last December, the participants in the meeting shared common awareness: Firstly, the aim of strengthening ASEAN-Japan relations to resolve challenges towards a sustainable quality of life of people and the creation of diverse opportunities to maximise individual potentials. Secondly, the need of a basis in addressing challenges of "human resources" and essentially for countries to focus on acquiring and developing human capacity, along with a framework to promote multi-layer movement of people (see [Cahirman's Statement](#)).

In this meeting, the participants brainstormed concrete measures to promote cooperation between Japan and ASEAN in solving issues, and to promote the movement and circulation of people across borders in the region. Furthermore, the participants agreed on the importance of promoting cooperation between stakeholders towards the next generation of exchanges between ASEAN and Japan. We hope that the Japan-ASEAN Management Council will take the initiative to this end.



With FPCI young staff and interns at the Commemorative Symposium
(13 February 2023)

● **Connecting "Golden Friendships" with "Epicentrum of Growth" to the "Next Generation".**

Looking back over the past month, I feel the shift in focus from the search of a broad direction to the concretisation of cooperation projects in specific fields, since the occasion of the symposium held on 13 February to celebrate the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

What has not changed is the importance of trust and exchange. What is new is

the changing security environment and the need to address various issues such as digital and green. With these in mind, it is important to envision a new vision for ASEAN-Japan cooperation and put concrete initiatives into action.

Great value is created by linking the “epicentrum of growth” that Indonesia, the ASEAN Chair country, has set forth, with the “golden friendship” that ASEAN-Japan's 50th Year has uphold. In order for this value to take root, it is essential to nurture the “next generation” who will be the bearers of this value.

At the symposium on 13 February, the young staffs and interns responsible impressed us in planning, promoting and managing. Ultimately, the success or failure of our efforts will depend on how we nurture the “next generation” in both Japan and ASEAN. With this, we will continue to concretise our concept of cooperation in a wider range of fields towards the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held around December.

If you have any great ideas, please feel free to share them with us, and together we can promote cooperation for the future of ASEAN, Japan, the region and the world!

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
KIYA Masahiko