

Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
No. 10: Outcome of the 43rd ASEAN Summit and related summits

29 September 2023



The 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit
(6 September 2023, Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

In early September, [the ASEAN Summit and related summits](#) were held in Jakarta, and Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio attended. In the 3rd quarter of the year, the Summits is the highlight of ASEAN's annual events. The Mission of Japan to ASEAN, together with the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, was responsible for the preparations and support for the meetings. Significant outcomes have been achieved through a series of meetings and conferences.

Various events were held before and after the Summits. The business-related events immediately prior to the Summits was attended by government officials and entrepreneurs from Japan, including JETRO. After the Summits, a series of ASEAN-Japan cooperation workshops on maritime transport as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), and the presentation of ASEAN-Japan relations by the Japanese School of Jakarta (JJS) also took place. Thanks to the efforts of all involved, September was very fruitful for me.

In this edition of the Ambassador's Newsletter, I would like to introduce events and achievements, focusing on the ASEAN Summit and related summits, and how we can together prepare for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit which commemorates the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation to take place in Tokyo this December.



Prime Minister Kishida's speech at the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum
(6 September 2023, Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

● ASEAN Summit and related summits

On the evening of 5th September, Prime Minister Kishida and his delegation arrived at Soekarno Hatta International Airport. On 6th September, he delivered [a speech at the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum](#), attended [the ASEAN-Japan Summit](#), [the ASEAN+3 \(Japan, China and Republic of Korea\) Summit](#) and Gala Dinner. Following 7th September, he attended [the East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#), and had [the press conference](#). Apart from this, before/after each event, bilateral and trilateral meetings, discussions and pull-aside meetings also took place. In addition, he contributed [an article to the Kompas newspaper](#) on this occasion.

Towards the Commemorative Summit in Tokyo in December, [the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership \(CSP\)](#) was established on the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit and launched the [Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative](#). We reaffirm the idea of realizing cooperation based on the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), to which Japan's appeals can be synergized. Japan also explained its position on [the safety of the discharge of ALPS treatment water](#) in a number of forum.

I had opportunities to attend and observe a series of meetings, events and preparatory briefings throughout the Summits, and realized the significance of individual arrangements, decision-making and exchange of views in this high-level diplomacy, which requires collaborative support of teamwork, individual ingenuity and efforts of so many people involved.



First Lady of Japan, Mrs. KISHIDA Yuko (center left), visit to Jaya Obayashi
(7 September 2023, Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office).

● Events and visits by First Lady of Japan KISHIDA Yuko.

First Lady of Japan, Mrs. KISHIDA Yuko, accompanied the Prime Minister to the ASEAN Summit and related summits, where she participated in various official events and visits.

On 6th September, Mrs. Kishida participated in [an official spouse' programme organised by the first lady of Indonesia](#). The day started by a visit to a culture-based recreational area, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, followed by a meeting with Japanese women who live and work in Indonesia, and ended with an official dinner hosted by the President Joko Widodo and First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo.

[On 7th September](#), Mrs. Kishida visited the [Jakarta Japanese School \(JJS\)](#), the [History Gallery of Former Japanese Soldiers](#) and the Jaya Obayashi to interact with both Japanese and Indonesian officials who support the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Indonesia.

During this series of visits and exchanges, the themes of 'women's success' and 'diversity' featured prominently, and were reported on [Nippon TV](#) and [Hiroshima TV](#).



ASEAN Future Generation Business Forum (2 September 2023)

● Reverse Pitch and Future Generation Business Forum

Business-related events took place prior to the ASEAN Summit and related

summits. On 1st September, the [“Indonesia-Japan Fast Track Pitch Event 2023”](#) was organised jointly with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), JETRO and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. This was a new platform for start-ups, in which 23 start-ups selected from more than 100 applications, gave presentations on issues presented by eight companies from Japan and Indonesia, as opposed to the traditional pitch in which start-ups propose business ideas to potential sponsors. A large audience of over 150 people gathered at the venue.

The following day, on 2nd September, the ASEAN Business Advisory Committee (ASEAN-BAC) organised [the ASEAN Future Generation Business Forum](#) in Jakarta with the support from JETRO, AMEICC and GenYouth as a side event of the [ASEAN Business and Investment Summit](#). Indonesian Minister and Malaysian Vice Minister also attended the event and delivered opening remarks.

Both events were attended by many public and private sector representatives from Japan, including JETRO President ISHIGURO Norihiko, as well as large corporations and start-ups. I believe that such future-oriented business initiatives will have a significant impact on ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

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ASEAN Hydrographic Survey Workshop (13 September 2023)

● Ensuring the safety of navigation in the Malacca-Singapore Straits.

On 13th September, a week after the ASEAN Summit and related Summits, [the ASEAN Hydrographic Survey Workshop](#) was held in Jakarta, organised by Ministry of Transportation Republic of Indonesia.

This workshop was held to share the results of the Malacca-Singapore Strait Joint Hydrographic Survey, which Japan is supporting through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), with ASEAN countries and related industry following the completion of the survey ([Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism](#)).

[In my opening remarks](#), I stated that ensuring the navigational safety of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore is essential for the prosperity of ASEAN, Japan and the Indo-Pacific region, and this workshop would also contribute to promoting maritime cooperation and connectivity, which are priority areas of the AOIP. Other participants thanked Japan for its support.

As I attended this workshop, I was impressed to learn that Japan has been

contributing to ensuring the navigational safety of the Malacca-Singapore Straits for more than 50 years since 1969 through the efforts of the [Malacca Straits Council](#) to improve aids to navigation and hydrographic surveys.



Opening ceremony of the AHA Centre Workshop
"Lessons Learnt from Humanitarian Assistance Operation in Turkey and Syria"
(18 Sept 2023)

● Expanding ASEAN-Japan cooperation with partners in the field of disaster management

On 18th-19th September, a workshop on '[Lessons Learned from Humanitarian Assistance Operations in Turkey and Syria](#)' was held in Jakarta, organised by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and supported by JAIF.

The workshop was attended by experts not only from within the ASEAN region, but also from Australia, India, the US, Japan, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition to sharing experiences and lessons learned from the response to the Turkey-Syria earthquake in February this year, the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the initiatives that ASEAN needs to take in order to respond to

emergency and humanitarian assistance outside the region in the future. I delivered [opening remarks](#) and International Emergency Coordinator from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, IWATA Shinya delivered a [keynote speech](#).

Japan has long been supported ASEAN's efforts in the field of disaster management through the establishment of the AHA Centre in 2011 and cooperation in its subsequent operation. As part of its cooperation in mainstreaming and implementation of the AOIP, Japan would like to work with other partners, as it did in this workshop, to further strengthen disaster management in the Indo-Pacific region.



Recommendations and Declaration of Action by Year-9 students of the Jakarta Japanese School (15 September 2023).

● Creating the future leaders of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

To make the world a better place, it is important for Japan and ASEAN to take concrete actions with a wide range of partners in parallel with the summit-level initiatives described above.

A particular emphasis should be placed on the development of the next

generation: on 15th September, we received a [proposal and an action declaration](#) from Year-9 students of the Jakarta Japanese School (JJS) as a result of their comprehensive study, which aims to strengthen the relationship between Japan and Indonesia/ASEAN.

The recommendations included detailed ideas focusing on the promotion of cultural and human exchange. The Declaration of Action expressed three points: online cultural exchange between schools, dissemination of information about Indonesian life and culture through the Internet, and concrete actions to solve the waste problem.

In preparation for the Commemorative Summit in December, I would first like to squarely engage the children of the next-generation and to work together in expanding the circle of people to take action in strengthening the ASEAN-Japan relations for the future.

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
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