

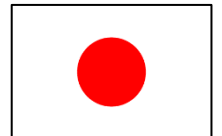


AICHR-Japan Cooperation - Progress and Next Steps -

Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN

13 May 2025

Interface Meeting between
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on
Human Rights (AICHR) and Japan
ASEAN Secretariat Headquarters, Jakarta



Outline

1. Progress of AICHR-Japan cooperation
2. Importance of Business and Human Rights
3. Next Steps for AICHR-Japan cooperation

1. Progress of AICHR-Japan cooperation

May 8 2015 1st AICHR-Japan Interface Meeting

- Identified 3 priority areas of cooperation; 9 projects were implemented
- “ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” was adopted at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in 2018

Nov 8 2023 2nd AICHR-Japan Interface Meeting

- Decided Interface to be held on regular basis
- “Collaborate on human rights and support the work of AICHR” was included in Implementation Plan at the ASEAN-Japan 50th Year commemorative Summit in Dec 2023

May 22 2024 3rd AICHR-Japan Interface Meeting

- Identified priority Business and Human Rights as area for cooperation
- 1st BHR project was implemented in Sep 2024 and 2nd BHR project will be implemented in Jun 2025

10 projects were implemented with JAIF Support

	implemented	Project and Lead country	Actual Cost
1	Dec 2015	AICHR Regional Dialogue on the Mainstreaming of the <u>Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> in ASEAN (Thailand)	USD 169,934.75
2	Aug 2016	AICHR Workshop on Effective Communication Strategies <u>to Combat Trafficking in Persons</u> (Vietnam)	USD 81,404.00
3	July 2016	2nd AICHR Regional Dialogue on the Mainstreaming of the <u>Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> in the ASEAN Community (Thailand)	USD 178,182.00
4	Oct 2016	The AICHR Training Programme on <u>the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> (Thailand)	USD 89,293.50
5	Oct 2018	Task Force on the Mainstreaming of <u>the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> (Thailand)	USD 147,829.00
6	Jun 2017	3rd AICHR Regional Dialogue on the Mainstreaming of <u>the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> in the ASEAN Community (Thailand)	USD 149,578.00
7	Feb 2019	2018 AICHR Regional Dialogue (Accessibility through Universal Design)(Thailand)	USD 103,942.30
8	Dec 2019	2019 AICHR Regional Dialogue (Gender Perspectives on Disability Rights)(Thailand)	USD 136,920.00
9	Nov 2019	AICHR Workshop on Promoting Gender Equality and <u>Empowerment of Women</u> through ICTs towards Achieving the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (Vietnam)	USD 79,079.00
10	Sep 2024	AICHR, SEANF co-host regional workshop on sharing good practices, effective remedy for <u>migrant workers</u> (Thailand) (BHR project)	closing process

AICHR reported an AICHR–Japan Cooperation in Jul 2024



AICHR – ASEAN Foreign Ministers interface 2024
(AICHR website)

4.3.5 Japan

On 8 November 2023, AICHR met with Japan at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia to discuss further possible areas of future cooperation in line with the framework of the AICHR FYWP 2021-2025 and the Priority Programmes/Activities of AICHR 2024, as well as contribute to the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation marked by the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation to take place in December 2023. It was noted that priority areas of cooperation were identified since the first meeting between AICHR and Japan in 2015, including (i) the rights of persons with disabilities, (ii) empowerment of women, and (iii) fight against trafficking in persons. From 2015 to 2019, Japan supported nine AICHR activities for the development and implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. The Meeting took note of suggestions for further cooperation which may include (i) interface meeting between AICHR and Japan to be held on a regular basis; and (ii) new thematic and priority areas of cooperation to be explored for 2024 and beyond aiming for the enhancement of the strategic partnership across all sectors including human rights.

On 22 May 2024, AICHR held the 3rd Interface Meeting with Japan to discuss possible cooperation between Japan and AICHR in realising the AICHR FYWP 2021-2025, as well as in the Joint Statement and Implementation Plan, which were adopted in the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. AICHR and Japan exchanged views on the recent development and future direction and shared the view to deepen cooperation, such as in the area of business and human rights, among others.

First JAIF supported project on BHR (Sep 2024)



photo provided by AICHR Thailand



photo provided by AICHR Thailand



photo provided by AICHR Thailand

AICHR, SEANF co-host regional workshop on sharing good practices, effective remedy for migrant workers

2. Importance of Business and Human Rights

① Economic Perspective

● Strengthening Global Supply Chains

ASEAN and Japan are economically interconnected, many Japanese companies having manufacturing operations in the ASEAN. Business practices that respect human rights enhance the reliability and sustainability of supply chains.

● Improving of Investment Environment

Companies that respect human rights are more likely to gain the trust of international investors and partners, resulting in an improved investment environment.

② Social Perspective

● Protecting Workers' Rights

With diverse workforces active in both **ASEAN and Japan**, protecting workers' rights is a crucial issue. When companies respect workers' human rights, it creates a more comfortable working environment and boosts productivity.

● Contributing Local Communities

By conducting responsible business in local communities, companies can contribute to sustainable development, which in turn enhances their brand value.

③ Legal and Ethical Perspective

● Promoting International Standards

ASEAN and Japan are advancing initiatives based on the UNGP requiring compliance with international standards.

● Promoting Social Responsibility (CSR)

As corporate social responsibility becomes increasingly important, respecting human rights is a crucial obligation for companies as part of their CSR efforts.

BHR projects by AICHR

	implemented	Project and Lead country	Main donor
1	Jun 2014	Workshop on <u>CSR</u> and Human Rights in ASEAN: Outcomes of the AICHR Thematic Study, Singapore	UN agency
2	Nov 2016	AICHR Seminar on Promoting <u>CSR</u> and Human Rights in ASEAN, Singapore	EU, Sweden, UNDP
3	Jun 2018	AICHR Interregional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on <u>Business and Human Rights</u> , Bangkok	UN agency, EU, Arab League
4	Jun 2019	AICHR Interregional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on <u>Business and Human Rights</u>	Norway, Switzerland, Australia, UNDP, OECD, ILO
5	Dec 2020	The Essentials of Human Rights <u>Due Diligence</u> in Business: A Training for ASEAN Institutions, Bangkok(online)	UNDP
6	Jul 2022	AICHR Regional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on <u>Business and Human Rights</u> and Recovery from COVID-19 in ASEAN	UNDP, Australia
7	May 2023	AICHR Regional Consultation on <u>Business and Human Rights</u> , Environment and Climate Change, Kuala Lumpur	EU
8	Jun 2023	AICHR Regional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on the <u>Business and Human Rights</u> in ASEAN	UNDP, OECD
9	Sep 2024	AICHR, SEANF co-host regional workshop on sharing good practices, <u>effective remedy</u> for migrant workers, Bangkok	Japan (JAIF)

Initiative on BHR by GOJ

	Year	Initiatives
1	2011	UN formulated "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"
2	2014	METI published guidelines on "Human Rights Due Diligence."
3	2018	GOJ began preparations for drafting a National Action Plan (NAP)
4	2020	GOJ formulated the "Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP)," ①Protect and promote human rights throughout society, including the international community ②Ensure and enhance the international competitiveness and sustainability of Japanese companies ③Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, etc.
5	2021	MOFA published "Case Studies of Business and Human Rights Initiatives"
6	2022	GOJ formulated "Guidelines on Respect for Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains"
7	2023	METI published Practical Reference Material "Guidelines on Respect for Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains"
8	2023	MAFF published "Guidebook for Respecting Human Rights in Food Enterprises"
9	2023	MHLW published Check Book "Business and Human Rights in labor "
10	2023	METI started to hold a seminar for promoting respect for Human Rights in supply chains, etc." for small and medium-sized enterprises.

3 . Next Steps for AICHR-Japan cooperation

May 2025 4th AICHR-Japan Interface Meeting

Jun 2025 2nd JAIF supported project of BHR

**Gender-Lens Perspective on Business and Human Rights in ASEAN
will be implemented by AICHR Malaysia**

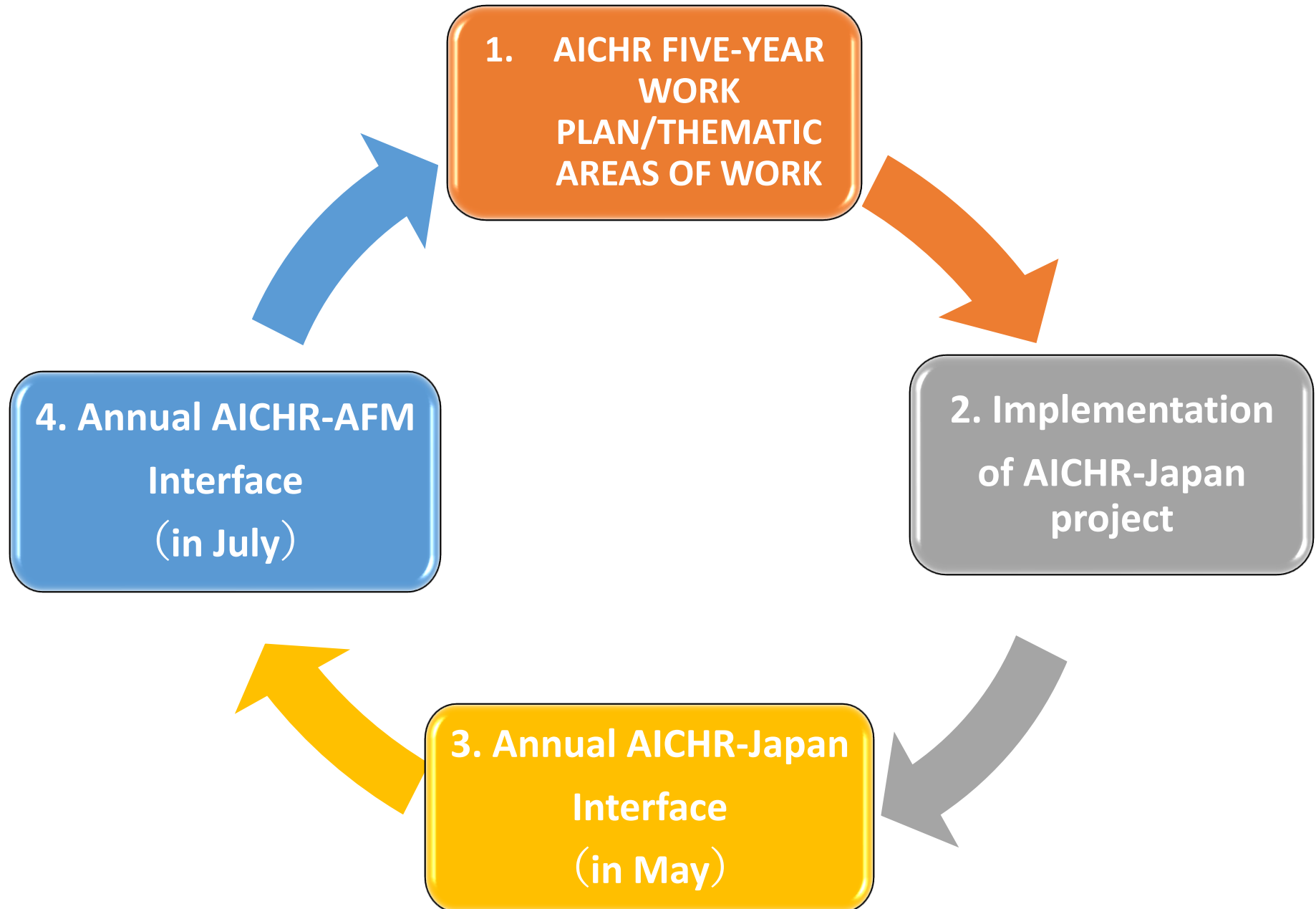
Jul 2025 AICHR-AFM interface 2025 at Malaysia

**AICHR will report on AICHR-Japan cooperation in 2025 to AFM*



What will AICHR and Japan do next?

AICHR-Japan cooperation cycle



3 . Next Steps for AICHR-Japan cooperation

To **formulate** new project of
Business and Human Rights



- With great **social/economic impact**
- In line with the **AICHR FIVE-YEAR WORK PLAN**
and the **THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK**
- Possibly a **multi-year** project to enhance
effectiveness through consistency
- Collaborating with **relevant organizations** to make
use of their knowledge and network

Thank you for your attention

