

**Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**  
**No. 31: Jakarta Process**

30 June 2025



ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC)

(26 June 2025, at the ASEAN Secretariat, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

During the last week of May, when the ASEAN Summit and related meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta was quiet, as many ASEAN Secretariat officers and Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States left Jakarta on business trips. The following week in June, they all returned to Jakarta, and the second half of the ASEAN annual cycle finally began.

The ERIA Governing Board meeting and related events in early June provided an opportunity for everyone to meet face to face. The following week, the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and related meetings were held in Penang, Malaysia, where I also went on business trip with other EAS Ambassadors. After returning to Jakarta, important meetings continued, including the ASEAN+3 Ambassadors' Meeting (CPR+3), the EAS Ambassadors' Meeting (EAS Group), the ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC) and its reception at my residence. We prepared for the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings next month and the events beyond. This month, the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee in Science and Technology (AJCCST) was also held in Jakarta.

ASEAN-related Summits, Ministerial meetings, and various SOM meetings are held across ASEAN Member States including the Chair, but much of the preparations are carried out in Jakarta. In this edition of the Ambassador's Newsletter, I would like to report the events that took place in June and reflect together with you on the significance of this "Jakarta Process."



Meeting between ERIA, Ambassadors of ERIA Member States, and Dialogue Partners  
(5 June 2025, at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat)

### ● ERIA Ambassadors' Meeting

On 5 June, [the annual governing board meeting of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\)](#) took place at the Nusantara Hall, located in the new ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat building. Japan was represented by Mr. SAKAKIBARA Sadayuki, Honorary Chairman of Keidanren, who also serves as a director of ERIA. On this occasion, as in previous years, a meeting was also held between [the ERIA Board of Directors, Ambassadors of ERIA Member States and Dialogue Partners—known as the ERIA Ambassadors' Meeting](#), and I attended the meeting as I did in [2022](#), [2023](#), and [last year](#).

Following the opening remarks from the Chair of the ERIA Governing Board, the President of ERIA, and [the Secretary-General of ASEAN](#), ERIA explained its contributions to the priorities of Malaysia, the current ASEAN Chair. Each participating country expressed appreciation for ERIA's contributions to ASEAN and the East Asia region, highlighting its research, studies, and policy recommendations, as well as its role in regional development. Several non-ASEAN countries also referred to their respective contributions to ERIA.

I commended ERIA for its achievements in recent years and [expressed](#) my hope that it will play a role in connecting each country's domestic policies with the direction ASEAN is pursuing, while also deepening cooperation with regions and organisations outside ASEAN in the future.

I met many stakeholders at the roundtable co-hosted by ERIA and the Mission of Australia to ASEAN and welcome dinner on the previous day and felt expanding support and growing expectations for ERIA.



East Asia Summit (EAS) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)  
(10 June 2025, in Penang)

## ●ASEAN-related Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

The [ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting \(SOM\)](#) and related meetings were held in Penang, Malaysia—the current ASEAN Chair—from 9 to 11 June. These meetings were held annually around this time to prepare for the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings and we call them the “Spring SOM.” Japan participated in the SOM meetings of ASEAN+3, the East Asia Summit (EAS), and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). This time, H.E. KASHIWABARA Yutaka, Deputy Director-General of the Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department and Ambassador for ASEAN Cooperation, served as the head of the Japanese delegation.

It was a packed schedule, with the [ASEAN+3 SOM](#) and [EAS SOM](#) held in the large conference room of the seaside hotel in the afternoon of 10 June, followed by a welcome dinner (where the local specialty durian was served) at a nearby restaurant in the evening, and the [ARF SOM](#) held the following morning on the 11th. Before, during, and after the event, bilateral and multilateral meetings were held one after another.

Under the chairmanship of Malaysia's SOM, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin, various discussions were held on regional and international situations and the promotion of cooperation in a wide range of fields. I personally gained a deeper understanding of each country's position and learned a great deal from the exchanges.





ASEAN+3 Ambassadors' Meeting (CPR+3)  
(19 June 2025, at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat)

### ●CPR+3

The [ASEAN+3 Ambassadors' Meeting \(CPR+3\)](#) was held on 19 June. It is named as such because [the Committee of Permanent Representatives \(CPR\)](#) participated from the ASEAN side.

The ASEAN+3 framework was launched in the wake of the Asian financial crisis in 1997. Since then, in addition to Summit and Foreign Ministerial meetings, [ASEAN+3 Ministerial meetings have been held across various fields](#)—including finance and agriculture—to promote dialogue and cooperation. Another major feature of the ASEAN+3 framework is the implementation of joint projects through the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Fund.

Following the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in May last year, the role of Co-Chair on the Japan-China-ROK side was handed over from ROK to Japan. Therefore, the Co-Chairs of this meeting were the Permanent Representative of Malaysia, Ambassador Sarah Al Bakri Devadason, and me. Various statements were made from the ASEAN side regarding the future priority areas of ASEAN+3 cooperation, making this a very fruitful meeting.



East Asia Summit (EAS) Ambassadors' Meeting

(25 June 2025, at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

## ● East Asia Summit (EAS) Group

The [East Asia Summit \(EAS\) Ambassadors' Meeting \(EAS Group\)](#) was held on 25 June. This meeting had long been called the EAS Ambassadors' Meeting in Jakarta (EAMJ), but in 2023, ASEAN proposed to institutionalise this meeting and give it an official name as part of efforts to strengthen the functions of the EAS. As a result, it was formally renamed the EAS Group.

The meetings are held three times a year, and this was the second time this year since the first one in March. We reviewed the status of implementation of [the EAS Action Plan 2024-2028](#), discussed preparations for the EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July as well as the outcome documents of the EAS Summit in October. We also exchanged views on regional and international situations.

EAS cooperation is a valuable platform for major the Indo-Pacific countries to promote inclusive, transparent, and constructive cooperation with ASEAN at the centre. It also serves as a forum for advancing cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). From this standpoint, I stated that Japan is promoting concrete cooperation.

For example, Japan is supporting the organisation of [a Model EAS in September this year](#), together with Australia and China. 60 university students from EAS Member States and Timor-Leste are scheduled to gather in Jakarta to negotiate outcome documents and promote exchanges. We look forward to receiving many applications by the deadline of 11 July.



ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC) Reception  
(26 June 2025, at the residence of the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN)

### ●ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC)

On the following day, 26 June, the ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC) meeting was held. The 11 [ASEAN Dialogue Partners](#), including Japan, convene the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) once a year, jointly with [their respective Country Coordinators from ASEAN](#), at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat in Jakarta. On the ASEAN side, the meeting is attended by the Permanent Representatives of each ASEAN country in Jakarta ([members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives \(CPR\)](#)), the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to ASEAN, and officials from ASEAN Secretariat.



This AJJCC was co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of ASEAN to Singapore, Ambassador Gerard Ho Wei Hong, and me. The ASEAN Secretariat explained the progress of the Implementation Plan for the Joint Vision Statement adopted at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2023, summarising inputs from relevant Ministries and Sectoral Bodies. I also provided additional information. Furthermore, Secretary-General Dr. HIRABAYASHI Kunihiro of [the ASEAN-Japan Centre](#) and Executive Vice President Mr. SHIMOYAMA Masaya of [the Japan Foundation](#) came from Japan to attend the meeting and reported on their respective activities. The Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States put forward various suggestions for future cooperation based on the progress of the Implementation Plan.

That same evening, [a reception](#) was co-hosted by Ambassador Gerard and me at my residence. Many representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, and Japan, as well as Dialogue Partners and related organisations, attended. After sharing the outcomes of the meeting in my opening remarks, the attendees enjoyed Japanese and Singaporean cuisine while engaging in conversation to deepen their connections.



Pre-Event Reception of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology, and Innovation  
(19 June 2025, at the Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN))



## ●The Role of Jakarta Process

As for Japan-related events, the launch of the [“Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN” \(NEXUS\)](#) was officially announced on 20 June by Dr. HASHIMOTO Kazuhito, President of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology, and Innovation (AMMSTI) held in Jakarta. On the previous day, [the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology \(AJCCST\)](#) was held, where the latest initiatives were reported, including [SATREPS](#), and [the establishment of an STI Coordination Platform and human capacity building \(JAIF project\)](#).

As explained above, while sector-specific Ministerial and SOM meetings are held across ASEAN such as in Malaysia and Indonesia, various other meetings and events take place at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat in Jakarta, mainly through the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors of external partners, including myself. We usually meet each other twice or three times a week.

Cooperation under ASEAN-led frameworks, including ASEAN-related Summits and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings, is supported by the Jakarta Process. As the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, I would like to contribute to this process, together with my colleagues in our Mission, for the benefit of ASEAN, Japan, the region, and the world.

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN  
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