

Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
No. 32: New Developments at the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers'
Meetings

31 July 2025



ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(10 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

The highlight of July was the [ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings](#) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as this year's ASEAN Chair, held the ASEAN Summit and ASEAN-GCC-China Summit in late May. Building on those events, this was the first ASEAN meeting this year to invite a wide range of external partners. It also laid the foundation for the ASEAN-related Summits, the largest event to take place this Autumn. I arrived in advance from Jakarta and joined staff from the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, along with those from Tokyo and other places. Together, we undertook preparatory arrangements and coordination ahead of the meetings. On the day of the meetings, I attended and provided on-site support.

The following week, I returned to Jakarta and met with the counterparts in the ASEAN Secretariat, the Permanent Missions, and the Missions of ASEAN's external partners. We focused on exchanging information and views and following up on new developments from the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings. In late July, I temporarily returned to Japan and was able to visit the ASEAN Pavilion and the pavilions of ASEAN Member States at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan for the first time.

In this edition of the newsletter, I would like to look back on the month of July and reflect together with you on new developments at the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings and their significance.



ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(10 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

●ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings

The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States began arriving in Kuala Lumpur on 8 July, and various multilateral and bilateral meetings commenced. On the following day, the 9th, the opening ceremony, the plenary and the retreat sessions of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, took place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), during which the [*"ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Decision on Enhancing ASEAN Relations with External Parties"*](#) was adopted. On the final day, a [Joint Communiqué of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers](#) was issued. I arrived in Kuala Lumpur in the evening of the 8th and, on the morning of the 9th, I inspected the conference venue and listened to [Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's speech](#) at the opening ceremony via live broadcast. That day, I also had meetings with working-level officials from various countries.

Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi arrived in Kuala Lumpur on the evening of the 9th and attended the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings from the 10th to the 11th. Through this series of meetings, it was confirmed that ASEAN and Japan will continue to work to strengthen their relationship as "trusted partners." Furthermore, he conveyed a message that, through the promotion of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" based on the rule of law, Japan will lead the international community toward dialogue and cooperation, rather than division and confrontation.

Taking this opportunity, we held the Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the CEAPAD Ministerial Meeting, meetings and talks with 11 countries and regions, as well as the Japan-U.S.-Philippines Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting.



ASEAN+3 (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(10 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

●ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN+3 (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On 10 July, the ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers' Meeting were held in succession, followed by a grand gala dinner in the evening of the same day.

The meeting of Foreign Ministers between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners is called the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with [country name] (refer to screen in the photo on the previous page). It is abbreviated as "PMC," and is a tradition that dates back to the 1970s, shortly after ASEAN was founded, when Foreign Ministers from Dialogue Partners began attending ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings. The number of Dialogue Partners has now increased to 11 countries and organisations, and the schedule is carefully planned to allocate responsibilities and time slots to the ASEAN country coordinators. This is a valuable opportunity for all ASEAN Member States, Timor-Leste, and each Dialogue Partner to consider and confirm future cooperation policies, and this time, action plans were adopted with many Dialogue Partners.

[The ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) was co-chaired by Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi and Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, which serves as the coordinating country for Japan. After Foreign Minister Iwaya expressed full support for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the two sides exchanged views on specific directions for deepening cooperation and major regional and international situations. [The ASEAN Plus Three \(APT\) Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) was also held on the same day, where each country introduced its initiatives and discussed priority areas of cooperation and the situation in North Korea.



East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(11 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

●East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN Regional Forum

[The East Asia Summit \(EAS\) Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) was held on the 11th. The EAS is the apex of the regional framework centered on ASEAN and is an important forum where leaders from major countries convene to advance discussion and cooperation on strategic issues.

In addition to the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, Japanese Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita, and First Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Park Yoon-joo convened to exchange views on regional and international situations and EAS cooperation. Attending an event where Foreign Ministers from major countries exchanged greetings and views in person openly reminded me once again of the significance of such an occasion.

Afterwards, [the ASEAN Regional Forum \(ARF\)](#) took place. The ARF is a forum with a long history and many members, and its purpose is to improve the security condition in the Asia-Pacific region through dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues.

Minister Iwaya explained Japan's position, stating that the security situations of Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific region are closely interconnected, and that the increasingly severe and uncertain international situation makes the trust-building and preventive diplomacy advocated by the ARF more important than ever.



Fourth Ministerial Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development
(CEAPAD)

(11 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan)

●Fourth Ministerial Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)

A major achievement of this ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meeting was the holding of [the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development \(CEAPAD\)](#), which was co-chaired by Japan, Malaysia (the ASEAN chair), and Palestine. This was the first CEAPAD Ministerial Meeting since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Minister Iwaya emphasised the significance of revitalising cooperation through the CEAPAD framework, which Japan launched in 2013, and of expanding and diversifying means of support for Palestine, as the country faces unprecedented challenges—including the situation in Gaza—and is confronted with urgent humanitarian needs and enormous demands for early recovery and reconstruction. He added that the strength of CEAPAD lies in the fact that East Asian countries, with their diverse experiences, can utilise their respective strengths to cooperate not only in humanitarian aid, but also at each stage of Palestine's reconstruction and development.

As an outcome of the meeting, the Co-Chairs' Joint Statement was issued by Japan, Malaysia, and Palestine, and the CEAPAD IV Kuala Lumpur Action Plan was adopted, outlining the needs of Palestine and areas of assistance in which respective participants can utilise their strengths.



My Visit to the ASEAN Pavilion at the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan
(28 July 2025, at the Expo 2025 venue)

●My Visit to the ASEAN Pavilion at the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan

In late July, I temporarily returned to Japan, and from the 28th to the 29th, I visited [the ASEAN Pavilions and the pavilions of ASEAN Member States at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai](#) for the first time. Three and a half months have passed since the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan opened on 13 April, and as of the 29th, [the number of visitors](#) had exceeded 14 million, with tens of thousands visiting every day. The venue was bustling with activities from early morning until evening.

At [the ASEAN Pavilion](#), we received an explanation from Mr. Andhie, who was dispatched from the ASEAN Secretariat. The exhibition included the history of ASEAN, the latest developments in the three communities, and connectivity, as well as the challenges it faces. There were also attractions for visitors.

With the ["ASEAN Passport"](#) in hand, I walked around the pavilions of the ASEAN Member States, where each exhibit was full of fascinating displays showcasing their national characteristics and products. I felt that this was a great opportunity for visitors to come into contact with each ASEAN country and learn about their culture and ambience.

The Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan will continue for around three more months until 13 October. If you have the opportunity, please come and visit the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan site!



Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA)
(29 July 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

● Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the FJCCIA

Although I was unable to attend due to a temporary return to Japan, [the 17th Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN \(FJCCIA\)](#) was held at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat on 29 July. FJCCIA's Chairman WAKABAYASHI Koichi, as well as the Chairman of the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and representatives of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN countries explained the "Requests and proposals from Japanese businesses within ASEAN (2025): Co-Creation for a Prosperous Future in Global Uncertainty," which summarised the requests of Japanese companies in ASEAN around four pillars: supply chain, digital transformation (DX), green transformation (GX), and ASEAN inclusiveness. [Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr. Kao Kim Hourn](#), expressed his expectations for the role that the FJCCIA will play in further promoting ASEAN-Japan economic integration, innovation, and sustainable development.

At this month's ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings, we deepened our understanding of emerging developments and challenges in ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in light of recent international situation. I would like to make the most of the outcomes and insights that we gained this time to prepare for the ASEAN-related Summits this autumn and beyond.

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
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