

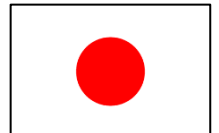


ASEAN and Japan – Trusted Partners –

ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme

14 August 2025

KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN



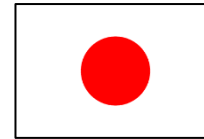
Agenda

1. Why does ASEAN-Japan cooperation matter?
2. Why are ASEAN and Japan “Trusted Partners”?
3. The next steps for ASEAN-Japan Cooperation?

1. Why does ASEAN-Japan cooperation matter?



ASEAN



Japan

- **Geo-strategic location**
(Centre of the Indo-Pacific, Chokepoint of a major sea lane)
- **Growth centre of the world**
(Population of 670 million with the vitality of youth, growing market for innovation)
- **Hub of multi-layered cooperation**
(ASEAN-led mechanisms across sectors, engagement of external partners with ASEAN at the centre)
- **Growth and solution experience**
(Track record of rapid economic growth and addressing economic/social challenges)
- **Technology with craftsmanship**
(Track record of automobiles, electronic appliances, quality infrastructure, etc.)
- **Global democratic power in Asia**
(Member of G7/G20, Frequent non-permanent member of UN Security Council)

1. Why does ASEAN-Japan cooperation matter?

- Trade

- ASEAN's **4th largest** trading partner after China, the U.S., and the EU, accounting for about **7%** of the total (2022).

- Inward Direct Investment

- The **3rd largest** source country of FDI to ASEAN after the U.S. and China, accounting for **14.5%** of the total (2023).

- Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)

- Japan's contribution/grants to ASEAN amounts more than **875 million USD** in total from 2006-2023.

- Evaluation by ASEAN

- The **1st trusted and reliable friend** in the region, accounting for **66.8%** of the total (ISEAS Survey 2025).

2. Why are ASEAN and Japan “Trusted Partners”?

Turbulent relationship in the beginning

- Scars sustained in the World War II
- Backlash against Japan's rapid economic growth
- Anti-Japanese demonstrations in 1970s

Starting point of ASEAN-Japan cooperation

- 1973 Establishment of ASEAN-Japan Forum on Synthetic Rubber
- 1977 1st ASEAN-Japan Summit,
Declaration of Fukuda Doctrine (“Heart to Heart” relationship)

Progress of ASEAN-Japan cooperation

- 1981 Establishment of ASEAN-Japan Centre
- 1990 Cambodia Peace Conference in Tokyo
- 1992 Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, PKO dispatch

2. Why are ASEAN and Japan “Trusted Partners”?

Overcoming difficult times together

- 1997 **Asian Financial Crisis** response
→ 1st ASEAN+3 Summit (1997), Chiang Mai Initiative (2000), Multilateralization (2010)
- 2004 Sumatra **Earthquake** and Indian Ocean **Tsunami Disaster** response
→ ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) (2011)
- 2020 **COVID-19 Pandemic**
→ Commitment to support for ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)

Strengthening the support for ASEAN Community

- 2006 Establishment of Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)
- 2008 Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
- 2011 Opening of Mission of Japan to ASEAN
- 2020 Adoption of Joint Statement on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)
- 2023 ASEAN-Japan 50th Year Commemorative Summit in Tokyo

Fukuda Doctrine (1977)

1. Japan, a nation **committed to peace, rejects the role of a military power**, and on that basis is resolved to contribute to the peace and prosperity of Southeast Asia, and of the world community.
2. Japan, as a true friend of the countries of Southeast Asia, will do its best for consolidating the **relationship of mutual confidence and trust based on "heart-to-heart" understanding** with these countries, in wide-ranging fields covering not only political and economic areas but also social and cultural areas.
3. Japan will be an **equal partner of ASEAN and its member countries**, and **cooperate positively with them in their own efforts to strengthen their solidarity and resilience**, together with other nations of the like mind outside the region, while aiming at fostering a relationship based on mutual understanding with the nations of Indochina, and will thus contribute to the building of peace and prosperity throughout Southeast Asia.



Speech by PM Fukuda in Manila on 18 August 1977
(Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

ASEAN-JAPAN RELATIONS STARTED

ASEAN-Japan
Centre established
1981



Japan-ASEAN Exchange
Projects Fund (JAEP)
1988



1973
ASEAN-Japan
dialogue on
synthetic rubber

1977
Formal relations started at
the 1st ASEAN-Japan Summit,
Fukuda Doctrine

Japan-ASEAN
Solidarity Fund
1999

Japan-ASEAN General
Exchange Fund (JAGEF)
2000

50-YEAR JOURNEY OF ASEAN-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP & COOPERATION



2006
Japan-ASEAN Integration
Fund (JAIF) established



2007
JENESYS
Japan-East Asia Network of
Exchange for Students and
Youths (JENESYS)



2020
ASEAN and Japan issued
the "Joint Statement of the
23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit
on Cooperation on ASEAN
Outlook on the Indo-Pacific"

2019
Adoption of the ASEAN
Outlook on the Indo-Pacific
(AOIP) at the 34th ASEAN
Summit

2011
Establishment of Mission of
Japan to ASEAN



2023
ASEAN-Japan 50th Year
Commemorative Summit



Commemorative Summit (Tokyo, 17 December 2023)

● JOINT VISION STATEMENT ON ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION



Subtitle : Trusted Partners

Building on mutual trust, ASEAN and Japan will strengthen the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial under the following three pillars, embracing ASEAN unity and centrality:

- 1) Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations
- 2) Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future
- 3) Partners for Peace and Stability

● **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: 130 cooperation items**
- Actions for “Peace and Prosperity” through “Co-creation” based on “Trust”

1. Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations

- **“Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation : WA Project 2.0”**
 - Promotion of sustainable researchers’ network
 - Networking of young business leaders, Study program in Japan for ASEAN Secretariat officials

2. Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future

- **New Efforts in Public-Private Partnership for Finding Solutions through Co-creation**
 - Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) platform
 - **ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation Initiative for the Next-Generation Automotive Industry**
 - Boosting the private investment for strengthening connectivity, climate change measures, and support for MSMEs & start-ups

3. Partners for Peace and Stability

- **Efforts to ensure and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law**
 - Development of human resources in cybersecurity, Humanitarian assistance through ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (**AHA Center**)

44 Areas of ASEAN-Japan Cooperation

Mission of Japan to ASEAN
February 2025

Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations

- ◆ Youth and People-to-People Exchanges
- ◆ Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges
- ◆ Sports
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Foreign Workers
- ◆ Science and Technology
- ◆ Human Resource Development
- ◆ Business Exchanges
- ◆ Local Government Exchanges
- ◆ Support for ASEAN Capacity Development
- ◆ Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future

- Economy
- Finance
- Connectivity
- Transport
- Climate Change and Environment
- Energy and Critical Minerals
- Disaster Management
- Health and Social Welfare
- Smart City and Urbanization
- Digital
- Outer Space
- Agriculture and Food Systems
- Narrowing the Gap
- Gender
- Labour
- SDGs
- Civil Service
- Rural Development

Partners for Peace and Stability

- Rule of Law
- Maritime Security
- Defense
- WPS, YPS, Peacebuilding
- Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- Human Rights
- Transnational Crimes
- Cybersecurity
- Disinformation
- Competition Policy and Law
- Immigration
- Landmines
- Regional Architecture

2. Why are ASEAN and Japan “Trusted Partners”?

Deepening corporation

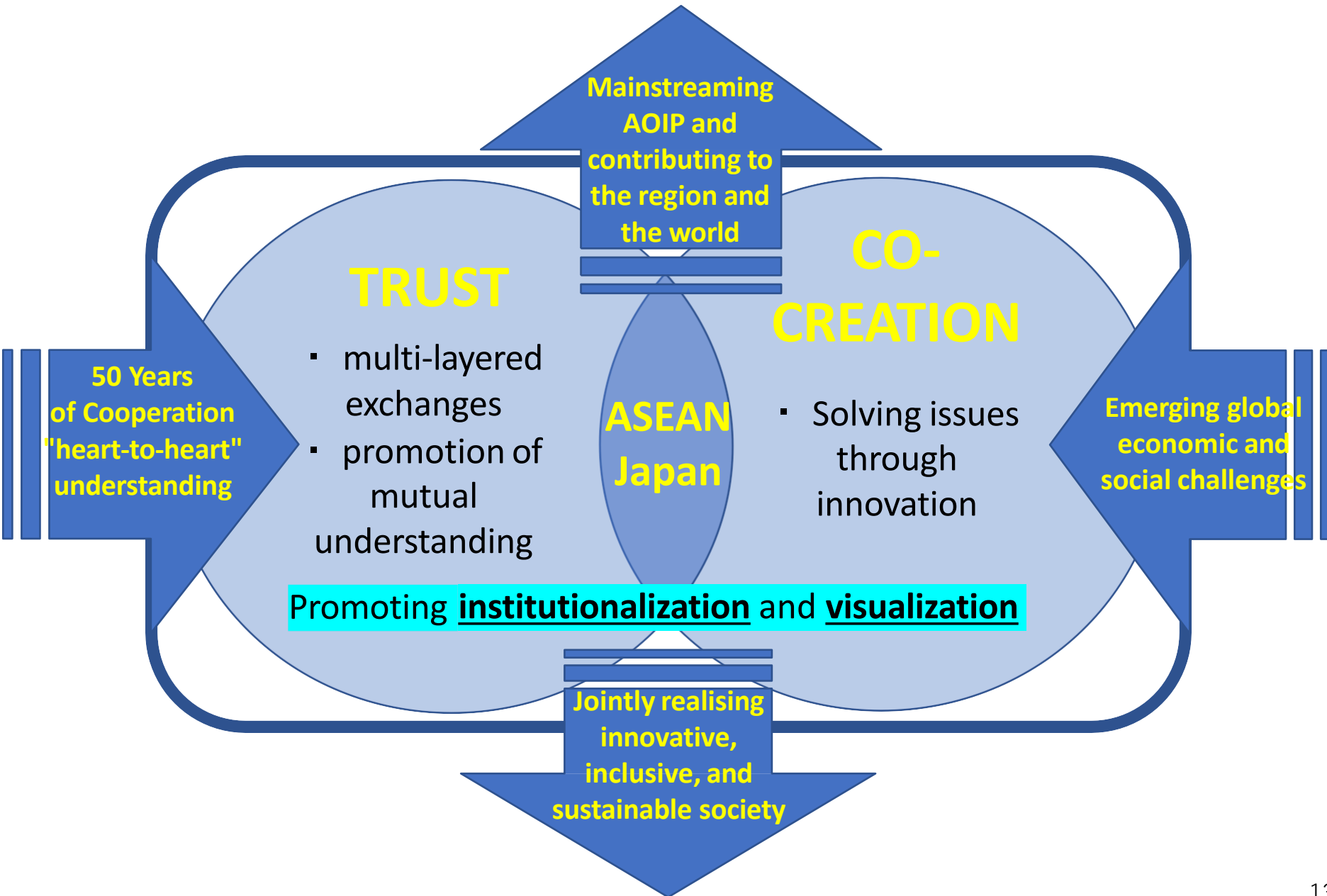
in line with ASEAN’s vision and responding to ASEAN’ needs



- ASEAN Community Vision 2045
- Economic uncertainties
- Timor- Leste’s full membership
- ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific



3. The next steps for ASEAN-Japan Cooperation?



Three Concrete Steps

1. Strengthening multiple **people-to-people networks** with **trust**

- Focus on the next generation for the future
- Intellectual exchanges for shared visions and strategies

2. Realising **economic and social benefits** through **co-creation**

- Economy, finance, connectivity, climate change, energy and critical minerals, environment, disaster management, health, digital, outer space, agriculture and food systems, social issues

3. Promoting the **shared principles and values** in the region and the world through **mainstreaming and implementing AOIP**

- Defending the principles and values, such as peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity
- AOIP helps to generate momentum for building “strategic trust”