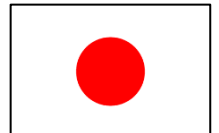


ASEAN and Japan – Trusted Partners –

Guest Lecture at President University
KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
22 September 2025



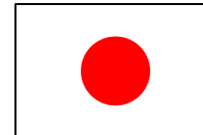
Agenda

1. Why does ASEAN-Japan cooperation matter?
2. Why are ASEAN and Japan “Trusted Partners”?
3. What 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 **2nd largest source country** of FDI to ASEAN after the U.S., accounting for **11.1%** of the total (2022).

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 **58.9%** of the total (ISEAS Survey 2024).

Multi-layered regional cooperation of ASEAN

1978 ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (ASEAN・PMC)

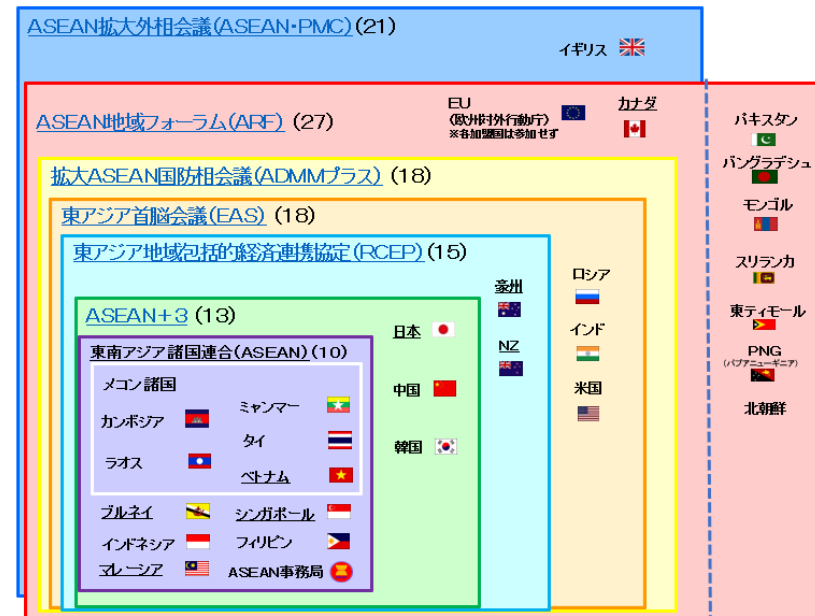
1994 ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

1997 ASEAN + 3 Summit (APT)

2005 East Asia Summit (EAS)

→ Since 2011 US & Russia joined

2010 1st ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM+)



※ASEAN-led framework

All of them are held in the ASEAN chair country.

※The APEC Ministerial Meeting has been held since 1989, and the APEC Summit has been held since 1993 (Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar among ASEAN countries are not members).

注1: 0内は参加している国・地域・機関の数
注2: 下線は環太平洋パートナーシップに関する包括的及び先進的な協定(TPP11)参加国(その他の参加国はメキシコ、ペルー、チリ)

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)

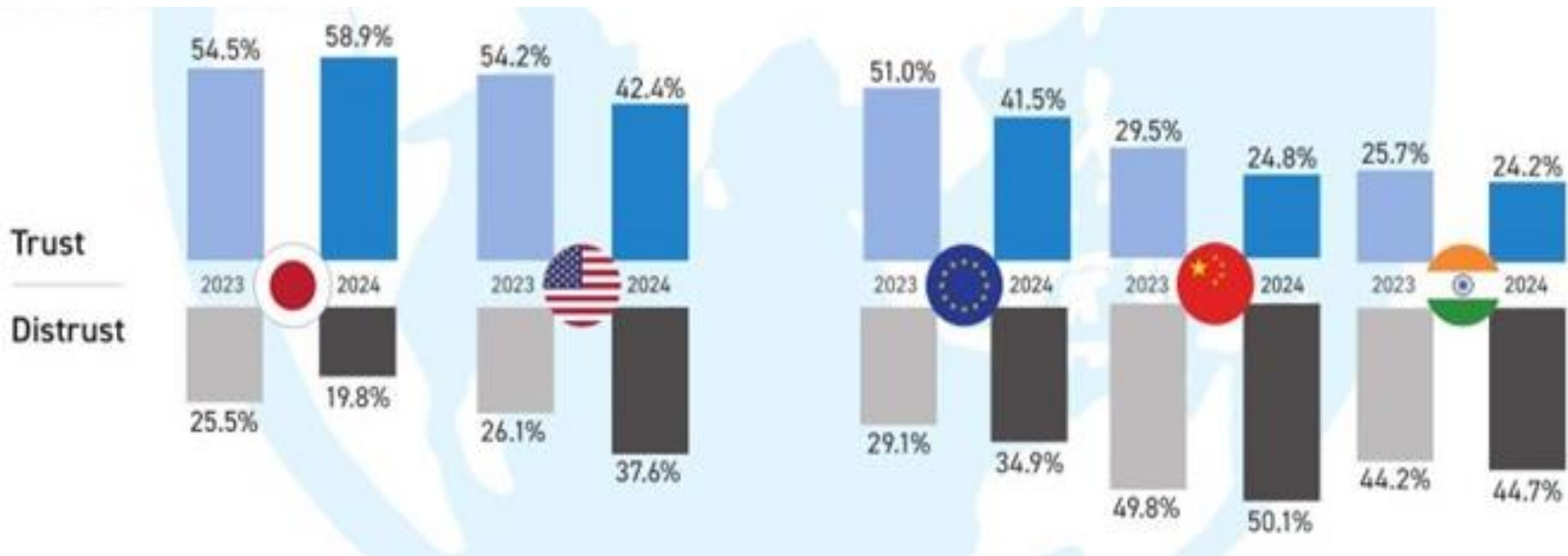
ASEAN Awareness Survey "State of Southeast Asia 2024"

Japan ranked first in trust among major countries!

The survey, conducted annually since 2019 by the ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute's ASEAN Studies Centre in Singapore, targets approximately 2,000 researchers, businesspeople, civil society and media representatives, and government and international organization officials from the 10 ASEAN countries.

Japan **ranked first among major countries**, with **trust** significantly exceeding distrust.

Japan's respectful and thoughtful low-key approach to the Southeast Asian region, and its call for regional partners to "co-create" a vision at the 50th Anniversary Summit, were well received.



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



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
March 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

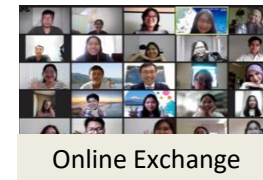
Partners for Peace and Stability

- 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

“JENESYS” project promotes people-to-people exchange between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region including ASEAN Member States (AMS). It is a successor program of JENESYS (2007-2012) and JENESYS2.0 (2013-2015).

Objectives

- To promote mutual trust and understanding among the peoples of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, and to build a basis for future friendship and cooperation.
- To encourage an understanding of Japan’s economy, society, history, diverse culture, politics and diplomatic relations, and to build networks in these field.
- To convey information on the learnings of the program and the charms of Japan to the general public in the region through Social Media and others by participants.



Online Exchange



Face-to-face Exchange

Core Contents of the Program



Thematic Site Visits



Thematic Discussions



Thematic Exchange



Homestay



Cultural Experience

- ◆ On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation (2023), the Government of Japan launched **a comprehensive people-to-people exchange initiative as a Japan Foundation project that will benefit more than 10 million people, especially the next-generation leaders of Japan and ASEAN**, and will implement this initiative intensively over the next 10 years.
- ◆ Through this two-pillar project (“Two-way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange” and “NIHONGO Partners”), the Government of Japan will strengthen **“investment in people”** in both Japan and ASEAN, which are **“heart to heart” partners**, and **develop human resources to co-create the future of Japan and ASEAN**.
- ◆ The project aims to achieve the following:
 1. Build **a strong relationship of trust** between ASEAN and Japan for the future.
 2. Promote two-way exchanges and strengthen **multi-faceted human networks**.
 3. **Address together global challenges**, such as climate change and disaster prevention.
 4. Nurture the next generation to **serve as a bridge between ASEAN and Japan**.
 5. Contribute to the further development of **a multicultural society**.

Two-way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange

- ✓ Promotion of intellectual dialogue and support for collaborative research on a variety of topics
- ✓ Invitation and exchanges of primary and secondary school teachers
- ✓ Human networking and collaborative projects in the fields of art, theater, music, audiovisual contents (including co-produced film screenings), sports, etc.



Exchange at Sanriku International Art Festival

NIHONGO Partners

- ✓ Dispatch of “NIHONGO Partners” to support Japanese language classes and introduce Japanese culture
- ✓ Training in Japan for teachers and students from the NIHONGO Partners’ host schools
- ✓ Support for the activities of NIHONGO Partners who have returned to Japan



A NIHONGO Partner with students

Networks for the Next Generation

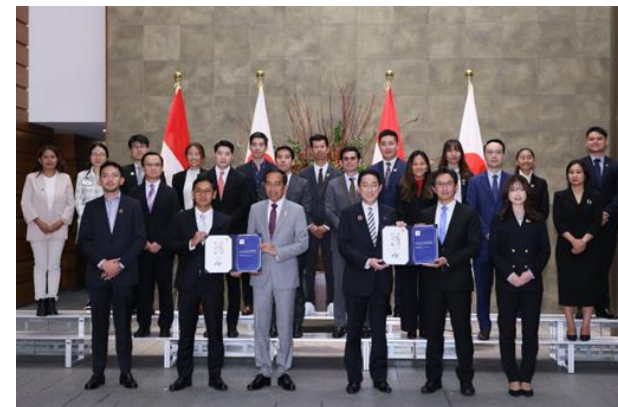
- About 100 young business leaders and entrepreneurs from ASEAN and Japan, who are expected to become future business leaders, gathered in Karuizawa in December 2023 for building and strengthening mutual understanding and trust. **The Young Business Leaders' Summit and Generation Z Business Leaders' Summit were launched as opportunities to create new connections for the next generation.**
- The participants shared economic and business challenges, discussed ways to cooperate to solve them, and compiled joint statements.
- **The statements were delivered to the co-chairs of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting**, Prime Minister Kishida and President Joko of Indonesia.
- These events will continue to be held as a legacy project for the 50th ASEAN-Japan anniversary. The second ones took place in Kyoto in December 2024.



Young Business Leaders' Summit



Discussion among Generation Z business leaders



Delivering joint statements to the co-chairs of the Commemorative Summit

Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment: SPACE

- At the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change in August 2023, the **“Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)”** to address the triple global crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss was welcomed by all ASEAN Member States, and launched.

<Major Initiatives under the SPACE>

I. Climate Change:

- Transparency: promotion of harmonized GHG Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in AMS, formulation of pilot projects for climate-related financial disclosure for financial institutions to access climate risk information
- Mitigation : development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP), support for dissemination of methane reduction and decarbonization technologies including the Fukuoka Method, expansion of Zero Carbon Cities, capacity building through Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership
- Adaptation and Loss & Damage : implementation of Early Warning System through public-private partnerships (PPP)

II. Pollution: ASEAN-Japan Action Agenda on Plastic Pollution, etc.

III. Biodiversity: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) implementation support, etc.

Basic perspectives of ASEAN-Japan cooperation

- **Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation “Trusted Partners”**
 - Partners for Co-Creation of Economy and Society of the Future [Digital]
 - Partners for Peace and Stability [Cybersecurity]
- **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**
- **ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025**

Initiatives of the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan 2025

1. Digital infrastructure and Digital transformation

- Strengthening digital connectivity through access to innovation such as 5G/Open RAN
- Human resource development to promote the development of digital infrastructure
- Promotion of innovations

3. Digital policies, regulations and standards

- AI policies
- Internet governance
- Data Governance / Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)

2. Resilience, reliability and security

- AJCCBC
- Promotion of ISP cooperation
- ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting

4. Cooperation and coordination

- Participating in ASEAN-related meetings as a dialogue partner
- Projects using the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund
- Implementing bilateral talks with ASEAN Member States

Provide a strong contribution to improving the ICT environment of the ASEAN region

ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision

~A New Vision Looking Ahead to the Next 50 Years~

**Develop a society that is “safe, prosperous and free”
through fair and mutually beneficial economic co-creation
based on the trust that has been built over the past 50 years**

Three Fundamental Concepts to Support the Vision

Sharing practices for development
and overcoming challenges

Be grounded in diverse realities
and geopolitical conditions

Circulating human resources to
bring innovation together

~Four Pillars of Action to Realize the Vision

Realizing Sustainability to Balance Diversity and Inclusiveness

Promoting Open Innovation beyond Borders

**Strengthening Cyber-Physical
Connectivity**

**Building an Ecosystem in Co-Creating
Dynamic Human Capital**

Further Utilize ERIA

**Strengthen ASEAN and Japan cooperation in both the public and private sectors
and promote co-creation projects**

- ✓ Interactively link the Growth and Innovation models that reflect the strengths of each country
- ✓ Demonstrate the co-creation relationship of ASEAN and Japan as one of the models to be pursued globally
- ✓ Contribute to the establishment of a free, fair and open regional economic order

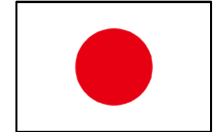
ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan

- "ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan" was adopted at the Meeting of ASEAN-Japan Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry on October 4, 2023. The plan was proposed by Japan in order to build resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems in ASEAN region based on Japan's "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MIDORI".

- ASEAN and Japan share similar particularities in weather and agricultural production conditions such as high humidity, high temperature, high risk of pests and diseases, abundance of paddy fields, and small- and medium-sized farmers.
- The utilizations of technologies and innovations that Japan has developed through the "Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MIDORI" are expected to contribute to the enhancement of productivity and sustainability of the ASEAN region, as well as to food security



- The Objectives of the "ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan" are to strengthen cooperation between Japan and ASEAN countries in the fields of agriculture and food systems, as well as to promote the international dissemination of Japan's technology and the overseas expansion of private.



Adopted at the Meeting of ASEAN- Japan Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry on October 4, 2023

Examples of future projects

Projects	Project Target Locations
Contributing to the increase of productivity and reduction of labor hours through automatic steering technology such as tractor, rice transplanter and others.	Thailand
Contributing to the reduction of fertilizers through automatic plotting technology and soil diagnosis of farmland using satellite data	Thailand, Philippines
Launch of a project on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) to promote climate change mitigation in agriculture	Philippines, Vietnam
Contributing to climate change mitigation by improving water management systems in paddy fields using ICT.	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam

- "ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan" was presented as outcomes at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation which took place in Tokyo in December 2023.

Pillar 1

Japan-ASEAN to Carry Out Efforts to Create a Security Environment that Does Not Allow Any Unilateral Attempts to Change the Status Quo by Force or Coercion

- Ensuring the rule of law
- Strengthening security of the seas and the air

Pillar 2

To Continue and Expand the Japan-ASEAN Defense Cooperation

- Addressing cross-border challenges
- Addressing emerging issues

Pillar 3

To Pursue Further Friendship and Opportunities between Japan and ASEAN Defense Officials

- Strengthening the people-to-people foundation
- Promoting the WPS agenda

Pillar 4

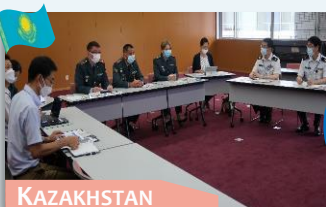
To Support Defense Cooperation between ASEAN, Japan, and the Pacific Island Countries

Capacity Building Programs with WPS elements



防衛省
MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE

24 Programs for 13 Countries, 1 Organization, and the Pacific Islands
(as of March 2024)



KAZAKHSTAN

Military medicine



MONGOLIA

Military medicine, PKO(engineering)



SRI LANKA

Air rescue



LAO PDR

HA/DR (engineering, military medicine, search and rescue)



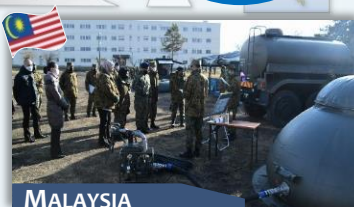
INDONESIA

HA/DR, Japanese language training



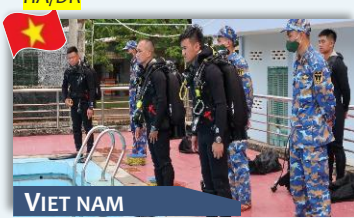
CAMBODIA

PKO (engineering)



MALAYSIA

HA/DR



VIET NAM

Underwater UXO clearance, underwater medicine, air rescue



ASEAN

Ship Rider Cooperation Program (SRCP), cybersecurity



TIMOR-LESTE

Ship Rider Cooperation Program (SRCP), vehicle maintenance, engineering



PHILIPPINES

Aviation medicine, HA/DR, vessel maintenance

Note: Highlighted activities have incorporated WPS element



PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Ship Rider Cooperation Program (SRCP)



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Military band, HA/DR (engineering equipment)



SOLOMON ISLANDS

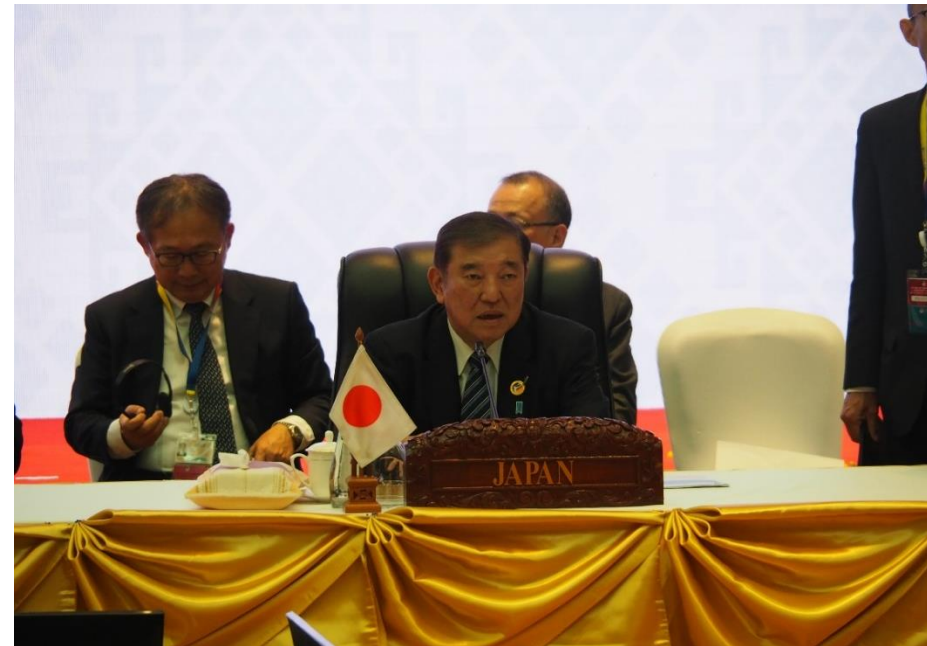
Unexploded Ordnance disposal



FIJI

Military medicine

- Reconfirming the AZEC principles consistently.
- Committed to COP28 and GST including tripling renewable energy capacity globally.
- Operationalizing AZEC platform by aligning it with the partner country's policy direction including ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality.
- "Action Plan for Next Decade" was newly adopted to raise the partner's efforts to the next stage.
- Policy development and coordination were prioritized while promoting tangible projects to support energy transitions.



(Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

“Action Plan for Next Decade”

1. Develop a short- to medium-term action plan to facilitate “AZEC solutions”

- ❑ visualization of GHG emissions throughout the supply chain
- ❑ transition finance
- ❑ agriculture and forestry sectors
- ❑ transport sector
- ❑ ports and road infrastructure
- ❑ carbon markets

2. Sectoral initiatives

- ❑ sector-specific collaboration initiatives
 - power generation
 - sustainable fuel
 - next-generation industry
- ❑ Asia Zero Emission Center



3. Promoting tangible projects

- (in case of Japan)
 - ❑ through official development aid (ODA)
 - ❑ JBIC, JETRO, JOGMEC, NEDO NEXI etc.
 - ❑ agriculture, forestry, smart city, waste treatment. Etc.

➤ **more than 120 projects added since 1st LM**

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

2019 Adopted AOIP at the **ASEAN Summit in Bangkok**

2020~ Japan and partner countries successively adopted joint statements supporting AOIP

2022 Adopted **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the AOIP within ASEAN-Led Mechanisms**

2023 EAS Leaders' support for mainstreaming AOIP

2024 Adopted **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the AOIP for the Future-Ready ASEAN and ASEAN-Centered Regional Architecture**

- Affirming the importance of open and inclusive cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms
- Enhancing AOIP implementation
- Promoting strategic confidence and trust-based cooperation

Why Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) now?


March 2023

- **The international community is at a history's turning point**
 - **Rise of emerging countries and developing countries**
→The balance of power is shifting dramatically. There is a growing call that various opinions should be heard. On the other hand, the issue of disparities is also surfacing.
 - **A compound crisis with entanglement of different issues** (Global challenges, issues brought by scientific and technological developments)
→The more vulnerable the nation, the greater the sacrifices. On the other hand, there is a growing need for cooperation among countries.

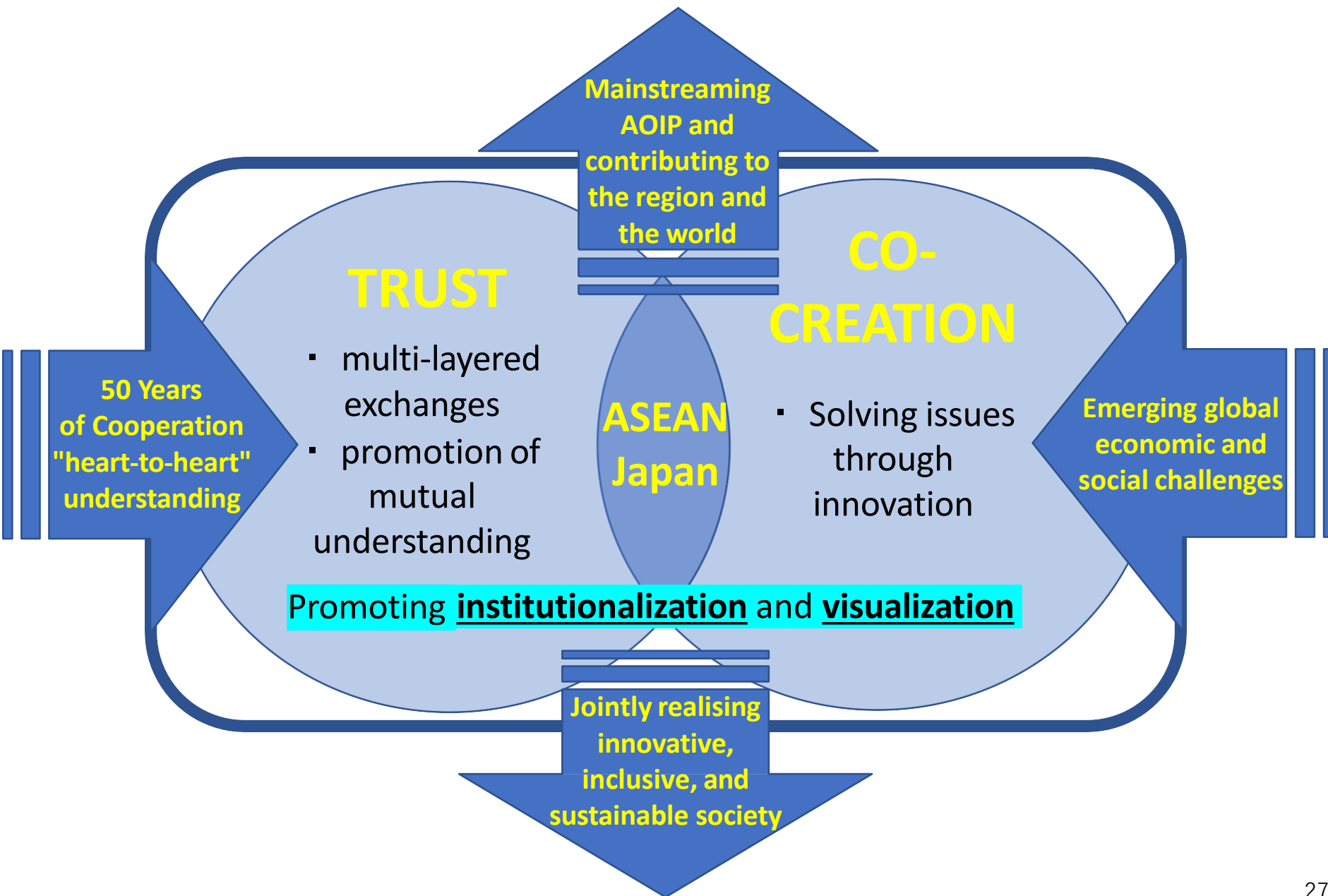
 **The international community lacks a guiding perspective that is acceptable to all about what the international order should be.**

The considerable discrepancies in the attitudes across various countries even toward Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an indication that a strong centrifugal force is working within the international community at the level of a "perspective."

- **Core principles of FOIP is defending "freedom" and "the rule of law", and respect for "diversity", "inclusiveness" and "openness".** These principles have won a lot of sympathy from the international community. FOIP has gained widespread support and endorsement not only from the U.S. and European countries but also from emerging and developing countries.

 **In the current situation where there is no consensus on what should be the underlying perspective for the next era, the FOIP is a vision that is gaining in relevance in order to seek cooperation in the international community.**

3. What 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”

My message: Change the world with “VMAP”

◆ **Vision** : Dream a vision

◆ **Mission** : Identify yourself with that dream

◆ **Action** : Start your work

◆ **Passion** : Overcome any difficulties

Thank you very much!

