

Five-Minute Video Message

Ambassador KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
Workshop: Exploring Innovative Financing Solutions for Blue Ecosystem
Restoration Projects

27 September 2025 – ASEAN Pavilion, Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, and greetings from Jakarta.

It is a great pleasure to join you virtually at this important workshop, taking place at the Expo Salon of Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai. While I regret not being there with you in person, I am heartened to see so many partners gathered here today, united by a shared commitment to protecting our oceans and freshwaters.

This event reflects the strong partnership between ASEAN, UNDP, and Japan. ASEAN has provided strong leadership in shaping a regional vision for a sustainable blue economy, while UNDP has brought together diverse stakeholders to translate that vision into action.

Japan is proud to support this collaboration through the ongoing ASEAN Blue Carbon and Finance Profiling Project, which aims to unlock the potential of blue carbon ecosystems and help the region move towards its net-zero aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Southeast Asia is home to some of the world's most important blue carbon ecosystems—mangroves, seagrasses, and coastal wetlands. These ecosystems play a vital role in storing carbon, protecting coastlines, and supporting livelihoods.

However, they face growing pressures from climate change and unsustainable practices. To safeguard them for future generations, we must find innovative ways to mobilize financing and to bring new solutions to scale.

This is where today's workshop plays an essential role: connecting ideas and expertise to develop practical strategies that can attract the investments needed for restoration and protection.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased to see such diverse participation here today. Policymakers, private sector partners, researchers, and young professionals are all represented, bringing unique perspectives to the table.

I would also like to commend the ASEAN Blue Innovation Challenge winners, also proudly supported by Japan last year, whose projects from Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste are inspiring examples of community-led action. By linking these innovations with sustainable financing mechanisms, we can create pathways for their growth and replication across the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan will continue to be a reliable partner to ASEAN and UNDP in this important work.

Our contribution goes beyond funding — we are committed to fostering knowledge exchange, supporting technology transfer, and encouraging innovation that responds to local needs.

“Through collaboration and shared purpose, we can build a future where healthy oceans and thriving communities reinforce one another.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As today’s discussions unfold, I hope they inspire bold ideas and new partnerships.

The road ahead is challenging, but by working together, we can restore critical ecosystems, strengthen communities, and build a sustainable blue economy for ASEAN and the world.

I wish you a productive and successful workshop.

Thank you very much.
