

**Public Lecture with Prof. Yuzawa Takeshi
“Japan’s Security Cooperation with ASEAN – Evolution,
Challenges, and Implications for Indo-Pacific Order”**

**Opening Remarks by
Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN**

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
Good afternoon.

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all to today’s lecture entitled “Japan’s Security Cooperation with ASEAN – Evolution, Challenges, and Implications for Indo-Pacific Order.”

I would first like to express my sincere appreciation to our co-organizer, FPCI, for making this event possible, and to Professor Yuzawa Takeshi of Hosei University for kindly accepting our invitation for today’s lecture.

Importance of ASEAN’s Stability and Prosperity

The stability and prosperity of ASEAN are of paramount importance not only to Japan but also to the world.

Southeast Asia lies at the heart of global sea lanes and serves as a vital artery supporting international trade and supply chains. Any instability in this region would have grave implications for regional and global peace, stability and prosperity. It also applies to Japan.

FOIP and AOIP

In this context, Japan has been advocating the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), emphasizing the rule of law, freedom, openness, inclusivity, and diversity.

ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) shares these fundamental principles. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2020, both ASEAN and Japan confirmed their commitment to promoting cooperation under FOIP and AOIP in a mutually complementary manner. This harmony and synergy of visions provide a solid foundation for ASEAN-Japan cooperation toward peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan's Efforts

Based on this shared vision, Japan has been implementing tangible measures to enhance ASEAN's security capabilities.

In the maritime domain, Japan has conducted capacity-building programs through the Japan Coast Guard Academy, dispatched technical experts, and organized joint training exercises. These efforts have strengthened ASEAN Member States' capabilities in combating illegal fishing, conducting search and rescue operations, and protecting the marine environment.

Furthermore, in 2023, Japan launched a new initiative called the Official Security Assistance (OSA) to respond to the security needs in the Indo-Pacific region. Through OSA, Japan provides equipment, materials, and infrastructure support in areas such as maritime surveillance, warning and monitoring, and disaster response. This initiative is designed to enhance ASEAN Member States' self-reliance to make this region more peaceful and stable.

Japan's cooperation is always aimed at strengthening an international order based on the rule of law and multilateralism, while fully respecting ASEAN's ownership and centrality.

Significance of Today's Lecture

Currently, the global order is undergoing rapid and profound changes.

Complex gray-zone maritime situations, transnational cyber threats, and frequent natural disasters are posing new and multifaceted challenges. Under such circumstances, Japan must constantly ask itself: what more can we do, together with ASEAN, to contribute to the region's peace, stability and prosperity?

Today's lecture provides an invaluable opportunity to explore the answers to such questions. Professor Yuzawa will discuss the evolution of ASEAN-Japan security cooperation, the challenges it faces, and its implications for the regional order in the Indo-Pacific. I am confident that his insights will greatly help us reflect on how Japan can continue to support ASEAN and how we can build a stable and rules-based regional order together.

Japan remains firmly committed to supporting ASEAN's security through promoting AOIP and FOIP, making use of various policy tools, including OSA.

I sincerely hope that today's discussion will further deepen the ASEAN-Japan partnership and contribute to lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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