

Newsletter from the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
No. 35: Outcomes of the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings

31 October 2025



ASEAN-Japan Summit

(26 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

The ASEAN-related Summit Meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur on 26-28 October as a culmination of ASEAN process under Malaysia's chairmanship this year. Prime Minister TAKAICHI Sanae, who had just assumed office on 21 October, attended the meetings, marking her diplomatic debut. I traveled to Kuala Lumpur ahead of the Summit Meetings to negotiate the outcome documents and participate in a series of on-site meetings, which once again reminded me of the importance of ASEAN-centred diplomacy.

Leading up to the Summit Meetings, numerous events took place across ASEAN this month. In early October, a seminar on Japan's security cooperation with ASEAN was held in Jakarta, co-hosted by the Mission of Japan to ASEAN and a local think tank. In mid-October, I traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to attend the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. Meanwhile the ASEAN-Japan Sports Ministerial Meeting was held in Hanoi, and the AZEC Ministerial Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, both of which were attended by our mission's officers.

In this edition of Ambassador's newsletter, I would like to reflect with you on the future direction of ASEAN diplomacy, focusing on the outcomes of the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, which were the highlight of this year.



Public lecture on Japan's security cooperation with ASEAN
(8 October 2025, at FPCI Hall in Jakarta)

● Public lecture on Japan's security cooperation with ASEAN

On 8 October, the Mission of Japan to ASEAN and the local think tank FPCI co-hosted a [public lecture](#) by Professor YUZAWA Takeshi of Hosei University in Jakarta with the theme of "Japan's Security Cooperation with ASEAN: Evolution, Challenges, and Implications for Indo-Pacific Regional Order." The event was held in a hybrid format, with over 120 participants, including members of the local diplomatic corps, ASEAN Secretariat officials, and researchers.

Professor Yuzawa gave [a comprehensive presentation](#) on the progress, challenges, and future prospects of Japan-ASEAN security cooperation, including the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Initiative for Enhanced Defense Cooperation (JASMINE) and the Official Security Assistance (OSA).

In [my opening remarks](#), I stated that the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) share essential principles, and that Japan is determined to contribute to ASEAN security by promoting both through various policies, including the OSA.



Commemoration of the Achievements of ACE-LEDMP and ASEAN-ERAT projects following the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management
(16 October 2025, in Phnom Penh, credit: AHA Centre)

● ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

On 16 October, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Japanese delegation, led by Mr. KAMBARA Yoshifumi, Deputy Minister for Disaster Management of the Cabinet Office, comprised representatives from the Cabinet Office, the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia, [the Asian Disaster Reduction Center \(ADRC\)](#), and Japanese companies affiliated with [the Japan Bosai Platform](#).

At the [ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management \(AMMDM + Japan\)](#), the ASEAN side welcomed the progress made in ASEAN-Japan cooperation in the field of disaster management and requested further cooperation, including the expansion of bilateral cooperation. Furthermore, the two sides exchanged views on the formulation of the next ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management, based on the recently adopted [ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response \(AADMER\) Work Programme 2026-2030](#). Following the meeting, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) hosted [the Commemoration of the Achievements of ACE-LEDMP \(Leadership Training\) and ASEAN-ERAT \(Emergency Response and Assessment Team Training\) projects](#), which were supported through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The ASEAN side once again expressed its gratitude.

That same evening, a "Bosai Networking Dinner" was held, inviting representatives from ASEAN member states and 10 Japanese companies. This was a very meaningful opportunity to utilise the technology and experience of Japanese companies in the field of disaster prevention in future ASEAN-Japan cooperation.



ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports
(17 October 2025, in Hanoi, credit: Japan Sports Agency)

● ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports and AZEC Ministerial Meeting

On 17 October, [the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports](#) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Mr. KAWAI Junichi, Commissioner of the Japan Sports Agency, attended the meeting as co-chair with Vietnam, where reports were presented on the five priority areas of cooperation outlined in the Chiang Mai Declaration adopted at the previous meeting in 2023, and [a joint statement](#) was adopted. As a side event to the meeting, Vietnam and Japan co-hosted the “ASEAN-Japan Sports Exchange 2025”, where nine Japanese companies set up booths and Commissioner Kawai introduced their initiatives to ministers and other officials from other countries.

On the same day, [the 3rd AZEC Ministerial Meeting](#) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with the participation of all 11 AZEC partner countries and international organisations. From Japan, Minister of the Environment MUTO Yoshiharu, State Minister of the Environment KOBAYASHI Fumiaki, and Ambassador in charge of AZEC YAMADA Takio attended. The Japanese side reported on AZEC's efforts and achievements over the past year, while the ASEAN side emphasised the importance of diverse pathways tailored to each country's circumstances and energy transition policies and initiatives. [ERIA](#), ACE, [ADB](#), and [IEA](#) also reported on their related activities. The AZEC Advocacy Group (AZEC Council of Eminent Persons) presented [a proposal](#) to the Chair of the AZEC Ministerial Meeting, and [a joint statement](#) was adopted as the outcome of the meeting.



Prime Minister Takaichi greeted Prime Minister Gusmão of Timor-Leste before the ASEAN-Japan Summit
(26 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

● ASEAN-Japan Summit

[The ASEAN-related Summit Meetings](#) were held in Kuala Lumpur from 26-28 October.

On the evening of the 25th, Prime Minister TAKAICHI Sanae arrived in Japan and held the first Japan-US Summit telephone talk with President Trump. The following day, on the 26th, she attended [the ASEAN-Japan Summit](#) and the [Asia Zero Emission Community \(AZEC\) Summit](#). She also held bilateral meetings with fellow country leaders, including [Philippine President Marcos](#), [Australian Prime Minister Albanese](#), and [Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim](#), the current ASEAN Chair. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit, she also had brief conversations and greetings with each of the leaders, introduced by Chairman Anwar Ibrahim.

Through her attendance at this conference, Prime Minister Takaichi not only built relationships of trust with the leaders of respective countries, but also confirmed her commitment to further strengthening and deepening ASEAN-Japan cooperation toward promoting a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). She also clearly communicated Japan's position on regional and international affairs. Prime Minister Takaichi's attendance, despite her tight schedule, reaffirmed the leaders of each country the importance she places on ASEAN, and increased ASEAN's expectations and appreciation for Japan.



EAS (27 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur)

● ASEAN+3 Summit, RCEP Summit, EAS

On the evening of 26 October, Prime Minister Takaichi returned to Japan to prepare for U.S. President Trump's visit to Japan, and Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu arrived to take her place. The following day, on 27 October, Foreign Minister Motegi attended [the ASEAN+3 Summit](#), [the RCEP Summit](#), and [the East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#), and also held [bilateral foreign ministerial meetings with Foreign Minister Trung of Vietnam](#) and [External Affairs Minister Jaishankar of India](#).

Through a series of meetings and talks, Foreign Minister Motegi conveyed that Japan, even under the new administration, places importance on the ASEAN-led regional framework and will further promote FOIP, along with Japan's position on regional and international affairs.

I attended the ASEAN-Japan Summit on 26 October, the ASEAN+3 Summit on the 27th, and the EAS, where I closely assisted the greetings with the leaders of each country and meeting arrangements. I felt that building relationships through face-to-face greetings and discussions between leaders as well as foreign ministers would serve as an important foundation for advancing future cooperations. I also attended the opening ceremony on the 26th and the closing ceremony of the 28, witnessing [Timor-Leste's admission to ASEAN](#) and the announcement of theme of the ASEAN Chairmanship of the Philippines in 2026 — “Navigating our Future, Together”.



At the EAS venue with Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN,
who chaired the EAS outcome document negotiations
(27 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur)

● Looking back on ASEAN-related Summit Meetings

For this ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, I arrived in Kuala Lumpur on the evening of 22 October, prior to the arrival of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and negotiated the outcome documents with the ASEAN side.

After lengthy negotiations, the ASEAN-Japan Summit adopted the ["Joint Statement on Further Promotion and Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific \(AOIP\),"](#) which will serve as an important foundation for Japan to further strengthen its cooperation with ASEAN and advance FOIP. Furthermore, as the EAS celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, negotiations continued until one hour before the start of the meeting, resulting in the adoption of two documents: the ["Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the EAS,"](#) which reaffirmed and enhanced the strategic significance of the EAS and included, for the first time, support for the AOIP; and [the "East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Promoting Localisation in Anticipatory Action for Disaster Preparedness and Response,"](#) which further promotes disaster prevention efforts within the EAS framework.

The tangible outcomes of ASEAN-related Summits will come into reality by reaching and implementing these concrete agreements. I will continue to support ASEAN's leadership to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to Japan, the region, and the world.

Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
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