

Concept Note

“ASEAN-Japan Symposium: Co-creation in an era of Geoeconomics”

1 Background

- ASEAN and Japan have built a long-standing, strategic partnership over the past five decades, marked by deep cooperation in political, economic, and socio-cultural development.
- Central to this partnership is trust. At the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2023, ASEAN and Japan have committed to further fostering “heart-to-heart” relationship, co-creating a prosperous and sustainable economy and society, and promoting a rules-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open, guided by shared fundamental principles as enshrined in the UN Charter and the TAC.
- For ASEAN, this year marks a significant milestone with the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its four Strategic Plans, together with full membership of Timor-Leste in ASEAN.
- Seizing this important year and building upon two years of efforts and progress since the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, in collaboration with the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Management Team (JMT), will organise a symposium to reflect on how ASEAN-Japan cooperation has expanded and deepened, and to discuss how this cooperation can further contribute to co-creating the future of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond in an era of geoeconomics.

2 Key Objectives

- The ASEAN-Japan Symposium seeks to both celebrate the progress and reflect on the lessons learned from ASEAN-Japan cooperation initiatives that have contributed to ASEAN community building, with the aim of setting the stage for future cooperation based on the key concept of “co-creation”.
- It also aims to explore new avenues to advance ASEAN-Japan cooperation in support of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, while fostering dialogue and cross-sectoral networking across government officials, business, academics, civil society, youth, and media.
- Furthermore, it will discuss the role that ASEAN-Japan cooperation can play in an era of geoeconomics and provide insights into how ASEAN and Japan can further take their steps as trusted partners in addressing various challenges together.

3 Event Plan

Date : Tuesday, 11 November 2025
Time : 14.00 – 17:00 WIB

Venue : ERIA Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy Centre (E-DISC), Jakarta, Indonesia, and YouTube Livestream [Hybrid]

Target audience : Government officials, think tanks and academic communities, business people, civil society, media, and students from ASEAN and Japan as well as external partners.

of Participants : Approximately 400 conference participants, with 250 joining online and 150 joining in-person

Format : The Symposium will consist of an opening ceremony and two sessions, each 60 minutes long. Each session will consist of a moderator and speakers from ASEAN and Japan. The sessions will be interactive (without ppt), to generate active discussion between the audience and speakers.

4 Tentative Programme

Time	Agenda	Speaker
Opening (40 minutes)		
14:00-14:05	MC Opening	MC
14:05-14:10 (5 minutes)	Welcoming Remarks	H.E. Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
14:10-14:15 (5 minutes)	Opening Remarks	Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo, Managing Director for Policy Design and Operations, ERIA
14:15-14:20 (5 minutes)	Congratulatory Remarks	H.E. Gerard Ho Wei Hong, Ambassador of Singapore to ASEAN
14:20-14:30 (10 minutes)	Keynote Speech	H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN
14:30-14:40	Group Photo	
Session 1: Upgrading ASEAN-Japan Cooperation through Co-creation (60 minutes)		
14:40-14:43	Agenda Setting by Moderator	Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Founder and Chairman of FPCI
14:43-15:40	Speakers	Prof. Ohno Izumi, Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
		H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community

		Ms. Takeda Sachiko, Chief Representative to ASEAN, JICA
		Dr. Nuki Agya Utama, Director for Energy Policy and Head of Asia Zero Emission Center, ERIA
	Moderated Discussion	
	Q&A Session	
15:40-15:50	Coffee Break	
Session 2: ASEAN and Japan in an era of Geoeconomics (60 minutes)		
15:50-15:53	Agenda Setting by Moderator	Mr. Dionisius A. Narjoko, Senior Economist, ERIA
15:53-16:50	Speakers	H.E. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, Vice Minister of Trade of Indonesia
		Ms. Marie Sherylyn Aquia, Director of Bureau of International Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines
		Mr. Masuo Kuremura, Special Advisor to the Minister for ASEAN and Asia Pacific Affairs at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) / Executive Director for Asia-Pacific, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Singapore
		Ms. Shinta Kamdani, Chairman of APINDO and CEO of Sintesa Group
	Moderated Discussion	
	Q&A Session	
Closing (10minutes)		
16:50-16:55 (5 minutes)	Recap of the Symposium and Closing Remarks	Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Founder and Chairman of FPCI
16:55-16:58 (3 minutes)	Vote of Thanks	H.E. Kiya Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN
16:58-17:00	MC Closing	MC

5 Discussion Points

1. Session 1: Upgrading ASEAN-Japan Cooperation through Co-creation

Points of Discussion:

- a. Japan has supported ASEAN's development and integration through multi-layered cooperation, including government, private sector, and academia. Reflecting on a wide range of achievements, including the progress of implementation of the Joint Vision Statement and its Implementation Plan since 2023, the session will discuss the cooperative relationship between ASEAN and Japan in the future, taking into account the newly adopted ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and four Strategic Plans.
- b. The session will also discuss how we can realise the co-creation of a prosperous and sustainable economy and society that both sides committed to two years ago, and what strengths Japan can leverage as an equal and trusted partner of ASEAN for the prosperity of both ASEAN and Japan and addressing regional and global challenges.

2. Session 2: ASEAN and Japan in an era of Geoeconomics

Points of Discussion:

- a. 2025 has brought significant regional and global economic challenges. Current global trade tensions have created uncertainty, weakened supply chain resilience, and posed serious obstacles for businesses, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while disrupting global trade dynamics. For ASEAN, a region built on an open and fair trade principles, these developments have spurred efforts toward deeper regional economic integration. The ASEAN Geoeconomics Task Force (AGTF) was convened to discuss strategies for navigating these challenges. This session will address ASEAN's responses to date and their effectiveness in navigating the current landscape.
- b. Japan and ASEAN have built a strong foundation of economic cooperation through the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), alongside collaborative initiatives in next-generation automobiles, AI and digital technology, startup promotion, and supply chain resilience. While these partnerships remain vital, the evolving global economic landscape presents fresh opportunities for cooperation. This session will explore how ASEAN and Japan can strengthen their collaboration to address current challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities in an era of geoeconomics transformation. By working together, both parties can unlock new pathways for growth and innovation, ensuring mutual prosperity in a rapidly changing world.