



## ASEAN-JAPAN 50th YEAR COMMEMORATIVE SUMMIT

Group photo at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Photo: courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office

# The Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its Related Programs

Japan became the first country in the world to establish dialogue relations with ASEAN back in 1973. Ever since, Japan has continued to build and strengthen its friendship and cooperation with ASEAN in a wide range of areas. The year 2023 marked the historic 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation. In celebration of this milestone, the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the “Commemorative Summit”) and various related programs were held in Tokyo from December 16 to 18. Below is the outline of these programs and highlights of their outcomes.

### The Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its related programs

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan and President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, this year’s ASEAN Chair, co-chaired the Commemorative Summit. The Summit was attended by the Leaders of ASEAN Member States, as well as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (observer) and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The Commemorative Summit had two sessions. In Session 1, participants reviewed ASEAN-Japan relations over the past half century and exchanged views on strengthening the relationship as “Partners for Peace and Stability” and on regional and international issues. In

Session 2, participants discussed further strengthening cooperation under the agenda of “Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations” and “Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future.”

During this historic Commemorative Summit, the participants adopted outcome documents: the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, which sets out a new vision for the future; and its Implementation Plan, which includes a wide range of concrete cooperation initiatives based on the “heart to heart” relations of trust that have been built over the decades, seeking to further strengthen the Japan-ASEAN relations.



Prime Minister Kishida Fumio at session 1

Photo: courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office



Prime Minister Kishida Fumio at session 2

Photo: courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office

■ Schedule of the Commemorative Summit and Its Related Programs

December 16	Dinner hosted by Mr. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mrs. Kishida Yuko
December 17	The Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Co-chairs Joint Press Occasion Tokyo Tower Light-Up Ceremony Gala Dinner <sup>1</sup>
December 18	Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting Welcome Luncheon Hosted by Keidanren <sup>2</sup> and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry <sup>3</sup>

Note: This article was created using publicly available materials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and with MOFA's consent.

1. A special dinner served on festive occasions such as Christmas, mainly in Southeast Asia and other countries.
2. An economic organization founded in 1946. The core of its membership consists mainly of large Japanese companies.
3. An economic organization founded in 1878 that consists of regional chambers of commerce and industry throughout Japan.

■ Speech by Prime Minister Kishida at the banquet held on December 16 (excerpts)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to welcome you here this evening ahead of the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation tomorrow... Today, building on this foundation, I would like to propose three concrete measures to take ASEAN-Japan relations to new heights for the next 50 years.

**1. Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations**

First of all, the core of Japan-ASEAN relations is, above all, mutual trust. What underpins this trust is our precious history of consistently walking together, even in times of hardship. We would like to pass on to the next generation this “heart to heart” relationship.

To this end, we are launching a new comprehensive exchange program called the “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation,” which will benefit more than 10 million people over the next 10 years. In addition, we will further promote interactive exchanges such as those among young business leaders.

**2. Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future**

Then, based on our strong relationship of trust, it is our hope that Japan and ASEAN will bring together their strengths and find solutions in an era of compound crises that are difficult for any one country to solve. We also hope to create strong economies that generate further vitality through mutually channeling each other's vitality, and to grow together as partners to co-create a society and economy in which people from all walks of life can achieve and enjoy the middle-class dreams to which most of us aspire.

To this end, we will work on public-private partnerships, focusing on strengthening connectivity, addressing climate change including through the realization of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises as well as start-ups. We will further encourage private investment through utilizing new ODA tools, such as the Co-Creation for Common Agenda Initiative.

We will also launch the ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation Initiative for the Next Generation Automotive Industry, in which we will work together to develop and implement strategies to ensure that ASEAN remains the world's leading hub for automotive production and export.

### 3. Partners for Peace and Stability

Last but not least, what Japan and ASEAN have always pursued is “peace and prosperity.” As we co-create and build upon stronger and more vibrant economies and societies, we will be better able to secure a free and open international order based on the rule of law. Let us together create peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region where human dignity is protected.

To this end, we will promote our efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation based on the “Hiroshima Action Plan,” judicial cooperation including legal technical assistance, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), cyber security, defense exchange and cooperation, and Official Security Assistance (OSA). Ladies and gentlemen, it is with these thoughts and true determination that I will approach tomorrow's meeting. As friends gathered here, let us present to the world a vision for the future that will last for generations to come.

Well, I think I have spoken enough! I hope you will enjoy the delicious dinner and make the most of each other's company. I would like to propose a toast to your health and happiness and to the further development of Japan-ASEAN friendship in the future. Cheers!



During the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Photo: courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office

## Outline of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

In the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation adopted as an outcome document of the Commemorative Summit, Japan and ASEAN outlined a vision for a world where the values and principles they share are ensured, and where all countries can pursue peace and prosperity and uphold the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, the document states that, building on mutual trust, ASEAN and Japan will strengthen the mutually beneficial Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the following three concrete measures, embracing ASEAN unity and centrality.



At the Gala Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Mrs. Kishida Yuko on December 18

Photo: courtesy of Cabinet Public Affairs Office

### 1. Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations

Committed to further fostering the “heart-to-heart” relationship of mutual trust, mutual understanding, and mutual respect that is the foundation of the ASEAN-Japan partnership. Strengthen youth and people-to-people exchanges, human intellectual exchanges.

### 2. Partners for Co-creation of Economy and Society of the Future

Co-create a prosperous and sustainable economy and society, which is diverse, inclusive, resilient, free and fair, and jointly address various common economic and social challenges by: enhancing connectivity based on quality infrastructure; strengthening supply chain resilience and enhancing industrial competitiveness; and promoting sustainable energy security and accelerating energy transitions.

### 3. Partners for Peace and Stability

Promoting an Indo-Pacific region that is free and open; strengthening security cooperation; working towards a world without nuclear weapons by strengthening cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation; promoting the rule of law; and advancing the WPS Agenda.

#### ■ Statement by Prime Minister Kishida Fumio at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Co-Chairs Joint Press Occasion held after the end of the Commemorative Summit (excerpts)

The Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation has come to a successful conclusion. First of all, I would like to thank the Co-Chair of the Summit, President Joko Widodo, as well as the leaders and delegation members of each country.

We had productive discussions worthy of this historic milestone, and adopted a Joint Vision Statement and an Implementation Plan as outcome documents.

The Joint Vision Statement sets out the future direction of ASEAN-Japan relations and a new vision for cooperation. As the subtitle “Trusted Partners” suggests, it is the trust built over half a century that forms the foundation of our relationship.

Our vision is for a world where all countries can pursue peace and prosperity, uphold the principles of democracy, the rule of law, good governance, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. (Omission)

This 50th Year Commemorative Summit was an excellent opportunity for Japan and ASEAN to reflect on the progress we have made, to examine one another’s present situation, and to discuss our common future. Today, at the culmination of these efforts, I am truly pleased that together we have taken a new step forward into the next 50 years, powerfully demonstrating to the world a vision for future cooperation. It is my sincere hope that we can pass on this bond of trust to the next generation.