Overview of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations

Introduction

1. ASEAN and Japan first established informal dialogue relations in 1973, which was later formalised in March 1977 with the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Forum. Since then, significant progress has been made in all areas of political security, economic-finance and socio-cultural cooperation.

2. Japan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia in July 2004. It was the first Dialogue Partner to appoint a Jakarta-based Ambassador to ASEAN. The Mission of Japan to ASEAN was established on 26 May 2011.

3. At the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2003 in Tokyo, the Leaders signed the "Tokyo Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium" which, together with its Plan of Action, served as the roadmap in moving ASEAN-Japan relations forward until 2010.

4. An Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was established in 2008 to take stock of relations and make recommendations to strengthen the partnership. The EPG Report with its recommendations was submitted to the 12th ASEAN-Japan Summit in October 2009.

5. At the 14th ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2011 in Bali, the Leaders issued the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration) and adopted the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015. These two documents took into account the recommendations of the EPG Report.

6. ASEAN and Japan commemorated their 40th Anniversary of Dialogue Relations in 2013. At the Commemorative Summit in December 2013 in Tokyo, the Leaders adopted a Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and a Joint Statement with the theme "Hand in hand, facing regional and global challenges". The Vision Statement and its Implementation Plan served as framework to further strengthen ASEAN-Japan relations and support ASEAN Community-building beyond 2015. At the 31st ASEAN-Japan Forum on 23-24 June 2016 in Tokyo, ASEAN agreed with Japan's proposal for a revision of the Implementation Plan to take into account the ASEAN Vision 2025 including the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and IAI Work Plan III. The revised Implementation Plan was adopted at the ASEAN+1 PMC with Japan in August 2017.

7. ASEAN and Japan will commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation at the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2018 in Singapore.

Political and Security Cooperation

8. ASEAN and Japan conduct their dialogue relations through various mechanisms, including the ASEAN-Japan Summit, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials and Experts Meetings. Japan has also been engaged in ASEAN-led

mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

9. ASEAN-Japan cooperation on counter terrorism and transnational crimes is facilitated under the ambit of the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + Japan Consultation. The Consultation, which was established in 2004, serves as a venue for ASEAN and Japan to exchange views on transnational crime issues in the region, particularly in areas of mutual concern. At the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, ASEAN and Japan adopted a Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The Joint Declaration includes all eight areas of transnational crimes under the SOMTC purview. Subsequently, the SOMTC-Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017) was adopted by the SOMTC on 28 September 2015 to implement the Joint Declaration. A project to renew the Work Plan titled "Technical Assistance for Development of the SOMTC-Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2022)" is currently being implemented. Under the auspices of the SOMTC+Japan Consultation, two Dialogues were established, namely the ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism (AJCT) Dialogue, established in 2006, and the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime (AJCC) Dialogue, established in 2013. The convening of these Dialogues are mainly funded by the Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Japan also cooperates with ASEAN on drug control through the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) at its coordination meeting and the ASOD Plus Three coordination meeting held annually.

On defense cooperation, ASEAN – Japan Defence Ministers Informal Meeting 10. was first held on 19 November 2014 in Bagan, Myanmar, in which, the Ministers agreed to continue dialogue on ASEAN – Japan Defence cooperation in dealing with non-traditional security threats. The 2nd ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers Informal Meeting was held on 16 November 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR asserted the relevance and prominence of ASEAN-Japan defence and security cooperation in building a stable and inclusive regional security architecture and acknowledged the current trends as well as the emerging security challenges in the region. The upcoming ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers Informal Meeting will be held in October 2018. The Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum, which has been held annually since 2009, is the implementing and follow-up mechanism of the ASEAN-Japan defense cooperation. Japan launched, at the sidelines of the ADMM Retreat in November 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the "Vientiane Vision: Japan's Defence Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN". The implementation of the Vientiane Vision is on-going.

11. The cooperation between ASEAN and Japan on cyber security is manifested through the ARF and ADMM-Plus Activities. In the ARF process, Japan currently serves as the co-chair of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security) with Malaysia and Singapore for the period of 2018-2020. At the 12th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting in March 2018, co-chaired by Japan and Viet Nam, the Report of the Working Group on ARF Initiatives in Promoting Cyber Security was adopted and will be submitted to the 25th ARF as a recommendation to the ARF

Ministers. In the ADMM-Plus process, Japan is an active participant in the ADMM-Plus EWG on Cyber Security and has attended the 1st to 3rd ADMM-Plus EWG on Cyber Security, convened respectively in Manila in July 2017, Wellington in November 2017 and most recently in Cebu in May 2018. The EWG is now developing a point of contact (POC) for defence Computer Security Incidents Response Team (CSIRT) as well as cyber lexicons for exercise and common understanding purposes.

12. The ARF and the ADMM-Plus are also the forums for Japan to engage in cooperation on maritime security with ASEAN. In the ARF process, Japan co-chaired the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) for the 2015-2017 cycle with the Philippines and the United States, and hosted the 9th ARF ISM on MS in Tokyo on 8-9 February 2017. In the ARF Inter-Sessional Year 2017-2018, Japan and Malaysia co-chaired the ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness which was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 7-8 March 2018. In the ADMM-Plus process, Japan continues to take part in the ADMM-Plus EWG on Maritime Security, including in the first-ever ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Exercise in Australia on 28 September-1 October 2013 and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Exercises in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore on 2-12 May 2016 as well as the Exercise Mahi Tangaroa in Auckland, New Zealand on 13-16 November 2016.

13. Japan currently serves as one of the co-chairs of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) for the cycle of 2018-2020 with Indonesia and the Republic of Korea, with the most recent meeting, the 10th ARF ISM on NPD, being held in Seoul on 5-6 April 2018. Japan participates in the ADMM-Plus EWG on Peacekeeping Operations, such as in the first-ever ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Mine Action and PKO Exercise, conducted in Pune, India, on 2-8 March 2018.

Economic Cooperation

14. Japan remains a key trade and investment partner to ASEAN. Trade between ASEAN and Japan reached USD 217.9 billion in 2017, accounting for 8.5 per cent of ASEAN's total merchandise trade, and placing Japan as ASEAN's fourth largest trading partner. Japan was ASEAN's second largest external source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2017 with FDI flows from Japan to ASEAN amounted to USD 13.2 billion, accounting for 9.6 per cent of total FDI flows to ASEAN.¹

15. The ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement was signed on 14 April 2008 and entered into force on 1 December 2008. ASEAN and Japan completed the negotiation on the AJCEP Trade in Services, Movement of Natural Persons (MNP), and Investment chapters in 2016 and have been working on the finalisation of the First Protocol to Amend the AJCEP Agreement to incorporate these chapters into the AJCEP Agreement. The First Protocol is expected to be signed in 2018.

¹ From ASEAN Statistic, as of April 2018

The ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap was 16. endorsed at the 18th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) – Minister for Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) of Japan (AEM-METI) Consultations on 30 August 2012 in Siem Riep, Cambodia, to promote strategic partnerships in the areas of improvement of business environment, trade and investment facilitation and liberalization. infrastructure development, connectivity. human resources development and enhancement and coordination on domestic policies and regulations. At the 20th AEM-METI Consultations in August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the Ministers endorsed the improvements of the Roadmap, which include the expansion of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest, such as development of SMEs and cooperatives, economic legal framework, science and technology, healthcare, logistics and transportation, information and communication technologies, education and human resources development, and tourism. At the 22nd AEM-METI Consultations on 6 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Ministers endorsed the renewed Roadmap to take into account of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and AEC Blueprint 2025.

17. The AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) was established in 1998 to promote the revival of economy and industry in ASEAN by establishing appropriate mechanisms to exchange views and information concerning issues relating to ASEAN-Japan development cooperation within the existing AEM-METI Consultations. AMEICC serves as a body for policy consultations to discuss the enhanced industrial cooperation, improvement of ASEAN's competitiveness and development cooperation assistance to the new member countries. AMEICC currently has working groups in human resources development, West-East corridor development, automobile industry, chemical industry, consumer electronic industry, textile and garment industry, and statistics. AMEICC also actively participates at the Joint Consultation between ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) (formerly SME Working Group) and SME Agency of Japan, which is held back-to-back with ACCMSME Meeting. AMEICC has supported two key projects in the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016–2025 (SAP SMED 2025).

18. ASEAN and Japan organised the ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow (AEM Roadshow) to Japan on 25-28 April 2012 and on 6-9 April 2017. During the second AEM Roadshow in April 2017, the ASEAN-Japan Innovation Network (AJIN), a private-sector led initiative, was launched with the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between Japan and ASEAN business representatives. AJIN aims to promote innovation and creation of new industries through collaboration and cooperation between ASEAN-Japan businesses. As of May 2018, three ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogues on New Industries and ten Business Dialogues between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) have been held. The first to third ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogue were respectively held on 26 August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 30 July 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and on 22 June 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.

19. ASEAN-Japan's energy cooperation is pursued under the purview of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) – METI Consultations for ASEAN-Japan Energy Cooperation (SOME-METI Consultations). The 18th SOME-METI Consultations was held on 20 July 2017 in Manila, Philippines adopted the priorities

for ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership (AJEEP) and Energy Conservation Workshop under AJEEP (ECAP) Projects for 2017 and 2018.

20. ASEAN-Japan's cooperation on transport is facilitated by ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM+Japan). The 1st ATM+Japan held in October 2003 in Yangon, Myanmar adopted the terms of reference for ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP). At the 13th ATM+Japan held on 5 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers endorsed the "Best Approaches Book on Safety and Disaster Prevention", "Best Practices on Public Private Partnership (PPP)", "Study Report on Seamless and Integrated Land Bridge", and "Green Logistics Vision and Action Plans" as key deliverables under the AJTP framework. At the 15th ATM+Japan held on 13 October 2017 in Singapore, the Ministers endorsed the AJTP Work Plan for 2017-2018 which would enhance the work on "quality transport" in ASEAN. ASEAN and Japan have been negotiating the ASEAN-Japan Regional Air Services Agreement since 2004 with a view to enhancing the air transport relationship between Japan and each ASEAN Member States.

21. On ICT's cooperation, Japan has assisted ASEAN in a number of areas, including information security, human resource development, and development of ICT-based services under the ASEAN–Japan ICT Work Plan for 2015. The 11th ASEAN and Japan Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (11th TELMIN+Japan) held on 25 November 2016 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam endorsed the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan for 2017 with the following pillars; i) People Integration and Empowerment Through ICT; ii) Innovation; iii) ICT Infrastructure Development; iv) Human Resources Development; and v) Enhance of International Cooperation on Cybersecurity. The 17th TELMIN+Japan was held on 1 December 2017 in Siem Riep, Cambodia, endorsed the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan for 2018 which supports the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020).

22. To support the promotion of trade, investment and tourism, the ASEAN-Japan Centre was established in May 1981 in Tokyo, Japan by concluding the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism. The Centre plays a pivotal role in promoting exports, investment and tourism between Japan and ASEAN Member States.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

23. ASEAN and Japan place emphasis on people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges, particularly among the youth and intellectuals, with a view to fostering a sense of togetherness, mutual respect and understanding of each other's traditions and values. One of the key programme initiated by the Government of Japan to provide good foundation for strong solidarity within Asia through large-scale youth exchanges involving ASEAN, Japan and beyond is The Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS). JENESYS promotes mutual understanding among the youth to deepen friendship and strengthen cooperation at the present and in the future. Focus areas include culture and society, technology, sports and others. Activities include visits to educational sites and institutions, homestays, lectures and sharing, and other group activities. JENESYS was first implemented as a five-year programme from 2007-2012 (with approximately 13,500)

people invited to Japan and 700 Japanese invited to ASEAN Member States). The government of Japan continued to launch JENESYS2.0 from 2013-2015 (with approximately 10,100 people invited to Japan and 600 Japanese invited to ASEAN Member States). Since then, JENESYS is renewed annually as a recurring project under the following project names: JENESYS2015 (involved approximately 1,800 people), JENESYS2016 (involved approximately 1000 people), JENESYS2016 Economics (involved approximately 2,360 people), JENESYS2017 (involved approximately 1617 people) and JENESYS2018 (involved approximately 1,482 people).

24. Japan also promotes inter-university exchanges with quality assurance through "Re-inventing Japan Project" which aims to strengthen networking with universities in ASEAN countries and to vitalise student exchanges. The project has been implemented since 2011. Approximately, 7,100 student exchanges were implemented for FY 2011-2016. Japan also joined the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) programme in 2013. Seven programmes have been launched under AIMS and approximately 1,500 student exchanges have been conducted in FY2013-2017.

25. In the area of health cooperation, under the "Japan-ASEAN Health Initiative", various programmes, including ASEAN Japan Health Exchange Programme, have been implemented to promote healthy lifestyles, preventing diseases and raising healthcare standards. Japan has also initiated Asia Health and Well-being Initiative to support Asian countries, including some ASEAN Member States to create vibrant and healthy societies in the region. The ASEAN-Japan Health Ministers Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Population Ageing on 15 July 2017 in Tokyo, Japan agreed to develop the ASEAN-Japan UHC Initiative, focusing on Population Ageing to achieve sustainable UHC in ASEAN and Japan by 2030 in line with existing initiatives, including the ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network and any other relevant initiatives.

26. On disaster health management cooperation, Japan has been supporting ASEAN in capacity strengthening and networking on Disaster Health Management as part of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda through the project on Strengthening ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) from July 2016 to July 2019, which aims to strengthen coordination on disaster health management for rapid and effective response to disasters that occur in the ASEAN region by utilizing regional resources. This project will substantially contribute to the realisation of the One ASEAN, One Response Declaration adopted during the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Disaster Health Management adopted during the 31st ASEAN Summit.

27. The cooperation on environmental issues between ASEAN and Japan continues to grow. The ASEAN-Japan Environment Cooperation Initiative has been initiated by Japan to advance environmental cooperation in areas including climate change, water management, biodiversity conservation, chemical pollution management, wastewater management, and quality environmental infrastructure development for sustainable cities, as well as cooperation in Sustainable Development Goals. Under the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on

Environmental Cooperation (AJDEC), a number of initiatives/activities on environment have been implemented.

28. On science and technology, cooperation between ASEAN and Japan is undertaken through the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology (AJCCST). Eight AJCCST meetings have been held so far. At the 6th Meeting held on 27 January 2015 in Tokyo, the AJCCST agreed to pursue the following initiatives under ASEAN-Japan cooperation in science and technology; i) encouraging policy dialogue among policy makers (government), academia, and private sectors through various opportunities; ii) promoting researchers/youth exchange programme; and iii) launching new solid research base (e.g. joint research laboratory in the ASEAN region).

29. On ASEAN-Japan's culture cooperation, "WA Project" was launched at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013 to contribute to creating and enlarging circles of harmony and peace across Asia towards the future. In pursuit of the project, the Asia Center was established by the Japan Foundation to implement a wide range of activities to promote and strengthen two-way cultural exchanges between Japan and Asian countries.

30. On disaster management, Japan has been providing assistance and financial support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)'s programmes, including, among others; i) the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE Programme); ii) Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) Phase II; and iii) Establishment of an Integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to Strengthen the Operation of AHA Centre. Japan also supports a number of projects, such as; i) ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) Transformation Plan to strengthen ASEAN's preparedness and response capacity in responding to natural disasters in a collective, fast, reliable manner in line with humanitarian standards and ii) the Work Plan for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

31. ASEAN and Japan continue to deepen cooperation in sports. The inaugural ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (1st AMMS+Japan) held on 9-11 October 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar adopted the Vision, Mission, Strategy and Work Plan of the AMMS+Japan Cooperation. The Sport for Tomorrow programme spearheaded by the Government of Japan aims to promote sport to more than 10 million people in over 100 nations until 2020. It also contributes to the realization of the policy priority targets in the Work Plan of the AMMS+Japan Cooperation.

Connectivity and Narrowing Development Gap

32. On connectivity, ASEAN and Japan have set up a regular meeting between ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Japanese Task Force on Connectivity since 2011. In May 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure: Investment for Asia's Future" initiative to contribute to financing quality infrastructure in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity. In May 2016, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" initiative to contribute to promoting quality infrastructure" initiative to promoting quality infrastructure investment in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity, with a view to

support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. Both initiatives were welcomed by ASEAN.

Japan has contributed to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) since the 33. implementation of the IAI Work Plan I. Under the IAI Work Plan I, Japan supported a total of 47 projects amounting to USD 6.4 million and JPY 87.5 million. Among the 47 projects, 28 of the projects were jointly funded with ASEAN-6 countries. The projects supported by Japan spanned across a range of sectors, including transport, energy, public sector capacity building, labour and employment, higher education, ICT, trade in goods and services, customs, investment, tourism, and environment. Under the IAI Work Plan II, Japan supported a total of 87 projects with a total reported value of USD 6.8 million. Among which, 58 of the projects were supported jointly with ASEAN-6 countries. The projects addressed concerns of the CLMV countries in the areas of agriculture, tourism, SMEs, quality assurance, investment promotion, business environment, environment, and human resource capacity building for government officials. Under the IAI Work Plan III, Japan supported two projects valued at USD 757,955.44. These projects are the attachment programmes for the 15th batch of IAI Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Secretariat for Junior Diplomats of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and the 4th batch of Attachment of Officers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam for AEC and ASCC involvement at the ASEAN Secretariat (2017-2018).

34. Japan reaffirmed its continued commitment to help narrowing the development gaps in ASEAN through various sub-regional development endeavours. The annual Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting has been held since 2009. At the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit held in July 2015 in Tokyo, Japan, the Leaders adopted the "New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation", an initiative for the next three years to realise "quality growth" in the Mekong region. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also announced that Japan would provide JPY 750 billion in ODA support to the Mekong region over the next three years. The 10th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers Meeting held on 8 August 2017 in Manila, Philippines reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership and the Mekong-Japan cooperation towards narrowing development gaps and strengthening regional integration and connectivity, including through their continued support for the effective implementation of the "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure", the IAI Work Plan III and the MPAC 2025.

Japan's Support to Development Cooperation

35. Japan continues to support ASEAN's integration and community building efforts. In March 2006 the JAIF was established based on the pledge from then Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Junichiro Koizumi at the 9th ASEAN-Japan Summit held in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As of July 2018, the total contribution of Japan through JAIF amounted to more than USD 666 million. JAIF has contributed not only to advancing ASEAN integration but also to strengthening ASEAN-Japan relations by implementing various projects in the areas of disaster management, counter terrorism, maritime cooperation, economic integration, SMEs development, youth exchanges, Japanese language training and others.

36. ASEAN and Japan has concluded negotiation on the ASEAN-Japan Technical Cooperation Agreement, which aims to enable Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) to provide technical cooperation to ASEAN as a whole. The Agreement is expected to be signed by both sides at the earliest.

37. ASEAN and Japan established the JAIF Management Team (JMT) in Jakarta in 2011. The JMT is to help plan, design, manage, implement and oversee the programming of JAIF-funded programmes/projects. The JMT has been extended until the year 2019.