

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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 serves 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 Meeting tasked the ASEAN-Japan Joint Cooperation Committee (AJJCC) to undertake the revision of the Plan and submit the revised Plan to the ASEAN+1 PMC with Japan in August 2017 for adoption.

Political and Security Cooperation

6. ASEAN and Japan conduct their dialogue relations through various mechanisms, including the ASEAN – Japan Summit, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials and Experts Meetings. Japan has 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).

7. Japan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia in July 2004. At the 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, the Leaders of ASEAN and Japan reaffirmed their support for the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and underscored the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, navigation and over-flight in the region, including in the South China Sea.. The Leaders reiterated commitment to combat terrorism and transnational crime. ASEAN welcomed Japan's intention to contribute even more proactively in securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community, under its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace".

8. ASEAN-Japan cooperation on transnational crime is pursued under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-Japan Consultation and the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan). The cooperation includes capacity-building, training and information exchange on combating transnational crimes and countering terrorism.

9. ASEAN and Japan adopted a Joint Declaration for Cooperation on the Fight against International Terrorism at the Eight ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2004 in Vientiane. Further, the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue (AJCTD) was launched in March 2006, and since then nine Dialogues have been conducted and eleven projects have been completed. The ninth AJCTD was held on 29-30 May 2014 in Singapore. The 10th AJCT Dialogue is expected to be held back-to-back with the 2nd ASEAN Japan Cybercrime Dialogue (AJCC) tentatively in February 2017.

10. ASEAN and Japan renewed their commitment to fight terrorism and all forms of organised crime by adopting a Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime at the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw. The Joint Declaration includes all eight areas of transnational crimes under the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (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. The 13th SOMTC+Japan Consultation held on 25 May 2016 in Jakarta agreed that the SOMTC+Japan Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime should be regularly updated to reflect JAIF-funded projects that have been and will be implemented.

11. ASEAN and Japan embarked on cooperation in combating cybercrime with the convening of the Inaugural ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue on 28 May 2014 in Singapore. The Dialogue discussed ASEAN-Japan cooperation on cybercrime, such as promotion of information-sharing on trends and lessons learned to combat cybercrime, promotion of international cooperation on cybercrime, capacity building to fight against cybercrime, and the direction of concrete activities using JAIF. The Second ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue will be held back-to-back with the 10th AJCTD in 2017 in Malaysia.

12. The Japan-ASEAN Defence Vice-Ministerial Forum has been annually held since 2009. The 8th Forum was held on 20-22 September 2016 in Sendai, Japan.

The Forum acknowledged serious security challenges emerging in the Asia Pacific Region and the necessity of united efforts to tackle them, which challenges include both traditional and non-traditional security issues, such as piracy, transnational organized crimes, terrorism, maritime security, natural disasters, human and drug trafficking. The forum also discussed the future of ASEAN-Japan defense cooperation, including the concept on ASEAN-Wide Practical Cooperation, which is to respect and promote freedom, democracy, basic human rights, to enhance the rule of law, and to support ASEAN efforts in strengthening its centrality and unity.

13. The ASEAN – Japan Defence Ministers Informal Meeting was first held in 2014 in Bagan, Myanmar on 19 November 2014. At the Meeting, 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 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, including both traditional and non-traditional security issues, such as terrorism, maritime security, transnational crimes, natural disasters, human and drug trafficking and cyber threats. The ministers also noted Japan’s defence cooperation initiatives with ASEAN which envisioned an “ASEAN-wide” practical cooperation to serve the following purposes: (i) respect and promote shared principles such as freedom, democracy and basic human rights; (ii) promote and enhance the rule of law; and (iii) support ASEAN efforts in strengthening its unity and centrality which is a cornerstone of regional cooperation. Japan’s proposed concept paper on this initiative would be further discussed by the ADSOM Working Group in 2017.

Economic Cooperation

14. Japan became ASEAN’s second largest trading partner and the second largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) to ASEAN. In 2015, two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached US\$239.4 billion, accounting for 10.5 per cent of ASEAN’s total trade. FDI inflows from Japan to ASEAN valued at US\$17.4 billion and accounted for 14.5 per cent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN. ASEAN and Japan signed the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) on 14 April 2008. The Agreement entered into force on 1 December 2008. The 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit recognised the significance of the AJCEP in deepening further economic integration between ASEAN and Japan. The Leaders welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on investment under AJCEP and looked forward to the expeditious implementation of the outcomes of the AJCEP services and investment negotiations. They looked forward to closer cooperation to meet the objectives of the renewed ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap which takes into consideration the AEC Blueprint 2025.

15. The ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap was endorsed at the 18th AEM-METI Consultations on 30 August 2012. The Roadmap is aimed at doubling the trade and investment flows of ASEAN and Japan by 2022. Substantive progress has been made under the Roadmap, including in the development of small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) and cooperatives, economic legal framework, science and technology, healthcare, logistics and transportation,

information and communication technologies, education, human resources development, and tourism. At the 22nd ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) – Minister for Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) of Japan, held on 6 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Ministers welcomed the revised ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap which takes into consideration the new strategic thrust of the AEC Blueprint 2025.

16. Business relations and economic cooperation between ASEAN and Japan were continuously promoted. The ASEAN Roadshow to Japan was held on 25-28 April 2012 and the next one is scheduled to be held on 6-9 April 2017. Three ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogues and Eight Business Dialogues between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) have been held to date.

17. ASEAN-Japan energy cooperation is pursued under the purview of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) - Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan Consultations for ASEAN-Japan Energy Cooperation (SOME-METI Consultations). At the 17th SOME-METI Consultation on 14 July 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, the meeting noted the successful implementation of the SOME-METI Work Programme 2015-2016, which consisted of three major projects: i) ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership Programme (AJEEP); ii) Energy Conservation Workshop under the AJEEP; (iii) Energy Efficiency Market Transformation with Information Provision Scheme (EMTIPS). The meeting also adopted the priorities for AJEEP, ECAP and EMTIPS Projects for 2016-2017.

18. ASEAN and Japan cooperation on customs is pursued through the Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC)-Japan Customs Consultation and the ASEAN-Japan Customs Consultation. Fifteen CCC-Japan Customs Consultations and seventeen ASEAN-Japan Customs Consultations have been held thus far. In addition, three projects on customs are funded by Japan through JAIF, namely (1) *Survey on Customs Procedures and Processes for Customs Clearance*; (2) *ASEAN-Japan Capacity Building Programme to Strengthen the Implementation of Preferential Rules of Origin*; and (3) *the Review of ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2012*.

19. ASEAN and Japan continue to cooperate in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through Consultation between ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group and Japan. Fifteen Consultations have been convened. The 15th Consultation was held on 27 November 2014 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Several projects have been conducted with the support of JAIF for the past year, including *ASEAN Small Business Competitiveness Programme*; *Improvement in the Rural Living Condition Through One Village One Product movement*; *Formulation of Case/Industry Studies to Develop ASEAN Benchmarks and Baselines for SMEs within ASEAN in Three Identified ASEAN Priority Sectors*; *Strengthening SME Business and Technology Business Incubators*; *Establishment of a Regional Programme for the promotion of Internship Scheme for Staff Exchanges and Visits for Skills Training*; and *Establishment of ASEAN SME Service Centre*. In support of the implementation of the ASEAN SME Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025), AEM and METI of Japan Consultations- Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) together with METI and ERIA held the 2nd ASEAN-Japan SME Finance

Rountable in June 2016 in Singapore to discuss ways to improve MSM2's access to finance in the future.

20. The 11th ATM+Japan held in Pakse, Lao PDR on 19 December 2013, welcomed Japan's initiative to conclude a regional air services agreement with ASEAN as announced at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and agreed to establish a working group under STOM+Japan to facilitate the air transport negotiation between ASEAN and Japan. As a follow-up, the ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Agreement (AJWG-RASA) was established in June 2014. Since then the AJWG-RASA has met two times: 15-17 October 2014 in Nagoya, Japan, and 21-23 April 2015 in the Philippines. The 1st ASEAN-Japan Consultation on Regional Air Services Agreement (1st AJC-RASA) was held in Tokyo, Japan on 8-10 March 2016 as a continuation of AJWG-RASA discussion. The Meeting continued to discuss the draft text of ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement including the exchange on traffic rights.

21. ASEAN and Japan continue to cooperate in the area of transport. The First ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM +Japan) held in October 2003 in Yangon adopted the terms of reference for ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP). At their 13th Meeting on 5 November 2015, 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 14th ATM + Japan on 18 November 2016 in Manila, the Ministers endorsed the AJTP Work Plan for 2016-2017 which would enhance further the work on "quality transport" in ASEAN.

22. On connectivity cooperation, ASEAN and Japan established a platform of cooperation on connectivity in the form of a regular meeting between ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Japanese Task Force on Connectivity since 2011. Good progress has been made in the implementation of Japan's 33 flagship projects for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. At the ASEAN – Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013, Japan announced an additional 37 flagship projects for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. In May 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure: Investment for Asia's Future" initiative, which was welcomed at the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2015. This initiative would 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 which would contribute to promoting quality infrastructure investment in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity. This Initiative was welcomed at the 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2016. At ACCC Consultation on Connectivity with Dialogue Partners on 19 October 2016 and 7th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on 20 October 2016, Japan highlighted its support for the MPAC 2025 through its initiative on expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, its efforts to enhance regional supply chains, seamless logistics and people mobility, its assistance to help develop legal systems to facilitate trade, promotion of ASEAN tourism among Japanese people, development of ASEAN human resources through the provision of internships in Japanese companies and opportunities to study in Japanese universities, and exchange students programme between Japan and ASEAN students.

23 ASEAN-Japan cooperation in ICT continues to grow. Japan has assisted ASEAN in a number of areas of cooperation, 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 including 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. Japan and ASEAN agreed to proceed to further enhance cooperation on ICT between ASEAN and Japan under the Work Plan.

24. To support the promotion of trade, investment and tourism, the ASEAN-Japan Centre was established in May 1981 through the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism. The Tokyo-based Centre plays a pivotal role to promote an increase of exports, flow of investment and tourism in the economic development between Japan and ASEAN Member States.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

25. 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. The Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) was implemented from 2007 to 2012, bringing about 13,500 youth from ASEAN to visit Japan and about 700 Japanese youth to visit ASEAN Member States to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations. Japan launched JENESYS 2.0 in early 2013 which was implemented from March 2013 to March 2015. JENESYS 2.0 involved 12,000 youths from Japan, ASEAN Member States, Timor-Leste, India, Australia, and New Zealand. From ASEAN Member States, approximately 10,100 youths were invited to Japan and approximately 600 Japanese youths visited ASEAN Member States. Following the completion of JENESYS 2.0, JENESYS 2015 was launched in April 2015 as a successor programme and approximately 1,800 people from ASEAN and Japan was involved in this programme to promote mutual trust and understanding and to build a basis for future friendship and cooperation.

26. Following on, JENESYS2016 (Theme: Economics) was established in March 2016. Under the programme, approximately 2,360 people (approximately 2,000 people from ASEAN Member States) will be invited to Japan. The theme of the programme is "strengthening Asia Pacific economic partnership." Further, Japan's proposal for establishing JENESYS2016 to succeed JENESYS2015 was agreed by the CPR on 2 June 2016, in which the Government of Japan will contribute JPY 979.56 million (equivalent to USD 8.6 million) to fund this project for a one-year period. In the latest development the Government of Japan proposed an additional program of JENESYS2016, with an additional of 1000 participants and an additional budget of JPY 1,000,000.00.

27. Another Japan-initiated youth exchange programme called “Kizuna” (which means “Bond”), was implemented from June 2012 to March 2013. The project invited more than 10,000 youth, approximately 3,500 of which were from ASEAN Member States. Through the programme the youth had the opportunity to participate in several activities, including visiting the disaster-affected areas in the Northeast of Japan and engaging in volunteer activities.

28. Japan is promoting 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 planned and 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 planned and conducted in FY2013-2017.

29. In the area of public health, a project on Stockpiling of Tamiflu and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against New Infectious Diseases was launched in 2006 to combat and contain the threat of Avian Flu with Japan’s support through JAIF amounting to US\$30 million. The project was completed in September 2013.

30. Under the “Japan-ASEAN Health Initiative”, Japan has extended various cooperation to ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN-Japan Health Initiative Forum was held in Jakarta on 25 August 2015 to promote regional cooperation on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in ASEAN. This includes sharing of strategies and best practices on promoting healthy life-style and reduction in the burden of diseases among Member States.

31. ASEAN and Japan affirmed their commitment to addressing major global and transboundary challenges such as climate change and the environment. ASEAN and Japan implemented cooperative projects in the areas of biodiversity, sustainable cities and environmental education under the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Dialogue. The Tenth ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation held on 5 August 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, appreciated the relevance and importance of the programme to help realise green and sustainable development in ASEAN Member States. Following the successful conclusion of the project on *Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) in ASEAN Countries* (also known as *ESC Model Cities Year 1*), the continuation of the project, *ESC Model Cities Year 2*, was carried out from June 2014 to July 2015. Other projects are Development of the 5th ASEAN State of Environment Report and the Development of the Post-2015 ASEAN Strategic Plan of Environment. The ASEAN Eco-Schools Award 2015 was implemented on 29 July 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, with the funding under JAIF 2.0. The ASEAN Eco-School Award aimed to recognise exemplary efforts of eco-schools in AMS in inculcating environmental awareness in every aspect of education to their students and surrounding communities.

32. On science and technology, cooperation is undertaken through the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology (AJCCST). Seven AJCCST meetings have been held so far. At the Sixth Meeting held on 27 January 2015 in Tokyo, the AJCCST agreed to pursue the following initiatives under ASEAN-

Japan cooperation in science and technology: a) encouraging policy dialogue among policy makers (government), academia, and private sectors through various opportunities; b) promoting researchers/youth exchange programme; and c) launching new solid research base (e.g. joint research laboratory in the ASEAN region. The Seventh Meeting held on 28 October 2016 in Siem Reap aimed to enhance standard and development of sciences and technologies in ASEAN.

33. On culture, the Inaugural Meeting of ASEAN + Japan Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA+Japan) was held on 20 April 2014 in Hue City, Viet Nam. The Meeting discussed future cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in Culture and Arts, particularly through the “WA Project” announced by Japan at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013. The Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) + Japan held on 13 May 2015 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta discussed the developments on ASEAN-Japan cooperation in culture, including the progress of drafting the ASEAN-Japan Work Programme on Culture and Arts 2015-2018.

34. ASEAN and Japan continue to strengthen cooperation in disaster management. Japan has been providing assistance and funding 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) established in Subang, Malaysia; and (iii) Establishment of an integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to strengthen the operation of AHA Centre. Under the project to establish an integrated ICT system to strengthen the operation of the AHA Centre (ICT-phase 3), Japan will continue to cooperate with ASEAN in disaster management by enhancing the current ICT operational capacity and resilience of the AHA Centre through establishing a back-up system under the Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN region.

35. On public outreach, a programme was launched with the support of Japan to promote greater awareness and knowledge of ASEAN community building and to further foster closer relationship between the peoples of ASEAN and Japan. Activities under this programme includes, among others, Surveys on ASEAN Community Building Efforts, Secretary-General of ASEAN’s Engagement with Stakeholders in Japan and ASEAN Promotional Materials.

Narrowing Development Gap

36. Japan has contributed to the IAI since the 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.

37. Japan reaffirmed its continued commitment to helping narrow 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 was held in Tokyo in July 2015, 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. At the 6th Consultation Meeting of the IAI Task Force – Dialogue Partners and External Parties held on 28 October 2016, Japan indicated interest in supporting the actions of the IAI Work Plan III related to the strategic areas on food and agriculture, trade facilitation and MSME.

Japan’s Support to Development Cooperation

38. Japan continues to support ASEAN’s integration and community building efforts. In March 2006 the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) was established based on the pledge from then Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Junichiro Koizumi at the Ninth ASEAN-Japan Summit held in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Since its first financial contribution, several additional funding supports have been pledged to the original JAIF, and as of March 2016, the total contribution amounts to more than USD 630,000,000. 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, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises development, youth exchanges, Japanese language training and others.

39. 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 till the year 2019.

