



**Chairman's Statement**  
**of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with Japan**  
*9 September 2020, Viet Nam*

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1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with Japan was held on 9 September 2020. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, and H.E. Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
2. ASEAN and Japan reviewed their relations over the past year and reiterated their commitment to further strengthening their partnership and cooperation through effective implementation of the Revised Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future, which will contribute to continued efforts toward the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
3. The Meeting reiterated support to the priorities of ASEAN this year in advancing a “Cohesive and Responsive” ASEAN under Viet Nam’s Chairmanship and welcomed the *ASEAN Leaders’ Vision Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth*, adopted at the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020. The Meeting underlined the need to strengthen regional solidarity and maintain ASEAN Centrality to respond effectively to current and future challenges as well as harness opportunities including those brought about by digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). To this end, the Meeting recognised the need to build a resilient and skilled workforce to adapt to such advancements and looked to Japan’s expertise in automation, electronics and digitalisation, with a view to developing regional capacity. The Ministers encouraged strengthening cooperation in support for the realization of the ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Human Resource Development for the Changing World of Work adopted at the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit with the view to preparing the ASEAN’s workforce for the future of work.
4. The Meeting underscored the importance of ASEAN-Japan cooperation in mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic as well as in strengthening joint efforts for promoting recovery, as underlined by the Leaders of both sides at the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April 2020 via video conference. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to continue strengthening cooperation through ASEAN-led platforms and mechanisms including in the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) framework. ASEAN appreciated Japan’s support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, for which a feasibility study funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) is being conducted. The Ministers look forward to the formal announcement on the establishment of this

Center at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2020 as one of important deliverables of ASEAN-Japan cooperation. ASEAN also welcomed Japan's support and contribution to ASEAN's initiatives in mitigating COVID-19, strengthening regional health systems, and enhance institutional and human capacities in preparing and responding to all health-related hazards and emerging threats.

5. The Meeting recognised the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and the world and underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation in addressing the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies. The Meeting also highlighted, in particular, the need for joint collaboration on scientific research and development of vaccines and medicine that are affordable and accessible to all, building and maintaining resilient, open and connected supply chains and supporting a sustained economic recovery. Towards this end, ASEAN Ministers looked forward to Japan's support to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and the ASEAN Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies once it is established. The Ministers encourage active collaboration and support from Japan to ASEAN's efforts in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and developing an ASEAN comprehensive recovery framework. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed Japan's announcement to contribute US\$ 1 Million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.
6. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region, underscored its relevance to the wider region and recognised its contribution to promoting regional peace, stability and security.
7. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and reiterated their commitment to supporting an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms, strengthening the efficiency of and complementarities between the ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Meeting underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and upholding international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Ministers welcomed Japan's agreement to establish the AMMDM Plus Japan cooperation and looked forward to the convening of the meeting of AMMDM Plus Japan in the future.
8. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). They stressed that ASEAN is open to opportunities to promote practical cooperation with Japan in the key areas outlined in the AOIP, and in line with the objectives and principles of the AOIP and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIP), with a view to promoting mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit as well as to contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
9. The Ministers reiterated the importance of promoting sub-regional cooperation such as Mekong-Japan cooperation framework and welcomed the outcome of the "13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting" held on 9 July 2020. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's active support to ASEAN's effort in aligning

and promoting complementarity between sub-regional cooperation and the overall development strategies of ASEAN.

10. The Meeting welcomed the significant progress made towards finalising the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement while reiterating that the RCEP remains open for India. The Meeting looked forward to the signing of this modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial Agreement by the end of this year to demonstrate the firm commitment of ASEAN and its partners to upholding an open, inclusive, well-functioning and rules-based multilateral trading system.
11. The Meeting agreed to continue enhancing cooperation in addressing traditional and non-traditional security issues and transnational crime, including terrorism, maritime security, illicit drug trafficking, and cybersecurity. Both sides stressed the need to ensure effective implementation of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) - Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2022). The Meeting also agreed to enhance cooperation on cybersecurity, including through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Working Group Meeting, ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre. The Meeting commended Japan on their contributions as co-chairs of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security), alongside Malaysia and Singapore. The Meeting welcomed the significant development of practical defense cooperation between ASEAN and Japan under the “Vientiane Vision: Japan’s Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN”, including co-chairing with Viet Nam under the framework of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) in the 2020-2023 cycle. The Ministers welcome Japan’s contribution to host and co-chair with Viet Nam the 2nd ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness in Tokyo in 20 February 2020.
12. The Meeting agreed to further deepen and expand trade and investment relations including through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap 2016-2025 and the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement. Both sides welcomed the entry into force of the First Protocol to Amend the AJCEP to incorporate the Chapters on Trade in Services, Movement of Natural Persons (MNP), and Investment on 1 August for Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and on 1 October 2020 for Brunei Darrusalam. The Meeting encouraged the remaining countries to expedite their domestic legal procedures to ratify the Protocol so that it may enter into force for all Parties by 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2020. The Meeting also stressed the need for ASEAN and Japan to work together in mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 and in promoting recovery. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers’ Joint Statement on Initiatives on Economic Resilience in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak on 22 April 2020 and reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining regional trade and investment and ensuring regional supply chain. The Ministers also noted the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan which was adopted on 29 July 2020.

13. The Meeting welcomed more cooperation to advance the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2019 on Connectivity, bearing in mind the importance of quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards and taking into account the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment”, including openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of lifecycle cost and debt sustainability
14. The Meeting looked forward to the successful conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement with a view to enhancing air connectivity between Japan and ASEAN Member States. ASEAN valued Japan’s support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III, as well as programmes to foster human resource development, narrow the development gap and promote sub-regional development within ASEAN Member States. ASEAN welcomed Japan’s continued support for the Attachment Programme for Junior Diplomats of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) and Attachment of Officers from CLMV for AEC and ASCC Involvement, both at the ASEAN Secretariat.
15. The Meeting welcomed Japan’s active and continued support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), such as through project partnerships between Japanese companies and ASCN cities, and the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities High-Level Meeting (HLM) in Yokohama in October 2019, which resulted in the formation of the Japan Association for Smart Cities in ASEAN. The Meeting also welcomed Japan’s proposal to convene the second ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities HLM.
16. The ASEAN Ministers noted with satisfaction that Japan has implemented many active initiatives in the region which have promoted sustainable development and rational use of natural resources including water resources on Mekong basin. The Meeting committed to promoting further exchange and collaboration on non-traditional security challenges at global and regional levels such as cybersecurity, nuclear safety, food and energy security.
17. The Meeting decided to continue enhancing cooperation in the areas of public health and emergency response, environment, marine plastic debris, water management, climate change, air pollution, waste and wastewater management and disaster management. ASEAN appreciated Japan’s continued support for the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), and in envisioning an environmentally-sustainable ASEAN through the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation. The Meeting also appreciated Japan’s continued support for people-to-people contacts and sports and cultural exchanges, through various programmes including the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), WA Project, Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (Sakura Science Plan), Sport for Tomorrow and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) and the exchanges through ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni (ASCOJA). The Meeting agreed to further promote cultural cooperation, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2019-2021 and the ASEAN Cultural Heritage Digital Archive project. Furthermore, the Meeting highly welcomed the role played by the Japan Foundation Asia Center, in promoting better

understanding between the peoples of ASEAN and Japan, including through the project “Asia in Resonance 2019”.

18. The Meeting appreciated Japan’s continued support for ASEAN’s development, including through its additional financial contribution to JAIF. The Meeting looked forward to the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Agreement on Technical Cooperation, which would further contribute to the ASEAN Community building efforts. The Meeting commended the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its significant role in promoting trade, investment, tourism, business connectivity and people-to-people exchanges between the two sides.
19. The Meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which serious concerns were expressed by some Ministers over recent developments in the South China Sea which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. The Meeting further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.
20. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea. The Meeting further underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meeting encouraged the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, within a mutually-agreed timeline. The Meeting stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS which serves as the basis for determining legitimate interests of littoral states and sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.
21. The Meeting stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The Meeting urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Joint Statement by the US and DPRK leaders. The Meeting reiterated the importance of international efforts to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The Meeting reiterated the importance of creating a

conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue among concerned parties, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the resolution of the abductions issue.

