

## **Progress Report**

### **on Japan's Cooperation for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Japan and ASEAN are strategic partners which share the view to promote a rule-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open, embraces key principles such as ASEAN's unity and centrality, inclusiveness, transparency, respect for international law and complements ASEAN community building process.

At the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in June 2019, ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions.

Japan expressed its full support to the AOIP at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in the same year and has been a steadfast supporter of the AOIP as the AOIP and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept share relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace and cooperation.

In November 2020, ASEAN and Japan issued the "Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific". In the joint statement, Japan committed to working closely with ASEAN and to reinforce the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership through enhanced practical cooperation and synergy in the four areas outlined in the AOIP, namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation. A list of 49 concrete cooperation projects on AOIP was issued along with the joint statement.

Japan welcomes that other partners around the world, including Australia, India, ROK, UK, US, EU, G7 and the QUAD have expressed their support to the AOIP.

This report is submitted by Japan to the ASEAN-Japan Summit to update ASEAN on the progress of Japan's 49 existing cooperation projects and to inform 24 additional projects on the AOIP. A variety of projects, which cover all the priority areas of AOIP cooperation, made steady progress despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, Japan has provided cooperation on a grant basis with a budget of more than 655 million US dollars for projects.

Japan has provided 1.8 billion US dollars worth of financial support ODA loans, including through the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan based on the agreements concluded with relevant countries in 2020 (Project No. 41).

There are five existing projects from 2020 (No. 10, 11, 12, 25, 26) which are based on the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN which was announced to launch by Prime Minister Abe at the 2019 Japan-ASEAN Summit.

In 2021, 37 million US dollars of funds were provided for additional projects (No. A9, A10, A11) through the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN.

Furthermore, more than 25,000 people participated in training programs, seminars, and workshops for 20 existing projects and seven additional projects including those based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in May 2019.

The details of each project in the four priority areas are as follows.

## EXISTING PROJECTS

### I. Maritime Cooperation

Maritime cooperation is one of the key areas of cooperation identified in the AOIP. In order to address maritime issues such as unresolved maritime disputes, unsustainable exploitation of maritime resources and maritime pollution, Japan has been working together with ASEAN Member States through a variety of initiatives and concrete programs.

#### <Maritime Safety>

#### 1. Third Country Training Program for ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

In cooperation with Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in Thailand, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is planning to hold training programs and workshops for addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2022 to support sustainable fishery and sustainable development of fishery communities. This project aims to mitigate the impact of IUU fishing on the fish ecosystem and reinforce the sustainability of fishery as one of the key ASEAN industries. This training program is scheduled to be held from January to February 2022.

#### 2. Training Program for Strategic Port Administration and Management

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

This training program aims to improve the capacity of the relevant authorities in each country for strategic port administration and management by helping them work out solutions to challenges facing each respective country.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 1st phase of the training program was held online from November to December 2020 with 7 participants, and the 2nd phase of online training is scheduled to be held from the end of 2021 or the start of 2022.

#### 3. Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) operator training

(Funds provided through JAIF (partially))

It is urgent to take measures for the safety of navigation in the changing circumstances surrounding vessel traffic. Japan has been providing assistance to ASEAN member states to maintain and develop VTS centers, which control vessel traffic and provide traffic information. As part of such assistance for the maritime security of ASEAN countries, Japan has provided approximately 1 billion Japanese yen for human resource development for VTS centers and implemented four training programs by 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training programs were implemented online in 2021 and 12 participants attended this training program supported by Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

#### **4. Measures for navigation safety and joint hydrographic survey of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore**

(Funds provided through JAIF (partially))

This is a capacity building program for supporting the maintenance and management of navigational aids (such as light buoys) located in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. This program aims to assist the capacity building of government officials who are in charge of inspection of navigational aids or maintenance of these facilities by improving their management skills. The procedures for implementing this program are currently underway. Starting from 2022, coordination to prepare this project is to be made with the governments of coastal states and other stakeholders.

Moreover, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore will conduct a joint hydrographic survey of sea areas along traffic separation zones in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and update electronic charts. This program was suspended due to the impact of COVID-19, but the joint survey is expected to be resumed from April 2022 depending on the situation of COVID-19.

#### **5. Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program (Vientiane Vision 2.0)**

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

In 2016, the Vientiane Vision was announced as a guiding principle for Japan's defense cooperation with ASEAN. Under this vision, programs aimed at benefitting the entire ASEAN have been implemented with a view to realizing a maritime order based on the rule of law. Building on the achievements of these programs, the Vientiane Vision 2.0 has updated the direction of cooperation between ASEAN and Japan. Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation programs (such as the Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program, the Japan-ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) invitation program, and the Professional Airmanship Program), Joint military training with ASEAN countries at Indo-Pacific Deployment, and other capacity development assistance programs will recommence as the COVID-19 situation permits.

#### **<Marine plastic debris>**

#### **6. Training Program for Waste Management Training to Address Marine Litter**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

It is an urgent mission to support developing countries which do not have sufficient experience of environmental protection. This program aims to offer opportunities for officials in charge of waste management to comprehensively learn from the efforts of Japan and the international community in tackling the issue of marine litter and to understand the need for such efforts in their countries. This program will also help officials develop their own plans to take actions in their own countries based on the knowledge acquired through the training program. The first phase of the training program was implemented online for 8 participants in 2021 and the second phase will be held in November 2021.

#### **7. Promotion of measures to reduce marine debris**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Japan provided approximately 1 billion Japanese yen through JAIF for human resource development, awareness-raising and public relations activities of

environmental preservation including reduction of marine plastic litter in ASEAN countries. Two projects for the production of documentary programs on marine plastic waste and for the promotion of plastic circular society are being implemented. Other projects are currently being developed.

## 8. Coordination in various frameworks

For reducing marine litter, Japan has been cooperating through the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative and the ERIA's Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris, and actively participating in meetings for strengthening capacity for marine debris reduction and waste management in the ASEAN region. Japan also been engaging in contributing to the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" In order to achieve the Vision, Japan has shared information, reduction targets, practical examples, and scientific knowledge about marine litter with ASEAN and other countries. Based on the "G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter", these actions were reported on "G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter" in 2021.

## II. Connectivity

Japan consistently supports ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its connectivity to narrow the development gaps within ASEAN and support deeper integration of the ASEAN Community.

### <Quality Infrastructure>

#### 9. Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative

(Implementing organization: JICA)

At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in November 2020, Japan announced the Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative, in which Japan proposed that it would help strengthen land, sea, and air corridor connectivity through infrastructure development together with human resource development of 1,000 individuals over the next three years. In 2021, Japan continues to support projects to enhance ASEAN Connectivity. As an update, the Red Line commuter train system in Bangkok has started trial operation with Japan's ODA loan.

#### 10. Thailand "Eastern Economic Corridor Independent Power Project"

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

By utilizing the "Leading Asia's Private infrastructure Fund (LEAP)" of JICA, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) concluded an investment and loan contract totaling about 180 million US dollars to finance the project which constructs and operates a combined cycle gas turbine power plant, in order to contribute to the stable supply of electricity required for industrial upgrading, and the efforts of the Government of Thailand to keep average CO2 emissions by domestic power generation at a lower level, and use clean energy resources. The funds have been disbursed and the project will be undertaken with this loan.

**11. Asia-Pacific Remote Broadband Internet Satellite Project**

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

By utilizing the "Leading Asia's Private infrastructure Fund (LEAP)" of JICA, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) signed a 50 million US dollar loan contract to finance the project which sets up low-cost and high-speed internet connections for small islands and remote places in large island nations such as Indonesia and the Philippines. It provides internet connections for people without access to the Internet because of vulnerable infrastructure or the high cost of internet access which makes it unaffordable. This project is expected to improve educational services, expand access to information, attract investment and vitalize local economies, while maintaining internet connections even in emergency situations including natural disasters. The funds have been disbursed and the project will be undertaken with this loan.

**12. Viet Nam "Gulf Solar Power Project"**

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

By utilizing the "Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP)" of JICA, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan contract of 37.8 million US dollars to finance the project which constructs and operates a solar power plant in Tai ninh province in Viet Nam to help improve and diversify electric supply in Viet Nam. The funds have been disbursed and the project will be undertaken with this loan.

**13. Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) implementation plan training**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Through JAIF, this project aims to train ASEAN civil aviation personnel to introduce GNSS. Because of COVID-19, field work programs have been suspended in the Philippines and Malaysia. The training programs are expected to be implemented in April 2022 considering the situation of COVID-19.

**14. ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership**

The ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP) was launched in 2003 to strengthen cooperation between Japan and ASEAN under the four policy pillars of (i) transport facilitation, (ii) transport infrastructure, (iii) quality and sustainable transport and (iv) human resource development. Under the AJTP, Japan and ASEAN have held Transport Ministers Meetings every year, and 27 cooperative projects have been implemented based on the AJTP Work Plan for 2020-2021.

**15. Independent Power Producer (IPP) support projects**

To realize sustainable societies, Japan supports energy transitions and the realization of low-carbon societies in developing countries. Japan has a track record of underwriting export insurance to serve this purpose and is planning other projects in consultation with private companies.

## **16. Capacity building programs to develop the LNG market**

(Implementing organization: JOGMEC and JCCP)

Training programs for developing human resources related to liquefied natural gas (LNG) by JOGMEC and JCCP were commenced in 2017 to contribute to expanding the LNG market in Asia. Since then, more than 500 trainees have finished their curriculums within the 5 years, and online training programs are currently being provided to cover 500 more trainees from gas producing countries and countries with LNG receiving installations (as well as those considering introducing LNG).

### **<People-to-People Connectivity>**

## **17. JENESYS (AOIP Cooperation)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

JENESYS, which is a people-to-people exchange program aimed at promoting understanding of Japan, is expected to help realize a free and open Indo-Pacific and expand international connectivity through deepening the understanding of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the AOIP. ASEAN youths will be provided with opportunities to visit AOIP-related facilities and meet with Japanese youth and experts to promote mutual understanding and build networks in various fields, through online and offline exchanges. With the support of JAIF, 547 people participated in JENESYS 2020 and 140 in JENESYS 2021.

## **18. Fostering greater understanding, tolerance and awareness on regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Through setting up a framework on regional policies by conducting regional studies and holding cultural forums, the project aims to foster ASEAN identity by promoting the understanding, tolerance and awareness on regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN. With the support of the JAIF Management Team, an ASEAN Regional Workshop was held in August 2021 via video conference as a follow-up to the ASEAN High-Level Cultural Forum (HLCF) and Project Steering Committee Meetings. 124 people participated in an ASEAN Regional Workshop, 225 in HLCF and 63 in Project Steering Committee Meetings. The discussion and outcomes of the workshop contributed to the draft Strategic Policy Framework.

## **19. ASEAN volunteers**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The project is supported by JAIF and it aims to foster the spirit of a caring and sharing community among the youth of ASEAN through volunteering activities on community-based disaster risk reduction and preparedness. This project was put on hold due to covid-19 pandemic and is now being prepared to restart.

## **20. Promotion of cultural exchange ("WA Project" ~Toward Interactive Asia through "Fusion and Harmony"~)**

(Implementing organization: The Japan Foundation Asia Center)

WA project has been conducted from 2014 to 2020 with a fund of approximately 20 billion Japanese yen, and has been extended to the end of FY2023 due to COVID-19. Through this project, 2,375 Japanese citizens have been dispatched as NIHONGO Partners mainly to secondary schools in Asia and 2,504 Arts and

Cultural Exchange Programs have been carried out as of end of FY 2020. These programs are still in progress in FY 2021.

## **21. ASEAN-Japan actions on sports**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Following the First Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports which agreed on the four priority areas of cooperation, a concrete cooperation project on women in sports was discussed during the Second Ministerial Meeting. In the project, an online workshop on women in sports was held in August 2021 for 71 central and local government officials, women athletes and future women leaders in sports from the ASEAN countries, and about 300 participants attended an open symposium during the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games under the support of JAIF.

## **22. Inter University exchange project**

Japan-ASEAN Project to support universities which develop and provide educational programs with mutual recognition of credits and academic records across national borders was implemented from FY2016 and ended in FY2020. From FY2021, each university will continue their efforts through their own budget. CAMPUS ASIA Project (Mode3) is planned to expand its scheme to ASEAN countries based on agreement by Japan, China and the ROK. It is being implemented as part of the "Inter-University exchange project – Support for promoting the establishment of Asian Higher Education Community", and about 20 exchange programs between Japan, China, the ROK and ASEAN countries will begin in FY2021.

### **III. UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs)**

The Sustainable Development Goals consist of 17 goals and 169 targets in order to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable world. The SDGs are universal goals applicable, not only to developing countries but also to developed countries, and pledge to "Leave no one behind" through the implementation process.

Japan is making its utmost efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda with the international community based on the concept of human security.

#### **<Cooperation to respond to COVID-19>**

### **23. Support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases**

(Funds provided through JAIF and JICA's technical cooperation)

At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2020, the leaders announced the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED). The Centre aims to contribute to capacity building on response to public health emergencies as well as preventing future pandemic of emerging diseases in ASEAN. The Centre will have 3 pillars of capabilities (prevention and preparedness, detection, response) and 3 overarching themes (Information sharing and analytics, capacity building, innovation coordination/support (including R&D)). Japan has fully supported the establishment of the Centre with its contribution of approximately 5.5 billion Japanese yen (50 million US dollars) to JAIF. In October 2021, Japan started to offer training programs about public health emergencies and emerging disease to health officers from ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat.

#### **24. COVID-19 related support (provision of vaccines, medical supplies, and cold chain equipment)**

Japan has assisted ASEAN with vaccine provisions (over 16 million doses) and grant aid (approximately 32 billion yen) including the “Last One Mile Support,” which is aimed at providing cold chain equipment needed to deliver vaccines all the way to vaccination sites (over 2.5 billion yen).

#### **25. Improvement of financial access and empowerment of women (COVID-19 Emerging & Frontier Markets MSME Support Fund)**

(Funds provided through JICA’s Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

The COVID-19 Emerging & Frontier Markets MSME Support Fund is a fund that provides loans to microfinance institutions (MFIs) in developing countries. This project aims to meet the urgent demand of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) by providing loans to MFIs which provide financial services to MSMEs, mainly women-owned businesses, in emerging and frontier markets in Asia in the context of widespread business disruptions and economic decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan provided 35 million US dollars for funding through the MSME Support Fund. The funds have been disbursed and the project will be undertaken with this loan.

#### **26. Improving financial access for micro, small and medium enterprises in rural areas of Cambodia (Private Sector Investment and Finance)**

(Funds provided through JICA’s Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

As 90 percent of the population below the poverty line in Cambodia live in rural areas, it is important to support them in creating more employment. JICA signed a 50 million US dollars loan agreement with a deposit-taking microfinance institution in Cambodia to provide funds to MSMEs in rural areas of the country. This program aims to contribute to reducing poverty and regional disparities, and to sustainable economic growth in Cambodia. The funds have been disbursed and the project will be undertaken with this loan.

#### **27. Assistance to the most vulnerable groups (SMEs, agriculture and fisheries communities, etc.)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

More than 10 projects for the development of the entire ASEAN region have been supported by JAIF. Examples are shown as below.

- "Sharing Best-practices on the Development and Promotion of On-Farm Irrigation Management among the Water-User Groups in CLMV Countries"
- "ASEAN-Japan Pharmaceuticals Training in Risk Management Plan"
- "Japan ASEAN Integration Fund Capacity Development Program for ASEAN Rice Net"
- "Common Standard Curriculum in Industrial Electronics for CLMV Countries"
- "Assessment and Training on Two-Step Loan, Credit Guarantee System and Venture Capital for CLMV Project"
- "Improved Coordination and Strengthened Capacity to Deal with the



- Invasive Insect Pest *Tuta absoluta* in Mainland Southeast Asia”
- "Creation and Testing of Learning and Accreditation Programme to Implement ASEAN RAI Guidelines"

In 2021, 8 training programs were held and 45 people participated in these programs.

#### <Environment and Disaster Management>

### **28. Development of the Report on the State of Climate Change in ASEAN Region (ASCCR)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

This is a project which endeavors to provide an overall outlook on the issue of climate change at the national and regional levels by developing a report on the state of climate change. The comprehensive report is expected to support the planning processes of ASEAN countries on climate action. Japan supports the development of ASCCR through JAIF. This project was completed in September 2021.

### **29. Coordination on environmental issues in various framework such as the ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative, the ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda, and the ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme**

To address environmental issues, Japan has cooperated with ASEAN through various frameworks. ASEAN and Japan launched the “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative” in 2017. Through this initiative, Japan has been supporting ASEAN countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. The “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda” launched in 2018 consists of the following 3 pillars: Transparency, Mitigation, and Adaptation. This Agenda has been upgraded to the “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0”, which includes a wider range of assistance especially towards decarbonization, and strengthens existing efforts. The ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme which started in 2018 supported the efforts of 24 cities in ASEAN countries to achieve the SDGs locally through analyzing policies and holding seminars on sustainable urban environments. This programme was completed in 2020, but a succeeding programme in the form of a high-level seminar is slated for 2022.

### **30. Coordination through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Japan has fully supported the work of AHA Centre by providing approximately 4.2 billion Japanese yen to the Centre since its establishment in 2011. Through JAIF projects, Japan has supported the establishment of an integrated information and communication technology (ICT) system and the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA), capacity building of the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), and AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme continuously through 2021, and a total of 1964 people participated in 38 training programs.

### **31. Support for the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a regional framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance, and resource mobilisation in all aspects of disaster management and entered in force in 2009. During 2021, Japan has supported the development of the AADMER Work Program and projects under the Program through JAIF.

### **32. Cooperation for disaster prevention measures (Integrating climate change projection into flood, landslide, and drought risk assessment with a focus on spatial approaches, ASEAN cultural heritage digital archive)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The appropriate initial response to natural disasters is one of the most important factors in minimizing damage from disasters. ASEAN countries have plentiful and various cultural heritage, but they could be damaged or lost by natural disasters. The ASEAN Cultural Heritage Digital Archive (ACHDA) project aims to preserve cultural heritage by establishing portal site webpages which contain data of heritage. Japan contributed about 120 million Japanese yen to this project through JAIF.

At the first stage, the digitalization of cultural heritage was completed in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. At the second stage, it was started in Cambodia and Myanmar in 2021 but they were put on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic and are now being prepared to restart.

### **33. ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)**

Under the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, Japan will contribute to the APTERR programmes continuously in a robust manner. In 2021, Japan is planning to provide a total of 600 metric tons of pre-positioned stockpiled rice assistance to Lao PDR and the Philippines where natural disasters occur frequently.

Furthermore, the extension of Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan and the Philippines for utilization of the earmarked emergency rice reserve, signed on 8 October 2021, will significantly contribute to strengthening food security in the region as well.

### **34. Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF)**

Japan has been supporting the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) which aims to enhance the financial resilience of Southeast Asian countries against natural disasters. SEADRIF launched a regional catastrophe risk insurance and will promote the discussion on Public Asset Financial Protection Program in 2021. In May 2021, ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was held online and participating countries expressed their continuous support for SEADRIF activities.

### **35. Japan-ASEAN Invitation program on Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (Vientiane Vision 2.0)**

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

Japan Ministry of Defense and Japan Self-Defense Forces conducted the 4th Japan-ASEAN Seminar on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) with participants from all ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat. The program took place in accordance with the "Vientiane Vision 2.0", the guiding

principle for Japan's defense cooperation with ASEAN, and has been running as an invitation program since 2018. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the seminar in 2021 was conducted online with 22 officers and focused on sharing knowledge gained by each defense authority during the pandemic.

#### **IV. Economic and Other Possible Areas of Cooperation**

Since Asian and Oceanian countries have close economic ties with Japan, supporting essential economic measures in developing countries in the region is in the interest of not only these countries but also Japan. Japan has continued supporting ASEAN countries.

##### **<Digital Economy and the 4th Industrial Revolution>**

#### **36. Capacity building in policy formulation for enhancement of measures to ensure cybersecurity**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

A training program for cybersecurity policymakers in ASEAN countries to enhance their capacity to formulate and implement cybersecurity policy through information exchange on relevant policies and Japan's activities in important spheres was conducted in 2020. The training program has been concluded.

#### **37. Cooperation through ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) and the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2021**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The AJCCBC was established in 2018 with the support of JAIF following an agreement reached at the ASEAN and Japan Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting. It aims to contribute to human resource development on cybersecurity in ASEAN by conducting a series of exercises such as CYber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER), digital forensics, and malware analysis for officials of government agencies and operators of essential infrastructure in ASEAN countries, among others. Given the current situation, courses are currently provided online and over 550 participants took this programs in 2021.

The ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2021 aims to promote cooperation between Japan and ASEAN countries through advancing projects on 5G and smart cities, human resource development and international cooperation in research and development.

#### **38. Japan-US-EU industrial control systems cybersecurity training for the Indo-Pacific Region**

(Implementing organization: METI of Japan)

As a number of Japanese companies share supply chains with ASEAN countries, it is important to support their capacity building in the area of cyber security. Japan and the United States collaborated to start Japan-US industrial control systems cybersecurity training for the Indo-Pacific Region from 2018. From October 2021, the EU officially joined this program as one of the organizers. About 280 people engaged in this training program in March, and about 300 people engaged in this program in this October,

### **39. e-ASIA Joint Research Program and Sakura Science Exchange Program**

(Implementing organization: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED))

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program is an international joint initiative by public funding organizations in the East Asia Summit participating countries and aims to strengthen regional research and development capabilities and resolve common challenges in the region. Member organizations consists of 23 organizations from 14 countries, and 48 programs are underway. (Among them, Japan is participating in 32 programs). In 2021, this program held workshops online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 92 people participated.

Under the Sakura Science Exchange Program, participants are invited to Japan to exchange ideas in the field of science and technology to support the development of talented people overseas and support continuous interaction between Japan and other countries and regions and promote globalization of Japanese educational and research institutes. 18,295 people participated online University visit programs in 2021 as of the end of September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **40. Promotion of the realization of Smart Cities in the ASEAN region through collaboration between Japan and the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN)**

(Implementing organization: MLIT of Japan)

To deal with the impact arising from rapid urbanization of ASEAN countries, The Japan Association for Smart Cities in ASEAN (JASCA) was established in 2019. Through the work of the JASCA and in cooperation with ASEAN, Japan conducts surveys on the ASCN member cities and offers information to promote the realization of smart cities in the ASEAN region. Through 2021, studies of 17 cities and 2 countries have been conducted for the realization of smart cities based on proposals from ASCN participating countries and member cities, and 10 studies targeting countries and cities in the ASEAN region based on proposals from Japanese companies have been conducted

#### **<ASEAN Economic Resilience in the post COVID-19>**

### **41. COVID-19 related financial support ODA loan for maintaining and revitalizing economic activities**

(Implementing organization: JICA)

Japan provided financial support ODA loans, including through the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, to contribute to maintaining and revitalizing economic activities of development countries from COVID-19 impact. Japan concluded agreements with Indonesia on 50 billion ODA loan, with Myanmar on 30 billion ODA loan, and with Cambodia on a 25 billion yen loan in 2020. In addition, Japan concluded agreements with the Philippines on 100 billion yen in total in 2020, and 90 billion of the said loan was allocated for the COVID-19 Crisis.

### **42. Training Program for the Development of the Sustainable and Reliable Logistics System**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

This training program offers lectures on the current situations of logistics management systems in Japan and participating countries, provides inspection

tours to the facilities of logistic services, and opportunities to discuss action plans for future logistic policy in their own countries or the Asian region. Japan supports this program to urge governments to take actions to install efficient and green logistic systems, and improve the reliability of cold chain logistic systems. 12 people participated in this training program started in which JFY2020 with 2 phases; the first phase was held in February, 2021, and the second phase was held in July, 2021, through online training because of COVID-19. In JFY2021, the training will be held in November, 2021.

#### **43. ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

A food value chain (FVC) consists of all the stakeholders who participate in the coordinated production and value-adding activities that are needed to make food products. Improving production efficiency and giving added value to agricultural products in ASEAN is needed not only for the development of the ASEAN region but also for food security. Japan provides training as part of the technical cooperation project through JICA. This project is currently under preparation.

#### **44. Establishment of the Emergency Window for Overcoming the COVID-19 Crisis**

(Funds provided through JBIC)

Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) established the COVID-19 Emergency Window for Overcoming the COVID-19 Crisis under the Growth Investment Facility. This program strongly supports the maintenance and recovery of Japanese companies' overseas business activities with low cost financing. This project is still in progress through 2021.

#### **45. Establishment of the Post COVID-19 Growth Facilities**

(Funds provided through JBIC)

With the purpose of transforming the economic structure and realizing a virtuous circle for the post-COVID-19 period, the Facility is established by JBIC in 2021 to support Japanese companies in the overseas expansion of high-quality infrastructure and overseas business activities toward a decarbonized society and the enhancement of supply chain resilience. These measures are currently in progress.

#### **46. ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan**

The ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan, which was welcomed at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2020 contains more than 50 projects proposed by both Japan and ASEAN. Under the Action Plan, projects such as strengthening supply chain resilience, providing financial support for Asia digital transformation, and promoting trade facilitation are making progress, which was welcomed at the 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) - METI Consultations in September 2021. The Consultations welcomed the "ASEAN-Japan Priority for Innovative and Sustainable Growth" as a next course of focused action.

#### **47. Financial Support Program for diversifying overseas Supply Chains, and for**

**strengthening Asia Digital Transformation (ADX), Survey Research on Digitization of Trade Procedures**  
(Funds provided through AMEICC)

To increase production bases for enhancing supply chain resilience and to upgrade manufacturing and logistics processes using digital technology, to this date, Japan adopted 92 projects with a budget of over 35 billion Japanese yen.

In addition to these projects, Japan also adopted 40 projects from ASEAN countries to support their efforts to solve socio-economic challenges using digital technology through collaborating with Japanese companies and companies and institution in ASEAN.

**48. Supporting Businesses in ASEAN countries through Reinsurance Cooperation, Loan Insurance Program to support the financing of operating capital of Japanese subsidiaries operating overseas business**  
(Funds provided through NEXI)

Japan has expanded its government guarantee extended to the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) to support NEXI in taking risks when providing loans to overseas subsidiaries of Japanese companies facing a cash-flow problem due to the impact of COVID-19. This program supported a number of companies including those in ASEAN and is providing loans in 2021

**49. Demonstration projects of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies, capacity building programs to deploy Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies, holding a public-private business forum on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies in the ASEAN region**

Japan supports technical cooperation in energy conservation and new energy as demonstration experiments in order to roll out demonstrated technology and reap the results of such technical cooperation back in Japan. In ASEAN region, 3 international experiments are running and 10 cases of feasibility study are underway partly based on requests for smart city development assistance from ASEAN countries.

Moreover, Japan supports developing human resources and establishing the systems for promoting energy conservation measures and introducing new energy. In FY2020, the number of trainees coming from ASEAN countries to Japan and Japanese experts dispatched to ASEAN countries totaled 491 individuals. In March 2021, "Viet Nam-Japan Business Forum for Energy Conservation, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" was held in Viet Nam and 318 participants shared cutting-edge technologies. The next forum will be held in 2022 in an ASEAN country.

## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

### I. Maritime Cooperation

#### <Maritime Safety>

#### A1. Training Program for Public International Law Focused on Law of the Sea and Peaceful Settlement of International Dispute

(Implementing organization: JICA)

This training program aims to strengthen the ability of government officials to put international law into practice by focusing on the law of the sea and the peaceful settlement of international disputes from the perspective of the rule of law in the international community and elucidating the role played by international law.

This program will be held from November to December 2021.

#### A2. Promoting cooperation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and its surrounding areas

(Funds provided through JAIF (partially))

Sulu-Celebes Seas and its surrounding areas are economically and socially vulnerable, facing number of challenges such as piracy, terrorist attack and natural disaster. Against this background, Japan is enhancing its engagement in the area through efforts such as security and development cooperation. For example, Japan has donated patrol vessels; and promoted infrastructure cooperation including remote islands development including the installation of a Satellite Communication System. Japan has also hosted maritime safety and fisheries seminars under the framework of JENESYS. Furthermore, Japan is preparing investment and tourism seminars through the Japan-ASEAN Centre inviting BIMP-EAGA member countries.

#### A3. Professional Airmanship Program (Vientiane Vision 2.0)

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) hosted the 2nd Professional Airmanship Program (PAP) virtually in October 2021 under the “Vientiane Vision 2.0,” the guiding principal for Japan’s defense cooperation with ASEAN.

The objective of this program is contributing to regional stability by promoting mutual confidence and understanding among air services of Japan and ASEAN and ensuring the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### <Marine plastic debris>

#### A4. The Promotion of Action against Marine Plastic Litter in Asia and the Pacific (Counter MEASURE II)

(Implementing organization: UNEP)

The project aims to share scientific knowledge on plastic pollution in the Mekong, Ganges and selected rivers in Sri Lanka and Myanmar to inform policy and decision-making processes at the local and the global levels. This project started in 2020 and is due to be completed in 2022.

## II. Connectivity

### <Promotion of the Rule of Law>

#### A5. Legal technical assistance to developing countries

(Implementing organization: JICA)

With a view to contributing to establishing the rule of law and laying a sound foundation for economic development, this program provides legal technical assistance in cooperation with JICA and other relevant organizations to support the drafting and amendments of domestic law of developing countries, improving the operating system of law, and capacity building of legal and judicial experts by inviting relevant personnel to Japan for training and dispatching experts to hold seminars on site.

#### A6. Legal technical assistance to ASEAN countries (UNAFEI)

(Implementing organization: JICA and MOJ JAPAN)

This program holds training courses / seminars for ASEAN countries as follows.

- International Training Courses
- Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries
- Technical Assistance to the Philippines on Offender Treatment
- Technical Assistance to Cambodia for Development of Community-Based Treatment
- Joint Comparative Study on the Criminal Justice Systems of Japan and Viet Nam

### <People-to-People Connectivity>

#### A7. CLMV Attachment Programme

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The program is supported by JAIF and it aims to assist the CLMV countries to meet ASEAN-wide targets and commitments towards realizing the goals of the ASEAN Community and contribute to narrowing development gaps. Many young government officials have been dispatched to the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) since 2001 to strengthen their administration skills. The latest programs finished in 2020, and the next program is currently being developed.

#### A8. ASIA KAKEHASHI Project

(Implementing organization: MEXT)

The project aims to deepen international exchanges and develop human resources who will become leaders and bridges that are culturally immersed in each other's countries by inviting excellent high school students studying Japanese in Asian countries to come to high schools all over Japan for about six to 10 months, and learn together with Japanese high school students while living with a host family or in a dormitory. This project invited 478 high school students from Asian countries during the three years from FY2018 to FY2020. In FY2021, 249 high school students from Asian countries are to arrive in Japan by the end of October.



### III. UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs)

#### <Environment>

#### A9. Loan agreement for the Quang Tri Province Onshore Wind Power Project in Viet Nam

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

JICA signed a facility agreement on May 21, 2021 to provide up to 25 million US dollars for an onshore wind power generation in Quang Tri Province, Viet Nam. This project is expected to serve as a model case for private sector wind power generation projects in the renewable energy sector in Viet Nam, including those by Japanese and local companies. The project is the first investment by a Japanese company in a new large scale wind power project in Viet Nam.

#### A10. Loan agreement for Kampong Chhnang Solar Power Projects in Cambodia

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

JICA signed a facility agreement on August 26, 2021 to provide 4 million US dollars for a solar power project in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia. This project is expected to serve as a model case for private sector solar power generation projects in the renewable energy sector in Cambodia. The project is an investment by a Thai company and co-financed with ADB, IFC, Thai EXIM and Norfund.

#### A11. Financing agreement for "Binh Duong Province Water Environment Improvement Project" in Viet Nam

(Funds provided through JICA's Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN)

As joint financing with the Asia Development Bank (ADB), JICA signed a loan agreement with Binh Duong Water Environment Joint Stock Company in Viet Nam to provide a loan up to 8 million US dollars. This loan has been used to expand water purification facilities. As a result, the capacity of the beneficiary water purification facilities for water supply increased by about 80 percent. The increased supply of clean water enabled by this program helps contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and also contributes to achieving the SDGs.

#### A12. Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)

In order to support the simultaneous achievement of sustainable economic growth and carbon neutrality in Asia, Japan has proposed a package of concrete support measures based on the following five pillars.

- Support for formulating energy transition roadmaps
- Presentation and promotion of the concept of the Asia Transition Finance
- 10 billion US dollars financial support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, LNG, CCUS and other projects
- Technology development and deployment, utilising the achievement of Green Innovation fund
- Human resource development, knowledge sharing and rule-making on decarbonisation technologies

AETI was welcomed at the East Asia Summit (EAS) Energy Minister's meeting in September 2021. In October 2021, at the 1st Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting, which Japan hosted by inviting ASEAN Member States as well as countries from South and Central Asia, the Middle East, the Oceania, North America and international organizations, the participants discussed various and realistic energy transitions.

**A13. Support Promotion of Higher Efficient Air Conditioners in ASEAN through Harmonisation of Standards and Strengthening of Market Verification and Enforcement Capabilities**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Through JAIF, Japan is supporting the project "Promotion of Higher Efficient Air Conditioners in ASEAN through the Harmonisation of Standards and Strengthening of Market Verification and Enforcement Capabilities". This project aims to encourage the installment of more efficient air conditioners to reduce electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from general households and the commercial sector in ASEAN.

**<Food Systems>**

**A14. Projects under the Joint Statement on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Systems**

(Funds provided through MAFF of Japan, JICA and JAIF)

The Joint Statement on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Systems adopted in July 2021 recognizes the crucial importance of sustainable agricultural production and food systems regarding farmers in ASEAN countries facing difficulties due to regional particularities with regard to agricultural production. Japan will support ASEAN countries based on the Joint Statement, which stresses the importance of international collaboration to introduce innovative and sustainable agricultural practices and technologies such as digital tools, machineries and pest control tools under the support of MAFF of Japan, JICA and JAIF.

**<Disaster Management>**

**A15. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction training**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

Based on the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as highlighted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, this program is undertaken by JICA and it aims to promote "Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction" by sharing the experience and best practices of Japan and participating countries. The program will be held in late 2021.

**A16. ASEAN Mapping Exercise to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Entities Associated with ASEAN on Disaster Management**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The project is supported by JAIF and it aims to culminate in a report, compiling the potential roles and activities that all relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Centres and Entities associated ASEAN may play. The report is planned to be presented at the Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Disasters in October 2021.

### <Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice>

#### **A17. Follow-up to the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress)-Implementing the Kyoto Declaration in ASEAN towards the achievement of the SDGs**

The Kyoto Declaration was adopted at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The Kyoto Congress) in March 2021. Based on the Kyoto Declaration, Japan will engage in the following 3 projects.

- Holding the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific on a regular basis
- Holding the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness on a regular basis
- Supporting the development of new UN standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending

Both forums mentioned above will be held in FY2021. With regard to the development of new UN standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending, a draft resolution submitted by Japan to advance the development process to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was adopted.

#### **A18. Training Program for Treatment of Offenders (Focus on Prison, Probation and Parole)**

(Implemented by JICA based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement)

The program is targeted for those practitioners on criminal law, or correction and protection whose work involves treating offenders. Participants have opportunities to share their knowledge, experience, and issues, explore best practices through group discussions and visits to related facilities, and build an international network among them. The program will be held from October to November 2021.

## **IV. Economic and other possible areas of cooperation**

### <Economy and the 4th Industrial Revolution>

#### **A19. Review AHTN 2017 for HS 2022**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

AHTN code is a HS code used for trade among ASEAN countries. Japan supported the review of AHTN 2017 in line with HS 2022 through JAIF.

#### **A20. LEAD Initiative**

The LEAD Initiative was launched by the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) to support the active planning of projects in key areas such as enhancing industrial competitiveness in decarbonization and digital technologies, solving social challenges and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. In December 2020, Japan announced that it would support projects under the LEAD Initiative worth 1 trillion Japanese yen over the next six years until FY2025.

#### **A21. Supporting Program for Supply Chain Resilience by Overseas Investment Insurance.**

Under this program, the NEXI compensates Japanese companies for the loss they incurred from the suspension of overseas businesses they invested in. The NEXI offered about 250 billion Japanese yen as compensation within ASEAN in FY2020.

**A22. KPI Monitoring Support of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025)(SAP SMED 2025)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The SAP SMED 2025 charts ASEAN's efforts toward developing a "globally competitive and innovative SMEs" for the region. Japan supports this program through JAIF. Moving forward with monitoring the SAP SMED 2025, challenges remain as lack of SME statistical indicators and incompatibility across the ASEAN countries continue to impede an accurate understanding of SMEs in the region. This program aims to help MSMEs grow and reap the benefits of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

**A23. Judicial Symposium on Intellectual Property**

This program holds international conferences and seminars on disputes related to intellectual property rights (IPRs) with judicial officers from Asia, including ASEAN. It aims to strengthen their capability to settle disputes and also to offer information on IPRs-related disputes to Japanese lawyers and companies operating overseas. Symposiums were held with ASEAN and Asian countries in 2017 and 2019 and a follow-up seminar for Laos and Myanmar was held in 2020. The next symposium will be held in FY2021 for Asian countries including ASEAN, China, the ROK and India.

**<Cyber Security>**

**A24. Japan-ASEAN Cyber Security Training Program for Defense Authorities**

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

Under the "Vientiane Vision 2.0", this program aims to enhance cyber security incident response measures in the region by developing the capacity of cyber security personnel in the military and/or defense authorities of each ASEAN member state.

It aims to enhance practical skills of basic incident response in cyber space and achieve an intermediate level of cyber security knowledge and skills. Dates will be decided within FY2021.