

## **Progress Report**

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

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Japan and ASEAN 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, the ROK, the UK, the US, the 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 Leaders on the progress of Japan's 73 existing cooperation projects and to inform 16 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.

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 marine 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 December 2022 to December 2025.

#### 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 was held in November 2021.

#### 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. After that, although the training was temporarily postponed from March 2020 due to COVID-19, the two training programs have resumed since August 2022.

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

(Funds provided through JAIF (partially))

For the purpose of navigation safety in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore which is vital to global trade and prosperity of the region, Japan has been providing continued support for implementing the capacity building program for government officials of the littoral states who are in charge of inspection and maintenance of aids to navigation in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Currently, Japan is coordinating with the littoral states with a view to implementing the initiative by March 2023.

In addition, Japan and the littoral states have been conducting a joint hydrographic survey to update electronic chart in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore since 2017. The survey was suspended due to COVID-19, but the survey was resumed in July 2022 and was completed in August 2022. Based on the survey, Japan and the littoral states will coordinate on updating electronic chart.

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

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

This program aims to contribute to regional stability by promoting mutual confidence and networking among officers through the sharing of the understanding of international law and seminars on maritime security. This program has been conducted in accordance with the “Vientiane Vision 2.0”, the guiding principle for Japan’s defense cooperation with ASEAN, and as an invitation program since 2017. Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) is currently planning and preparing for the next Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program.

**6. 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 was held online from November to December 2021 and will be held online from February to March 2023.

**7. Promotion of cooperation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and their surrounding areas**

(Funds provided through JAIF (partially))

The Sulu-Celebes Seas and their surrounding areas are economically and socially fragile, due to frequent piracy incidents terrorist attacks and natural disasters etc. Against such background, Japan is enhancing its engagement in the region through efforts such as security and development cooperation. For example, Japan has donated patrol vessels, and promoted infrastructure development as well as remote islands development including the installation of a Satellite Communications System. Japan hosted maritime safety and fisheries seminars under the framework of JENESYS. Furthermore, Japan hosted investment and tourism seminars through the Japan-ASEAN Centre inviting BIMP-EAGA member countries.

**8. Professional Airmanship Program (Vientiane Vision 2.0)**

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

This program aims to contribute to regional stability by promoting mutual confidence and understanding among air services of ASEAN and Japan and ensuring the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region. Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) hosted the 2nd Professional Airmanship Program (PAP) virtually in October 2021 under the “Vientiane Vision 2.0,” the guiding principle for Japan’s defense cooperation with ASEAN. JMOD is currently planning for the next Professional Airmanship Program.

**<Marine plastic debris>****9. Training Program for Waste Management Training to Address Marine Litter**

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

It is urgent to promote sharing of experiences for 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. In 2021, the first phase of the training program was held online for 8 participants in February 2021 and the second phase was held in November. In 2022, the first phase of the training will be held online for 13 participants in October and the second phase will be held in Japan from November to December.

**10. 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 debris in ASEAN countries. In addition to the two projects mentioned in the previous report, namely, the production of documentary programs on marine plastic waste and the promotion of plastic circular society, the following three projects are being implemented. Other projects are currently being developed.

(i) Strengthening Capacity for Marine Debris Reduction in ASEAN region through formulation of National Action Plans for ASEAN Member States and Integrated Land-to-Sea Policy Approach

(ii) regional effort in combating marine debris from fisheries

(iii) Strengthening Capacity Development for Local Governments in ASEAN to Tackle Microplastics Pollution through Decentralised Domestic Wastewater Management Approach

**11. Coordination on marine plastic debris issues in various framework such as the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative and the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter**

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 has also been engaging in contributing to the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”. In order to achieve the Vision, Japan has shared information, 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”, Japan has been assisting in the compilation of actions and best practices in “the fourth G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter” in 2022.

## **12. 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**

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>**

## **13. Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative**

(Implementing organization: JICA)

At the ASEAN-Japan 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. Since then, Japan has been continuously supporting projects to enhance ASEAN Connectivity. As an update, the car terminal of Patimban Port in Indonesia, supported by Japan's ODA loan, started operation in December 2021..

## **14. 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.

### **15. 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.

### **16. 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 has started.

### **17. 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 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). Although field work programs which consist of symposiums and training on GNSS were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a symposium was held in September 2022 and training is scheduled for November 2022 both in the Philippines.

### **18. 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 hold Transport Ministers Meetings every year, and 27 cooperative projects have been implemented based on the AJTP Work Plan for 2021-2022.

### **19. 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.

## **20. 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.

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

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

(Funds provided through JAIF)

JENESYS, which is a people-to-people exchange program aimed at promoting understanding of Japan and building a basis for future friendship and cooperation, offers programs that contribute to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and AOIP. Through webinars, site visits, and exchanges of views with Japanese youth and experts, JENESYS expands international connections in various fields. With the support of JAIF, approximately 14,400 people from AMS has participated in JENESYS inbound and online exchange since 2015. In FY2021, approximately 2,200 people from AMS participated in the JENESYS online exchange with the support of JAIF.

## **22. 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 high-level 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) in May 2021 and Project Steering Committee Meetings in April and July 2021. 124 people participated in the 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, which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits. The project was completed in March 2022.

## **23. 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 is being resumed after suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

(Implementing organization: The Japan Foundation)

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 2021. These programs are still in progress in FY 2022.

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

(Funds provided through JAIF and Japan Sports Agency)

Following the First ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports which agreed on the four priority areas of cooperation, an online workshop on women in sports was held in August 2021 during the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games under the support of JAIF. Also, an online capacity building workshop on Promoting Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) and Sport for People with Disability (SPD) was held in February 2022 with the support of the Japan Sports Agency (JSA). These programs will enter its second phase in 2022 with follow up workshops under the support of JSA.

## **26. Inter-University Exchange Project**

Re-Inventing Japan Project -Support for the formation of Collaborative Programs with Universities in Asia- 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 has been continued their efforts through their own budget. CAMPUS ASIA Project (Mode3) has been expanded its scheme to ASEAN countries based on agreement by Japan, China and the ROK since FY2021. 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 have begun since FY2021.

## **27. CLMV Attachment Programme**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

JAIF has been supporting this flagship programme since 2007, which 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. Since 2007, approximately 100 young government officials have been dispatched for in-service training (or called "attachment") to the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) to strengthen their administration skills and understanding about regional cooperation. The latest one-year programs finished in September 2020, and the next program is being implemented from early 2022.

**28. 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 974 high school students from Asian countries during the three years from FY2018 to FY2022.

**<ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN)>****29. Promotion of the realization of Smart Cities in the ASEAN region through collaboration between Japan and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN)**

(Implementing organization: MLIT of Japan)

Japan and ASCN cooperated to publish the ASEAN Smart City Planning Guidebook in 2022 to support stakeholders involved in smart city development in ASEAN. Japan continues to conduct the studies on the ASCN member cities for the realization of smart cities, and will hold the 4th ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting in December 2022 in cooperation with ASCN. In conjunction with these initiatives, the Japan Association for Smart Cities in ASEAN (JASCA), established in 2019, launched a website to encourage the active participation of stakeholders.

**<Promotion of the Rule of Law>****30. 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.

**31. 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

### **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>**

### **32. 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 ASEAN-Japan 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 and Risk Assessment, 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 and February 2022, Japan conducted training programs about public health emergencies and emerging diseases to health officers from ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat. Dispatch of Japanese experts to ACPHEED is also under preparation.

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

Japan continues to support to ASEAN Member States for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, enhancing economic and social resilience, and strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) for the future health crisis, including:

- Provision of medical supplies and technical cooperation for medical workers
- Financial contribution to the COVAX Facility of up to 1.5 billion dollars and vaccine dose-sharing
- Financial contribution to the Global Fund of up to 1.08 billion dollars over the next three years -“Last One Mile Support” to develop the cold chain system through the provision of equipment such as cold storage facilities and transportation vehicles
- Building of digital immunization system
- Donation of 1 million US dollars as an independent contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.
- Donation of about 390,000 US dollars to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund from the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund in collaboration with China, and the ROK.

### **34. 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.

### **35. 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.

### **36. 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" (Completed in June 2022)
- "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"
- ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN) Phase 2

## <Environment and Disaster Management>

### **37. 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.

### **38. 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. Japan agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in climate action in the areas of transparency, mitigation and adaptation, under 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 started in 2018 funded by JAIF. A succeeding program was launched on "Marine Plastic Waste of Terrestrial Origin" and "Urban Resilience" with a focus on "Green Recovery" in the post COVID-19 as Phase2.

### **39. 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 5.6 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. The JAIF project “Establishment of an Integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) System to Strengthen the Operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre) – Phase IV” was completed in December 2021, and an ICT component was incorporated into the DELSA Phase III project, providing the AHA Centre with relevant ICT devices necessary to support emergency response operations in the ASEAN region.

**40. 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 Programme and projects under the Programme through JAIF.

AADMER Work Programme was launched on the sidelines of the First ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in October 2021, concluding the project in December 2021.

**41. Cooperation for disaster prevention measures (ASEAN cultural heritage digital archive)**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

Taking appropriate prevention measures against natural disasters is one of the most important factors in minimizing damage from possible natural 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 has been implemented in two phases and aims to preserve cultural heritage by establishing a portal website which contains data of cultural heritages. Japan thus far contributed about 200 million Japanese yen to two phases of this project through JAIF.

In the first phase, the digitalization of cultural heritages was completed in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The second phase from 2021 to 2022 supported functions enhancement of the ACHDA website, such as an addition of the E-exhibition page.

**42. ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)**

Under the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, Japan continues to contribute to the APTERR programmes in a robust manner. In 2022, Japan is planning to provide a total of 620 metric tons of pre-positioned stockpiled rice assistance to the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Philippines. In addition, Japan is also planning to provide 40,000 meals of stockpiled pre-cooked rice for the Kingdom of Cambodia and Myanmar as a new method of providing pre-positioned rice to respond more quickly to emergency situations.

This pre-positioned stockpiled rice assistance includes 20 tons of assistance that will be provided as “School Distribution Programme” which is a new method of offering pre-positioned rice that aims to support school students and/or children who attend their classes in vulnerable areas.

**43. Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF)**

Japan has been supporting the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) which aims to strengthen the financial resilience of Southeast Asian countries against natural disaster risks. SEADRIF will continue to promote the discussion on Public Asset Financial Protection Program. Further, in May 2022, ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting was held online and endorsed a concept paper for launching a new ASEAN+3 initiative on Disaster Risk Financing (DRF). This aims to involve all members and will build a further strong cooperation of DRF, building on the existing regional initiatives including SEADRIF.

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

(Implementing organization: MOD of Japan)

Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) and Japan Self-Defense Forces conducted the 4th Japan-ASEAN Seminar on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) in April 2021 with 22 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 and focused on sharing knowledge gained by each defense authority during the pandemic.

JMOD is currently planning and preparing to host the next Japan-ASEAN Invitation program on Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief.

**45. Loan 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 serving 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.

**46. Loan 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.

**47. Financing 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.

#### **48. 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 2022. In September 2022, at the 2nd 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.

#### **49. 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 supported 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. The Project ended in September 2022.

#### **50. Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk**

(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 "Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk" by sharing the experience and best practices of Japan and participating countries. The program was held online in March 2022.

#### **51. 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 was 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 was endorsed at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in October 2021. The project ended in December 2021.

### <Food Systems>

#### **52. 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. Following the strategic plan under the Joint Statement on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Systems, Japan launched the resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system initiative that includes 29 projects for ASEAN countries on SOM-AMAF+3 meeting.

### <Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice>

#### **53. 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 is engaging 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 were held in FY2021 and will be held in FY2022 as well. With regard to the development of new UN standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending, Japan is taking the lead in developing new UN standards and Norms, based on its successful experience in reducing reoffending.

#### **54. 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 criminal justice organizations or agencies responsible for treatment of 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 was held online from October to November 2021 and in September 2022.

#### **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 been continuously supporting ASEAN countries.

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

#### **55. 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.

#### **56. Cooperation through ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) and the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2022**

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 both online and onsite, and over 880 participants took these exercises by 2022, exceeding the target of 700 participants over the period of four years since the establishment of the Centre.

The ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2022 aims to promote cooperation between Japan and ASEAN countries through advancing projects on, human resource development and international cooperation in research and development related to ICT. In 2022, the project "Establishment of the standard to exchange data and information related to disaster in the ASEAN region" has started by using the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund.

#### **57. 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 130 people engaged in this program in October 2022.

#### **58. 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 50 programs are underway. (Among them, Japan is participating in 36 programs). In 2022, this program held hybrid 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. In 2021, under the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 31,000 participants from ASEAN countries took part in the online programs.

#### **59. Review of ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017 for Harmonised System (HS) 2022**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

This project aims to modernize tariff classification and adopt international standards and practices to secure a uniform system of tariff classification for customs integration which contributes to free flows of goods within ASEAN. 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.

#### **60. 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.

#### **61. 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 240 billion Japanese yen as compensation within ASEAN in FY2021.

#### **62. 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).

### **63. 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, 2019 and 2021. The next symposium is expected to be held in FY2023 for Asian countries.

### **64.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, totaling 295 billion yen for ASEAN countries.

### **65.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 was held in November 2021.

### **66.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.

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

(Funds provided through JBIC)

Japan Bank for 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. In

FY2021, JBIC has committed loans of approximately JPY150 billion in total to more than 90 projects in ASEAN countries including those supported under Emergency Window for Overcoming the COVID-19 Crisis and Post COVID-19 Growth Facility.

#### **68. Establishment of the Post-COVID-19 Growth Facility**

(Funds provided through JBIC)

With the purpose of transforming the economic structure and realizing a virtuous circle for the post-COVID-19 period, the Post-COVID-19 Growth Facility was 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. In FY2021, JBIC has committed loans of approximately JPY150 billion in total to more than 90 projects in ASEAN countries including those supported under Emergency Window for Overcoming the COVID-19 Crisis and Post COVID-19 Growth Facility.

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

The ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan, which was welcomed at the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting in 2020 and the 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) - METI Consultations in September 2021, 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 progressing. Moreover, Japan and the ASEAN countries adopted "ASEAN-Japan Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2022-2023" to develop an appropriated IP system at the 12th Japan-ASEAN Heads of IPOs Meeting in August 2022. In anticipation of development of emerging technologies and digital transformation, the further cooperation such as research project with ERIA will be conducted in FY2022-2023. The 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) - METI Consultations in September 2022 welcomed the proposal on "Strengthening ASEAN-Japan Economic Relationship toward ASEAN-Japan 50th Anniversary in 2023" to create the "Future Design and Action Plan" which will include elements of existing cooperation from the "ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan" and others, and to create the "ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision" with the business sector.

#### **70. 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 103 projects with a budget of over 35 billion Japanese yen.

In addition to these projects, Japan also adopted a total of 68 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.

**71. 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 2022.

**72. 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 renewable 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, one international experiment is running and 12 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 renewable energy. In FY2021, the number of trainees coming from ASEAN countries to Japan and Japanese experts dispatched to ASEAN countries totaled 625 individuals including participants in online training.

**<Cyber Security>**

**73. 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. The 1st Japan-ASEAN Cyber Security Training Program was conducted in February 2022 and Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) is planning the second program.

## **ADDITIONAL PROJECTS in 2022**

### **I. Maritime Cooperation**

No additional project. The progress of existing projects and additional projects in 2021 is as mentioned in the previous sections.

### **II. Connectivity**

#### **A1. Holding the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers and Follow-up to the Meeting**

In order to promote the rule of law in the ASEAN region, a pillar to realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific region, and to contribute to the formation of a rules-based international order, the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers will be held in 2023, on the occasion of the 50th year of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation, with follow-up to implement commitments.

The ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM)-Japan Consultation was held for the first time on October 26, 2021 via video conference. Japan (Ministry of Justice, MOJ) became the first non-ASEAN Member State to be invited to participate in consultations with ASLOM.

During the Consultation, ASLOM Members and MOJ discussed future plans of work such as, developing the Japan-ASEAN Work Plan on cooperation between Japan and ASEAN Member States in the field of law and justice, establishing a working group to discuss the details of the said Work Plan with a view to adopting it in 2023, and holding the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in Tokyo in that year on the occasion of the 50th year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and adopting a Joint Statement on cooperation in the field of law and justice between Japan and ASEAN Member States. All ASEAN Member States welcomed these proposals.

The ASLOM-Japan Consultation Meeting, a preparatory meeting for the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers, will be held in Tokyo in February 2023.

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

#### **<Women, Peace and Security>**

#### **A2. ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO-EWG)**

Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) has assumed the role of co-chair of the ADMM-Plus PKO-EWG with Viet Nam Ministry of National Defence in the 2021-2024 cycle. Under the co-chairmanship of Japan and Viet Nam, PKO-EWG aims to promote practical cooperation in the field of peacekeeping operations among the ADMM-Plus member states and deepen knowledge on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). In 2021, Japan co-chaired two PKO-EWGs and a WPS Seminar with Viet Nam. Japan will continue to promote practical cooperation and sharing of knowledge in the field of peacekeeping operations by leading the meetings throughout the current cycle with Viet Nam.

**A3. Development and Implementation of Facility Level Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) Framework for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in ASEAN Member States: Phase 2**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The project has been conducted in collaboration with the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) which was established by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2017. The Phase 2 of the PaSTI-JAIF Project aims to develop facility level M&R guidelines for ASEAN region following the “Road Map for Designing Facility Level GHG M&R Guideline for ASEAN Region” which were developed in the Phase 1.

**A4. Enhancing Policy and Practice in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Senior Seminar)**

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

The program is targeted for high-ranking officials of criminal justice organizations. Participants have opportunities to share their experience and future directions in crime prevention and criminal justice and establish a global network in the field. The program will be held in Japan from January to February 2023.

**A5. Loan for the Smart Ferry project along Chao Phraya River in Thailand (Private Sector Investment Finance)**

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

JICA concluded a project-finance loan agreement with E Smart Transport Co., Ltd., a Thai company, in April 2022, to introduce 27 electric ferries to the Chao Phraya River, which runs through the Thai capital of Bangkok.

**A6. Loan for Promoting Financial Inclusion of Low-income Population in Thailand (Private Sector Investment Finance)**

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

JICA signed a loan agreement with Muangthai Capital Public Company Limited (MTC) in September 2022, for Private Sector Investment Finance of up to 9.9 billion yen to finance a loan to low-income groups such as farmers, small businesses and individuals in Thailand. The loan is co-financed with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC).

**A7. Loan for Rural Area Agricultural Sector Supporting Project in Cambodia (Private Sector Investment Finance)**

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

JICA signed a loan agreement with ACLEDA Bank Plc. (ACLEDA Bank) in May 2022, for Private Sector Investment Finance of up to 85 million US dollars to finance a loan to Cambodia's agricultural sector. The loan is co-financed with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC).

**A8. Loan for the Project for Affordable Housing Finance for Low-Middle Income Households (Private Sector Investment Finance)**

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

JICA signed a 7 billion Japanese yen loan agreement with PT Bank Tabungan Negara Persero Tbk ("BTN") in the Republic of Indonesia in May 2022, through Private Sector Investment and Finance (PSIF). The purpose of this loan is to promote housing loans for low-middle income segment in the country. This loan is co-financed with Citi and PT Bank Central Asia Tbk.

**A9. Investment for Fintech Start-ups Growing Support Project (Private Sector Investment Finance)**

JICA formed a 10 million US dollars investment agreement with Lendable MSME Fintech Credit Fund, a private debt fund by U.S.-based Lendable Inc., in August 2022. Through this fund, JICA's investment will be used to finance early-stage fintech startups that are working to improve financial access in developing regions in Asia and Africa.

**A10. Project for Supporting Digital Health System for Infectious Diseases Control**

Japan, in partnership with UNICEF, is supporting digital immunization information system that allows for the monitoring of vaccination coverage and digital vaccine certification in Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Through this support, approximately 10.2 million people will be indirectly reached in these countries.

**A11. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Projects on Sustainable Wood Use Promotion in Timber Producing Countries**

(Funds provided through MAFF of Japan and Implemented by the ITTO)

Japan has contributed to the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and development of trade in tropical timber including ASEAN countries through the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

Sustainable wood use is helpful for realizing "decarbonized society" through its functions of carbon storage, and as a substitute for energy intensive materials and fossil fuels. It is also helpful for the "green recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic in wood producing countries, considering the ITTO's report that domestic consumption has proven to be a stabilizer for tropical timber production in previous economic crises.

Based on these, this project aims to promote sustainable wood use in ASEAN countries through contribution to the ITTO. The first project in Vietnam started in December 2021 (Japan's contribution: US\$ 339,500), and the similar projects in other ASEAN countries, such as Indonesia and Thailand, will be started in 2022.

**A12. Acceleration on the application of agricultural technologies, enhancing production potentials and ensuring sustainable food systems in the Asia-Monsoon region**

(Implemented by the Japan International Research and Development Agency (JIRCAS))

In 2021, Japan launched a new strategy for Sustainable Food Systems, MeaDRI, “Measures for Achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation”. One of the purposes of this strategy is to achieve the increase of production potentials compatible with improved sustainability by means of innovation in the sectors of food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Japan and Asia-Monsoon countries share certain affinities in climate conditions and agricultural practices. Therefore, new technologies developed in Japan could be found applicable and beneficial in those countries.

The collaborative research activities will be conducted to apply potential agricultural technologies such as BNI-enabled crops and Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) to the Asia-Monsoon region, utilizing networks of Japanese agricultural research institutes.

To proceed with these activities, the International Center for Strategy “MeaDRI” has been established in JIRCAS since 2022 as a networking hub and facilitate collection, analysis and transmission of appropriate sets of innovative technologies and scientific information under the advice of the Scientific Advisory Board for Strategy “MeaDRI”, which consists of outstanding scientists with deep knowledge on agriculture in the region.

Outstanding scientists from countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, and from international organizations will be appointed as members of the Scientific Advisory Board for Strategy “MeaDRI”. The first meeting of the Board was organized in October 2022 and several collaborative research activities will be launched.

**A13. Cooperation through ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management**

(Implemented by Cabinet Office of Japan)

Following the First ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and its Joint Statement in October 2021, Japan and ASEAN further promote cooperation on disaster management and disaster risk reduction by stocktaking ongoing and future cooperative programmes by Japanese Ministries, Agencies and other institutes with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Member States. Toward the development of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management, Japan and ASEAN jointly organized a needs assessment, a workshop and the first public-private seminar on disaster risk reduction in February to March in 2022.

The Second ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management was held on 20 October 2022, in which the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management was formally adopted.

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

##### **A14. Establishment of the Global Investment Enhancement Facility**

(Funds provided through JBIC)

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) established the Global Investment Enhancement Facility in July 2022 to support Japanese companies in contributing toward preserving the global environment, including decarbonization and the enhancement of supply chain resilience, the expansion of high-quality infrastructure, and the creation of new overseas markets. JBIC commits to contributing to the sound development of Japan and the international economy and society including ASEAN. In FY2022 (as of end of September), JBIC has committed loans of approximately JPY40 billion in total to more than 30 projects in ASEAN countries including those supported under Global Investment Enhancement Facility.

##### **A15. Strengthening of Cooperation Among Organizations Against Cyberattacks**

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

The program is targeted 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. The program will be held online in February 2023.

##### **A16. ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN) Phase 2**

(Funds provided through JAIF)

The AMEN project aims to institute a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system that will help Micro and Small Entrepreneurs (MSEs) access the 3Ms (i.e., Money, Market and Mentorship) so as to scale up their operations and improve their profitability and sustainability. The second phase aims to i) train and create a pool of AMEN mentors in the remaining ASEAN countries (i.e., countries other than Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines); ii) deliver enhanced and expanded mentorship modules; and iii) ensure availability of the materials in local languages. Through this project, 300 MSEs from all AMS will be mentored via an online conference platform in 2022 and 2023.