

# **AHEAD50 (ASEAN Human Educational Development Scholarship Partners) for AMTIED Officials of the ASEAN Secretariat (Short-term Invitation Program to Japan-Mission #3) Report**

## **1. Program Overview**

### **【Program Objective】**

From 16 to 22 November 2025, four senior officials from the Trade, Industry, and Emerging Issues Analysis and Monitoring Division(AMTIED) of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate visited Japan to learn about Japan's advanced industrial ecosystem, cutting-edge innovation initiatives, and its experience in responding to global economic volatility. Through this program, ASEAN aims to strengthen cooperation and innovation among its member states and to enhance regional economic growth, competitiveness, and sustainability by leveraging new technologies and addressing emerging social challenges.

### **【Overview of AHEAD50】**

AHEAD50 (ASEAN Human Educational Development Scholarship Partners) is an invitation program launched on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. The purpose of this program is to provide promising staff of the ASEAN Secretariat and other related organizations with an opportunity to learn about Japan's policies, systems, and positions, thereby strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat through human resource development and enhancing smooth cooperation with Japan.

**【Participants】** Total: 4 executive staff (1 Director 1 Assistant Director, 1 Senior Officer, 1 Officer) from the Analysis & Monitoring on Trade, Industry & Emerging Issues Division (AMTIED) of the ASEAN Secretariat

### **【Locations】** Tokyo, Kyoto

### **【Schedule】**

#### **■ Invitation Program :**

Nov. 16 (Sun)                   Arrival at Narita International Airport

#### **【Briefing】**

Nov. 17 (Mon)                   【Lecture】 "Direction of Innovation Policy"

Lecturer: Mr. WATANABE Hiroki, Director, International Affairs Office, Policy Planning and Coordination Division, Innovation and Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

#### **【Observation】** ABLIC Inc. (Semiconductor Manufacturer) Factory Tour

Mr. FUKUDA Ikuo, Manager, Administration Group, Business Partner Unit, ABLIC Inc.

- A leading analog semiconductor manufacturer

Nov. 18 (Tue)                   【Observation】 HAL Tokyo Campus Tour

Mr. TOYODA Youhei, Department Manager, Japan Educational Foundation, Planning Dept

- An education institution designed to promote innovation in frontier domains

through strategic collaboration and ecosystem development between educational and industrial sectors.

Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto

【Lecture】 “Presentation of Future Societal Visions and the Cultivation of Conceptual Capabilities”

Lecturers: Kyoto Institute of Technology

Dr. (Mr.) YAMASHITA Kenichi, Vice-President / Director of Center for the Possible Futures; Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Electronics

Dr. (Mr.) MIZUNO Daijiro, Deputy Director and Professor, Center for the Possible Futures

Dr. (Mr.) Viray Erein, Professor and Director of KYOTO Design Lab, Center for the Possible Futures

Dr. (Mr.) TERUI Ryo, Associate Professor, Program Director of Double Master Degree Program in Design with University of the Arts London, Faculty of Design and Architecture

Mr. Barna Gergely Peter, Project Associate Professor, Double Master Degree Program in Design with University of the Arts London, Faculty of Design and Architecture

Nov. 19 (Wed)

【Lecture】 “Disruptive innovation by Japanese companies, policy support for entrepreneurship, and the latest trends in innovation.”

Lecturers: Ritsumeikan University (Osaka Ibaraki Campus)

Dr. (Mr.) MINATO Nobuaki, Dean / Professor, Graduate School of Technology Management

Dr. (Mr.) Wei HUANG, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Technology Management

【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony Experience (Gen-an)

【Observation】 Mt. Hiei Enryaku-ji Temple

Nov. 20 (Thu)

Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo

【Lecture】 “The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), a Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank, supports ASEAN member states in practically addressing sustainability and resilience challenges in new areas such as financial integration and digital technology through policy research and capacity building.”

Lecturers: Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Dr. (Mr.) Bambang Brodjonegoro, Dean and CEO

Dr. (Mr.) Dil Bahadur Rahut, Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow Research Department

Dr. (Mr.) Phongpob (Ben) Methakullawat, Capacity Building Specialist

Nov. 21 (Fri)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans) 【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans
Nov. 22 (Sat)	Departure from Narita International Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Invitation Program

	
November 17 【Lecture】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	November 17 【Observation】 ABLIC Inc.
	
November 18 【Observation】 HAL Tokyo Campus Tour	November 18 【Lecture】 Kyoto Institute of Technology
	
November 19 【Lecture】 Graduate School of Technology Management, Ritsumeikan University	November 19 【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony Experience (Gen-an)

 	
<p>November 19 【Observation】 Mt. Hiei Enryaku-ji Temple</p>	<p>November 20 【Lecture】 Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB)</p>

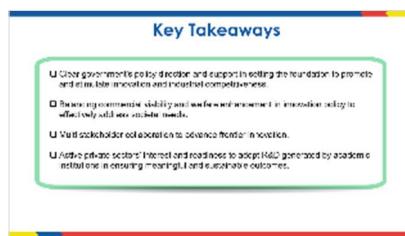
### 3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

- The discussions were really well designed, and if the sessions had been a bit longer, they would have been even more valuable.
- The presentations were very detailed. I'm looking forward to visiting the Tsukuba facility in the near future.
- It was an excellent and productive discussion with industry players in a highly strategic sector for Japan, ASEAN, and beyond. The site visits were equally fascinating—I really appreciated seeing firsthand how semiconductors are being used.
- I was deeply impressed by ABLIC Inc.'s remarkable achievements and the high-quality presentation.
- It was very interesting to see how vocational schools are working closely with related industries to develop skills and talent based on actual market needs.
- Even within the limited time, I learned about many initiatives, but with more time, we could have explored them in greater depth.
- All the presentations by the professors were full of insights.
- Kyoto Institute of Technology' KYOTO Design Lab, Center for the Possible Futures is working on a wide range of fascinating projects—from design and biodegradable materials development to enhancing the value of historically and culturally significant items. All of these collaborations were amazing and a lot to think about.

#### 4. Articles, etc.

	
<p>November 25, 2025 (Kyoto Institute of Technology's website)</p> <p>“Staff from the ASEAN Secretariat visited our university”</p>	<p>November 21, 2025 (Instagram post by Gen-An (tea ceremony experience))</p> <p>“A delegation with JICE, from Indonesia and Malaysia paid us a visit.”</p>

#### 6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

	
<p><b>【Results of the Program】</b></p> <p>◆ <b>Learnings from the program</b></p> <p>The lectures and discussion with Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Asian Development Bank Institute, lectures with Kyoto Institute of Technology and Ritsumeikan University, and site visits to ABLIC and HAL Tokyo all provided us with innovations and new learnings.</p> <p>◆ <b>Major takeaways</b></p> <p>Clear government's policy direction in innovation and balancing commercial viability and welfare enhancement in innovation policy. Also, Multiple stakeholders collaborate for innovation and private sectors adopt R&amp;D generated by academic institutions in ensuring meaningful and sustainable outcomes.</p>	

**【Action Plan】**

As AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, we ensure effective implementation of initiatives on fostering innovation, deepening industrial cooperation and enhancing competitiveness, and lead more effective cross-sector/pillar coordination. Also, we incorporate insights from Site visit to the Philippines ASEAN Chairmanship 2026. In addition, we strengthen our capacity with additional manpower, taking into account insights from Japan's ecosystem-based innovation approach.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)