

**AHEAD50 (ASEAN Human Educational Development Scholarship Partners)  
for FID Officials of the ASEAN Secretariat  
(Short-term Invitation Program to Japan- Mission#2) Report**

**1. Program Overview**

**【Program Objective】**

From 9 to 15 November 2025, four officials from the Finance Integration Division(FID) of the ASEAN Secretariat visited Japan to deepen their understanding of Japan's initiatives in sustainable finance, digitalization, and disaster-risk financing and insurance. The program was implemented with the aim of gaining insights into strategic approaches for advancing financial inclusion and financial stability, and for supporting ASEAN's efforts toward deeper financial integration.

**【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 participants from the Finance Integration Division (1 Assistant Director, 2 Senior Officers, 1 Officer) of the ASEAN Secretariat

**【Locations】** Tokyo, Kyoto

**【Schedule】**

Nov. 9 (Sun)                   Arrival at Narita International Airport

Nov. 10 (Mon)                【Lecture】 “ASEAN's Financial Inclusion and Digitalization”

Lecturer: Ms. FUKUCHI Aki, Principal Economist, The Institute for International Monetary Affairs (IIMA)

【Lecture】 Financial Services Agency (FSA)

“FinTech in Japan: Present Situation and Key Challenges”

Lecturer: Ms. TOMITA Ayako, Deputy Director, Blockchains and Innovations, Cryptoasset Exchanges Service Providers Supervision Office, Strategy Development and Management Bureau, Financial Services Agency

“Japan's Policy Initiatives for Sustainable Finance”

Lecturer: Ms. SHINOHARA Mei, Deputy Director, Sustainable Finance Office, Strategy Development and Management Bureau, Financial Services Agency

Nov. 11 (Tue)	<p>【Lecture】 “SEADRIF’s Role and Activities in DRFI”</p> <p>Lecturer: Mr. YANAGISAWA Ryoma, Deputy Director, Regional Financial Cooperation Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto</p>
Nov. 12 (Wed)	<p>【Lecture】 “Environmental Economics and Energy Policy”</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr. MOROTOMI Toru, Professor, Graduate School of Government, Kyoto University</p> <p>【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony Experience</p>
Nov. 13 (Thu)	<p>【Observation】 Mt. Hiei Enryaku-ji Temple</p> <p>Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo</p> <p>【Lecture】 “Transition Finance”</p> <p>Lecturer: Ms. MORIMOTO Yuka, Principal Deputy Director, Environmental Finance Office, GX Policy Group, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry</p>
Nov. 14 (Fri)	<p>【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans)</p> <p>【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans</p>
Nov. 15 (Sun)	Departure from Narita International Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Invitation Program

	
<p>November 10 【Lecture】</p> <p>“ASEAN’s Financial Inclusion and Digitalization”</p>	<p>November 10 【Lecture】 Ministry of Finance (MoF)</p>
	

<p>November 11 【Lecture】 “SEADRIF’s Role and Activities in DRFI”</p> 	<p>November 12 【Lecture】 “Environmental Economics and Energy Policy”</p> 
<p>November 12 【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony Experience</p> 	<p>November 13 【Observation】 Mt. Hiei Enryaku-ji Temple</p> 
<p>November 13 【Lecture】 “Transition Finance”</p>	<p>November 14 【Reporting Session】 Group photo</p>

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

- ◆ I am interested and amazed with Japan's experience on GX (green transformation). Currently, ASEAN is ongoing to do the transition economy. We will share this experience to ASEAN Member States and will provide recommendation on what Japan has done.
- ◆ The sessions have contributed mainly to the team's knowledge of Japan's initiatives on digitalization, financial inclusion, and sustainable finance through the lectures and most especially through the Q&A sessions. This may help in exploring common areas of interest between Japan and ASEAN. Key examples would be Japan's sustainability and transition finance agenda which are in line with ASEAN's ongoing initiatives.

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

<p>ASEAN Human Educational Development Scholarship Partners (AHEAD50) Program Reflection: Key Learnings, Insights, and Action Plans</p> <p>Presented by: Finance Integration Division of ASEAN Secretariat 14 November 2025</p>	<p>Key Highlights &amp; Major Takeaways</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>NO</th><th>ACTIVITIES</th><th>Key Highlights</th><th>Major Takeaways</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>“Japan’s Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policies”</td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the importance of a robust climate policy in transitioning to a low-carbon economy</li> <li>Japan’s implementation on Emissions Trading System (ETS) and renewable energy policies</li> </ul> </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of voluntary carbon markets and ASEAN is a primary step in introducing carbon pricing in the future, which can serve as a potential carbon sink in the region.</li> <li>On renewable energy, ASEAN has developed a framework for its ASEAN Power Grid by partnering with the ADB and World Bank to catalyze public and private investments to finance the APG development.</li> </ul> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	NO	ACTIVITIES	Key Highlights	Major Takeaways	1	“Japan’s Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policies”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the importance of a robust climate policy in transitioning to a low-carbon economy</li> <li>Japan’s implementation on Emissions Trading System (ETS) and renewable energy policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of voluntary carbon markets and ASEAN is a primary step in introducing carbon pricing in the future, which can serve as a potential carbon sink in the region.</li> <li>On renewable energy, ASEAN has developed a framework for its ASEAN Power Grid by partnering with the ADB and World Bank to catalyze public and private investments to finance the APG development.</li> </ul>	<p>Action Plans for Productivity and Efficiency</p> <p>2024 (January to 2025)</p> <p>• Enrich policy discussions on key topics of sustainable finance, inclusivity, and disaster risk financing not only within the sectoral bodies but also with the AN Finance Track but also build cross-sectoral synergies with other Desk Offices within the ASEAN Secretariat.</p> <p>• This will have a bearing to the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Strategic Plan 2026-2030.</p> <p>Medium Term (2026-2030)</p> <p>• Continue the meetings on Finance and Central Bank working groups</p> <p>Long Term (2030-2040)</p> <p>• Implement some of Japan’s best practices in the areas of green finance and climate resilience in the ASEAN region.</p>
NO	ACTIVITIES	Key Highlights	Major Takeaways							
1	“Japan’s Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policies”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the importance of a robust climate policy in transitioning to a low-carbon economy</li> <li>Japan’s implementation on Emissions Trading System (ETS) and renewable energy policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of voluntary carbon markets and ASEAN is a primary step in introducing carbon pricing in the future, which can serve as a potential carbon sink in the region.</li> <li>On renewable energy, ASEAN has developed a framework for its ASEAN Power Grid by partnering with the ADB and World Bank to catalyze public and private investments to finance the APG development.</li> </ul>							

#### 【Results of the Program】

- ◆ Learnings from the program

We gained deeper understanding of sustainable finance, financial inclusion, disaster risk financing, and digitalization.

◆ Key Insights / Japanese Initiatives

- Financial Inclusion: Use existing infrastructure (postal system, convenience stores) to reach remote areas.
- Sustainable Finance: Social bonds tailored to domestic needs; GX initiatives for decarbonization and transition finance.
- Disaster Risk Financing: SEADRIF's regional risk pooling and Japan's leadership in expanding donor participation.
- Climate & Energy: Carbon markets and renewable energy policies as tools for low-carbon transition.
- Innovation: Regulation of crypto assets and support for fintech development.

◆ Looking Forward

We wish to strengthen ASEAN-Japan collaboration on sustainability, financial inclusion, and disaster risk financing, while promoting carbon markets and knowledge-sharing platforms for regional decarbonization.

【Action Plan】

Short Term (Nov 2025): Share learnings internally within FID and ASEAN Secretariat.

Medium Term (Q1 2026): Cascade insights to ASEAN Finance and Central Bank working groups.

Long Term (2026 - 2030): Apply Japan's best practices in decarbonization, financial inclusion, and resilience.

Enrich policy discussions across ASEAN Finance Track to support ASEAN Economic Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)