

Video Statement by  
H.E. Ms. KUNIMITSU Ayano,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (ESCAP)  
Bangkok, Thailand, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

Honourable Chairperson,  
Executive Secretary Dr. Alisjahbana,  
distinguished guests and participants,

I am KUNIMITSU Ayano,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

This year's session focuses on the timely theme,  
“Leaving no one behind: advancing a society  
for all ages in Asia and the Pacific.”

In the Asia-Pacific region, demographic structures are rapidly changing as population ageing accelerates, while challenges in youth employment and social participation also persist.

Building a society where people at every stage of life can realize their full potential and support one another is essential for sustainable development and robust economic growth.

Japan's population has been ageing quickly.

Against this backdrop, we have worked to establish support systems for older persons while fostering inclusion in which people from youth to old age can contribute in meaningful ways.

Japan has promoted an environment where all generations can remain active in line with their aspirations by expanding employment opportunities for older persons, advancing reskilling initiatives, and encouraging social participation through digital technologies.

At the same time, we are working to extend healthy life expectancy and ensure the stability of social security systems.

Digitalization and innovation are also key to overcoming intergenerational disparities and creating new opportunities for all.

As one of the first countries to confront low fertility and population ageing, Japan will share these initiatives and experiences to offer practical insights, and work with countries across the Asia-Pacific to address common challenges.

ESCAP has served as a central forum for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among governments in the region.

Japan has actively supported ESCAP's work.

For example, together with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, Japan has provided training to government officials from 200 countries and regions, helping to build expertise in statistics.

Looking ahead, Japan will continue to support policy implementation in each country through ESCAP and strengthen evidence-based policymaking grounded in statistics and data.

As we approach 2030, time is short. Under the principle of “leaving no one behind,” we must further speed up action toward realizing a world in which everyone can prosper.

Japan will remain closely engaged with ESCAP in pursuit of “a society for all ages.”

Thank you for your attention.