Co-chair Statement of the 13th Mekong – Japan Summit

17 November 2026

Manila, the Philippines

1. On 17 November 2026, the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting was held for the first time in six years on the occasion of the 49th ASEAN Summit and related Summit Meetings in Manila, the Philippines. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae, Prime Minister of Japan and H.E. Mr. Le Minh Hung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, under the theme "Innovating Together and Building Resilience."

2. We acknowledged with appreciation the steady progress of the Mekong – Japan cooperation since our last Summit, notably the recent achievements, including the implementation of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation Strategy 2024 and the successful convening of the 17th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2026. We welcomed Japan's leadership and contributions to peace and stability in the region, as well as its steadfast support for Mekong countries to become more resilient and prosperous together, by enhancing resilience and promoting their freedom to decide for themselves to ensure economic security and human security. We also expressed appreciation for Viet Nam's active and constructive role as co-chair of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation in 2025–2026.

3. We emphasized that strengthening cooperation between the Mekong countries and Japan, building on their long-standing friendship and partnership, in the spirit of co-creation, is important for advancing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. We reaffirmed our support for ASEAN Centrality and the principles of openness and inclusivity enshrined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and encouraged closer coordination with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative on the basis of mutual benefits. We welcome the alignment of the updated FOIP and the AOIP, and stressed the importance of promoting greater synergies among the updated FOIP, AOIP and relevant initiatives under the Mekong-Japan Cooperation.

4. We recognized the importance of addressing transboundary challenges such as the energy crisis, transnational crime, the management of environmental and water resources, and non-traditional security issues. We also stressed the importance of building resilience against disasters and creating a safe and conducive environment to ensure stability and sustainable growth.

5. In particular, regarding energy, we reaffirmed the importance of maintaining well-functioning, free and transparent markets and rules-based trade amid uncertainty in the global energy market. We also recognized the importance of international cooperation on strengthening oil stockpiles and close coordination on energy between producing and consuming countries to build more resilient energy supply chains, and promote regional energy connectivity and cross-border energy trade. We welcomed the progress of cooperation under the Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWERR Asia) and the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC). We highlighted the importance of further support for capacity building and investment in clean energy infrastructure, energy transition, and modern energy storage systems to enhance regional energy security.

6. We emphasized the importance of addressing transnational crime, including transnational organized fraud and other forms of cyber-enabled fraud that pose a threat to regional and international peace and security, as a key priority area of Mekong-Japan cooperation. We welcomed Japan's support for strengthening the investigative capacities of Mekong countries and enhancing regional law enforcement cooperation, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and ASEANAPOL. We encouraged further cooperation to strengthen law enforcement capacities and raise public awareness of cybercrime prevention, including through training, information sharing and public awareness-raising activities. Building on these efforts, we expressed our intention to explore the possibility of establishing a Mekong-Japan platform to exchange information on emerging threats and explore ways to further strengthen coordination and practical cooperation.

7. We encouraged enhanced cooperation on sustainable water resources management and preparedness for and response to water-related disasters, including floods and droughts, through information sharing, capacity building and the exchange of best practices.

8. We underscored the growing importance of economic security in an increasingly uncertain global environment. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing cooperation on the promotion of trade facilitation, logistics connectivity and strengthening of resilient, transparent, trusted, diversified and sustainable supply chains to ensure reliable access to food, energy,

critical minerals, and other critical goods that are essential to economic stability and national security, especially in emergencies such as disasters, epidemics, and conflicts. We also expressed concerns about any policies and practices that affect resilient supply chains and reaffirmed the importance of an open, fair, transparent, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, and underscored the importance of ensuring that all trade measures are transparent, predictable, and consistent with WTO rules and relevant FTAs.

9. We emphasized the importance of advancing cooperation on developing and improving industrial and digital infrastructure and connectivity and on enhancing resilient and reliable supply-chain networks in the Mekong region, based on the principles on transparency, diversification, security, fairness, sustainability, inclusivity, trustworthiness and reliability. We also encouraged dialogue towards further Mekong - Japan cooperation in sustaining supply chains and developing high quality human resources in logistics.

10. We underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation, particularly in digital transformation, semiconductors and high-quality human resource development. We also emphasized the importance of building a safe, secure, and trustworthy AI ecosystem through the efforts under the Japan-ASEAN Co-Creation Initiative for AI. To underpin these physical and digital connections, we emphasized that it is vital to enhance resilience in a wide range of fundamental domains, such as quality infrastructure and supply chains, and the Mekong countries highly welcomed Japan’s cooperation in this regard.

11. We welcomed Cambodia as the next co-chair from the Mekong countries, together with Japan, for the year 2027.