

ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision: Summary

What is the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision?

- In commemoration of the 50th year of friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, **ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision aims to develop a new generation of ASEAN-Japan economic partnership, building on the bond of trust between ASEAN and Japan.** The vision strengthens ASEAN-Japan economic partnership and demonstrates the major directions, strategic goals and actions that should be taken by ASEAN and Japan to “co-create” economic and social value.
- The vision will aim to **realize “a secure, prosperous and free economy and society through fair and mutually beneficial economic co-creation, based on the trust established over the past 50 years.”** Co-Creation is a mutually beneficial relationship that is based on trust established through sharing know-how in solving various socio-economic challenges and respecting the diversity of ASEAN Member States. In realizing this vision, Japan and ASEAN will work together to pursue sustainability initiatives such as Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), promote open innovation, develop social infrastructure and strengthen connectivity, solve global and regional issues, and expand mutual human exchanges.

Why is the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision necessary?

- **ASEAN is a key region in the global supply chain and gradually becomes the center of innovation fostering startups solving socio-economic challenges.** Furthermore, the ASEAN region is increasing its presence as **“Epicentrum of Growth” of global economy** in name and reality, fueled by a growing middle class.
- Meanwhile, **striking a fine balance between economic growth and social values is critical** because there are imminent security-related risks in the field of energy, economy and food that impede global economic growth, and also increasing needs to address common and country-specific challenges such as climate change and the widening inequality associated with rapid economic growth and urbanization.
- In response to these changes, **Japan remodels its past role for ASEAN** to become a **co-creation partner**. With this vision, **ASEAN and Japan will together be a pioneer of a new economic partnership model** that realizes a “secure, prosperous and free society” as a “foundation for global stability and prosperity.”

How is the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision realized? (Four Pillars of Action)

- In order for ASEAN and Japan to realize the vision, **“Four Pillars of Action” for ASEAN-Japan economic co-creation** are defined as follows:
 - ① **Sustainability to Balance Diversity and Inclusiveness:** To address common and country-specific socio-economic challenges, ASEAN and Japan will work together to promote energy transition and suitable climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, realize a circular economy, strengthen resilience and improve living standards (well-being), respecting diversity and circumstances of each country, in a diverse and sustainable manner.

- ② **Cross-Border Open Innovation**: To realize a sustainable society, ASEAN and Japan will work together to enhance multilayered cooperation between universities and companies throughout the region and accelerate innovation in technology and business models by creating an environment and system.
- ③ **Cyber-Physical Connectivity**: To promote open innovation, ASEAN and Japan will work together to develop and innovate both hard infrastructure that has driven economic growth to date and soft infrastructure such as legal systems to support cyberspace. To this end, efforts such as the promotion of cross-border data connectivity will be implemented to transform existing industries to a new industrial base for collaboration.
- ④ **Ecosystem for Co-Creating Innovative Human Capital**: To promote co-creation, ASEAN and Japan will work together to create and maximize the potential of "Globalized Asians", i.e. "Technologically Savvy, Democratically Compassionate and Culturally Hybrid", who can lead innovation and industrial transformation on a global scale. Likewise, ASEAN and Japan will work together to enhance the "brain circulation" of highly skilled professionals and to maximize opportunities for human resource exchange and development.

How is the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision realized? (Approaches)

The ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision is realized by approaches as follows:

- ASEAN and Japanese companies will work together to **promote the "Four Pillars of Action" for ASEAN-Japan economic co-creation** and to **create economic and social value in collaboration with government agencies and economic organizations of ASEAN and Japan**.
- ASEAN and Japan will **build on the trust to co-create next generation industries and the foundation for future development**. In addition, ASEAN and Japan will continue to expand mutual trust through the implementation of further initiatives such as advancing supply chains that utilize digital technology, fostering entrepreneurs and building entrepreneurial networks, promoting the co-creation of businesses that solve socio-economic challenges, and realizing the AZEC concept.
- ASEAN and Japan will implement ASEAN-Japan economic co-creation by **taking advantage of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** as a focal point of all the efforts. **Establishing "Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy Centre" will enable ERIA to reinforce the following functions**, which further support ASEAN-Japan public and private sectors to jointly implement projects, build successful cases and expand trust.
 - Expanding its function as a center for co-creation that seeks solutions to diverse issues in order to realize the well-being in ASEAN and contribute to the realization of AZEC.
 - Strengthening its function as a center for co-creation that brings together experience, know-how, and vitality of the youth, and that implements initiatives to create an environment for promoting co-creation and maximize opportunities for human resource exchange and development.
 - Strengthening its function as a center for co-creation that promotes social infrastructure and standards and that implements initiatives in order to develop and innovate social infrastructure.