



# Joint Statement at the ASEAN-JAPAN Gen Z Business Leaders' Summit 2023

16th December, 2023

ASEAN Japan Gen Z Business Leaders Community

The Gen Z Leaders of ASEAN and Japan, henceforth referred to as 'the leaders,' convened in Karuizawa, Japan, to discuss solutions to social challenges within ASEAN and Japan and to envision the future of industry and economy. As an outcome of this meeting, the leaders have reached consensus on establishing the 'ASEAN-JAPAN Gen Z Business Leaders' Community.' This initiative aims to lead the development of an industry ecosystem where ASEAN and Japan collaboratively create value and emerge as hubs of innovation, a concept we have termed the 'ASEAN Japan Co-Creation Ecosystem.' We hereby announce this decision and propose to the heads of state that we collaborate to foster public-private partnerships in relevant fields, aiming to achieve our shared goal:

## **1. Establishing the 'ASEAN Japan Gen Z Business Leaders Community'**

The leaders are committed to further strengthening the friendships fostered during the Summit and to the establishment of the 'ASEAN Japan Gen Z Business Leaders Community.' Furthermore, to ensure the consistent implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Summit, the leaders will maintain close collaboration post-Summit. This will involve enhanced cooperation with relevant organizations and culminate in the convening of the second ASEAN-JAPAN meeting in 2024.

## **2. Promoting collaboration among Gen-Z entrepreneurs and business leaders of ASEAN and Japan to propose policy ideas and Gen-Z leader's actions to solve social issues in the following 3 areas:**

### **(1) Decarbonization/Circular Economy**

With the escalating challenges of climate change, marked by record-high global temperatures and unprecedented typhoons, developing policy measures that delineate the role of governments in addressing climate change is crucial. The primary aim of these policy proposals is to mitigate climate change, enhance sustainability, and spur economic growth. This will be achieved by encouraging businesses to lower their carbon emissions and actively engage in the carbon credit market, simultaneously fostering international cooperation and ensuring transparency.

### **Proposal of Solutions:**

- **ASEAN-Japan farm to Market Initiative (AJF2MI):** Multilaterally building an inclusive, efficient, and sustainable ASEAN-JAPAN Agricultural Ecosystem through a three-phase policy program consisting of: (1) Farmer-to-Farmer Cross-Agricultural Exchange Program (2) Open-source Stakeholder Directory & Agricultural Data Platform and (3) Farm-To-Market Annual Summit & Chef-In-Residence Program
- **Integration of Voluntary Credit Into J-Credit to Achieve Net Zero Emission Goal:** Establishing a framework for recognizing and validating voluntary carbon credits generated from projects that meet internationally accepted standards and can be leveraged in carbon tax credit system, reporting/verification and emissions trading
- **Addressing Waste Pollution in ASEAN-Japan through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Introducing an effective circular economy approach into policies such as adopting standardized environmental impact regulations based on an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

## **(2) Social Inclusion**

The importance of social inclusion is increasingly recognized globally. This is particularly evident in regions such as ASEAN and Japan, where there is an escalating awareness about the necessity of joint efforts to tackle social challenges. These challenges encompass educational disparities, employment inequalities, and the imperative of sustainable development. In light of the effectiveness of collective action, there is a burgeoning movement towards devising initiatives that promote not only economic growth but also inclusivity and societal well-being.

### **Proposal of Solutions:**

- **Establishing a knowledge sharing organization for ASEAN-Japan educators:** Establishing a knowledge sharing organization for ASEAN-Japan educators which facilitates (1) educators' exchange programme with an annual conference, (2) funding for educators to collaborate on cross-border projects, and (3) strengthening English language training among educators
- **Comprehensive Support for DX Talent Development:**
  - Budgeting to re-skilling of digital transformation talents and creating guidelines for training of digital human resource in a mutual format between ASEAN and Japan
  - Creating a more inclusive and accessible job market for people with disabilities/in an industry fallen behind on digital transformation through

re-skilling, vocational training and career development

- **DIVE! Diversity Community for Social Inclusion:** Addressing challenges from economic migration and the increasing demand for equity, the Diversity Community will empower young leaders tackling diversity issues. It offers financial aid, strategic corporate collaborations, and educational programs with mentorship, preparing leaders to create significant impacts toward ASEAN-Japan D&I (diversity & inclusion)
- **Expanding and building a new structure for ASEAN-Japan social investment:**
  - Increasing exchanges and cooperation between ASEAN and Japanese social entrepreneurs to jointly solve social issues in ASEAN-Japan such as global health, environment, gender equality and so on
  - Establishing a public-private fund exclusively for investing in social businesses, non-profit organizations

### **(3) Startup/Entrepreneur Ecosystem**

The startup sector in ASEAN and Japan is experiencing significant growth. However, these emerging businesses often face challenges in expanding into global markets and to win in the technology industry (AI, Big data, etc.). This issue is compounded by the absence of a framework for high-quality/large quality data collection and sharing, and efficient mobilization of talent within the ASEAN-Japan corridor. By actively promoting the Startup Ecosystem between ASEAN and Japan, we can catalyze the transformation of this region into a leading global hub for industrial innovation and economic development.

#### **Proposal of Solutions:**

- **ASEAN-Japan Digital Wallet:**
  - Legislative measure that mandates ASEAN and Japan to build digital wallet for natural and legal persons and things by 2030 as a foundation for new data flows
  - Ensuring technical requirements that the wallet implementers, issuers of the data into the wallet and consumers of the data from the wallet need to follow to guarantee interoperability and serve as a basis of a shared data pool
  - Funding for the large-scale and cross-jurisdiction pilots that focus on use-cases in different industries such as healthcare, education, finance, public sector, etc. to enable new technology services
- **ASEAN-Japan Startup Meta Network:** Establishing a joint ASEAN-Japan startup hub that connects startups, incubators, accelerators and other stakeholders across countries in order to enhance regional connectivity for

startups in ASEAN and Japan

- **1Pass:** Creating the ASEAN-Japan Talent Visa, which includes qualification criteria, integration programme, occupational targeting, educational ties and financial incentives in order to enable the entry and integration of highly skilled professionals, researchers, and innovators into the ASEAN-Japan industrial ecosystem

We urge leaders from each country to recognize the importance of these initiatives and support our endeavors to realize a brighter, collaborative future for ASEAN and Japan.