

ASEAN-Japan Young Business Leaders' Summit 2025 Joint Statement

We stand at a historical turning point where rapidly shifting geopolitical landscapes—marked by intensified economic competition and security concerns—intersect with global technological advancements. This is a crisis characterized by rising economic coercive actions and fragmentation, but it is also an opportunity to transform the conventional methods of cooperation between ASEAN and Japan within a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

Our activities over the past two years, including contributions to the Japanese government and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (ERIA), have deepened our cooperation. Yet, existing frameworks sometimes struggle to keep pace with this era of heightened uncertainty, compelling us to reaffirm the importance of rules-based trade and investment systems.

However, rather than viewing this complex reality with resignation, we, the ASEAN-Japan Young Business Leaders' Summit convened in Tokyo, embrace it as our shared historical responsibility and choose to act. With the participation of ASEAN BAC and ERIA, we are determined to accelerate this momentum.

We declare our commitment to navigating this uncertainty by elevating our relationship from cordial cooperation to an “**ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation Platform.**” Through this initiative, we pledge to lead in solving global issues and to advance concrete actions toward a new era of future-oriented partnership.

1. Joint-Statement: Institutionalizing the Network and Implementing into Policy

To realize continuous dialogue and the societal implementation of outcomes, we will construct a sustainable framework that transcends one-off exchanges. We commit to exploring mechanisms to integrate the ASEAN-Japan co-creation relationship into the policymaking process.

1. **Institutionalizing frameworks:** Convening the Mid-Year Summit in Thailand in FY2026 to build a co-creation framework that deepens engagement with the private sector. To ensure long-term continuity, we will formulate a sustainable operating structure—potentially including future joint funding—and establish a rotation plan for future host locations in advance.
2. **Integrating outcomes:** Regularly connecting the Summit's declarations and discussions to high-level policy agendas, such as the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM), utilizing the young leaders' network as a sustainable foundation for regional cooperation. Furthermore, formally presenting these policies to the Chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) to ensure matters are pushed into concrete action.

3. **Visualizing impact:** Developing a “Connection and Co-creation Matrix” to map long-term and short-term collaborations among leaders. This mechanism will track the results of initiatives—summarizing both successes and lessons learned—to foster better understanding and future application.

2. Policy Recommendations: Deepening the ASEAN-Japan Co-Creation Ecosystem and Establishing Strategic Autonomy

We call upon the governments of ASEAN and Japan to collaborate with the young generation of leaders on the following strategic pillars.

1. Strengthening Strategic Cooperation in DeepTech

From an economic security perspective, we recommend that governments deepen cooperation in DeepTech fields such as semiconductors, biotech, fusion energy, aerospace, and advanced materials. Specifically, we call upon governments advance the following measures:

1. **Establishing an ASEAN-Japan Technology Collaborative Investment Scheme:** We recommend that governments establish public-private funds and introduce tax incentives to promote joint investment, aiming to attract mid- to long-term private capital.
2. **Developing Co-Creation Hubs:** We urge governments to support the establishment of co-creation centers that integrate and strengthen the R&D and incubation functions of ASEAN and Japanese academia, promoting technology-driven open innovation across both regions.
3. **Removing Barriers:** We call for regulatory reforms and streamlining of visa procedures to allow ASEAN talent to work seamlessly with Japan, facilitating the development of critical technologies.

2. Building Comprehensive Supply Chains

To address current geopolitical volatility and trade uncertainties, ASEAN and Japan must strengthen economic cooperation and supply chain resilience.

1. In collaboration with ERIA, we recommend that governments develop sector-specific autonomy indicators.
2. We call upon governments to identify strategic industries and establish knowledge-sharing platforms, such as economic security seminars, across the region.

3. Joint Design and Implementation of Digital Governance

ASEAN and Japan must jointly design principles and operational rules for AI, data, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure, thereby realizing the vision of the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) .

1. **AI Platform Co-Creation:** We urge governments to support new AI platforms in ASEAN and Japan that are demand-driven and solution oriented. Leveraging Japan’s

expertise in “Industrial AI”, we will promote the mutual flow of technologies between ASEAN and Japan.

2. **Talent Development:** We recommend that governments enhance human resource development through university partnerships to advance the seamless social implementation of AI.

4. Forming an Integrated Startup Ecosystem

We urge governments to accelerate cooperation among startups, the driving force of innovation.

1. **Facilitating Cross-Border M&A:** To accelerate the integration of the startup ecosystem, we request the revision of accounting rules that hinder M&A, such as regular goodwill amortization when acquiring foreign startups, aligning conditions with global competitors under IFRS.
2. **Revitalizing the Cross-Border Listing Framework:** We urge the government to fundamentally reform the JDR system to attract ASEAN-based listings in order to unlock passive institutional capital and harmonizing regulatory frameworks so that institutional investors can treat JDRs as equivalent to domestic equities.
3. **Expand Fast-Track initiatives:** Broaden programs that link corporate challenges with startup solutions.
4. **Ensure Bidirectional Flow:** Promote two-way, multilateral exchanges, moving beyond the traditional unidirectional flow from Japan to ASEAN.

5. Strengthening Cooperation for Global Issue Resolution

We recommend that governments strengthen cooperation mechanisms to advance decarbonization and cultural collaboration across ASEAN and Japan.

1. We recommend that governments support the “Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)” and improve the investment environment for decarbonization, including cross-border carbon credit markets.
2. We urge governments to strengthen the linkage between Japan’s soft power and ASEAN markets. We emphasize that cultural and creative collaboration must focus on specific, implementable solutions that deliver tangible impact across both regions.