

ASEAN-Japan Future Generation Business Leaders' Summit 2025 Joint Statement

We stand at a historical turning point where intensifying geopolitical competition intersects with the exponential evolution of digital technology. This is a crisis that compels us to address global issues, but it is also an opportunity to transform the conventional methods of international cooperation.

Existing policymaking processes sometimes struggle to keep pace with the speed of this change, and we frequently observe situations where practical knowledge from the field is not reflected in policy.

However, rather than viewing this reality with resignation, we embrace it as the responsibility of the future generation and choose to act.

We declare our commitment to navigating this uncertainty by establishing a “**Reverse Governance**” mechanism that connects the “**wisdom of the future generation as practitioners**” to the core of policymaking. Through this initiative, we pledge to co-create a new era of sustainable and inclusive Asia.

1. Joint-Statement: Institutionalization of Networks and Implementation in Policymaking

To realize continuous dialogue and the societal implementation of outcomes, we will construct a sustainable framework that transcends one-off exchanges. We commit to;

1. **Integrating outcomes:** Regularly connecting the Summit's declarations to high-level policy agendas, such as the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting
2. **Sustaining momentums:** Utilizing the young leaders' network as a foundation for regional cooperation, with quarterly review meetings to monitor progress and align on concrete next steps beyond annual gatherings.
3. **Building a co-creation ecosystem:** Establishing a robust basis of trust—a prerequisite for regional stability—to reduce over-reliance on specific external actors on matters such as national security, data infrastructure, food security, among other areas, and contribute to a free and open regional order.

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 future generation of leaders on the following strategic pillars:

1. Updating the Modality of Policymaking

1. **Establishment of a Permanent Public-Private Exchange Platform (“Asia’s Davos”)** : Drawing on the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Business Leaders’ Summit, we propose the institutionalization of a permanent policy dialogue platform (conceptually “Asia’s Davos” for the next generation).
2. **Implementation of “Reverse Governance” & Policy Innovation:** We urge governments to adopt a “Reverse Governance” approach, creating a formal channel for recommendations from young practitioners. This platform should function as a “Policy Competition” venue, where solutions to national and business challenges are refined through a multi-year process to ensure continuity and relevance.

2. Strategic Promotion of Digital Governance and Civic Tech

1. **Joint “Trust Civic Tech Initiative”:** We propose leveraging Japan’s open government initiatives and the principles of DFFT (Data Free Flow with Trust) to co-develop administrative services. This includes enhancing data transparency and promoting participation through civic tech.
2. **Governance & Infrastructure:**
 - a. **AI Ethics:** Governments must ensure that AI systems operate within transparent, accountable, and privacy-preserving governance frameworks. We call for strict safeguards to prevent AI-driven surveillance and over-dependency, respecting each country’s regulatory autonomy.
 - b. **Secure Cloud Infrastructure:** We recommend building a high-security cloud-based platform for linking administrative data, supported by a tiered roll-out plan that reflects differences in data-infrastructure maturity among ASEAN member states.

3. Creation of Green and Digital Markets

1. **Designation of “GX Implementation Model Zones”:** We propose jointly designating special zones to demonstrate the latest Green Transformation (GX) technologies, serving as concrete implementation sites for the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) concept.
2. **Policy Packaging & Horizontal Expansion:** Insights gained from these model zones - in areas such as next-generation agriculture, drone logistics, and hydrogen/ammonia energy - should be packaged into policy frameworks for horizontal deployment across the region.
3. **Green Finance:** Identifying financing pathways to scale these technologies and explore a joint framework for the exchange of carbon credits and other green financial instruments.

4. Financial Circulation for Social Issues and Expansion of Impact Investing

1. **Incentivizing Philanthropy and Impact Investment:** To drive capital toward social problem solving, we request the introduction of tax incentives and other mechanisms to promote donations and philanthropy.

2. **Common Certification Guidelines:** We aim to work with governments to formulate the “ASEAN-Japan Impact Investment Common Certification Guidelines”. These regional indicators allow investors to evaluate social impact with confidence and prioritize beneficiary communities effectively.

5. Strategic Measures for Economic Growth

1. **Promotion of the Creator Economy:**
 - a. Support the cross-border deployment of IP and content utilizing AI, blockchain and XR.
 - b. Deploy accelerator programs and incentive schemes for creators to share cultural content, fostering a sustainable environment for creative talent.
2. **Inclusive Labor Force and Mobility:**
 - a. Establish a public-private framework to support employment and reskilling to address the dual risks of job displacement based on the social implementation of AI and robotics.
 - b. Enhance mutually beneficial mobility, including streamlining visa procedures for young professionals, to facilitate the exchange of human resources in growth industries.

6. New Forms of International Cooperation

1. **Global Health and Security:** Accelerate technologies coordination in global health, disaster risk reduction, and food security to establish a healthy degree of interdependence.
2. **Local Commitment Principle:** For successful projects developed through joint demonstration (e.g., regulatory sandboxes), we propose a “Local Commitment Principle,” encouraging local production and investment in Japan and ASEAN for a fixed period to ensure long-term benefits.