

**Policy Recommendations on “Japan-ASEAN Partnership
after the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation”
to the Governments of Japan and ASEAN
by
The 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue
co-sponsored by GFJ and ASEAN-ISIS
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Four decades of close cooperation between Japan and ASEAN have produced regional public goods including peace, prosperity, and stability. Japan and ASEAN should now take steps for further cooperation in building an East Asian Community. Towards this end, there is a real and strong expectation in the ASEAN region for Japan that can and is willing to play a substantive and effective regional role in the economic, political and security, and socio-cultural fields through Track 1, Track 1.5 and Track 2 processes. Thus, Japan will be instrumental in ASEAN’s pursuit of the realization of the three-pillared ASEAN Community, an essential building block for East Asian community building.

The 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue co-sponsored by the Global Forum of Japan and the ASEAN-ISIS wishes to present its policy recommendations to the governments of Japan and ASEAN as follows:

East Asian Community Building

1. Japan and ASEAN should conclude and begin to implement the AJCEP (ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership) at the earliest possible time as a sign of their political commitment to Japan-ASEAN partnership in East Asian community building through regional integration.
2. ASEAN should continue to encourage cooperative engagement of Japan and China in the process of East Asian community building and urge them to develop constructive relations with each other. Japan should be attentive to ASEAN’s wish in this regard.

3. Development and other gaps within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the plus three countries must be narrowed through concrete actions by ASEAN and the plus three countries. ASEAN must implement fully the blueprint for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and include concrete measures in the blueprints for the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) for full implementation to realize the ASEAN Community. In this regard, concrete measures adopted by ASEAN and Japan in the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action must be fully implemented and Japan should take concrete measures to assist ASEAN in the implementation of these three blueprints. These could facilitate community building within ASEAN and the broader East Asian region.
4. Japan should be more candid and active in encouraging ASEAN to become a more coherent, cohesive and effective actor in East Asian community building.

Cooperation in Sustainable Development and Economic Issues

5. Japan and ASEAN should establish a task force of experts on sustainable development to strengthen bilateral cooperation for sustainable development with the following tasks:
 - compile all relevant agreements related to sustainable development between Japan and ASEAN, as well as broad political declarations defining their bilateral relations;
 - review the implementation of these agreements and declarations;
 - identify the causes of implementation deficits; and
 - suggest ways to overcome the problems of implementation.
6. Japan and ASEAN should create a special expert assessment group to undertake the following tasks:
 - evaluate and/or formulate concrete ideas towards strengthening bilateral cooperation in higher education;
 - review and assess the effectiveness of existing bilateral cooperation activities in higher education; and
 - suggest new initiatives taking into account the important role of

private sector and other stakeholders in cooperation in higher education.

7. ASEAN and Japan should also deepen financial and monetary cooperation by reinforcing the Chiang Mai Initiative to meet current and future challenges brought about by volatile financial markets.

Cooperation in Politics and Security Issues

8. In the political and security field, based on their shared perception of common threats, Japan and ASEAN should adopt concrete measures to cooperate in the following areas;
 - enhancing human security against infectious diseases, natural disaster, food crisis and poverty;
 - strengthening and sustaining a non-proliferation regime for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the region;
 - redressing non-traditional security challenges such as threats to maritime security, global terrorism, environmental degradation, human and drug trafficking, and energy insecurity; and
 - strengthening measures on conflict prevention and post-conflict peace building in the East Asian region.
9. Japan should assist and encourage ASEAN to strengthen its institutional capacity to implement agreements and ensure the member states' greater compliance to their commitments which, in the long run could lead to the creation of shared values between Japan and ASEAN.
10. Welcoming the peaceful rise of China, Japan and ASEAN should encourage China to become more positively engaged in regional political and security cooperation as a responsible stakeholder in East Asia and the world. Japan and ASEAN should cooperate closely to shape a regional security architecture beneficial to all and detrimental to none.
11. To redress an ASEAN's perception of a "Japan in decline",
 - Japan should play a more positive role in Japan-ASEAN cooperation on the issue of regional security. It is the wish of the international community including ASEAN to see Japan play a

more active and constructive international role.

- Japan and ASEAN should educate the younger generation on the four decades of Japan-ASEAN productive relations, particularly Japan's contribution to regional peace, prosperity, and stability.