



Bangkok Summary of the 2nd Round Table Meeting between Emerging Development Partners from ASEAN and Japan (EDPAJ)

“Strengthening ASEAN Resilience and the Role of Emerging Development Partners for a More Secure and Sustainable Future”

9 October 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

We, the international development cooperation departments and agencies, namely the Directorate of International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Indonesian Agency for International Development (Indonesian AID), the International Cooperation and Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, the Development Partnerships Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, the Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) of Japan (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Partners”), gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, on 9 October 2026 for the 2nd Round Table Meeting between Emerging Development Partners from ASEAN and Japan (EDPAJ) (hereinafter referred to as “the Meeting”).

Building on the inaugural meeting held in Tokyo on 30 September and 1 October 2024 under the name “Round-Table Meeting among Development Cooperation Departments and Agencies of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand from ASEAN and Japan (AAAJ)”, the Partners agreed to adopt the name “**Emerging Development Partners from ASEAN and Japan (EDPAJ)**” for the Meeting and its continued cooperation framework. The new name reflects the Partners’ shared recognition of the evolving development cooperation landscape and their aspiration to foster a more mutually beneficial and partnership-oriented platform for dialogue and practical international cooperation.

The Partners welcomed the convening of the 2nd EDPAJ Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, and expressed their appreciation to Thailand for hosting the Meeting. Officially affiliated with the 2026 World Bank Group–IMF Annual Meetings, the Meeting provided a timely opportunity to highlight the contribution of regional partnerships to addressing shared development challenges.

The Partners also welcomed the participation of the Philippines as an observer, and looked forward to the participation of other emerging development partners in ASEAN for future meetings.

Summary of Meeting Outcomes as follows:

1. ASEAN in an Era of Global Uncertainty

The Meeting recognized that ASEAN is facing increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, including climate change, food and energy insecurity, public health risks, demographic transition, digital transformation, supply chain disruptions, and increasing disaster risks, amid economic uncertainties and geopolitics.

Against this backdrop, the Meeting underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN resilience and enhancing international development cooperation that is practical, responsive, and mutually beneficial.

The Meeting exchanged views on key challenges affecting ASEAN resilience and their implications for international development cooperation. Discussions highlighted the interconnected nature of economic, food, health, climate, digital, demographic, and supply chain challenges.

The Meeting recognized the need for international development cooperation to remain responsive to emerging risks and to support ASEAN countries in strengthening their capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from such challenges.

The Meeting also emphasized the importance of closer coordination, knowledge sharing, and complementary efforts among international development cooperation agencies in responding to challenges that increasingly transcend national borders.

2. Sharing Best Practices for Strengthening ASEAN Resilience

The Meeting shared policies, experiences, and good practices in areas relevant to ASEAN resilience, including food security, health security, disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, digital transformation, human capital development, and responding to an ageing society.

The Meeting highlighted the value of sharing practical experiences and lessons learned, including approaches that can be adapted to different national and regional contexts. The Meeting also recognized the potential for technical exchanges, capacity building, knowledge co-creation, and South-South and triangular cooperation to strengthen resilience.

3. Enhancing Cooperation among the Partners for a More Secure and Sustainable Future

The Meeting exchanged information on their respective priority areas, ongoing cooperation initiatives, and potential areas for collaboration.

The Meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening the Partners' cooperation through practical and future-oriented partnerships, drawing on the Partners' respective expertise and comparative advantages.

The Meeting discussed potential cooperation in areas including, but not limited to:

- food and agricultural security;
- health security and health system strengthening;
- disaster risk reduction and preparedness;
- climate adaptation and environmental resilience;
- digital innovation and transformation;
- human capital and skills development;
- aging society and demographic transition;
- economic and supply chain resilience; and
- energy security and sustainable development

The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining open and constructive dialogue among the Partners and recognized that closer networks and communication would facilitate practical cooperation and follow-up initiatives.

The Meeting also recognized the potential for the Partners to facilitate peer learning, technical exchanges, joint or complementary capacity-building activities, knowledge sharing, and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, international organizations, and partner countries beyond ASEAN.

To this end, the Meeting expressed support for continued communication and coordination among their respective focal points and for the exploration of appropriate mechanisms to facilitate follow-up discussions between meetings.

4. Future Directions of EDPAJ Cooperation

The Meeting discussed future directions, including thematic priorities, cooperation modalities, and possible collaborative initiatives. Possible follow-up may include: (i) sharing effective approaches and best practices; (ii) identifying and understanding partner-country needs and suitable cooperation modalities; (iii) exploring ways to scale up sustainable and replicable initiatives; and (iv) considering appropriate cooperation arrangements, subject to each Partner's mandate, policies, applicable laws and regulations, procedures and available resources; (v) promoting knowledge and information sharing among EDPAJ partners; and (vi) scaling up EDPAJ partnership

The Meeting expressed support for making cooperation more practical, responsive, and impactful, including through focused thematic discussions, technical exchanges, joint workshops or training, knowledge platforms, and, where appropriate, pilot or collaborative initiatives.



The Meeting agreed on the importance of maintaining regular dialogue and institutional communication among the Partners and considered the appropriate frequency, format, and potential host arrangements for future meetings, including intersessional working-level online meetings.

The Meeting noted that such cooperation could contribute to mutually beneficial partnerships between the Partners and Japan as providers of international development cooperation and could promote knowledge co-creation and mutually beneficial partnerships among developing countries and other development partners.

The Meeting noted that name change to future meetings under EDPAJ may be considered, specifically the change from “ASEAN” to Southeast Asia.

5. Conclusion

The Meeting reaffirmed the value of the 2nd Round Table Meeting as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and practical international development cooperation. By combining diverse experiences and comparative advantages, the Partners can contribute to a more resilient ASEAN and to a secure, sustainable, inclusive and people-centered future.
