



GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. Syed Harun Alhabsyi

Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of National Development, Singapore



SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Onishi Yohei

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan



SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Fukuda Tatsuo

Chief Secretary of the Parliamentary Association for ASCOJA-ASJA

Member of the House of Representatives of Japan



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Ryu Yongwook

Head, Japan Center, East Asian Institute, NUS

Orchard Hotel Singapore

Friday 11th September 2026

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Lunch & Coffee provided

PANEL 1

From Trusted Partnerships to Resilient Economies: Advancing the Fukuda Legacy in the 21st Century

PANEL 2

Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN

PANEL 3

Transformation through Innovation: Shaping the Next Generation of Japan-ASEAN Partnerships



Programme

Friday, 11 September 2026 | Orchard Hotel Singapore

8:30–9:00 AM	Registration
9:00–9:05 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:05–9:10 AM	Welcome Remarks: Ms. Shen Yue, President of JUGAS
9:10–9:15 AM	Welcome Remarks: Mr. Ogawa Gotaro, Director of ASJA International
9:15–9:20 AM	Address: Mr. Onishi Yohei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
9:20–9:30 AM	Address: Mr. Fukuda Tatsuo, Chief Secretary of the Parliamentary Association for ASCOJA-ASJA & Member of the House of Representatives of Japan
9:30–9:40 AM	Address by Guest of Honour: Dr. Syed Harun Alhabsyi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of National Development, Singapore
9:40–9:50 AM	Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation & Photo Session
9:50–10:20 AM	Keynote Address: Dr. Ryu Yongwook, Head, Japan Center, East Asian Institute, NUS
10:25–10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45–12:00 PM	Panel Session 1: From Trusted Partnerships to Resilient Economies: Advancing the Fukuda Legacy in the 21st Century
12:05–1:35 PM	Lunch Break
1:35–2:45 PM	Panel Session 2: Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN
2:45–3:05 PM	Coffee Break
3:05–4:15 PM	Panel Session 3: Transformation through Innovation: Shaping the Next Generation of Japan-ASEAN Partnerships
4:15–4:20 PM	Closing Remarks: Ms. Genevieve Tan, 2nd Vice-President of JUGAS
6:30–10:00 PM	JUGAS 55th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Guest of Honour & Keynote Speaker



GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. Syed Harun Alhabsyi

Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of National Development, Singapore

Dr. Syed Harun is Singapore's Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministries of Education (MOE) and National Development (MND), and MP for Nee Soon GRC. At MOE, he focuses on special educational needs, mental well-being, and Malay language promotion. At MND, his work spans rental housing, homeownership support, and the Built Environment sector. A former Consultant Psychiatrist specializing in general and forensic psychiatry, he holds leadership roles across national taskforces for youth, mental health, heritage, and disability support. He was named an ASEAN Youth Fellow (2023) and NCSS 40-under-40 honoree (2019).



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Yongwook Ryu

Head, Japan Center, East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (NUS)

Dr. Yongwook Ryu is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. Specializing in East Asian foreign policy, his research examines national identity, Chinese economic statecraft, and Sino-Japanese and Korea-Japan relations. A South Korea native raised in New Zealand, he previously taught at ANU and Yonsei, with visiting posts at Peking, Tokyo, Hitotsubashi, and National Taiwan universities. A former Frank Knox Fellow, he earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and speaks fluent Korean, Japanese, and Mandarin.

Presentation Topic: Japan's Engagement with Southeast Asia: From the Fukuda Doctrine to Free and Open Indo-Pacific — The evolution of Japan's engagement from trade/aid more to security/defense, and how this change poses challenges and opportunities simultaneously for Southeast Asia.

Special Guests



SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Fukuda Tatsuo

Chief Secretary of the Parliamentary Association for ASCOJA-ASJA & Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

Mr. Tatsuo Fukuda is the Chief Secretary of the Parliamentary Association for ASCOJA-ASJA and a six-term member of Japan's House of Representatives representing Gunma's 4th district. After graduating from Keio University and studying at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), he worked at Mitsubishi Corporation before serving as Chief Executive Secretary to Japan's former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. First elected to the parliament in 2012, he has held several prominent roles within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), including Chairman of the General Council (2021) and Acting Secretary-General (2024). His agenda will mainly focus on re-discovering Asian values based on the Fukuda Doctrine together now, and going forward.



SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Onishi Yohei

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Born in 1978 in Edogawa City, Tokyo, he completed his education through Rissho University, later earning a Master's degree in Public Policy from Meiji University's Graduate School of Governance Studies -Public Policy School-. After an 11-year career in the private sector, including Canon sales company and Tokyu Livable Inc., he was first elected to Edogawa City Council in 2011, serving three consecutive terms and holding key roles such as Chairman of the Assembly Management Committee. In 2024, he won a seat in the House of Representatives, and in 2025, he was appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. He also serves as an advisor to the Edogawa Rugby Football Association, having previously been a candidate for the U19 Japan Rugby National Team and a member of the 13-a-side Japan National Rugby Team.

Co-Organisers



CO-ORGANISER

Mr. Gotaro Ogawa

Japan Director, Asia Japan Alumni International (ASJA)

Mr. Gotaro Ogawa is Japan's Director for ASJA International. From 1961 to '62, he spent a year in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, as an exchange student under the AFS program. This experience led him later to serve in the Japanese Foreign Ministry for about forty years from 1968. His foreign assignments included France, the Philippines, the former Soviet Union, the Republic of Korea, Honolulu, Cambodia and Denmark. As post-retirement activities, he successively assumed the Chair of AFS Japan, Director of the International Civil and Commercial Law Center and several other posts including ASJA International Director to strengthen the ties among peoples. His hobbies include Judo, calligraphy and brush painting.



CO-ORGANISER

Ms. Shen Yue

President, Japanese University Graduates Association of Singapore (JUGAS)

Ms. Shen Yue is the President of JUGAS. Professionally, she is the Business Editor at Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore's flagship Chinese-language daily and one of the few foreign Chinese media outlets accessible in mainland China. Joining the publication in 2011, she covered local and political news before specializing in business journalism. From 2016 to 2023, she spearheaded product development, digital growth, and audience strategy for the paper. Ms. Shen holds a Master's from Harvard University (RSEA) and a Bachelor's in Economics from Waseda University (SILS).

Panel Session 1

From Trusted Partnerships to Resilient Economies: Advancing the Fukuda Legacy in the 21st Century



PANEL 1 · PHILFEJA

Mr. Jose Maria Rosalia M. Lapira

President, Philippine Alliance of Japan MEXT Scholars (PHILAJAMES)
Member, Philippine Federation of Japan Alumni (PHILFEJA)

Mr. Jose Maria Rosalia M. Lapira is a Bank Officer in the FinTech Innovation and Policy Research Group at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), focusing on financial innovation, virtual assets, Open Finance, and regulatory sandboxes. A former BSP Young Professionals Program member, his experience spans public policy, digital inclusion, and development research, including JICA-partnered projects. With over a decade in entrepreneurship, consulting, and academia, he currently serves as President of the Philippine Alliance of Japan MEXT Scholars (PHILAJAMES). Mr. Lapira holds a B.S. in Legal Management from De La Salle University and an MBA from Hitotsubashi University, Japan.



PANEL 1 · JAOL

Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong

Member, Japan Alumni of Laos (JAOL)

Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong is Vice President and Professor of Economics at the National University of Laos. He holds a PhD in Economics from Kobe University alongside civil engineering degrees from Osaka University. His research spans macroeconomic management, economic integration, and SMEs, supported by over 80 published papers in leading academic journals such as Economic Modelling. As the Editor-in-Chief of the Lao Journal of Economics and Management, he collaborates extensively with government bodies and international organizations including the ADB, World Bank, OECD, and ERIA. A former Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Scholar at Harvard University, he has held visiting appointments across Asia and North America.

Panel Session 1

From Trusted Partnerships to Resilient Economies: Advancing the Fukuda Legacy in the 21st Century



PANEL 1 · MAJA

Dr. Myo Khin

Patron & Trustee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA)

Dr. Myo Khin is a distinguished pediatric researcher and medical leader. Beginning his career in 1978 at Myanmar's Department of Medical Research, he rose to Director General before retiring in 2013. Holding an MD from the University of New South Wales and an FRCP (Edinburgh), he completed post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins and authored over 120 publications in gastroenterology and infectious diseases. A leader in medical ethics and governance, Dr. Myo Khin was elected President of the Myanmar Medical Council in 2025. He also serves as President of the International Alumni Association of Okayama University and as Patron and Trustee of MAJA.

Panel Session 2

Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN



PANEL 2 · TODAI

Professor Yujin Yaguchi

Vice President (Global Education), University of Tokyo

Professor Yujin Yaguchi is the Vice President (Global Education) and Professor of American Studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Tokyo. He also serves as the Director of the Center for Global Education (GlobE), where he leads initiatives to enhance the University's global education, and the Vice Director of the UTokyo College of Design Planning and Coordination Office, where he is involved in developing a new innovative college (UTokyo College of Design) to be established in 2027. He earned his BA from Goshen College and his master's and doctoral degrees in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. He has also been a Fulbright visiting scholar at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the East-West Center in Honolulu.

Panel Session 2

Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN



PANEL 2 · PERSADA

Mr. Dempsy Robby Kambey

Head of Organization and Cooperation, Association of Indonesian Alumni from Japan (PERSADA)

Mr Robby Kambey brings over 30 years of oil and gas experience, beginning his career at PT Arun LNG (Pertamina, ExxonMobil, and JILCO joint venture). He currently oversees Asset Management and Reliability within a private energy firm and serves on the Advisory Board for the Asian Downstream Summit, ARTC, and ACCA at Singapore International Energy Week. Educated in the UK (MBA) with specialized industrial training in the US and Japan, he holds key leadership roles across international alumni networks, including Head of Organization at PERSADA, Vice Chairman of AOTS Alumni, and Chairman of CICC Alumni.



PANEL 2 · OJSAT

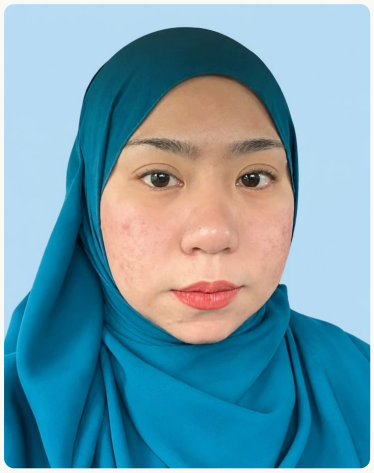
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Varesa Chuwattanakul

Secretary General and Foreign Affairs Executive Member, Old Japan Students' Association, Thailand (OJSAT)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Varesa Chuwattanakul is Secretary General and Foreign Affairs Executive Member of the Old Japan Students' Association, Thailand (OJSAT). In this role, and through platforms like ASCOJA and ASJA International, she strengthens Thailand–Japan alumni networks, cross-border academic mobility, and regional collaboration. An Osaka University Ph.D. graduate in Food Biotechnology and Food Safety, she is an Associate Professor in Food Engineering and Acting Vice Dean at KOSEN-KMITL, advancing Japanese-style engineering education. With over 12 years in academia, research, and international leadership, Dr. Varesa drives technology transfer, youth leadership, and enduring partnerships between universities, industry, and government.

Panel Session 2

Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN



PANEL 2 · BAJA

Ms. Munirah Haji Mashod

Vice President, Brunei Association of Japan Alumni (BAJA)

Ms. Munirah Haji Mashod serves in the Administration Office of Brunei's Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, having graduated from the University of Southern Queensland in 2018. An active member of the Brunei Association of Japan Alumni (BAJA) since participating in the AFS Intercultural Programs Exchange at Sapporo's Yamanote Senior High School in 2010, she served as BAJA's Public Relations Officer from 2018 to 2026 before being elected Vice President. Beyond her interests in film photography and writing, Munirah focuses on digital transformation, workforce development, and youth employability to foster a responsive workforce and strengthen ties across Brunei, ASEAN, and Japan.



PANEL 2 · JUGAS · MODERATOR

Mr. Gian Yi-Hsen

Immediate Past President, Japanese University Graduates Association of Singapore (JUGAS)

Gian Yi-Hsen is Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer at Nanofilm Technologies International Ltd, a Singapore-listed deep tech materials company, where he also leads the Advanced Materials (Consumer) business unit. Between 2023 and 2025, he served as CEO of Sydrogen Energy Pte Ltd, a joint venture with Temasek, where he drove the company's advanced fuel cell coating technology market entry into the Chinese market. Prior to Nanofilm, Yi-Hsen spent two decades at the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), where his portfolio included Cleantech, Cities, and Industrial Solutions. A University of Tokyo-trained engineer fluent in English, Japanese, Mandarin, and Bahasa, Yi-Hsen brings a rare blend of industrial strategy, cross-border deal-making, and hands-on energy transition experience to conversations on the future of sustainable industry.

Panel Session 3

Transformation through Innovation: Shaping the Next Generation of Japan–ASEAN Partnerships



PANEL 3 · JAGAM

Professor Lau Wee Yeap

Vice Chairman, Central Branch & Central Committee Executive Member, Japan Graduates' Association of Malaysia (JAGAM)

Dr Lau Wee Yeap is Professor of Economics at the University of Malaya, serving on the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) academic board and as a researcher at the Malaysia-Japan Research Centre (MJRC). A former MEXT Scholar, he holds a PhD from Osaka University, an MFE from NUS, and a Master of Applied Statistics from UM. His research spans financial economics, applied econometrics, capital markets, and ESG practices. Beyond holding key administrative roles at UM, Dr Lau has earned visiting fellowships and multiple honors, including the MAPIM-KPT Best Journal Paper Award in 2024.



PANEL 3 · VAJA

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Trung Nghia

Permanent Vice President, Vietnam Association of Japan Alumni (VAJA)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Trung Nghia is Director of the Rubber Science and Technology Center and Senior Lecturer at Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST). Educated in Japan, he serves as Permanent Vice President of the Vietnam Association of Japan Alumni (VAJA). His research focuses on green chemistry, renewable raw materials, and eco-friendly solvents. Dr. Nghia also chairs Vietnam's National Technical Committees TC45 and TC157, directing Vietnam's national technical standards for natural rubber and polymer processing.

Panel Session 3

Transformation through Innovation: Shaping the Next Generation of Japan–ASEAN Partnerships



PANEL 3 · JAC

Mr. Im Vibolka

Exco Member & Multimedia Officer, Japan Alumni of Cambodia (JAC)

Mr. Im Vibolka is an IT professional with cross-industry experience spanning manufacturing, retail operations, and technology, currently serving as IT Manager at Spacianet Co., Ltd. Throughout his career, he has worked as a Manufacturing Engineering Team Lead and later as a Shopping Center Operations Manager, before transitioning into IT and developing a strong interest in AI. His current work focuses on building AI-powered tools for the hotel industry that support travelers visiting Japan, aiming to create innovations that bridge Cambodia and Japan. A MEXT scholarship alumnus, he is committed to help the next generation of Japan-ASEAN partnerships through technology and innovation.



PANEL 3 · JUGAS · MODERATOR

Dr. Genevieve Tan

2nd Vice President, Japanese University Graduates Association of Singapore (JUGAS)

Dr. Genevieve Tan is an Assistant Director at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), focusing on financial technology, digital assets, and next-generation financial infrastructure, including tokenised assets and digital money. Previously, she was a Senior Innovation Analyst at Nippon Life, covering fintech, insurtech, and emerging business models across Asia. Genevieve holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania, with research on citizenship, family law, and colonial governance in the Japanese Empire, particularly Taiwan. She received her bachelor's degree from Nagoya University.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Evolution of Japan's Engagement with Southeast Asia: From Reconciliation and Trade to Partnership and Co-Creation

Presenter: Dr. Yongwook Ryu

Abstract

Japan's engagement with Southeast Asia has evolved across four phases: from memory to reconciliation, from trade to development, from development to partnership, and now from partnership to co-creation. With the burden of wartime history, Japan's postwar relationship with Southeast Asia was as much about rebuilding trust as about trade. The 1977 Fukuda Doctrine—pledging non-military status, "heart to heart" relations, and equal partnership with ASEAN—provided the defining conceptual pivot for Japan-Southeast Asia relations. Over decades, Japanese aid and investment built not just roads and ports but networks of human and institutional ties in the region, most vividly exemplified by Singapore's evolution from aid recipient to problem-solving partner.

Today, amid rising great power strategic competition, climate change, and supply-chain vulnerability, Japan's role has shifted toward resilience—digital, energy, maritime security—and support for ASEAN centrality, embodied in the Free and Open Indo-Pacific aligned with ASEAN's own outlook. The 2023 ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the 2026 Singapore–Japan Strategic Partnership formalize this trajectory.

The next chapter of Japan-Southeast Asia relations must be defined by co-creation—joint solutions in green technology, AI, ageing societies, and resilient economy and society—anchored in the enduring Fukuda principles of respect, equality, and trust, with Singapore serving as a vital bridge between Japan and Southeast Asia.



PANEL 1 · PHILAJAMES

FROM TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS TO RESILIENT ECONOMIES: ADVANCING THE FUKUDA LEGACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Living the Fukuda Doctrine: From Central Bank Policy to Grassroots Enterprise for Shared Prosperity

Presenter: Mr. Jose Maria Rosalia M. Lapira

Abstract

Nearly five decades after its inception, the Fukuda Doctrine's core principle, building regional cooperation on mutual, "heart-to-heart" trust, remains the essential foundation for Japan-ASEAN economic resilience. However, translating this historical policy into modern, equitable economic security requires bridging top-down regulatory frameworks with bottom-up, real-world execution.

This presentation moves beyond high-level theory to explore how "heart-to-heart" trust is actively operationalized across three distinct, real-world lenses:

- **Central Bank Policy:** Insights from a Fintech Analyst at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on how predictable digital governance, cross-border payment harmonization, and shared cybersecurity standards create macro-level institutional trust.
- **Store-Floor Enterprise:** Practical perspectives from a small business owner navigating global supply chain volatility, ingredient inflation, and merchant vulnerability firsthand across local food and beverage establishments.
- **Community & Cultural Coalitions:** Lessons from serving as Vice-President of the Maginhawa Food Community, Chair/Advisor of the UP Fair Rev Music Festival, and President of PHILAJAMES, demonstrating how merchant collectives, creative youth platforms, and alumni networks serve as local economic shock absorbers and bicultural bridges.

Ultimately, the presentation calls upon the diverse ASCOJA alumni network to dismantle professional silos. By aligning central bank policies with grassroots realities, the regional alumni community can transform the Fukuda legacy into a living engine for inclusive, shared prosperity across ASEAN and Japan.



PANEL 1 · JAOL

FROM TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS TO RESILIENT ECONOMIES: ADVANCING THE FUKUDA LEGACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Does the Gender of Managers and Owners Matter for a Firm's Productivity?

Presenter: Dr. Phouphet Kyophilavong

Abstract

There is a large body of literature examining the impact of business owners' gender on a firm's productivity. However, the findings are not conclusive. The results depend on the firm's characteristics and country-specific factors. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to investigate the impact of the gender of the business owner and manager on the firm's productivity in Laos. We used the 3rd Economic Census data collected in a 2020 survey, with a sample of 45,178 firms. Multiple regression is used for this study. The results showed that woman-owned or woman-managed firms had higher productivity than man-owned firms. These findings are consistent with other studies in other countries. Therefore, it is crucial to promote women to become business owners and managers in Laos.



PANEL 1 · MAJA

FROM TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS TO RESILIENT ECONOMIES: ADVANCING THE FUKUDA LEGACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Bridging Generations, Bridging Nations: The Fukuda Doctrine for Gen Z

Presenter: Dr. Myo Khin

Abstract

The relationship between Japan and ASEAN highlights the power of historical ties and "heart-to-heart" diplomacy. Delivered at the Manila Hotel on October 1, 2018, H.E. Yasuo Fukuda's keynote address reaffirmed the 41st anniversary of the Fukuda Doctrine. Centered on equal partnership, it emphasized Japan's commitment to pacifism, mutual trust, and true collaboration with Southeast Asia—a vision reinforced by Premier Takaichi Sanae during the 50th ASEAN-Japan anniversary in December 2023 under three pillars: Peace and Stability, Co-creation of the Economy and Society of the Future, and Heart-to-Heart Partners across Generations.

This diplomatic foundation is built on human connections dating back to World War II. Japanese signalman Okada Keizo survived the Burma Campaign thanks to the local population, while young Burmese scholar U Kyi Khin studied in Japan under the Nanpo Tokubetsu Ryugakusei program. Decades later, their sons, Okada Shigeru and Myo Khin, carried forward this legacy. Together, they drove JICA medical research initiatives, established academic links with Okayama University, founded alumni branches in Myanmar, and formed an NPO to foster medical talent.

Today, this historical dynamic faces a new era. With over 60 percent of Southeast Asia's population under 35, Gen Z and Millennials often navigate an interconnected yet fragmented world shaped by transactional politics and superpower rivalries. Although many young people know little about the Fukuda Doctrine due to limited educational exposure, its emphasis on empathy offers a vital blueprint for modern diplomacy.

To ensure the doctrine remains relevant, ASEAN and Japan must transition from a donor-recipient dynamic to an active peer-to-peer partnership. Empowering young scholars, expanding joint university research fellowships, and fostering youth-led diplomatic forums can bridge generations. By integrating the "heart-to-heart" philosophy into present-day actions, the youth can build a regional future grounded in shared prosperity, respect, empathy, equality, and a commitment to shared peace.



PANEL 2 · TODAI | TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: CO-CREATING A FUTURE-READY ASEAN

Technology and Sustainable Growth: Co-Creating a Future-Ready ASEAN

Presenter: Professor Yujin Yaguchi

Abstract

This presentation explores the significance of ASEAN–Japan relations through the lens of higher education. It argues that strengthening these relations requires greater two-way student mobility between ASEAN nations and Japan. While the number of students moving in both directions has increased over the years, there remains considerable potential for further growth. The University of Tokyo (UTokyo), in particular, should play a more active role in promoting such mobility. The presentation introduces UTokyo's new English-medium college as one example of its efforts to create more attractive and accessible educational opportunities for students from ASEAN nations.



PANEL 2 · PERSADA | TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: CO-CREATING A FUTURE-READY ASEAN

From Heart to Heart to Co-Creation: A Journey of Japan–ASEAN Energy Cooperation Under Fukuda Doctrine 2.0

Presenter: Mr. Dempsy Robby Kambey

Abstract

50 years since Japan's Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda announced the Fukuda Doctrine in Manila in 1977, Japan and ASEAN reaffirmed their partnership through what is now called "Fukuda Doctrine 2.0". The original 1977 doctrine was built on three principles: Heart-to-Heart relations, equal partnership, and a commitment towards peace and prosperity.

To address the 21st century challenges, Japan introduced three new pillars in 2023: Trust, Technology, and Innovation. This paper argues that these pillars are a strategic modernization of the original doctrine. Trust updates "Heart-to-Heart" through security cooperation and people-to-people exchange. Technology reflects "equal partnership" through co-creation in green energy, digital transformation, and infrastructure. Innovation extends "peace and prosperity" by tackling climate change, startups, and healthcare together.

Using Indonesia as a case study, from a trusted Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplier, and the Jakarta MRT to the Joint Crediting Mechanism and startup hubs. This paper shows the shift from traditional aid to mutual co-creation. The study concludes that Fukuda Doctrine 2.0 provides a roadmap for Japan and ASEAN to maintain relevance, resilience, and mutual trust amid geopolitical competition and the global energy transition.



PANEL 2 · OJSAT | TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: CO-CREATING A FUTURE-READY ASEAN

Human Capital for a Future-Ready ASEAN: The KOSEN–KMITL Model

Presenter: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Varesa Chuwattanakul

Abstract

As ASEAN undergoes major technological transformations spanning artificial intelligence, renewable energy, smart infrastructure and future mobility, technological adoption alone will not deliver sustainable economic growth. Human capital is the vital bridge between technological innovation and real-world impact. Although ASEAN has more than 200 million young people aged between 15 and 34, a key regional challenge is developing a workforce capable of operating, integrating, adapting and innovating across increasingly multidisciplinary industries.

This presentation examines the KOSEN–KMITL model, established in 2019 at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang through a co-creative partnership between Thailand and Japan, as a reference model for developing "practical engineers". Through specialised engineering education beginning at approximately 15 years of age, the model combines hands-on learning, problem-based education and industry-integrated projects. It moves beyond theoretical knowledge and memorisation to cultivate practical competence, adaptability and enduring problem-solving capabilities.

The KOSEN–KMITL experience also demonstrates how international educational collaboration can be advanced through shared principles, local ownership and mutual adaptation rather than the uniform replication of an institutional model. To strengthen this talent ecosystem across ASEAN, four mechanisms for regional cooperation are proposed: student mobility programmes, regional industry internships, portable and stackable micro-credentials, and educator and industry-practitioner exchanges.

Ultimately, preparing ASEAN for the future requires a strategic shift from merely importing technology towards investing in connected, cross-border human capital capable of adapting technology, generating innovation and addressing the region's evolving needs.



PANEL 2 · BAJA | TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: CO-CREATING A FUTURE-READY ASEAN

ASEAN AI Synergy: Study on Bruneians' Digital Readiness and Competencies

Presenter: Ms. Munirah Haji Mashod

Abstract

ASEAN AI Synergy: Study on Bruneians' Digital Readiness and Competencies explores the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) adoption across ASEAN and its implications for Brunei Darussalam's professional environments. It examines trends in AI usage and the direction of AI development, alongside Brunei's positioning as a staging ground for the digital economy and the aspirations outlined in the Brunei Digital Transformation Plan. The presentation focuses on its research titled Brunei Darussalam's Digital Resilience at the Workplace, assessing the extent to which the working population is utilising AI professionally, its current level of adoption and competencies, as well as opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. The presentation hopes to highlight the importance of strengthening digital capabilities and fostering collaborative efforts between ASEAN countries and Japan to promote the ethical, responsible, and productive use of AI in the workplace.



PANEL 3 · JAGAM

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JAPAN-ASEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Transformation through Innovation: Shaping the Next Generation of Japan–ASEAN Partnerships

Presenter: Professor Lau Wee Yeap

Abstract

Japan–ASEAN relations have evolved from post-war economic cooperation and development assistance into a broad strategic partnership encompassing trade, investment, infrastructure, human capital, and regional integration. As ASEAN enters a new era of technological and economic transformation, the next generation of partnership should move beyond conventional development models toward co-creation, co-investment, and co-innovation.

"Transformation through Innovation" envisions a future-ready ASEAN built through collaboration in frontier technologies, sustainable industries, and human-centred development. Artificial intelligence, advanced semiconductor packaging, next-generation semiconductors, robotics, digital infrastructure, and green technologies can strengthen regional competitiveness while creating new opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth.

At the same time, innovation should directly improve the well-being of citizens across Asia through smarter healthcare, resilient cities, better mobility, food security, and quality employment. By connecting Japan's technological expertise, investment capacity, and experience with ASEAN's dynamic markets, talent, and entrepreneurial ecosystems, Japan–ASEAN cooperation can become a powerful engine for shared prosperity and a more sustainable, innovative, and resilient Asia.



PANEL 3 · VAJA

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JAPAN-ASEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Technological Innovations in Natural Rubber: Driving Sustainable Growth in ASEAN

Presenter: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Trung Nghia

Abstract

Natural rubber supports many industries and the livelihoods of millions of people in ASEAN. Vietnam is an important producer and exporter in the region. However, the rubber sector faces labour shortages, climate change, and increasing demands for quality and traceability. Practical technological improvements can help address these challenges and support sustainable growth.

This presentation discusses innovations from rubber plantations to finished products. Digital tools can improve plantation management, disease monitoring, and latex collection. Better processing methods can reduce water and energy use and improve rubber quality. Renewable fillers, safer additives, and rubber recycling offer further opportunities to use resources more efficiently.

Particular attention is given to research and development at Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST), Vietnam, through its Center for Rubber Science and Technology (CEBER). Examples include protein reduction in natural rubber latex and the development of deproteinized natural rubber gloves. These activities support the development of higher-value rubber products. Other applications discussed include seismic isolation bearings, acoustic components, and vibration control parts.

For Vietnam and ASEAN, closer cooperation among universities, farmers, processors, and manufacturers is essential. HUST and CEBER can contribute through applied research, training, and technical cooperation. A proposed roadmap for 2026–2030 focuses on traceability, cleaner processing, specialty rubber materials, and regional partnerships. The aim is to create more value from natural rubber, improve farmer incomes, and strengthen the competitiveness of ASEAN rubber products.



PANEL 3 · JAC

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JAPAN-ASEAN PARTNERSHIPS

AI-Powered Japan–ASEAN Collaboration: Building the Next Generation Partnership

Presenter: Mr. Im Vibolka

Abstract

Japan's success has created structural challenges — an ageing society, a shrinking workforce, record inbound tourism, and a widening language gap — that recruitment alone cannot solve, and that reach well beyond hospitality into healthcare, retail, and local government. This presentation argues that a new answer is available now because three developments have arrived together: AI that reasons and works across languages, ASEAN's young and engineering-capable workforce, and Japan's need for both. It proposes a shift from outsourcing to co-creation, in which Japanese expertise, ASEAN talent, and AI combine to build what neither partner could build alone, and presents a Japan–Cambodia case study as evidence for that model. The session concludes that Japan and ASEAN together can create solutions every ageing, service-dependent economy will soon need.



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