



Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)

1. Background

ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Japan have a long history of environmental cooperation as symbolized by the “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative”, proposed by former Prime Minister Abe in 2017 and the following various summit-level environmental initiatives. Addressing the needs of AMS, active cooperation has evolved in climate change, waste management, and marine plastic debris. The cooperation between ASEAN and Japan has certainly contributed to the advancement of environmental actions in the region.

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation, and the “ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting for the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation” is to be held in December. We will further strengthen the cooperation between Japan and AMS in the commemorative year and address the unprecedented triple global crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Japan proposes to step up its cooperation and launch a new initiative “Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)” in addition to “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative” and “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0” in the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change (AJMDEC) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 24 August 2023.

2. Objective

The ultimate goal of the proposed program is to support AMS to address the unprecedented triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution that are mutually reinforcing and intrinsically linked, as well as an ongoing global energy crisis. It is important and urgent to tackle the triple global crisis through the implementation of global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework among others, in an integrated manner in line with ASEAN Vision 2020. To this end, the program will step up the former cooperation initiative, based on the needs and priorities of the region.

3. Outline

“Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)” consists of the following three pillars:

- I. Climate Change
 1. Transparency
 2. Mitigation
 3. Adaptation and Loss & Damage



II. Pollution

1. ASEAN-Japan Action Agenda on Plastic Pollution
2. ASEAN-Japan Resource Circulation Partnerships on E-Waste and Critical Minerals
3. Other Pollution Issues and Cooperation Approaches

III. Biodiversity

1. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Implementation Support, including capacity building through the Japan Fund for Biodiversity and measures against invasive alien species.
2. Share good practices in business and technical information on nature and ecosystem.

4. Nature of the initiative and its implementation arrangements

SPACE is the overarching framework for cooperation activities to facilitate future cooperation between AMS and Japan on environment and climate change. It does not seek to duplicate or impede existing / ongoing activities between AMS and Japan. The new initiative will complement and reinforce ongoing activities. Ongoing projects will be under previous initiatives, namely “ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative” and “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0,” while new projects will be under SPACE. Therefore, environmental cooperation between AMS and Japan will be transformed into SPACE.

SPACE is a testament to the commitment by Japan to support AMS to promote climate change actions and environmental protection in the ASEAN region. Annexes of this document (Annex 1, Annex 2, and Annex 3) enlist the cooperation activities, which Japan can offer to AMS. While all AMS will be invited to participate in all activities, each AMS may decide to prioritize their participation in some activities over others based on their respective national circumstances, domestic policies and priorities, and resource constraints. In the implementation stage, each activity is facilitated between each AMS and Japan and reported to relevant ASEAN Working Groups in due course.

SPACE is a living document and could be updated after discussion between ASEAN and Japan according to the progress of each project and the needs, view and input of AMS.



Annex 1. New Cooperation Menu on the Climate Change

1.1 Transparency

- Reinforcing the promotion of harmonized GHG Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in AMS through Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI)
- Development and implementation of facility level Measurement and Reporting (M&R) framework for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with engagement of state and non-state actors in ASEAN member states (AMS) (PaSTI)
- Support for development of the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR), including enhancing knowledge sharing, capacity development and institutional arrangements for data collection and development of country-specific emission factors for GHG inventories, tracking progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
- Formulation of pilot projects for climate-related financial disclosure by the private sector through the supply chain for financial institutions to understand and access climate risk information.

1.2 Mitigation

(1) Long-term Strategy and Policy Making

- Development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP), building upon prioritized actions for adaptation and mitigation in the “ASEAN State of Climate Change Report (ASCCR)”

(2) Decarbonization of Each Sector

- Financing support for projects to reduce methane emissions through the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Through the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan, development, demonstration and dissemination of technologies for building resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation such as reducing GHG emission
Promoting sustainable wood use in ASEAN member countries for realizing a decarbonized society and a circular economy through International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Contributions

(3) Dissemination of Decarbonization Technologies

- Capacity building for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement towards building high integrity carbon markets through the Article 6 Implementation Partnership
- Supporting the introduction of CCS in ASEAN through the formulation of CCS technical guideline
- Facilitating a continuous exchange and dissemination of know-how on technology development - with AMS through i) studying AMS needs of technology dissemination of know-how and available exchange mechanisms, ii) cooperation on competency development and potential



project development on decarbonization technologies and iii) provision of technology matching between AMS and Japan and financing support.

(4) Expansion of Zero Carbon Cities

- Comprehensive and synergetic support to urban agenda through the Clean City Partnership Program (C2P2)

1.3 **Adaptation and Loss & Damage**

- As part of climate change adaptation measures, promotion of cooperation on disaster management based on the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management 2021-2025
- Assistance Package for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage, including through practical solutions such as risk insurance schemes or Initiative to Promote the Development of Early Warning Systems (EWS) which goal is to introduce EWS in a majority of ASEAN member state by 2025.
- Cooperation on development of regional adaptation projects for vulnerable areas to enhance climate change resilience in the ASEAN region;
- Enhancement of the knowledge and competencies of the key stakeholders of ASEAN member states on loss and damage from climate change and reproducible approaches on climate risk management.



Annex 2.1 ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Action Agenda on Plastic Pollution

1. Background

Increasing amounts of plastics discharged into the environment negatively impacting our life and environment. It is resulting from production and consumption of plastic materials and products across the entire life cycle, including mismanaged waste. Macroplastics accounted for 88 % of global plastic leakage, around 19.4 million tons, and is projected to increase to 38.4 million tons in 2060. Mismanaged plastic is the main cause of the leakage, and is estimated high in ASEAN region. Most microplastics, generally as plastic particles defined less than 5 mm in diameter, are resulting from wear and tear of larger plastics. Impact of the microplastics on human health and ecosystems has also become an issue of global concern.

There is strong need to accelerate our action against plastic pollution through entire life cycle of the plastics at all levels with international cooperation especially in ASEAN region.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

ASEAN Member States and Japan would like to promote measures against plastic pollution, including microplastics, through a full-life-cycle approach and science-based approach, and to support effective, progressive and concrete actions at all levels and stakeholders including local governments, businesses, academia and scientists, NGOs, citizens, local communities.

In doing so, we aim to contribute to environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, including marine debris, a development of international legally binding instrument and its implementation, in order to end plastic pollution and to promote circular economy in the ASEAN region.

3. Expected Outcomes

- 1) The formulation and implementation of national action plans, including waste management supported and its experience shared.
- 2) The consolidation and assessment of scientific knowledge that forms the basis of measures, including through tracking and monitoring of plastics in the environment promoted, development of an inventory of related data developed, and assessment of ecological impact of plastics in marine including coastal areas and other environment assessed.
- 3) Awareness on plastic pollution raised through providing fora for an inclusive discussion with stakeholders including subnational governments, civil society and the private sector.
- 4) Enhancement of knowledge sharing and capacity development on plastic pollution including responsible production and producer responsibility through the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris of ERIA (RKC-MPD ERIA)



Annex 2.2 ASEAN-Japan Resource Circulation Partnerships on E-Waste and Critical Minerals (ARCPEC)

1. Basic Concept

- A rapid economic growth increases the volume of e-waste in ASEAN countries, which amounted to 3.5 Mt in 2019 and is expected to increase.¹ However, such e-waste is mostly disposed in landfill or improperly treated due to lack of e-waste related laws and regulations and proper recycling facilities, causing negative impacts on the environment and health.^{1,2} It is essential to address such environmental pollution while also increasing circularity and contributing to a net-zero transition.
- Drawing on Japan's robust regulatory frameworks and advanced technologies related to recycling and waste treatment, Japan will collaborate with ASEAN countries in support of building regulatory frameworks, disseminating technologies, enhancing capacity building on e-waste recycling, and promoting environmentally sound waste management. ASEAN and Japan will also promote collecting, recovering, and recycling of critical minerals and materials in e-waste, which are necessary for net-zero and more circular economies and minimizing environmental pollution as well as ensuring efficient recovery of critical minerals utilizing world-class processing facilities.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

- Increase circularity on electronics and other relevant supply chains in ASEAN countries to strengthen supply of critical minerals and raw materials for the transition to a net-zero economy, reducing associated environmental footprints on key supply chains, improving human health, fostering prosperity and enhancing resilience of economies, and collaborating with relevant initiatives and partners such as the ASEAN Framework for Circular Economy.
- Promote environmentally sound recycling of e-waste including collection, dismantling, recycling, and treatment as well as recovery of critical minerals and raw materials from dismantled parts.
- Promote the use of recovered critical minerals and raw materials for reducing negative environmental footprints (climate, biodiversity loss, pollution) of the supply chains.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Study of the current e-waste management practices, including relevant policy and regulations, recycling, waste treatment and the capabilities of stakeholders.
- Promotion of enabling environment including regulations, standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms related to handling e-waste, for proper management of the residues.

¹ UNITAR: The Global E-waste Monitor (2020)

² JICA: Information collection and confirmation survey on E-waste management in Malaysia and neighboring countries (2014)



- Promotion of capacity of relevant stakeholders (both public and private) for proper e-waste recycling, including on the enforcement of such rules and environmentally sound dismantling, processing and treatment of e-waste at local levels, while promoting efficient recovery of critical minerals and raw materials utilizing world-class processing facilities.
- Promotion of the uptake of recycled critical minerals and raw materials in key supply chains.



Annex 2.3 Other Pollution Issues and Cooperation Agenda

Besides the issues on plastic pollutions (Annex 2.1) and e-waste (Annex 2.2), there are other kinds of pollution-related issues to address, such as water, air, and chemicals. In order to tackle with these challenges following cooperation activities are to be sought:

<<Water Pollution>>

- Exchange of knowledge and dialogue on water environmental management of partner countries, sharing the lessons learnt and enhancement of cooperation with donor agencies under the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) and bilateral cooperation
- Feasibility studies and pilot projects of water environment improving technologies to be conducted by the Model Project for Improvement of Water Environment in Asia
- Promote the cooperation for application of Johkasou (decentralized wastewater treatment system) to improve water environment in Asia

<<Air Pollution>>

- Science-based policy recommendations under the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)
- Training and research programs on acid deposition and air pollution under the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

<<Chemical Management>>

- Pilot project in one selected country in Asia-Pacific region addressing lead pollution to be conducted and a baseline information to be obtained by using voluntary contribution from MOEJ to UNEP.
- Enhance knowledge sharing in the region through the Thematic Working Group on Chemical, Waste and Health (TWG-CWH), co-chaired by MOEJ and Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE), chaired by Indonesia and supporting APRFHE activities by using voluntary contribution from MOEJ to UNEP.
- Promote Japan's advanced technologies and know-how to strengthen developing countries' mercury management (in the area of mercury-free alternative in ASGM activities, emission control from the Convention's Annex D source category, waste management, mercury material flow development, pre-ratification policy framework training)
- Supporting the participants from the region to atmospheric mercury monitoring training held by MOEJ
- Holding Youth Dialogues on sound mercury management



Annex 3 Cooperation to Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss

1. Basic Concept

It is important to make efforts toward the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted in December 2022. In particular, setting national targets will be a foundation for contribution of each country. ‘Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review’ (CBD COP15, decision 15/6) requires that NBSAPs should be revised or updated, including the revision of national targets, by the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Japan also recognizes the necessity of its revision.

Japan, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, has made efforts for the contribution to biodiversity conservation at national level, including revising its NBSAP in the end of March 2023. At the same time, taking actions for biodiversity globally is integral to the achievement of the mission of the Framework that is to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. We recognize that a substantial amount of hardship is required to revise an NBSAP, swift implementation of which, therefore, could be a heavy load of work for some countries, depending on their national circumstances and conditions.

Japan is working together with ASEAN countries, to ensure further contribution from Asia region to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. To this end, the second phase of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the launch of which Japan announced at the second part of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15.2) to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be able to play an active role in these efforts, as one of the objectives of the fund is the provision of support for the implementation of KMGBF including revision of NBSAPs.

2. Overarching Objectives and Scope

The goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework range widely and are linked together. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 requires all of the twenty-three targets of the Framework, none of which cannot be left undone, and it is important to address them in an inclusive manner.

Japan aims to promote Asia region’s contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to maximize nature’s contribution to people (NCP), which is provided by biodiversity through swiftly revising NBSAPs, which is the main vehicle for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at national level and facilitating knowledge and technical information sharing between Japan and ASEAN countries.



3. Expected Outcomes

- NBSAP dialogues held to provide support for the swift revision of NBSAPs through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and support provided for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including capacity building, facilitating SATOYAMA initiative and addressing invasive alien species issues through sharing expertise among ASEAN countries about the implementation of each target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Good practices in business ,technical information on nature, and information on relevant national policy and measures including aiming for transboundary cooperation shared to contribute to development and implementation of NBSAP and the relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, including the Target 12 on the management of green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas through collaboration with existing organizations such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).