



ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice

To deepen cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in the field of law and justice in the mid-term, senior law officials of ASEAN and Japan actively discussed and developed the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice (hereinafter “the Work Plan”) and identified areas of cooperation and coordination, with a view to contributing to the promotion of fundamental values such as the rule of law and respect for human rights in ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Japan. Through the implementation of implementing the Work Plan, ASEAN and Japan will contribute to realising the commitments made in the Joint Statement to be adopted as the outcome document of the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers which will be held on July 6, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.

The Work Plan aims to promote friendship and closer cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, as well as assisting AMS in the areas of cooperation identified in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific.

It is expected that ASEAN and Japan will, in the implementation of the Work Plan, work in collaboration with relevant United Nations specialised agencies with specific expertise such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). ASEAN and Japan will also work together to seek synergies with, and avoid duplication of work or overlap of mandates with existing frameworks as well as to find the best procedure and means to implement all areas of work, including efforts to obtain necessary funding from appropriate available sources. This Work Plan should ensure flexibility to tend to the needs of AMS. Furthermore, the Work Plan and its details of the implementation scheme may be modified and concurred upon by ASEAN and Japan on a need basis.

Periodic reporting on the status of implementation is expected to take place in the forthcoming ASEAN Senior Law

Officials Meeting (ASLOM)-Japan Consultations. ASEAN and Japan are encouraged to actively report progress, exchange views and opinions, as well as discuss future steps.

All areas of cooperation and coordination identified in this Work Plan will be implemented in close consultation with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and line ministries. Nothing in this Work Plan shall be construed to change the mandate or structure of existing ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

The Work Plan is as follows:

Number	Goals	Proposed Activity
General Matters		
1	Identify common key issues in the field of law and justice to be addressed by ASEAN and Japan in the short to mid-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to hold the ASLOM-Japan Consultation on a regular basis based on consultations and consensus of ASLOM on the appropriate timing and venue - Discuss and endeavour to implement feasible measures to enhance the strategic dialogue in the ASLOM-Japan Consultation
2	Address identified key issues by enhancing knowledge and strengthening mutual understanding	- Consider sustainable means to gather experts and researchers to conduct research and/or exchange knowledge in the field of law and justice in ASEAN and Japan on a regular basis, including study visit programmes
3	Explore key elements for legal technical assistance towards	- Hold meetings to take stock of achievements so far as well as discuss key elements that could be incorporated into a future vision

	building a stronger partnership	of cooperation between ASEAN and Japan on legal technical assistance
4	Promote human resource development and capacity building through exchange of experts in the field of law and justice	- Design appropriate schemes to enable the systematic and institutional exchange of legal experts between AMS and the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice of Japan
Cooperation in Promoting Rules-Based Dispute Resolution arising from Cross-Border Business Transactions		
5	Strengthen the use of international arbitration and mediation as a means to resolve disputes arising from cross-border business transaction	<p>- Consider means to bring together participants from governments, arbitration, mediation and other alternative dispute resolutions organisations, practitioners and international organisations with relevant expertise on domestic legal systems and/or actual dispute settlement, to exchange knowledge, good practices and experiences in international arbitration and mediation, including those pertaining to the digitalization of such proceedings, with a view to exploring recommendations for implementing and/or improving domestic legal frameworks as well as contemplating international guidelines, rules and standards, where appropriate</p> <p>- Provide opportunities for arbitration, mediation and other alternative dispute resolution organisations and practitioners in the region, to build networks, consider developing a list of focal points and facilitate the exchange of information</p>
Cooperation in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		

6	<p>Strengthen the mechanisms for effective international cooperation in criminal matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutual legal assistance - Offender treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise seminars to build capacity of practitioners from AMS such as increasing the capacity of AMS on MLA in criminal matters through sharing of best practices in investigation and law enforcement methods as well as prosecution while taking into account the need for effective countermeasures against not only traditional crimes but also newly emerging crimes, and treatment of offenders or persons deprived of liberty including rehabilitation and reintegration, and establish points of contact to address common challenges in strengthening international cooperation , bearing in mind the information and best practices as well as challenges identified at the regularly held Criminal Justice Forum for the Asia and Pacific (Crim-AP) meetings - Continue to participate in, and promote active dialogues among practitioners by taking advantage of the Crim-AP as a means to strengthen international cooperation between ASEAN and Japan - Continue to implement the Kyoto Declaration through ongoing national efforts
7	<p>Promote a rehabilitative environment in the society to realise a society in which “no one is left behind” including through</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create opportunities to share knowledge on community-based treatment upon mutual request between ASEAN and Japan - Conduct activities that promote the values of community

	coordination with community volunteers	volunteers engaged in offender treatment - Conduct activities that promote the values of community volunteers engaged in offender treatment including rehabilitation and reintegration
Cooperation on Issues to Further Promote the Rule of Law		
8	Improve knowledge and understanding on issues that are key to further promoting the rule of law in the region	- Consider utilising appropriate venues, inter alia, the ASLOM-Japan Consultation to share knowledge and deepen understanding, upon discussion between ASEAN and Japan, on issues that are relevant to further promoting the rule of law and human rights, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving access to justice - promoting exchange of information on legal systems and/or good practices on intellectual property dispute resolution through coordinating and facilitating the participation of legal practitioners from AMS to the Judicial Symposium on Intellectual Property (JSIP) follow-up seminars for AMS - any other issues identified as relevant between ASEAN and Japan