

## Key Elements

- Reviewing our efforts over the past three years on defense cooperation with ASEAN under the Vientiane Vision announced in 2016
- Redefining the vision in line with the concept of the “Indo-Pacific”
- Presenting three principles for our defense cooperation with ASEAN and including enhancement of resilience as one of the ends

## 1. Review of our efforts under the Vientiane Vision

- (1) Multilateral efforts: Ship Rider Cooperation Program, HA/DR Invitation Program and Professional Airmanship Program
  - **Heart-to-heart cooperation:** Japan has contributed not only to enhancing participants’ abilities by offering various practical programs, but also to creating a sense of unity among all ASEAN member state participants by offering opportunities to work together on common issues.
- (2) Bilateral efforts: Defense cooperation programs (e.g. maritime security, HA/DR and engineering), defense equipment and technology cooperation, human resource development and academic exchanges, etc.
  - **Tailored and lasting cooperation:** Aiming to establish a self-standing system in partner countries, Japan has implemented various projects based on elaborate multi-year plans with special emphasis on the transparency of process.
- (3) Having contributed to the enhancement of ASEAN’s capabilities as a whole, especially in
  1. Ensuring the rule of law, 2. Strengthening maritime security, 3. Assisting ASEAN’s autonomous responses to regional challenges, such as natural disasters and non-traditional threats.

In so doing, we have also reaffirmed the importance of continuing and developing our efforts to uphold **ASEAN’s resilience**, which is a basis for ASEAN centrality and unity.

=> Pursuing further practical cooperation to support ASEAN’s resilience, and in turn, its centrality and unity

## 2. Redefining the Vientiane Vision in line with the concept of the “Indo-Pacific”

- (1) As the hinge connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans, ASEAN is the key to regional cooperation.
- (2) ASEAN’s principles outlined in the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific,” such as openness, transparency, inclusivity and a rules-based framework, share the same bases with those of Japan’s vision for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”
- (3) Under its vision for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” and with full respect for the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific,” Japan will promote **equal and open cooperation** through partnership with ASEAN member states and all other countries that share the principles outlined above.

# Vientiane Vision 2.0: Japan's Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN

## Three Principles for Japan's Defense Cooperation with ASEAN

- **Heart-to-heart Cooperation:** Upholding ASEAN's principles, valuing people-to-people connections and listening sincerely to partners' needs
- **Tailored and Lasting Cooperation:** Pursuing sustainable outcomes through well-planned, transparent and ongoing engagement
- **Equal and Open Cooperation:** Pursuing wide-ranging international collaboration that supports ASEAN centrality, unity and resilience

**1. Ends:** With a view to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific that holds Southeast Asia as its hinge, the Japan Ministry of Defense aims to  
1. **enhance the Japan-ASEAN Strategic Partnership** and 2. **contribute to ASEAN centrality and unity by supporting its resilience.**

**2. Ways:** On the basis of the above three principles, Japan aims to support ASEAN centrality, unity and resilience by taking the following approaches with special emphasis on three key areas of cooperation.

(1) Approaches based on the principles of ASEAN centrality and unity

- With a view to upholding ASEAN centrality, Japan promotes international collaboration between ASEAN member states and countries outside ASEAN, with a central emphasis on ASEAN-led frameworks
- With a view to upholding ASEAN unity, Japan promotes confidence-building and interoperability among ASEAN member states by enhancing connectivity and promoting shared norms and practices among defense authorities

(2) Key areas of cooperation with a view to upholding ASEAN's resilience

- Ensuring the rule of law: Promoting the development and sharing of universal norms regarding the sea and air space
- Strengthening maritime security: Promoting ASEAN's efforts to enhance maritime domain awareness capabilities, and supporting individual states' efforts to enhance their national security, and in turn, regional peace and stability
- Assisting ASEAN's organizational responses to regional challenges: Promoting ASEAN's efforts to enhance its capacity to deal with natural disasters and non-traditional threats

**3. Means:** As part of a concerted whole of government effort, JMOD conducts practical cooperation by combining the following diverse measures.

- (1) Promoting Shared Understanding of International Norms: Holding programs such as seminars with a view to share knowledge on international norms and practices
- (2) Defense Cooperation Program: Assisting ASEAN's proactive efforts for enhancing its collective capabilities by sending JSDF personnel to Southeast Asia, and inviting ASEAN practitioners to Japan
- (3) Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation: Transferring equipment and technology, developing human resources, holding seminars on defense industries, etc.
- (4) Joint Training and Exercises: Conducting bilateral and multilateral joint exercises, expanding forms of participation and inviting ASEAN observers to JSDF training
- (5) Human Resource Development and Academic Exchanges: Reinforcing human networks among students and trainees, inviting opinion leaders to Japan, etc.