



# ASEAN-Japan, We Grow Together



**The ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Consultation Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) was established in 1998.**

The AMEICC Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

General information on AMEICC appears online at the AMEICC Website [www.ameicc.org](http://www.ameicc.org)

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AMEICC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – ASEAN-Japan, We Grow Together -

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# Foreword



## **H.E. Mr. Chan Chun Sing Minister of Trade and Industry, Singapore**

It is my pleasure to contribute a foreword to this publication on the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Economic Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) ties.

ASEAN-Japan relations are deep and longstanding. Since the establishment of dialogue relations in 1973, economic and trade links between ASEAN and Japan have expanded over the years. Japan has consistently featured amongst ASEAN's top five trading partners.



## **H.E. Mr. Hiroshige Sekou Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Japan**

AMEICC was established to support ASEAN countries facing the 1997 Asian economic crisis. Over the past twenty years, AMEICC has conducted a number of projects, with the basic objective of strengthening the competitiveness of ASEAN, the development of the industrial cooperation, and collaboration with new and affiliated members. These efforts have led to the growth of ASEAN economies and the promotion of Japanese trade and investment activities through the development of the region's business environment.

Recognizing the need to deepen economic integration in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis, ASEAN agreed to form the ASEAN Economic Community in 2003.



## **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi Secretary-General of ASEAN**

It is my pleasure to contribute a foreword to this publication as we mark the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Consultations Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) this year.



The AMEICC has been an integral part of strengthening ASEAN-Japan economic relations since it was first established 20 years ago. The AMEICC has played a key role in ASEAN's regional integration efforts with its programmes for development cooperation. The AMEICC's programmes have acted as a catalyst for the next phase of ASEAN's economic integration under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. We also welcome AMEICC's continued support to ensure that ASEAN markets remain open and competitive in this increasingly challenging global economic climate.

This publication is timely. It comprehensively sets out AMEICC's efforts, in cooperation with ASEAN, in deepening ASEAN's capacity for industrial development, especially in emerging industries.

As ASEAN Chair for 2018, Singapore's focus this year is to strengthen ASEAN to become a more resilient and innovative region. This ties in well with one of AMEICC's key priori-

ties, which is to promote innovation and the creation of new industries in this region. With the support from AMEICC, many networking and business matching events have been held between ASEAN and Japanese companies to create awareness of opportunities for them. This is especially important for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in both ASEAN and Japan to build partnerships and networks, particularly in the area of innovation.

The breadth and depth of AMEICC's ties with ASEAN is a testament to the robust relationship between METI and ASEAN governments. I am confident that this will continue to grow to greater heights in the coming years.



Singapore, July 2018

Following this, AMEICC contributed to the establishment of the Community in 2015 by cooperating with ASEAN efforts through four working groups: West-East Corridor Development; Automotive Industries; Chemical Industries; and SMEs. The deepening of ASEAN economic integration has attracted investment from Japan, and the synergistic effect that this FDI has in further promoting economic integration has made the Japan-ASEAN economic relationship ever stronger.

Current priority issues of ASEAN are solving social issues such as industrial upgrading through innovation, aging of populations, and urbanization. These issues are stated in the ASEAN Economic Community Blue Print 2025 adapted along with the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community. Based on this background, AMEICC conducts pilot projects and matching services to promote business collaboration across borders and industries in order to transform development challenges into business opportunities for Japanese and ASEAN companies.

In this way, AMEICC has grown with the development of ASEAN, and has been supporting ASEAN goals through cooperation and collaboration. AMEICC will continue to do so, and will respond to new challenges such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution and contribute to the further development of ASEAN.

This book "Japan and ASEAN, We Grow Together – Commemorative 20th Anniversary of the establishment of AMEICC" looks back on the progress that Japan and ASEAN have experienced together and illuminates the possibility of further cooperation in the future. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will further deepen Japan-ASEAN cooperation through contribution to AMEICC.



Tokyo Japan, July 2018

Japan is an important and significant contributor to ASEAN's economic growth and resilience, and AMEICC is one such example of our strong cooperation and strategic partnership. While this publication serves as a practical demonstration of the AMEICC's contributions to date, it also chronicles the progress and achievements of ASEAN-Japan relations, and reflects the rich history of our cooperation especially as we enter the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations this year.

AMEICC has its roots in METI Japan's partnership with ASEAN in promoting ASEAN's economic and industrial expansion through development cooperation. The various support and

development cooperation assistance, including to newer member states, directly contribute to ASEAN economic integration efforts, and in enhancing ASEAN's competitiveness. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to AMEICC on this occasion, and hope for many more years of fruitful collaboration and continued success.



Jakarta Indonesia, July 2018

# Overview of the AMEICC

## A catalyst for multilateral policy dialogue and industrial human resource development

The “Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan Consultation Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee” (AMEICC) marks the 20th anniversary of its establishment in 2018. As a body for policy consultations, AMEICC’s original objectives were: improving ASEAN competitiveness, enhancing industrial cooperation, and giving developmental cooperation assistance to new member countries. But in conjunction with the economic environment surrounding ASEAN and ASEAN’s continuing and increasing needs, the AMEICC’s role and cooperative activities have roughly changed in each three different periods, whereas the AMEICC’s mission has been consistently to act as a “catalyst” for ASEAN development through discussions with multiple stakeholders including ASEAN member states at all levels, and dealing with ASEAN’s challenges by mainly providing soft infrastructure cooperation.

### **1st period: To help recover ASEAN’s economy and industry from devastating depression by Asian Financial Crisis**

Based on the successful progress of the cooperative activities for the transitional economies in Indochina (i.e. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam), Japan reaffirmed its policy of promoting the economic and industrial revival of ASEAN since the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997. It did this by establishing an appropriate mechanism to exchange views and information concerning issues relating to cooperation about ASEAN-Japan under the co-chairmanship at a ministerial level. In line with this, AMEICC was established in 1998 following its endorsement at the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 1997. In this 1st period, AMEICC organized sectoral dialogues between ASEAN and Japan governments in Working Groups and provided support in order to strengthen the industrial foundation of ASEAN by developing human resource.

### **2nd period: To promote ASEAN’s economic integration**

After ASEAN had dimbed out of depression, it aimed to foster regional integration as one economic community to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN economic region.

In line with this, AMEICC had also changed its goals to support the building of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). One of these goals was to formulate ASEAN’s strategic action plan/road-map. To accomplish equitable economic development, AMEICC had supported the formulation of the “ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 (SAP-SMED 2025)” and developed monitoring and evaluation guideline for SAP-SMED 2025. In addition, to narrow the development gap between the six older member states of ASEAN and CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam), AMEICC formulated the “Mekong-Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Initiative (MJ-CI) 2009-2015” and in turn the “Mekong Industrial Development Vision (2016-2020)” to promote Mekong development through discussion at AMEICC’s West-East Corridor Development Working Group (WEC-WG) and have been following up and monitoring this.

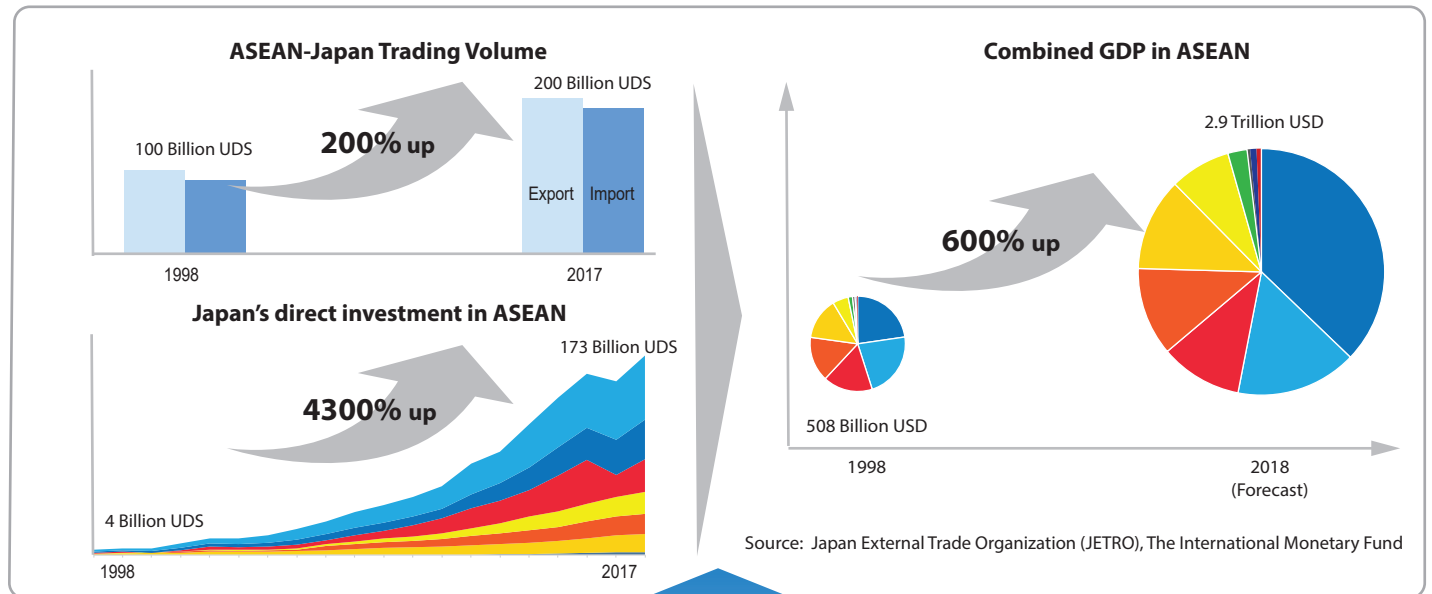
### **3rd period: To accomplish ASEAN’s further development under a new era**

At present, ASEAN’s main priority is the enhancement of industrial structure and social problem-solving. One of the key approaches is to promote the innovation and development of start-up companies. AMEICC has implemented a joint pilot project nurturing new industry between ASEAN and Japanese companies as well as networking and business matching.



SME Success Stories launch at an informal AEM-METI meeting in November 2017 in Manila, the Philippines

# A catalyst to drive the economic and industrial development in ASEAN



Private sector partners



Other development partners  
(JETRO, ADB, AOTS, etc.)

## 1. Discussion at the ministerial level

AEM-METI / MJ-EMM



## 2. Projects

## 3. Sectoral working groups



Human Resource Development



Symposium, Seminar



Pilot Project



Automobile Industry



Chemical Industry



Small & Medium Enterprises



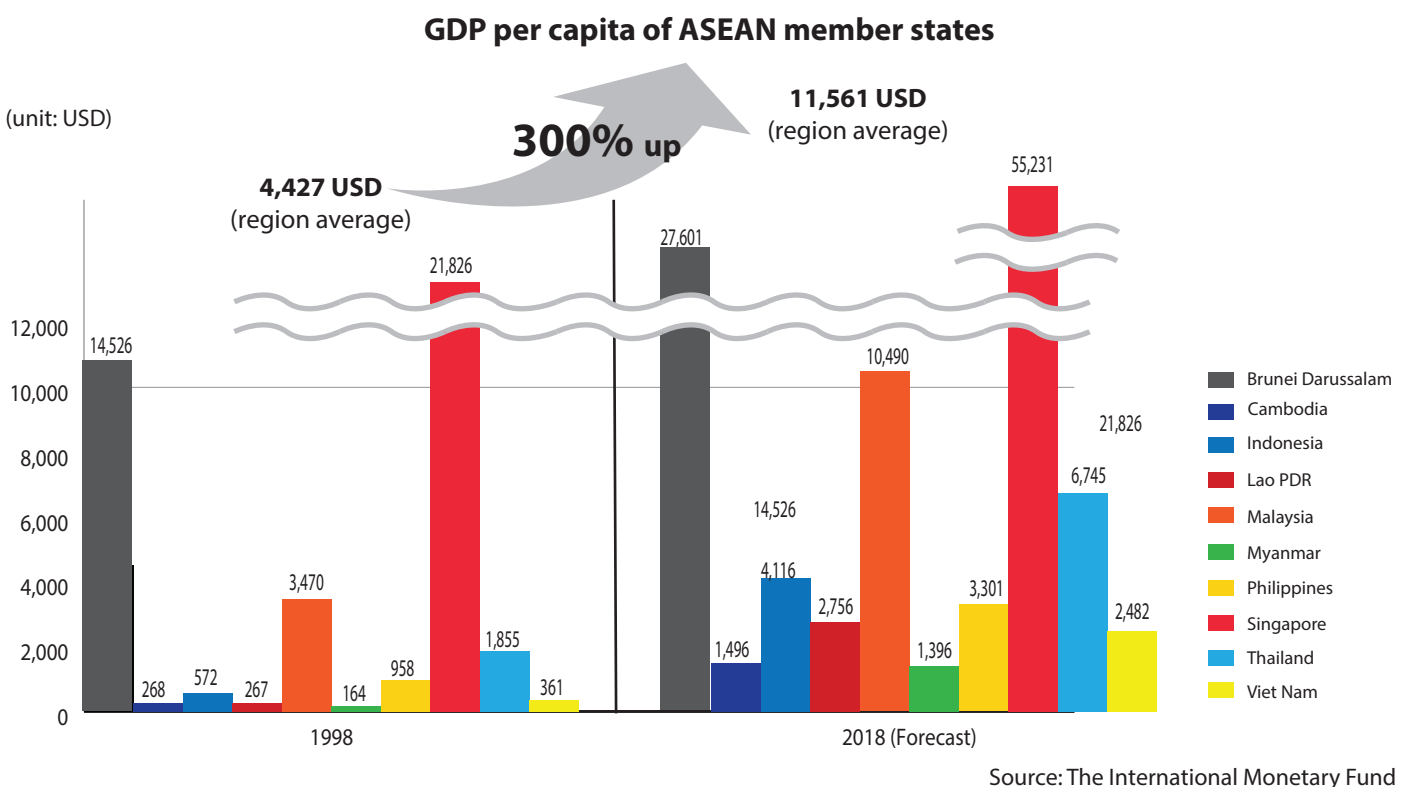
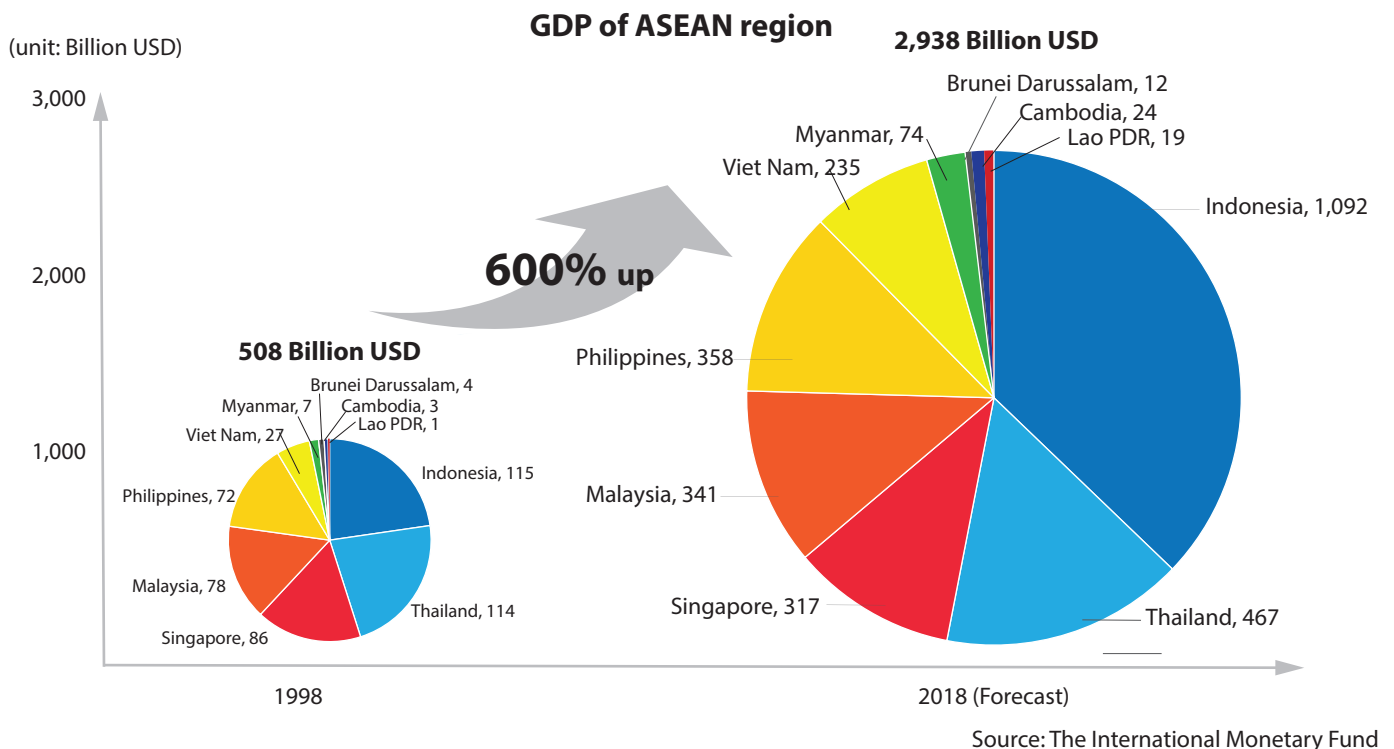
West-East Corridor Development

# Outlook of the ASEAN Economy

## Retrospective and prospective view of the growth of the region

**ASEAN is currently the 3rd largest economy in Asia and the 5th largest in the world** with nearly three trillion USD in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). ASEAN's GDP has expanded almost 6-fold (600%) in the past 20 years. The ASEAN economy is projected to grow at over 6% per year, and its regional GDP is expected to exceed four trillion USD in 2020.

ASEAN's GDP per capita has also increased 3-fold (300%) in 20 years, which indicates the higher purchasing power of the population. With a population 650 million people in 2018, ASEAN's economy shows a promising potential for growth. In addition, six out of ten ASEAN member states have a young society. Their working-age population and consumption demand are expected to boost its strength as global production hub as well as the consumption market.

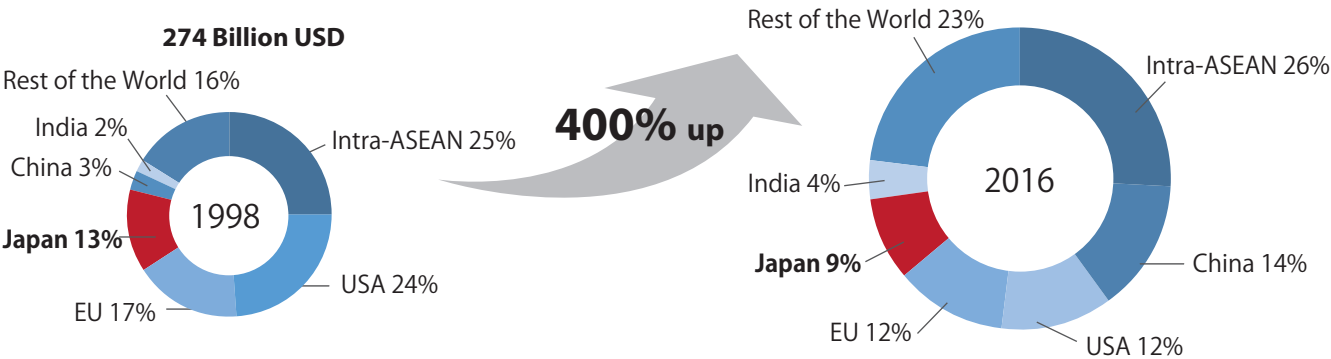


**The ASEAN region's total export and import volume have grown almost 4-fold** over the past 20 years, with both reaching the 1 trillion USD level in 2016. Japan is the **3rd largest** export destination of ASEAN, and the **2nd largest** import source for ASEAN. ASEAN's trading volume has been significantly increasing both in terms of export and import, despite a slight decrease in the share among key trading partners such as China, USA and EU.

Inward foreign direct investment in ASEAN has expanded almost 5-fold (500%) since 1998, due to ASEAN's competitiveness as a production hub, the enhanced connectivity in the region and regulatory support. Japan is one of the top three direct investors in ASEAN, and its total amount of investment has expanded 3-fold (300%) in 20 years as Japan's investment by setting up subsidiary companies in ASEAN has grown continuously. With such economic partnerships in place along with the increasing amount of foreign direct investment into the region, the ASEAN economy is expected to grow further in the next decade.

### ASEAN exports of goods

1,055 Billion USD



### ASEAN imports of goods

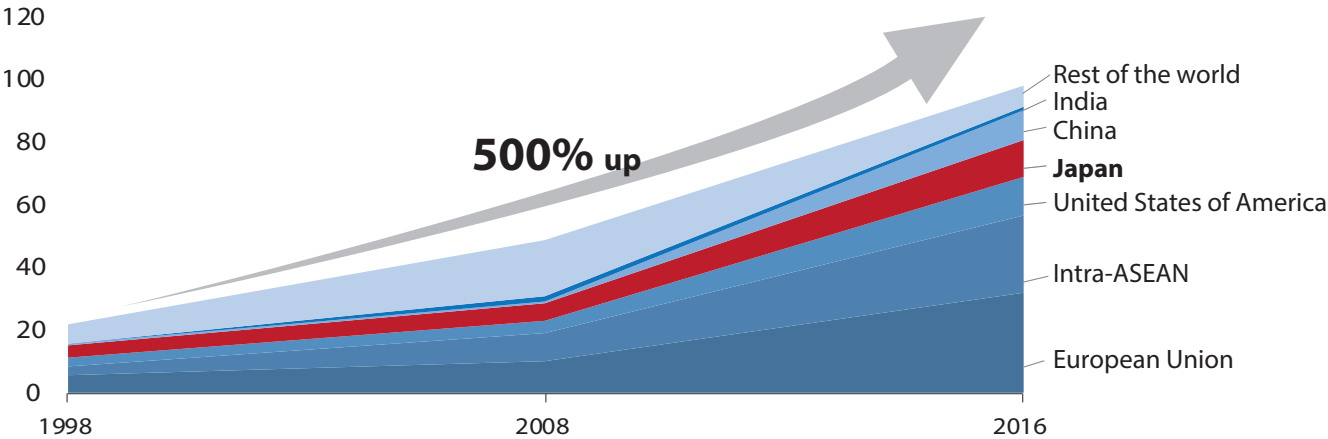
972 Billion USD



Source: ASEANstats

(unit: Billion USD)

### Inward foreign direct investment in ASEAN



Source: ASEANstats



# ASEAN-Japanese Trade and Investment

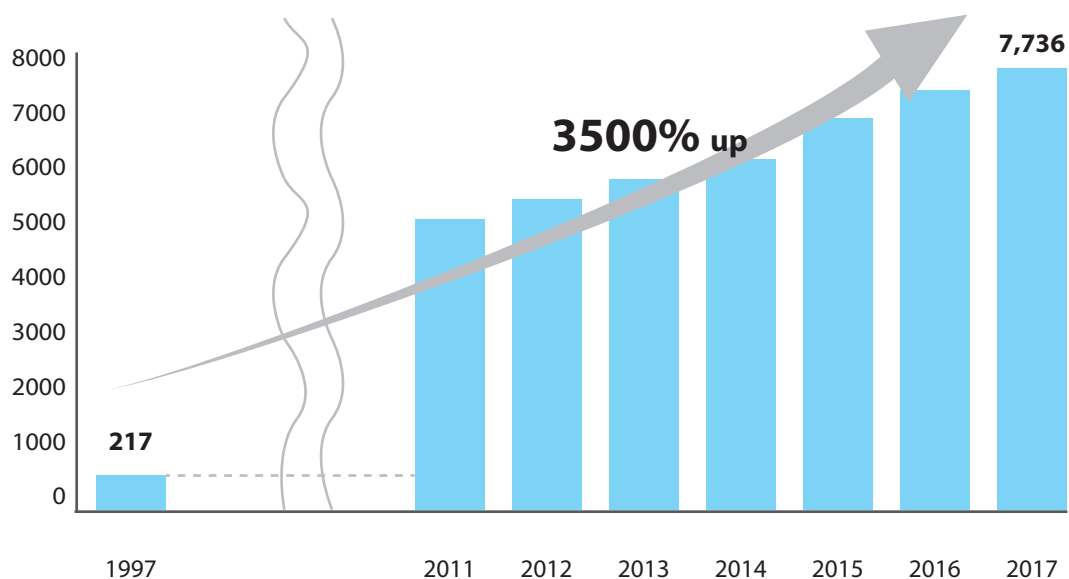
## Significant inter-dependency for production hubs and consumer markets

**The number of Japanese companies in ASEAN has expanded 35-fold (3500%) over the last 20 years** from only 217 companies in 1997 to 7,736 companies in 2017.

Looking at the Japanese companies in the ASEAN region, the manufacturing has been the main industry with the top three sectors: being electric machinery, transportation machinery (automobiles) and chemical. As in 2017, the manufacturing industry represents a dominant share of 43% in terms of the number of companies.

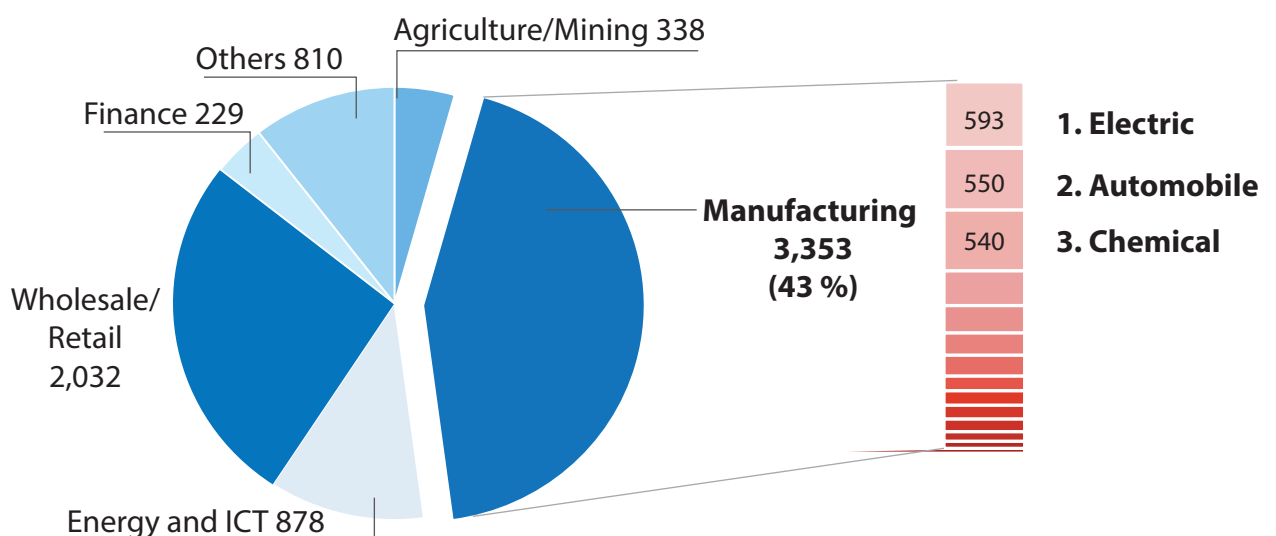
What is notable is that the number of companies in the wholesale / retail industry has expanded to exceed 2,000 companies backed by the rising population and disposable income of many of the ASEAN Member States.

**Number of Japanese companies in ASEAN**



Source: Toyo Keizai Data Bank Series

**Number of Japanese companies by industry (in 2017)**



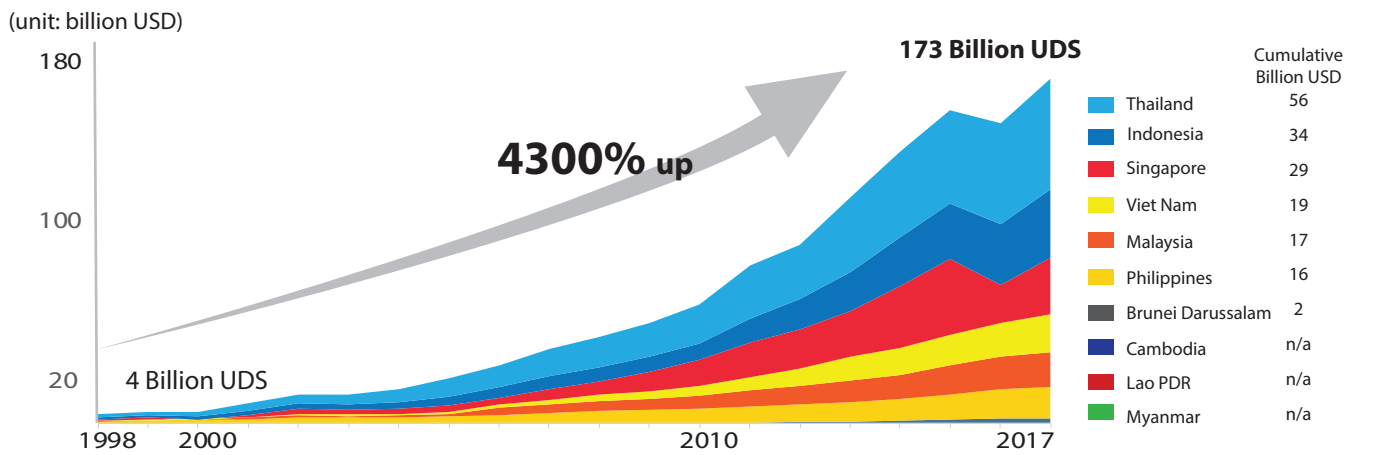
Source: Toyo Keizai Data Bank Series

**Japan is one of the top three direct investors in ASEAN. Japan's outward direct investment in ASEAN has been continuously growing and reached the accumulated amount of over 170 billion US Dollars in 2017.**

Looking by country, Thailand has received the largest direct investment from Japan, followed by Indonesia, Singapore, Viet Nam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

In the past, Japanese companies invested for manufacturing in those countries and by establishing production hubs, particularly in Thailand and Indonesia. Singapore has been the hub for financial services and the regional headquarters for many of the Japanese companies. Recently, Japanese investment in CLM countries in the Mekong region has been increasing through complementary production sites thanks to the development of an infrastructure connection with the large production hub in Thailand.

**Japan’s direct investment in ASEAN (1998-2017)**

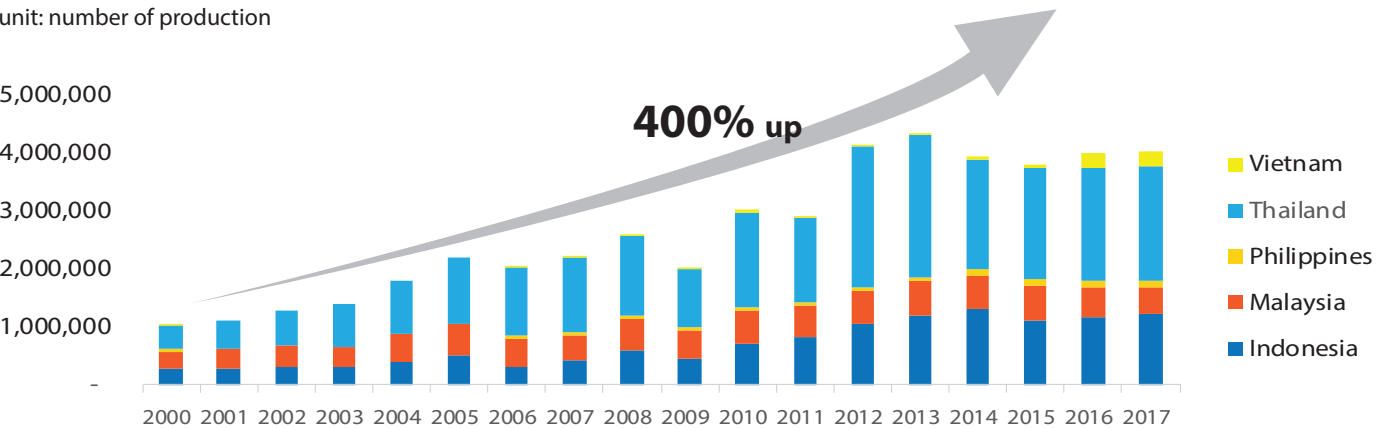


Source: Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

**As shown in the pie chart on page 9, Japanese companies have contributed significantly to the growth of the automotive industry in ASEAN.** As ASEAN is the strategic manufacturing hub for Japanese automobiles, the AMEICC’s Automobile Industry Working Group (WG-AI) has existed since the AMEICC was established in 1998. The AMEICC has contributed to strengthening the regional competitiveness of the automobile industry and its supporting industries in ASEAN and has subsequently brought about an increase of Japanese investment in ASEAN by developing a resource pool in terms of local suppliers, automotive repairs and maintenance engineers.

With the advent of ASEAN as a single market regarding the automobile industry, the AMEICC has also worked to promote intra-ASEAN trade and investment in automobile and auto parts through the discussion of the AICO (ASEAN Industrial cooperation) scheme and ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), as well as the coordination of technical regulations pertaining to automobiles among ASEAN Member States.

**Number of automobile production in ASEAN**

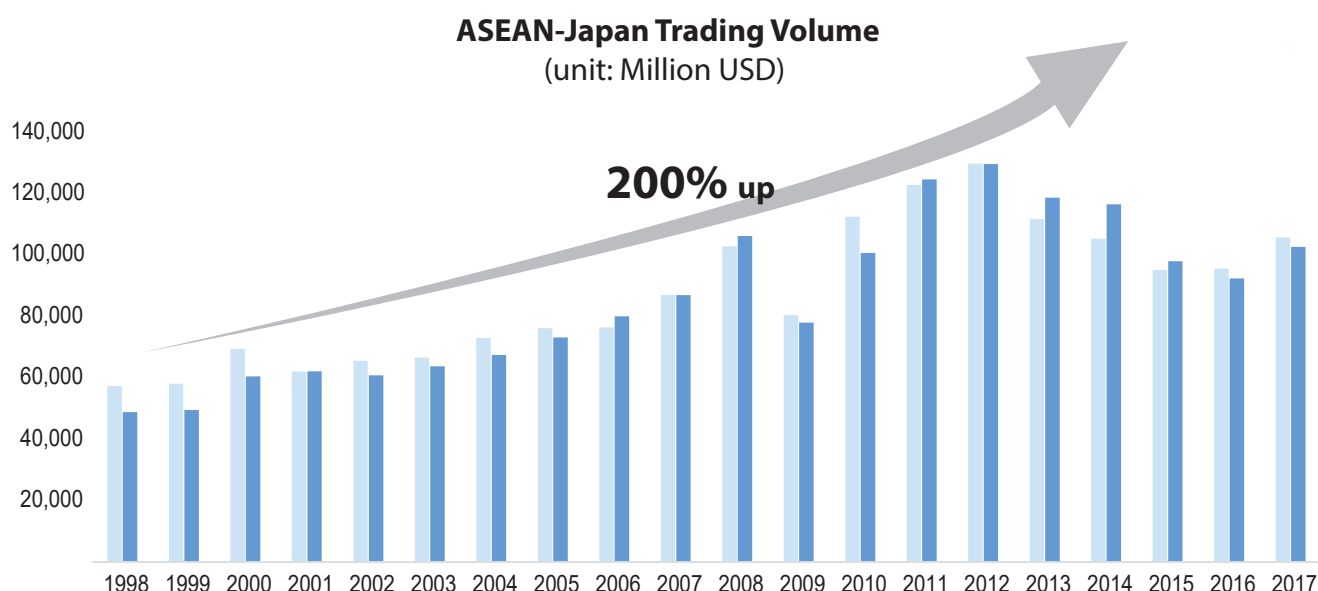


Source: Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d’Automobiles (OICA)



# ASEAN-Japanese Trade and Investment (continued)

ASEAN-Japan trading volumes have been increasing since 1998, hitting their peak in 2012 with 120 billion US dollars for both import and export. Japan and ASEAN have been inter-dependent trading partners since 1998 both for export and import. A decrease in 2015 was due to the decline in value of the Japanese yen against the US dollar, which resulted in a trading slowdown. In 2017, the trade in goods between ASEAN and Japan showed a decent recovery.



Source: Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

**Strengthening the industrial foundation of ASEAN by Human Resource Development (HRD) is a main factor of the surge in trade volume as well as the investment discussed on page 10.** Since 1999, based on the strong needs of the six ASEAN's older member states and CLMV arising for HRD, the AMEICC has held HRD Working Group Meetings.

The Meetings were also attended by Japanese HRD-related organisations such as the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) and the Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC). At this Working Group Meeting, AMEICC supported the following key activities: i) the HDR programme for ASEAN Centers of Excellence (COE), ii) the COEs Networking Meeting and iii) the COEs follow-up programme using AOTS's and JODC's schemes in order to strengthen regional competitiveness, and also implement HRD programmes dedicated for CLMV to narrow the gap between the CLMV countries and the ASEAN 6. Since the late 2000's, the support for the development of highly specialised human resources has been further rendered and implemented under the AMEICC's other industrial Working Groups.

AMEICC also has the core elements of building capacities for ASEAN regional competitiveness and further promotes Japanese investment in ASEAN by implementing i) endowed courses at universities in ASEAN, whose lecturers are mostly from Japanese companies (24 programmes launched, with 2,000 students joined as of Mar 2018) and ii) ASEAN-wide inter-company training (200 programmes launched, with 280 trainees trained, and 200 experts involved as of Mar 2018) since 2015.



The 11th Meeting of AMEICC HRD-WG  
(21st-22nd Apr, 2005, Cebu, the Philippines)



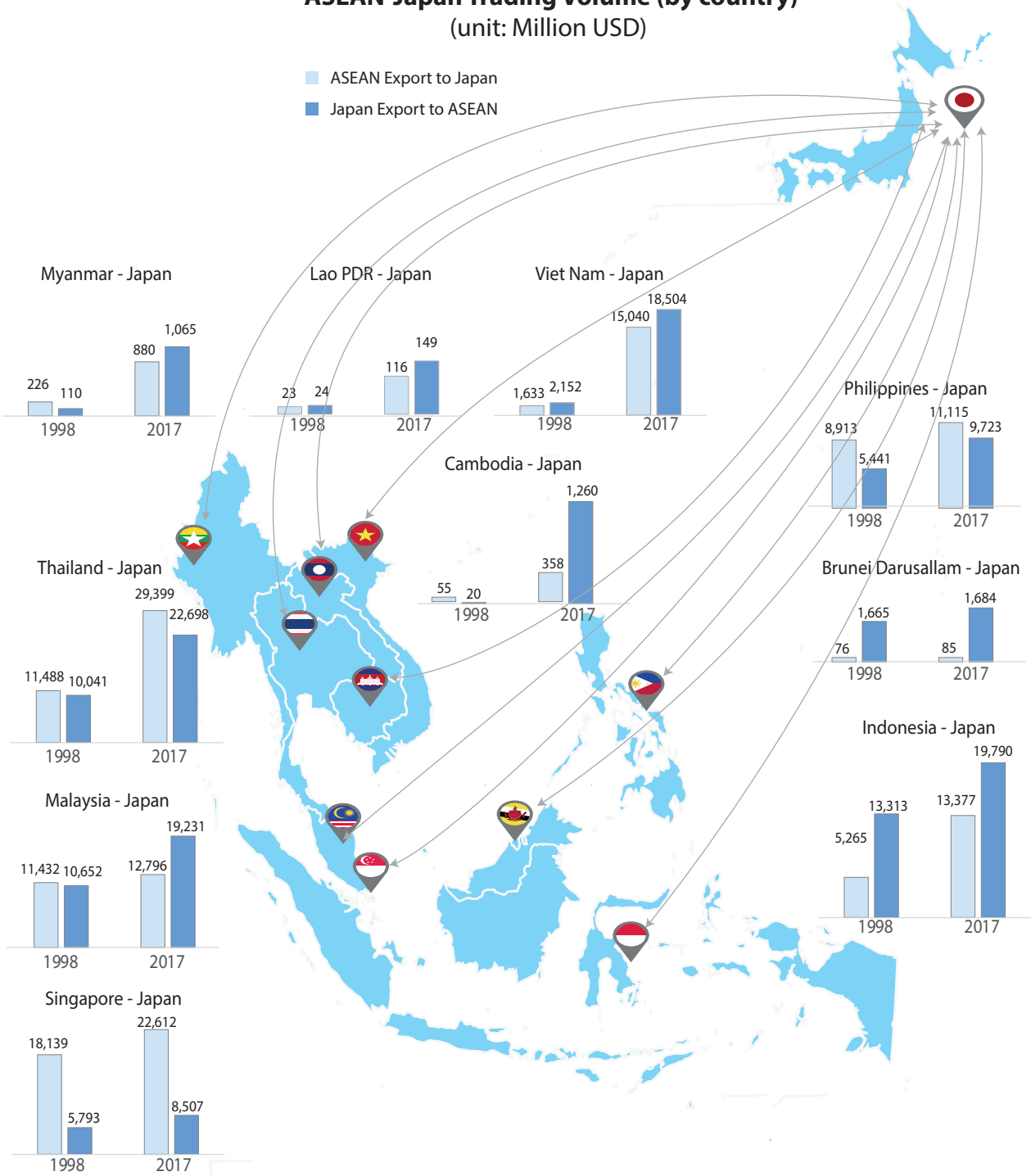
COEs Networking Meeting  
(3rd-5th Feb, 2009, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam)



Endowed Course  
(Darma Persada University, Indonesia)

**Japan's trading volumes with each ASEAN Member State have expanded over the last 20 years.** Singapore has been the major export hub from ASEAN to Japan since 1998, whereas Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have been the top three export destinations for Japan. Viet Nam has shown a significant expansion of import volumes. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar have also shown a rapid expansion of trading volumes with Japan, although its size remains relatively small. Japan has entered into an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with a majority of ASEAN Member States on a bilateral level. An important milestone of the ASEAN-Japan economic relationship was in 2008 when the multilateral economic partnership known as the ASEAN-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (AJCEP) came into force. The EPA and AJCEP will promote bilateral and multilateral trade and investment by eliminating the barriers between countries.

**ASEAN-Japan Trading Volume (by country)**  
(unit: Million USD)



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan

# ASEAN Economic Integration

## Fostering regional economic growth under the AEC Blueprint 2025 with collaborative assistance from Japan

**The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) seeks to reduce or remove trade barriers within the region** with the goal of making the free movement of goods, services, capital and skilled labour easier within this economic block.

Based on the substantive achievement of the AEC Blueprint 2008-2015, the AEC Blueprint 2025 consistently stipulates five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics namely, (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) Global ASEAN.

ASEAN recognises that regional economic integration is a dynamic, ongoing process as economies as well as domestic and external environments are constantly evolving.

Work to deepen both internal and external integration will continue.

The plan is for the enhanced movement of goods, services, investment, capital and skilled labour to attract investment and enhance economic activities in ASEAN.

While this will open up new opportunities, at the same time, the benefits of integration must also be fully recognized by each of the ASEAN Member States and its dialogue partners. With the economic integration effort in the region, AMEICC has been putting an emphasis on the ASEAN's industrial competitiveness and the development of industrial human resources, and has conducted a number of projects under its sectoral working groups.

AMEICC provides multiple schemes of support even for just one pillar of the AEC Blueprint, as shown on page 14 where there are examples for the case of "A Competitive, Innovative and Dynamic ASEAN".



### A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy

#### Objectives

To assist with the seamless movement of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labour within ASEAN in order to enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks, as well as to establish a more unified market for its firms and consumers.

#### AMEICC's Achievements

- Launched a free and public online database which contains regulatory information on chemicals in ASEAN and Japan in order to promote harmonization of management of chemical materials.
- Have held "Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue" once a year in order to improve business environment in ASEAN by discussion for elimination of obstacles such as non-tariff barrier



"The 9th Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue"  
(7 July 2016, Thailand)



### A Competitive, Innovative and Dynamic ASEAN

To focus on elements that contribute to increasing the region's competitiveness and productivity.

- Implemented Networking and Business Matching event between ASEAN and Japan of start-up companies to support the nurturing new industry and promote innovation in ASEAN
- Launched Joint Pilot Projects between ASEAN companies and Japanese companies from diverse countries and industrial fields to support for nurturing new industry and promote innovation in ASEAN



"ASEAN-Japan Fair"  
(13-14 November 2017, the Philippines)



### Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation

To enhance economic connectivity involving transport, telecommunication and energy sectors, as well as to further integrate and cooperate in key sectors that complement existing efforts towards creating an integrated and sustainable economic region.

- Supported the holding of an E-Commerce Seminar to provide related private and trading information on e-commerce with CLMV countries
- Have held "West-East Corridor Development Working Group" (WEC-WG) twice a year and discussed to enhance connectivity in Mekong sub-region.



"The 22nd WEC-WG"  
(26 April 2018, Myanmar)

### AMEICC's multiple schemes to support "A Competitive, Innovative and Dynamic ASEAN"

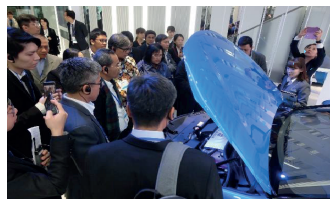
- 1) Discussion: Clarify the current challenges for ASEAN by holding AMEICC's Working Group
- 2) Human Resource Development: Implement a capacity building programmes and an inter-company training
- 3) Advanced Industrial Structure: Invite ASEAN countries to "Automobile Roadshow" back-to-back the Tokyo Motor Show in Japan to enhance their industry structure by showing new technology
- 4) Pilot Project: Launch Joint Projects between ASEAN companies and Japanese companies to promote innovation in ASEAN



1) 9th Meeting of AMEICC WG-AI  
(31 August, 2008, Lao PDR)



2) Automobile design and development  
(BINUS University in Indonesia)



3) Automobile Roadshow  
(26 October 2017, Tokyo Japan)



4) Joint pilot project  
"IoT vehicle-lease service by PLDT Inc./ Smart Communication and Global Mobility Service"



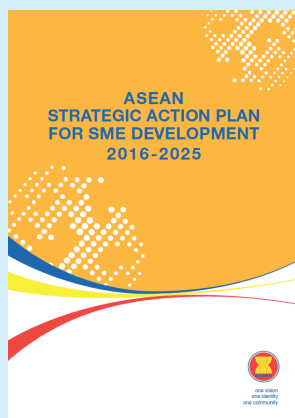
### Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented and People-Centred ASEAN

#### Objectives

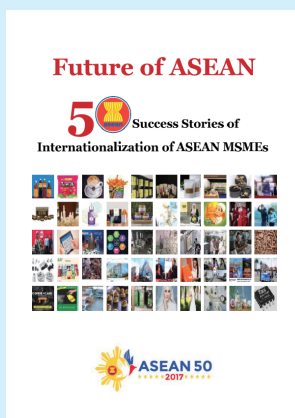
To enhance "Equitable Economic Development" by deepening existing elements and incorporating other key elements.

#### AMEICC's Achievements

- Supported the formulation of the "ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 (SAP-SMED 2025)"
- Supported the production of the "Future of ASEAN - 50 Success Stories of Internationalization of ASEAN MSMEs"
- Supported formulation of the "Mekong Industrial Development Vision"



SME-WG supported the formulation



SME-WG supported the production



### Global ASEAN

To integrate the region into the global economy through FTAs and comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPs), building on the gains from ASEAN's global engagement.

- Launch cooperative programmes such as seminar and capacity building events for officials

Source: ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025



# Timeline of ASEAN and the AMEICC

50 years of ASEAN and 20 years of the AMEICC that have been a foundation for the future



**50** years

**1967**

## Establishment of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN)

Economic, social and cultural cooperation and promotion of regional peace through the rule of law  
<Year that member states joined ASEAN>

**1967**

Indonesia  
Malaysia  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand

**1984**

Brunei Darussalam

**1995**

Viet Nam

**1997**

Lao PDR  
Myanmar

**1999**

Cambodia

Signing of ASEAN establishment



Photo: ASEAN Secretariat

**1976**

## 1st ASEAN Summit

Strengthened the dialogue with external partners

**Establishment of ASEAN Secretariat**  
(Jakarta)

**1997**

## Endorsement of ASEAN Vision 2020

Reaffirmed the promotion of regional cooperation toward peace, progress and prosperity

**1999**

## Establishment of ASEAN + 3

Multi-lateral dialogue between Japan, China and Republic of Korea

**2003**

## Declaration of the Bali Concord II

Declaring that an ASEAN Community shall be established comprising three pillars

**2007**

## Endorsement of the ASEAN Blueprint (2008-2015)

Basis under which each ASEAN member state shall implement the AEC

**1967**

**1998**

-----▶ **1997**

Predecessor of AMEICC held Working Group on Economic Cooperation in the Mekong sub-region

**AMEICC**

**20** years

Working Group on Economic Cooperation in Mekong sub-region by predecessor of AMEICC



**1998**

## Establishment of the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC)

1st Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting



**2001**

## COE Comprehensive Programme

Supported to strengthen the Centers of Excellence (COEs) in ASEAN and their networking, export dispatching and deployment of equipment to COEs in the new member countries of ASEAN

**2004**

## COE Progressive Development Programme

Supported to strengthen networking of COEs in ASEAN

**2002**

## COE Follow-up Programme

Supported to strengthen HRD in ASEAN and network the COEs in ASEAN

## AMEICC Automotive Initiative

Formulated implementation plans to enhance the global competitiveness and promote integration of ASEAN automotive industry

Signing of ASEAN Community  
(22 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)



Photo: ASEAN Secretariat

**2008**  
**Establishment of ASEAN Charter**  
Firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework

**2008**  
**Signing of ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP)**  
Enabling the business from ASEAN and Japan to gain access to a big and potential regional market

**2015**  
**Establishment of ASEAN Community**  
Consisting of Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community

**Endorsement of the ASEAN Blueprint 2025**  
Focusing on Integrated and Cohesive Economy, Competitive and Innovative Economy, Connectivity, Resilient and Inclusive Growth, Integration to Global Economy

**2017**  
**50th Anniversary of ASEAN**  
Celebrated this milestone, and recalled the aspirations of the 1967 ASEAN Declaration to promote regional cooperation and contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

## 2008

## 2018

**2009**  
**1st Mekong-Japan Economic Minister Meeting**

**Mekong-Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Initiative (MJ-CI)**  
Indicated to strengthen hard infrastructure, trade facilitation, enhancement of SMEs, and enhancement of the service and new industrial sectors

**2010**  
**MJ-CI Action Plan**  
Formulated the measures for implementation of MJ-CI, based on business recommendations

**2013**  
**ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum (Commemorating 40th Anniversary Year)**  
Exchanged views on the medium and long term vision as well as policies of ASEAN-Japan relations

**2012**  
**Mekong Development Roadmap**  
Formulated the cooperation projects of hard infrastructure, trade facilitation and industrial cooperation from 2012-2015 under the MJ-CI

**2015**  
**ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 (SAP-SMED 2025)**  
Supported the formulation of the ASEAN strategic action plan for SME development to create globally competitive, resilient and innovative MSMEs

**Mekong Industrial Development Vision (MIDV)**  
Indicated to strengthen regional connectivity, energy supply, business environment and HRD

**2016**  
**ASEAN-Japan Chemical Safety Database (AJCSD)**  
Launched free and public online database which contains regulatory information on chemicals in ASEAN and Japan

**Work Programme for Realization of MIDV**  
Formulated the cooperation projects from 2015-2020 under the MIDV

**2017**  
**ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow**

**ASEAN Japan Innovation Network (AJIN)**  
Promoted new industry development, innovation and business networking in ASEAN through collaboration and cooperation between ASEAN-Japan businesses

**Automobile Roadshow**  
Invited ASEAN countries to Japan to promote advanced industrial structure of ASEAN Automobile industry

AEM Roadshow (6-9 April 2017, Tokyo Japan)



# Partners of the AEM-METI

Partners of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) are listed below with their contact information.



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## Closing Remarks



**Yoshitaka Yamamuro**  
**Chief Representative of AMEICC Secretariat**



Celebrating the 20th anniversary, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of the people who are involved with AMEICC.

Over the past two decades, AMEICC has made a significant contribution to ASEAN's exponential growth, by organizing more than 150 inter-governmental meetings, and by implementing a variety of economic cooperation projects, such as industrial human resource development.

At present, we are at a critical moment in history. The rhetoric and actions against trade and economic integration have sharpened of late, and we also face disruptive changes of "Fourth Industrial Revolution" led by digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and IoT.

Now more than ever, I firmly believe that ASEAN and Japan must stand shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart, to counter the anti-globalization sentiments affecting the global economy and its growth prospects, and instead show our collective strengths to transform unprecedented risks into opportunities, by forging new pathways for closer economic partnership in the digital age.

That is what the title "We Grow Together" is all about. Thank you again for your continued support and commitment. AMEICC secretariat continues to make our utmost effort to deepen inclusive and sustainable partnership between ASEAN and Japan.

山室芳岡

Bangkok Thailand, July 2018



The ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of Economy,  
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