

ASEAN–JAPAN DIGITAL MINISTERS’ JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING SAFE, SECURE, AND TRUSTWORTHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

WE, the Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan, gathered on the occasion of the 5th ASEAN–Japan Digital Ministers’ Meeting held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on 15 January 2026;

RECOGNISING the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030, the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics – Generative AI, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on “Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development,” the ASEAN–Japan Digital Work Plan for 2026, and ASEAN–Japan Co-Creation Initiative for Artificial Intelligence (AI);

REAFFIRMING the immense potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the lives of peoples across our nations;

EMPHASISING the mutually beneficial and constructive nature of the ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and affirming our shared vision of sustainable and inclusive growth through digital infrastructure, connectivity, and human-capital development;

UPHOLDING the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and highlighting that we have been considering economic cooperation, connectivity, and independence as key priorities while respecting ASEAN’s initiative and independence;

WE HEREBY COMMIT TO:

I. General Commitments

1. **STRENGTHEN** the ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the ASEAN–Japan Co-Creation Initiative for AI, and in line with the AOIP, advance the

expansion of the development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems, grounded in meaningful human oversight, accountability and responsibility throughout the entire AI system lifecycle, support discussions on country-specific digital and AI strategies, governance, and regulatory frameworks, enhance capacity-building and improve and scale up the responsible, inclusive and ethical use of digital and AI solutions while considering local languages and cultures, and others;

II. Governance

2. **STRENGTHEN** the safety, security, and trustworthiness of AI systems, based on the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics – Generative AI, the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030, UNGA Resolution A/RES/78/265 (“Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development”), the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems and other relevant schemes, including through cooperation on developing and sharing experiences on risk-based approaches to AI governance, particularly for high-impact sectors such as healthcare, education, finance and public administration, while promoting responsible innovation and effective risk mitigation;
3. **COOPERATE** in developing the related legal and regulatory frameworks among ASEAN Member States based on international discussions related to AI governance, including risk-based approaches, as well as organize the corresponding relationship between the AI Guidelines for Business and the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems with the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics and Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics - Generative AI; enhance interoperability between the AI governance frameworks of ASEAN, Japan and relevant international standards, implement cooperation to enhance interoperability between these frameworks, cooperate and collaborate regarding AI safety through the ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance (WG-AI) as well as other relevant initiatives, including the ASEAN AI Safety Network;

4. **EXPLORE** potential engagement between ASEAN Member States and the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences, including on risk-based AI governance models and best practices and knowledge sharing on the Hiroshima AI Process;

III. AI Development and Digital Infrastructure

5. **COOPERATE** towards the development of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI models that respect the cultures, values, and languages of the ASEAN Member States, and promote cooperation in order to develop infrastructure of reliable data centers and digital networks that support AI development;
6. **DEEPEN** ongoing collaboration with the WG-AI on areas such as AI governance, AI testing, AI safety benchmarks and evaluation methodologies, including through the ASEAN Programme on AI Governance and Safety Testing as well as mapping of the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems to the Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics – Generative AI;
7. **COOPERATE** on other relevant initiatives such as the ASEAN AI Safety Network Partnership Programme, which focuses on capacity building;

IV. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

8. **COOPERATE** on capacity-building and technology transfer, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Responsible AI Roadmap, engagement under the WG-AI, discussions regarding the responsible development and utilization of Generative AI in ASEAN, and promotion of the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA);
9. **COOPERATE** in order to enhance and establish digital and cyber capacities through expanding existing ASEAN–Japan cybersecurity capacity-building initiatives to AI-related domains, and contribute to establishing and developing locally rooted AI ecosystems in

ASEAN Member States including through the capacity-building on AI governance and the development of young AI developers;

V. Co-Creation of AI Solutions

10. **ENCOURAGE** the exchange of experience in the utilization of AI and best practices among ASEAN and Japan, and co-create AI-leveraged solutions that potentially contribute to addressing social challenges;

VI. Inclusive and Trustworthy AI

11. **COOPERATE** to ensure the responsible use of AI in a manner that respects human-centred values, privacy and data governance;
12. **PROMOTE** transparency, facilitate the responsible use of AI technology, such as responses against disinformation, misinformation, and manipulated information, while respecting intellectual property rights including copyright, respect human-centricity throughout the whole life cycle of the AI system, emphasize the importance of safeguarding individuals from discrimination, bias, misuse, and other harms, and implement necessary cooperation;
13. **HIGHLIGHT** the efforts of the private sector and encourage the benefits of AI are fairly shared among all ASEAN Member States and their all generations;

VII. Digital Solidarity and Economic Development

14. **REAFFIRM** the importance of digital solidarity and the principle of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), emphasizing that the free flow of data should be trust-based, secure and conducted in compliance with national laws and regulations, and promote balanced and harmonious approach between facilitating cross-border data flows and safeguarding data protection, cybersecurity and intellectual properties, in order to expand shared prosperity and address common challenges through the responsible and trusted use of digital technologies, while advancing cooperation in the field of data governance;

15. **RECOGNISE** the critical role of cybersecurity, data security, data protection, and cyber-resilience as a basis of AI systems and economic growth; and
16. **PROMOTE** innovation, and establish and maintain a safe, secure, and trustworthy AI ecosystem through co-creation between ASEAN and Japan, in order to minimize related risks, achieve sustainable economic growth, and unleash the potential of AI to effectively address economic, social, and developmental challenges.

ADOPTED in Hanoi, Viet Nam on the 15th of January in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.