

Summary Record of the 7th ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting

1. The 7th ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting was convened in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, Japan, on 10–11 November 2025. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Hirofumi AMAKAWA, Vice-Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Hokkaido Development Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan, and Mr. Mohd Hazli B Ahmad @ Adnan, Deputy Secretary General (Sustainability and Strategic Planning), Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) of Malaysia.

2. The Meeting focused on the theme of “Inclusivity,” which was enriched to encompass equitable access to digital infrastructure, urban services, and participatory governance for all socio-economic groups, including vulnerable populations, informal workers, and migrants. Discussions emphasized transitioning from aspirational language to actionable strategies that address shared demographic and structural challenges such as aging populations, declining birth rates, AI-driven labor market shifts, and widening socio-economic inequality.

3. Prior to the Plenary Session, MLIT presented the outcomes of the Smart City supported by Japan ASEAN Mutual Partnership (Smart JAMP), a support measure proposed at the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting in 2020 and implemented since 2021. For example, projects such as the digitalisation of bus services have progressed smoothly and yielded tangible results. In addition, participants exchanged views on future prospects.

4. In the Plenary Session, the ASEAN Secretariat updated on ASEAN's efforts in the smart and sustainable urban development. In addition, representatives from the ASEAN Smart Cities Network shared smart city measures being implemented from the perspective of “Inclusivity.” Subsequently, in the Second Session, representatives from diverse backgrounds—including international organisations, ASEAN Member States, academic institutions, local governments, and private companies—presented initiatives based on “Inclusivity,” further highlighting approaches through the lenses of “Disaster Risk Reduction” and “People-Centered Development.” These presentations deepened understanding, facilitated the sharing of relevant ongoing initiatives and knowledge, and enabled the exchange of views on future directions.

5. This year marks the tenth anniversary since the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was introduced. Japan and ASEAN have consistently emphasised “Inclusivity,” working together and advancing numerous efforts across various fields. As the importance of “Inclusivity” continues to grow worldwide, Japan and ASEAN confirmed to:

- (i) Promote initiatives to ensure that vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, are not left behind; support startups so that micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are not left behind; and advance efforts to ensure that no city is left behind;
- (ii) Foster mutual learning and human resource exchanges among diverse entities—countries and regions, research institutions, individuals, and companies; and
- (iii) Work together toward an ideal people-centered society, where no individual is left behind and everyone can live with integrity.

6. Based on these shared understandings, Japan proposed compiling a new collection of case studies to be widely shared before the next Meeting, along with further support through Smart JAMP. This proposal was welcomed by ASEAN Member States and cities from the ASEAN Smart Cities Network attending the Meeting.

The case study collection will include:

- Good practices shared at this Meeting; and
- Specific case studies from the “ASEAN Smart City Planning Guidebook,” which was jointly prepared by ASEAN Secretariat and MLIT in 2022 as part of cooperation to realise smart cities in ASEAN.

7. Finally, ASEAN and Japan reaffirmed their mutual agreement to continue holding the “ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting” and confirmed their commitment to ongoing cooperation toward realising smart cities in ASEAN.