

The 23rd ASEAN & Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

Recommendations

***Narita City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan
October 28-30, 2025***

1. We, the participants representing the health, social welfare and labour sectors of ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) and Japan, observers including the People's Republic of China, the ASEAN Secretariat, international organizations, regional institutions, and relevant partners, convened at the 23rd ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies (hereinafter referred to as the 23rd Meeting), held in Narita City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, from 28 to 30 October 2025. The 23rd Meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), under the theme of "Sustainable Support for Ageing Populations."

Preamble:

2. We expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan, especially the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, for its continued leadership and hospitality in organizing this annual meeting since 2003 and to ERIA for its key role as a co-organizer, as well as to all the participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the 23rd Meeting. We acknowledged that the 23rd Meeting facilitated a meaningful exchange of information and best practices in advancing policies and initiatives to support ageing populations sustainably, and has served as an effective platform to share knowledge and exchange views on the roles of stakeholders in the health, social welfare and labour sectors to promote an inclusive society aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. We shared the recognition that the population in the ASEAN Member States is rapidly ageing, and that we are urgently required to address such a demographic and socio-economic change by, among others, ensuring integrated services of healthcare, long-term care and other social protection for older persons including

through universal health coverage (UHC), guaranteeing opportunities of social participation and income security, and strengthening social security systems across the region. We further recognized our commitment to promoting inclusive and resilient societies, and enhancing cooperation to address emerging demographic and socio-economic challenges.

4. We acknowledged various efforts and collaboration between the public and private sectors in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, aimed at addressing the needs of the older persons, their families, and communities, as well as the dedication of winners of the Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI). These include initiatives by WELCIA YAKKYOKU CO., LTD., SAINT-CARE NARITA Small-scale/Multifunction In-home Care and Home-visit Nursing, Hourai-no-Mori, Special Nursing Home Morinoie Narita, the International University of Health and Welfare (IUHW) Narita Geriatric Medical Welfare Center, the IUHW Narita Hospital, ITO EN, Ltd., COLORS Co., Ltd., MEDIVA Inc., and SILVER WOOD Co., Ltd..

Recommendations:

5. Building on these achievements, we recommend to:
 - (1) Strengthen efforts through the sharing of experiences and best practices across the health, social welfare and labour sectors so that we can develop and implement policies responsive to population ageing and demographic change in celebration of the longevity of older persons;
 - (2) Explore and promote innovative approaches to active ageing by enhancing, on the basis of UHC, continuum and integration of health care, long-term care, social pension and other social protection, community engagement, intergenerational support and social engagement while advancing age-friendly work environments and lifelong learning as well as addressing informal employment and gender inequality;
 - (3) Recognise the importance of digital technology utilisation and sound data governance in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of health, social welfare, and labour services and policies, and promote them including through the enhancement of digital literacy and inclusion of the older persons;

- (4) Make efforts to promote flexible employment and ensure income security of older persons, enabling them to maintain healthy, prosperous and fulfilling lives;
- (5) Continue to strengthen regional and multi-sectoral collaboration and engage multi-stakeholders, including local private and community organisations, to address complex social issues surrounding ageing and strengthen evidence-based policy making, and promote cross-border information sharing in a manner consistent with laws, regulations, and national interests to inform and support policy initiatives;
- (6) Promote and ensure human resources development is integrated in efforts and initiatives stated above; and,
- (7) Continue leveraging ASEAN-Japan partnership as a platform for mutual learning, capacity building, and policy innovation.

Report of the 23rd Meeting:

- 6. We concluded that:
 - (1) We will report to respective ministers or senior officials in charge in each country on the proceedings and outcomes of the 23rd Meeting for their consideration and adoption of appropriate actions to implement the recommendations above in accordance with respective policies, regulations and socio-economic contexts of each Member State; and,
 - (2) Japan, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, will report the agenda and outcomes of the 23rd Meeting to the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development (AHMM Plus Three/SOMHD Plus Three), the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD Plus Three/SOMSWD Plus Three), and the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers and Senior Labour Officials Meetings (ALMM Plus Three/SLOM Plus Three).
- 7. We looked forward to continued cooperation based on the outcomes of the 23rd Meeting and further discussions at the 24th ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies.