

Summary Record of
the 5th ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting

1. The 5th ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meeting was held in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, on October 26-27, 2023. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Shinichi Sakaki, Vice-Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Hokkaido Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and H.E. Dr. Safrizal ZA, M.Si, Director-General of Regional Administration Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia.
2. This Meeting focused on “Resilience,” which has become increasingly important in ASEAN Member States due to the serious consequences of natural disasters caused by climate change. Participating countries discussed the need to further develop their understanding of the factors necessary to implement smart cities in society.
3. The ASEAN Secretariat shared information on ASEAN’s initiatives on smart cities and sustainable urbanisation in the first session. In addition, several member countries and cities of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) reported on smart city resilience initiatives they are working on. In the following second session, the Meeting shared the findings from a series of smart city project formulation studies related to the Smart JAMP project in the area of resilience, as well as knowledge and measures that Japan is working on, including good practices of local governments that contribute to solving problems in the ASEAN region through the use of digital transformation (DX) for resilience.
4. To improve urban resilience, it is essential to integrate hardware measures, such as the development of dikes, levees, dams, and other facilities, and software measures, such as the improvement of weather information, the availability of means to collect information on disaster forecasting and conditions, and the advancement of evacuation drills and plans. The results of the discussions suggested that smart city initiatives are expected to contribute significantly to improving these measures, including the design and planning stages. Accordingly, the Meeting also recognised the importance of further promoting digitalisation in the field of disaster prevention according to each city’s situation, such as responding to local disaster risks, providing detailed disaster prevention measures and information, and offering evacuation assistance by working on digitalisation in all phases during normal times, before and after a disaster strikes.

5. The discussion on the implementation of smart cities at the 4th Meeting last year, shared on the importance of implementation efforts, deriving solutions according to the challenges faced by cities, and the importance of business feasibility and cooperation with service providers. To this end, based on the achievements of the cooperation between the ASCN and Japan, the Meeting recognised the need to continuously share each other's experiences, strategies, and best practices; strengthen the organisational capacity of national and local governments; and ensure opportunities for business matching with service providers.
6. Based on the above discussions, Japan proposed to prepare a summary of case studies, including the good practices shared at this Meeting, by the next meeting to share them widely and to promote further support through Smart JAMP. Japan's proposal was welcomed by ASEAN Member States and the participating cities of the ASCN.
7. ASEAN and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to continue holding the ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High Level Meetings by mutual agreement and to continue cooperating to realise smart cities in ASEAN.