

Outline of Thematic Group

1. Maritime Security and the Rule of Law

Japan promotes a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” supported by an international order based on the rule of law, and works to maintain and strengthen peace and stability not only in Asia but also throughout the international community. Japan has also consistently supported the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP),” which ASEAN attaches great importance to. Based on these principles, Japan seeks to promote respect for international law and the prevention of conflicts in the maritime domain, as well as environmental protection and the sustainable use of marine resources.

Through lectures and site visits, participants will deepen their understanding of maritime governance based on international law, the sustainable management of marine resources, and the importance of sea lanes. They will also discuss measures that Japan and ASEAN countries can take together and explore potential areas of cooperation in the region.

2. Environment and Energy

Environmental degradation and resulting natural disasters are occurring around the world. In Asia in particular, floods and other water-related disasters occur frequently, causing serious damage to people’s lives and economic activities. Against this background, both Japan and ASEAN countries are working toward carbon neutrality and zero emissions. At the same time, securing sustainable sources of energy to replace conventional fossil fuels has become an urgent challenge. These issues cannot be addressed by any single country and require close multilateral cooperation.

Through lectures and site visits, participants will deepen their understanding of the challenges facing Japan and ASEAN countries in environmental conservation and energy policy, as well as their efforts to address these challenges. They will also discuss ways to cooperate across the region to protect the global environment and promote sustainable alternative energy policies.

3. Startups and International Collaboration

With continued economic growth and improvements in the business environment across Asia, the number of startups in ASEAN countries has been increasing, attracting growing attention. In Japan, the government is also promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. As new businesses utilizing the internet and AI are expected to emerge, international collaboration that leverages the respective strengths of Japan and ASEAN

countries will become increasingly important, particularly in enabling younger generations to take the lead in co-creating new businesses.

Through lectures and site visits, participants will deepen their understanding of the knowledge and skills required for innovation and entrepreneurship, startup support measures in different countries, and international markets. They will also discuss potential areas and approaches for collaboration among young entrepreneurs from Japan and ASEAN countries.