



JOINT STATEMENT

THE SEVENTH ASEAN PLUS JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (7TH AMMTC + JAPAN) CONSULTATION

22 September 2022 via videoconference

1. The Seventh ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (7th AMMTC + Japan) Consultation was held on 22 September 2022 via videoconference. The Consultation was co-chaired by the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Eighteenth ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (18th SOMTC + Japan) Consultation held on 20 July 2022 via videoconference and the Preparatory SOMTC + Japan for the 7th AMMTC + Japan Consultation held on 20 September 2022 via videoconference.
3. We recognised the efforts of law enforcement agencies of the ASEAN Member States in combating transnational crimes, through collaborations funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), including the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Workshop on Technology-based Approach to Tackle Trafficking of Children hosted by SOMTC-Viet Nam on 1-2 June 2022 via hybrid format, as part of the implementation of the SOMTC-Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2022) and other cooperation initiatives.
4. We exchanged views on the need to further strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in combating transnational crime on areas of mutual interest, including terrorism and cybercrime. In particular, we welcomed the enhancement of cyber capability in our regions, including the newly-established Cyber Affairs Bureau in the National Police Agency of Japan, and hope to increase regional efforts to address cyber threats. We reaffirmed our commitment to prevent and combat transnational crime, including in addressing the evolving threats in the post-COVID-19 pandemic landscape that continues to threaten our region, in order to ensure peace and stability. In this context, we look forward to the adoption and effective implementation of the succeeding SOMTC-Japan work plan to combat transnational crime.
5. We noted some participants shared the views on the importance of addressing the humanitarian concern of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abduction issue.

6. We welcomed the kind offer by the Republic of Indonesia to host the 8th AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2023.
7. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their efforts and contributions to the excellent arrangements made for the Consultation. The Consultation was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality.

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