

Forging a safe and promising future

Asta Cita and the Indonesia–Japan comprehensive strategic partnership

By Maria Renata Hutagalung
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, the Embassy of Indonesia

As its 80th Independence Day is celebrated on Aug. 17, 2025, Indonesia finds itself on the threshold of a new chapter. With the recent inauguration of President Prabowo Subianto, this nation is preparing to advance under a new vision known as “Asta Cita” — the eight missions of national development. This comprehensive framework outlines Indonesia’s strategic priorities for the years ahead, not only domestically but also in terms of global engagement. Among the many bilateral partnerships that stand to evolve within this framework, the relationship between Indonesia and Japan is poised for a renewed chapter of mutual growth and cooperation.



Maria Renata
Hutagalung



Photos courtesy of the Embassy of Indonesia

Above: Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto attending ASEAN meeting in Kuala Lumpur

Right: Masjid Raya Baiturrahman in Banda Aceh, the city’s icon and a symbol of the history and faith of the Acehnese people



Asta Cita: Missions for a resilient future

Asta Cita reflects President Prabowo’s aspiration for an Indonesia that is strong, inclusive and future-ready. The eight missions are related to their vision to reinforce its national resilience in defense, food, energy, economy, ideology and culture; to advance downstream industrialization of natural resources; to achieve food self-sufficiency and nutrition security; to expand access to quality healthcare and social welfare; to elevate education and national character; to empower villages and grassroots economies; to continue its infrastructure and digital connectivity; and lastly to promote clean, accountable governance and anti-corruption.

In his inaugural address, President Prabowo emphasized the importance of inclusive development and national dignity and reiterated that Asta Cita is not just a plan — it is a promise to every Indonesian. This ambitious national framework is also outward-looking. In a rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific, it invites meaningful cooperation with like-minded partners — including Japan — to achieve shared goals that are mutually beneficial.

Strengthening strategic partnership

Japan and Indonesia have long seen each other as trusted economic and diplomatic partners. Now, Asta Cita provides fresh momentum to implement, deepen and strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership.

Several of its missions directly align with Japan’s regional priorities and core competencies based on the following goals:

On defense and strategic cooperation, under the first pillar of Asta Cita, Indonesia aims to build a more self-reliant and resilient defense sector. Japan, with its advanced defense technologies and longstanding commitment to peace and regional stability, is a natural partner in this area. Recent developments — including Japan’s lifting of restrictions on defense equipment exports and the signing of defense cooperation agreements — open doors for collaboration in capacity-building, joint military exercise and possibly the co-production and sharing of defense technologies.

On energy transition and green industry, Indonesia’s energy transition ambitions align with Japan’s push for a decarbonized Asia. Asta Cita emphasizes energy sovereignty and clean energy investment — priority areas where Japanese green technologies, financing frameworks and innovation ecosystems are particularly relevant. Cooperation in areas like geothermal energy, hydrogen, ammonia co-firing and electric vehicle (EV) ecosystems can help Indonesia meet its climate targets while attracting Japanese private sector investment. In this context, the involvement of key Indonesian stakeholders, such as Danantara — a newly established

Indonesian Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) aimed at developing priority sectors that will enhance national competitiveness and ensure long-term economic resilience — can play a pivotal role in accelerating investment in green industries and fostering long-term growth in the sector.

On industrial downstreaming and infrastructure, Japan has long been one of Indonesia’s leading foreign investors, underpinning growth in sectors from manufacturing to transportation. Under Asta Cita’s focus on industrial downstreaming and infrastructure development, Japan’s expertise in precision manufacturing, efficient logistics and industrial park development will remain invaluable. Major initiatives — from the Patimban Port and digital infrastructure partnerships — are poised to benefit from continued Japanese participation and investment, reinforcing Indonesia’s development agenda.

On human capital, education and cultural exchange, one of the most enduring aspects of the Indonesia–Japan relationship is the vibrant educational and cultural exchange. President Prabowo’s commitment to improving education and character-building echoes Japan’s deep belief in human resource development. Scholarship programs, vocational training, technical apprenticeships and language education initiatives can expand further, enriching both nations’ youth and preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.

On agriculture, fisheries and food security, Indonesia seeks to strengthen food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. Japan’s know-how in smart farming, aquaculture and food processing could help revitalize Indonesia’s rural economies while also ensuring stable food supply chains for both nations. Collaborative efforts in climate-resilient agriculture and fishery modernization would be especially impactful in a region facing increasing environmental challenges.

On digital transformation and governance, clean governance and digital public services offer another area for cooperation. Japan’s digital government initiatives, cybersecurity technologies and regulatory frameworks could serve as models for Indonesia’s digital transformation. Moreover, bilateral partnerships in artificial intelligence ethics, fintech regulation and cross-border data protection could shape a more inclusive and secure digital economy for the Indo-Pacific region.

Shared responsibility in the Indo-Pacific

President Prabowo’s foreign policy reaffirms a continuity of ASEAN Centrality, while simultaneously strengthening strategic autonomy. In the spirit of reinforcing peace and stability in the region, Indonesia and ASEAN initiated the ASEAN-centered regional architecture, namely, ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The AOIP is intended to enhance ASEAN’s community building process and to strengthen and give new momentum for existing ASEAN-led mechanisms to better face challenges and seize opportunities arising from the current and future regional and global environments.

Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision complements this outlook. Together, Indonesia and Japan can serve as anchors of stability, prosperity and democratic resilience in Asia.

In regional forums, Indonesia and Japan have worked closely to promote peace, connectivity and rules-based cooperation, including, to name a few, the East Asia Summit, G20 and APEC. Indonesia and ASEAN are Comprehensive Strategic Partners with Japan and thus illustrate our shared commitment to multilateralism and equitable growth.

A new chapter, rooted in shared values

As Indonesia celebrates its 80th year of independence, it is fitting to reflect not only on the nation’s struggle for freedom but also on the responsibility that freedom entails.

President Prabowo’s Asta Cita offers a practical, yet bold vision of what Indonesia seeks to become — a strong, fair, educated and future-ready country.

In the spirit of Indonesia’s Independence Day, that sentiment rings especially true. The struggle for independence was not merely political — it was about dignity, resilience and the right to dream. Today, those same ideals fuel our regional partnerships.

Now, the Indonesia–Japan partnership stands at an important point. The relationship today is no longer limited to aid or trade, but it now aspires to co-create solutions for global challenges — from climate change and food security to digital governance and youth empowerment, as well as to inspire and promise a dynamic and better future that benefits not only its peoples, but also the people of world.



Tongkonan Traditional House is the traditional dwelling of the Toraja people in South Sulawesi

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Indonesia
on the 80th Anniversary of
Their Independence

INPEX
Energy for a brighter future

<https://www.inpex.com/english/>

Congratulations

on the Anniversary of
the Independence of
the Republic of Indonesia

Fulfilling
Moments,
Enriching Life **JT**

JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

Kamijicho Trust Tower, 1-1, Toranomon 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6927 JAPAN
Phone: +81-3-6636-2914 FAX: +81-3-6772-0495 URL: <http://www.jt.com>

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Indonesia
on the 80th Anniversary
of their Independence



Kyudenko will change its name to
KRAFTIA CORPORATION in October.

11-1, Tenjin 1-chome, Chuo-ku,
Fukuoka, 810-0001, Japan

<https://www.kyudenko.co.jp/>

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Indonesia
on the 80th Anniversary of
Their Independence



SUMIDAGAWA SHIPYARD CO., LTD.
<http://www.sumidagawa.co.jp>
Tel: 03-3647-6111 Fax: 03-3647-5210