ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE

Speakers' Biography

ASEAN-Japan Insights Webinar

ASEAN-JAPAN AI COLLABORATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY, TALENT AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Wed, 04 Mar 2026 | 15:00-16:30 JST Zoom webinar (English, Japanese)

Speakers/Panelists:

Catalyzing ASEAN-Japan AI Collaboration: Enablers and Barriers

Mr. Mark Bryan Manantan | 2025 Research Fellow, ASEAN-Japan Young Experts

Mark Bryan Manantan is the inaugural Director of Cybersecurity and Critical Technologies at the Pacific Forum in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he has established an extensive portfolio on technology and international affairs. His key initiatives include the Cyber ASEAN capacity-building project (2022–2024); U.S.–Japan and U.S.–Republic of Korea cooperation on cybersecurity and critical technologies (2021–2024); the Trilateral Security Dialogue on AI involving the United States, Japan, and Australia (2022–2024); and CONVERGE: Indo-Pacific Critical Tech Forum 2024: AI and Semiconductors (2023–2025). He is also currently a Research Fellow at La Trobe University.

Mr. Manantan is a member of UNESCO's AI Experts Without Borders and serves on the institutional advisory board of the Australian National University's Philippines Institute. He is also a Senior Advisor and Head of CI-ISAC International for the Asia Pacific, and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Cheng-chi University in Taiwan. Previously, he was a Visiting Fellow at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies under the Ministry of Defense, an Asia Fellow at the Japan Foundation, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Manantan's research has been published in the Australian Journal of International Affairs, Asian Politics and Policy, Issues and Studies, The Cyber Defense Review, and East Asia Forum.

From Policy to Practice: Industry Perspectives on ASEAN-Japan AI Co-Creation

Mr. Kotaro Adachi | CEO and Co-founder, TechShake

Kotaro Adachi is a Japanese entrepreneur based in the Philippines for 20 years. He is currently involved in the management of several companies, including TechShake, AXIS Software Development PHL. INC. Also, he is co-organizer of the IGNITE Conference, which is one of the biggest innovation conferences based in the Philippines. Mr. Adachi attained his MBA from IE Business School in Spain.

ASEAN's AI Ecosystem: Readiness Gaps, Governance, and Regional Interoperability

Mr. Hazremi Hamid | Senior Officer, Digital Economy, ASEAN Secretariat

Hazremi Hamid is a seasoned technology professional and former career diplomatic official with over 17 years of experience. He currently serves as the Senior Officer for Digital Economy at the ASEAN Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he leads regional initiatives under the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030. His portfolio covers digital economy areas such as digital infrastructure, cross-border data flows, and AI governance. He also provides technical and policy guidance to the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and serves as a lead resource on the ASEAN AI Governance and Ethics Framework.

Before joining the ASEAN Secretariat, Hazremi held Hazremi has held senior roles in the Malaysia's Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia (MOSTI), and the private sector, including Panasonic R&D and Measat Broadcast Network System (ASTRO).

Hazremi holds an Honours Degree in Information Technology from Multimedia University, Malaysia. He subsequently pursued two Master's degrees: a Master of Public Policy from the University of Bath, UK, and a Master of Science in Knowledge Management from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. He is a certified PRINCE2® Practitioner in Project Management and holds a Certificate in Business and Climate Change from the University of Cambridge.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Hazremi is a prominent speaker on AI governance and digital transformation in ASEAN and has published numerous articles on technology trends and digital transformation. He is dedicated to advancing responsible, safe use of AI and sustainable digital transformation across ASEAN.

Moderator

Dr. Katrina Navallo | Programme Manager, ASEAN-Japan Centre

Katrina is Program Manager at the ASEAN-Japan Centre Research and Policy Advocacy. She designs and leads the Centre's sustainability and innovation programs including quarterly webinars that deliver insights from the industry, government and academic perspectives on topics such as decarbonization, carbon trading, digital health, and AI. She has been working in the field of international development for 15 years, and has taught graduate programs on gender, migration and Japan-ASEAN relations at the University of the Philippines. She completed her Doctor in Area Studies at Kyoto University and has extensively published on Japan-ASEAN relations, labor, aging, and migration in Japan and Southeast Asia.