

ADB and Mitsubishi Research Institute Partner for ASEAN–Japan Growth

Bridging policy research and practical implementation:
Launched with joint Jakarta event exploring AI-powered manufacturing

7 August 2026 – Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. and Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) signed a partnership to strengthen collaboration aimed at addressing societal issues shared across Japan and ASEAN. The pair launched their collaboration by co-hosting a session on AI in manufacturing in Jakarta on 5 August 2026.

Under the partnership, ADB and Mitsubishi Research Institute will leverage their respective strengths to promote inclusive growth and resilient development across the Japan and ASEAN region. They will collaborate in a broad range of areas spanning industrial competitiveness, environmental sustainability, promotion of digital transformation, and deployment of emerging technologies including artificial intelligence (AI).

“We will deepen our collaboration with ADBI, putting to use our combined expertise in emerging technologies, industry-specific acumen, and policy knowledge to tackle the issues shared by ASEAN and Japan,” said Takahiro Morishita, manager for the partnership at Mitsubishi Research Institute. “Together, we will pursue initiatives to accelerate sustainable development and drive innovation that supports inclusive industrial development.”

Japan and ASEAN face many common societal issues, from aging populations and labor shortages to rapid urbanization and climate resilience. Japan, having confronted several of these challenges earlier and at larger scale, has accumulated technologies, institutional knowhow, and policy experience that can help ASEAN countries accelerate the deployment of effective and sustainable solutions.

The partnership will feature joint events, research, and knowledge sharing. Initial areas of focus include digital transformation, emerging technologies such as AI, and the advancement of industries such as manufacturing.

The pair kicked off their collaboration with *AI-Powered Manufacturing in Developing Asia–Japan Experience*, an event held at the Jakarta International Convention Center in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Indonesia Conference & Expo (DTI-CX) 2026. Drawing on Japanese research, case studies, and operational experience, the session examined how AI can connect workflows that depend on tacit knowledge, improve decision-making and collaboration, and advance operational optimization.



Mitsubishi Research Institute

“AI can help ASEAN’s manufacturing sector improve productivity, strengthen resilience, address workforce constraints, and remain competitive, but its greatest value does not come from automating individual tasks alone,” said Takashi Morisaki, Chairman of the Board at Mitsubishi Research Institute, in his opening remarks. “AI can support better decisions and stronger collaboration by helping organizations capture, share, and apply valuable knowhow more effectively. Co-creation is the way forward—learning from one another and developing solutions suited to each country’s strengths and priorities, with people at the center.”

After opening remarks from ADBI and Mitsubishi Research Institute, the event continued with a photo session for the partnership. Mitsubishi Research Institute’s Takahiro Morishita then presented on human–AI collaboration for next-generation manufacturing operations. The event closed with a panel discussion on AI implementation, success factors, challenges, and outcomes, moderated by Marco Kamiya of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), featuring panelists from Indonesia’s Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, PT Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Indonesia, PT Mitsubishi Electric Indonesia, PT Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indonesia, and Bandung Institute of Technology.

Event highlights



ADBI and Mitsubishi Research Institute sign partnership (Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.)



Presentation by an expert at the event (Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.)



The panel discussion (Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.)



Closing remarks from Dean and CEO of ADBI, Bambang Brodjonegoro (Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.)



Mitsubishi Research Institute

About Asian Development Bank Institute

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) is the Asian Development Bank's Tokyo-based think tank, conducting evidence-based policy research, capacity-building, and training for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth in Asia and the Pacific.

About Mitsubishi Research Institute

Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. is one of Japan's foremost think tanks. For over 50 years, it has provided the public and private sectors with research and consulting services in fields spanning the environment, energy, healthcare, human resources, and digital transformation. This is accompanied by policy recommendations and the real-world application of solutions. Mitsubishi Research Institute will continue to envision the future, resolve societal issues, and lead change to build a sustainable and prosperous world. For more information, please

visit: www.mri.co.jp/en/

General contact MOU information: Global Strategy Division Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. Email: gsd-contact@ml.mri.co.jp Event information: Industry DX Division Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. Email: idu-contact@ml.mri.co.jp	Media contact Corporate Communications Division Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. Email: media@mri.co.jp
--	---