



2025 TDRI–JEF Asia-Pacific Forum

**Recalibrating Asia's Economic Future: Trade, Technology and
Sustainability in a Complex Geoeconomic Environment**

Date: Friday, November 7, 2025

Venue: Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Co-organized by: Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)

Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

Forum Overview

The 2025 TDRI–JEF Asia-Pacific Forum comes at a time of heightened uncertainty and opportunity for the region. As global economic fragmentation deepens and the climate and technology transitions accelerate, the Asia-Pacific region must navigate a complex intersection of challenges: the strategic recalibration of global value chains, climate action, digital transformation, and the future of multilateralism and regionalism. Under the theme “Recalibrating Asia’s Economic Future,” this forum will bring together policymakers, experts, and business leaders from across East and Southeast Asia to examine shared priorities, risks, and cooperative strategies. The morning public session will feature high-level keynotes and a panel on geoeconomics and trade. In the afternoon, closed-door roundtables will delve into technology decoupling and green transition challenges, aiming to produce insights and recommendations for regional collaboration.

About the Organizers

Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

The Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) is an independent, non-profit policy think tank advancing evidence-based policymaking for Thailand’s sustainable and inclusive growth. Founded in 1984, TDRI conducts research and provides strategic advice to government and the public on economic transformation, innovation, and social policy.

Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)

The Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) is a non-profit organization established in 1981 to deepen international economic understanding and promote regional cooperation. Through its dialogues, forums, and studies, JEF connects policymakers, business leaders, and scholars to advance shared prosperity and sustainable development across Asia and beyond.

Schedule

6 November 2025

7:00-9:00 pm: Dinner Reception

For Members and Selected Invitees (approx. 25-30 persons)

7 November 2025

Morning Session (Open)

9:00 – 9:10 am: Opening Remarks

Speakers:

- Mr. Masakazu Toyoda, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)
- Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

9:10 – 9:40 am: Keynote Address

Title: “Asia’s Strategic Role in the New World Order”

This address will highlight Asia’s role in shaping a stable, rules-based economic order amid intensifying geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty. The speaker will reflect on the vision for regional cooperation, and the importance of innovation and sustainability.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Former Minister of Energy and Former Minister of Commerce of Thailand

9:40 – 10:00 am: Photo session and health break

10:00 – 11:20 am: Session 1

Title: “Technology Rivalry: Reevaluation of Digital Transformation and Innovation”

Rationale: The ongoing global technology competition has led many countries to reevaluate their digital sovereignty and innovation policies.

Moderator: Dr. Josef Yap (Philippines)

Panelists:

Opening Perspectives (framing remarks):

- Dr. Vo Tri Thanh (Vietnam)
- Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma (India)

Discussion Session (responding and deepening the debate):

- Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich (Thailand)
- Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri (Indonesia)

Discussion and Q&A with other participants and the floor

11:25 am – 12:45 pm: Session 2

Title: “Climate and the Clock: Accelerating a Just Green Transition in Asia”

Rationale: This session explores regional approaches to green energy, climate finance, and just transition policies.

Moderator: Mr. Manu Bhaskaran (Singapore)

Panelists:

Opening Perspectives (framing remarks):

- Ambassador Murray McLean (Australia)
- Dr. Aladdin Rillo (ERIA)

Discussion Session (responding and deepening the debate):

- Professor Shujiro Urata (Japan)
- Dr. Mignonne Man-jung Chan (Taiwan)
- Daw Khine Khine Nwe (Myanmar)

Discussion and Q&A with other participants and the floor

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

Afternoon Session Session (Closed)

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Session 3

Title: “Goeconomic Realignments: How Asian Countries Should Transform in the New World Order”

Rationale: This session explores the implications of shifting global power dynamics on trade architecture, FDI, and ASEAN’s centrality.

Moderator: Naoyuki Haraoka (JEF)

Panelists:

Opening Perspectives (framing remarks):

- Professor Wang Yuzhu (China)
- Datuk Jayasiri Jayasena (Malaysia)

Discussion Session (responding and deepening the debate):

- Dr. Ahn Choong Yong (Korea)
- Dr. Mia Mikic (New Zealand)

Discussion and Q&A with all the participants

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm: Health Break

4:15 pm – 4:30pm: Summary and Wrap-Up Session

Title: "Key Messages and Forward Steps for Regional Cooperation"

Speakers:

- Mr. Masakazu Toyoda, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation (JEF)
- Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Cocktail networking, followed by dinner

Members/TDRI 15-20 persons

8 November 2025

Return home on their respective flights in due course.