

Joint Summary of the Japan-Singapore Bilateral Dialogue on Education

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan

Ministry of Education, Singapore

Singapore, 23 July 2026

H.E. NAKAMURA Hiroyuki, State Minister of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and H.E. Desmond Lee, Minister for Education of Singapore, met on the sidelines of the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting on 23 July 2026.

They affirmed the robust education ties between both countries and committed to strengthening educational cooperation, in accordance with the elevation of Japan-Singapore diplomatic relations to a Strategic Partnership in March 2026.

Both sides recognized that as society becomes more complex and rapidly changing, propelled by advances in fields such as AI and digitalization, education for holistic development that balances academic achievement with the development of character, social and emotional competencies, and physical and mental well-being is more important than ever. By nurturing the whole person, education for holistic development equips students with the critical skills needed to understand and responsibly engage with emerging technologies.

Furthermore, as well-being becomes central to building a sustainable society beyond 2030, both sides noted that wellness in our interconnected world cannot be achieved by individual action alone. Rather, it depends heavily on positive interpersonal

relationships and active societal engagement. This reality underscores the key role of education for holistic development in fostering these vital connections.

Both sides explored how educational practices for holistic development in Japan and Singapore support multidimensional human development and foster positive relationships between students and their teachers, peers, and the wider community. They agreed to deepen their bilateral exchanges on these practices, while continuing to draw upon broader global research and discourse on non-cognitive skills and socio-emotional learning. They noted that this cooperative approach mirrors ASEAN cultural traditions, which inherently emphasize community-based mutual support.

Both sides welcomed research collaboration between Japan's National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER) and Singapore's National Institute of Education (NIE), particularly in enhancing student well-being at school.

Both sides noted that their shared views on holistic development and well-being complement regional and international discussions. They expressed interest in exchanging these perspectives at relevant forums, such as the ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting. Looking ahead, both countries will keep abreast of and engage in international dialogues on the future of education as appropriate.

Japan and Singapore will continue to work closely together, guided by their shared vision of supporting students' holistic growth and the sustainable development of society through education.