



**REPORT OF THE**  
**ASEAN - CHINA**  
**EMINENT PERSONS GROUP**



Report of the

# **ASEAN - CHINA**

Eminent Persons Group

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

## **Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Members of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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## The ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group



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# 01

Letter of Transmittal of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group Report to the Ninth ASEAN-China Summit



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# **Letter of Transmittal of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group Report to the Ninth ASEAN-China Summit**

12 October 2005

Dear Leaders of ASEAN and China,

1. The ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was initiated at the 8th ASEAN-China Summit on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to take stock of the cooperation and recommend measures for strengthening future ASEAN-China dialogue relations as both sides commemorate the fifteenth year of relations in 2006.
2. Since the establishment of the ASEAN-China EPG in April 2005, it has met on two occasions to review the relations, deliberate on issues, identify niches for cooperation, develop ideas, and formulate recommendations for consolidating the partnership.
3. We have deliberated on key challenges and opportunities in the growing relationship, the vision for future relations and guiding principles that will support an enhanced ASEAN-China strategic partnership. We have also identified a number of short-term and medium and long-term measures to propel the future relations, taking into account the dynamic relationship, and regional and international developments.
4. With the support of our assistants and the resource persons from the ASEAN Secretariat, we have prepared the ASEAN-China EPG Report, which is submitted for your consideration.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

**H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen**  
Former Vice Premier  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

# 02

Executive Summary of the Report of the ASEAN-China  
Eminent Persons Group



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## Executive Summary of the Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group

The rapid growth of ASEAN-China relations has been a force for peace and stability in East Asia. It has also served the development of the two sides and the well-being of their peoples. ASEAN and China have, together, managed those relations in such a way as to keep themselves open to the rest of the world and integrated with the global economy. In this manner, they and the cooperation between them have contributed substantially to world peace and prosperity.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with all ASEAN Member Countries, China's relations with ASEAN have been broad-ranging and multi-faceted. China was a founding participant in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in 1996. It has been an active participant in the ASEAN Plus Three process since 1997. In 2003, China acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. In the same year, ASEAN and China proclaimed a strategic partnership between them.

Trade between ASEAN and China has grown rapidly, reaching US\$78.2 billion in 2003, a 43 percent increase from the previous year, with China importing US\$47.3 billion from ASEAN, a 50 percent increase. Trade exceeded the US\$100 billion mark in 2004. Investment, too, have been growing both ways, accumulating to US\$36 billion by the end of 2004. At their 2002 Summit, the leaders of ASEAN and China signed a framework agreement that provides for an ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), pursuant to which the two sides concluded in 2004 an agreement on trade in goods and one on a dispute-settlement mechanism. ASEAN and China are now working on an agreement on trade in services and one on investment. They are also cooperating in agriculture, information and communications technology (ICT), transportation, energy, public health, culture and tourism, and in the development of the Mekong Basin.

The two sides have cooperated in dealing with "non-traditional" security issues, among them drug-trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal immigration, sea piracy, terrorism, arms smuggling, money laundering, and international economic crime. ASEAN and China have been cooperating closely in other areas, among which are communicable diseases, including primarily SARS and avian influenza. Cooperation in culture and the arts, and educational, youth and other people-to-people exchanges is very active.

In sum, ASEAN and China, through frequent and growing interaction, have developed a solid relationship that has been a constructive element in the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and of the world. The leaders of ASEAN and China are determined to strengthen their cooperation so that it can be an even more effective force for the advancement of their nations, the well-being of their peoples, and the building of a more peaceful and prosperous world.

In the next 15 years and beyond, ASEAN and China should strengthen and deepen their strategic partnership on all fronts with focus on economic, political and security, social, and cultural cooperation. Building on the free trade area, the two sides should exert efforts to facilitate the free flow of goods, services, capital and labour to enhance the linkages between their economies. Security cooperation needs to be enhanced to ensure and further promote harmonious relations among neighbouring countries.

Both sides should contribute to the building of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond, through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the ARF, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the East Asian community using the ASEAN Plus Three and other regional processes. They should also strengthen cooperation to promote common interest in regional and international fora.

ASEAN and China should continue to observe the following guiding principles in developing a strong, comprehensive and mutually beneficial relationship in the next 15 years and beyond:

- a. The development of relations between ASEAN and China should continue to be based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and the Ten Principles of the Bandung Asian-African Conference.
- b. Each ASEAN Member Country conducts its relations with China along two tracks: the bilateral and the multi-lateral, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
- c. ASEAN and China, in expanding the areas of cooperation, need to follow the principle of consensus and move at a pace that is comfortable to both sides.
- d. It is important to avoid overlapping of mechanisms. ASEAN and China should, in introducing new initiatives, try as much as possible to build upon the existing processes, procedures and institutions.
- e. In promoting regional peace and security, it is important to adopt an open and inclusive approach, and to continue to strengthen linkages that have been developed between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners.

## **Political/Security**

The strong ties between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, including China, form an important component of regional cooperation. Through multilateral fora and regional mechanisms, ASEAN and China should endeavour

to promote greater interaction among the political, defence and security establishments in the region. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

1. ASEAN and China can make an important contribution to international peace and stability by promoting confidence-building measures among themselves and with the international community through regular dialogue, exchanges and consultations at the bilateral, regional and international levels. ASEAN and China should look at the possibility of convening a Commemorative Summit in China at an appropriate time to profile the strategic partnership and chart the course for the long-term relationship.
2. Both sides should strengthen cooperation on transnational issues such as maritime security, illegal trafficking, terrorism, transnational crimes, and disaster relief and management. This includes capacity-building measures to strengthen the region's capacity to deal with these challenges.
3. Both sides should also cooperate with one another and support international efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

## **Economic**

The thrust of economic cooperation between ASEAN and China should be to identify areas of synergy from which both sides can mutually benefit. China's growth presents new opportunities for ASEAN just as closer economic integration within ASEAN will benefit China. ASEAN and China should work together to promote closer economic linkages between their economies in the areas of trade, investment, finance, transport and communications, energy cooperation, tourism and infrastructural development. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

1. ASEAN and China should accelerate the pace of economic cooperation and strengthen the linkages between their economies. We encourage the early conclusion of the agreements on services and investment under the ACFTA negotiations, and enhanced cooperation in the key areas of infrastructure, transport, communications, agriculture and energy.
2. We further propose the establishment in Beijing of an ASEAN-China Centre, to promote trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural cooperation between ASEAN and China, with an annual ASEAN-China Expo in Nanning as part of its activities. The Centre could also provide advice and guidance to potential investors, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
3. To narrow the development gaps in the region and improve the well-being of the people, ASEAN and China could cooperate towards realising the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and implement specific projects to promote the more rapid development of the less developed countries and sub-regions in ASEAN, and improve the quality of life of the rural and urban poor.

## Socio-cultural

People-to-people ties are vital in bringing the region closer together. Located in a region with diverse cultures and religions, ASEAN and China should work together in building bridges amongst the communities in the region, through exchanges at various levels and in different fields. Promoting greater cultural awareness and preserving their rich and diverse heritage is part and parcel of creating a harmonious community of nations where people can live in peace and prosperity. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

1. ASEAN and China could establish an ASEAN-China Foundation and launch a prestigious scholarship programme to promote the exchange of talented undergraduate students, post-graduate students, post-doctorate fellows and young professors between ASEAN and China. An ASEAN-China academic research network could be established to facilitate exchanges and joint projects, with a view to publishing a regional academic journal and convening regional conferences of scholars and researchers. The existing networks, linking the libraries of ASEAN and China, could be expanded to include their national museums, archives, cultural centres, arts and film festivals.
2. Cooperation in the areas of public health and environmental protection should be strengthened. On public health, a high-level international meeting on infectious diseases such as avian influenza should be convened to mobilise international attention and resources to address an urgent global threat. On the environment, ASEAN and China should cooperate and exchange best practices concerning the sustainable use of natural resources, the reduction of air pollution and the better management of towns and cities.
3. ASEAN and China could look at further promotion of open skies policy, visa-free travel, and the setting up of tourism cultural centres to promote and strengthen tourism cooperation. In the areas of youth and sports, we propose more people-to-people exchanges such as annual ASEAN-China badminton, table-tennis, basketball and soccer competitions, and annual ASEAN-China school camps, with team-building activities and visits to museums and historical places of interest to promote better mutual understanding between the young people of ASEAN and China.

## Conclusion

The recommendations of this report reflect the common desire of ASEAN and China to establish their relationship on a long-term basis, built upon mutual respect and trust, to the benefit of all parties.



# 03

Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group



# Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group

## 3. REVIEW OF ASEAN-CHINA DIALOGUE RELATIONS

### 3.1 Fifteen Years of ASEAN-China Relations

*Prior to 1991: Turning Confrontation and Suspicion to Dialogue and Cooperation*

1. Southeast Asian countries and China, as close neighbours, enjoy a long history of exchanges and interactions. Between the inception of ASEAN in August 1967 and the formal establishment of ties between ASEAN and China in 1991, relations between the two sides went through a process of evolution from confrontation and suspicion to dialogue, cooperation and strategic partnership based on equality, good neighbourliness and mutual trust.
2. In the early days of ASEAN, the relationship with China was characterised by confrontation and mutual distrust. The 1970s witnessed the conclusion of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by ASEAN, the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.
3. In November 1978, during a visit to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping expressed China's wish to develop friendly ties with ASEAN Member Countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. In the following years, the issues on communist parties and the ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia were resolved and both sides worked together successfully on the political settlement of the Cambodian problem. By 1991, China had established or resumed diplomatic relations with all Southeast Asian countries,

which laid the groundwork for dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and China. ASEAN-China dialogue relations went through three stages between 1991 and 2005:

*1991-1996: Putting in Place a Comprehensive Dialogue Framework*

4. A golden period of rapid development in Southeast Asia provided ASEAN with the opportunity to play an important role in regional affairs, with ASEAN initiating a number of regional dialogue mechanisms to promote peace, prosperity and development. After pursuing reform and opening-up for more than a decade, China saw increasing value in a peaceful and stable international environment, particularly with its neighbouring countries. With the congruence in the interests between ASEAN and China, and the political will to develop a closer dialogue and cooperation, both sides intensified efforts towards forging a lasting partnership.
5. In July 1991, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen attended the Opening Session of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and held the first informal meeting with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. At the invitation of the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, the Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato' Ajit Singh led an ASEAN delegation for a visit to Beijing in September 1993. The two sides held exploratory talks to strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation in the fields of trade, economic relations, and science and technology and reached broad understanding in these areas of cooperation. China, in effect, became a Consultative Partner of ASEAN in 1993.
6. The Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Foreign Minister of China exchanged letters on 23 July 1994 in Bangkok to establish two joint committees, on trade and economic matters and on science and technology. In the same year, ASEAN and China agreed to engage in political consultations at the senior officials' level. The first ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations (SOC) was held in April 1995 in Hangzhou, China. China participated in the first ARF held on 25 July 1994 in Bangkok as a Consultative Partner of ASEAN.
7. In 1996, China attended the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference (AMM/PMC) in Jakarta for the first time as a full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. To help manage the dialogue relationship, ASEAN and China instituted an ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), which convened its inaugural meeting in Beijing in February 1997. An ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund was established to support development cooperation activities between ASEAN and China.

*1997-2002: Towards Good Neighbourliness and Mutual Trust*

8. The 1997 Asian financial crisis was an important turning point in ASEAN-China dialogue relations. China maintained a policy of not devaluing its currency despite difficulties and extended assistance to ASEAN Member Countries affected by the crisis. ASEAN recognised and acknowledged the importance of the growing Chinese economy for Southeast Asia and the commitment of China to assist and support ASEAN during the crucial period.
9. In December 1997, ASEAN initiated the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Summit and an Informal Summit between ASEAN and China. This put in place a top-level mechanism of annual meetings between the leaders of both sides. The leaders of ASEAN and China issued a Joint Statement announcing the establishment of a partnership of good neighbourliness and mutual trust oriented toward the 21st Century, mapping out the future direction for ASEAN-China dialogue relations.
10. Guided by the Joint Statement, political relations grew rapidly to a higher level. Between 1998 and 2000, China signed framework documents on bilateral relations or announced cooperation programmes with each of the ten ASEAN Member Countries. ASEAN and China also signed key documents on the South China Sea and on non-traditional security issues in 2002.
11. In 2001, leaders of both sides identified agriculture, the information industry, human resource development, mutual investment and Mekong River Basin development as the five priorities for cooperation in the early part of the new century. In the same year, China proposed an ACFTA within 10 years' time. Consequently, a Framework Agreement was concluded in 2002 to establish a free trade area by the year 2010.

*2003-2005: Establishing a Strategic Partnership*

12. Towards the end of 2002, China announced its development goal of building a moderately prosperous society in an “all round manner” and announced a policy of “building good-neighbourly relationships and partnerships with neighbouring countries”. In 2003, ASEAN outlined a plan for an ASEAN Community with the adoption of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II), consisting of the three pillars of the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The highly similar development goals of the two sides made possible a comprehensive upgrading of bilateral relations.

13. In October 2003, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, attending the ASEAN-China Summit, expounded on China's foreign policy of "building a harmonious, tranquil and prosperous neighbourhood". China acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia at the Summit, becoming the first Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to accede to the Treaty. A Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity was also signed at the Summit, making China the first strategic partner of ASEAN and ASEAN the first regional organisation to forge a strategic partnership with China.
14. With the forging of the strategic partnership, bilateral cooperation was further strengthened. In March 2004, the ASEAN Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Viet Nam issued a Chairman's Statement on the question of Taiwan reaffirming ASEAN's commitment to the One China Policy. Later in September 2004, all the ASEAN Member Countries unanimously recognised China's full market economy status. At the beginning of 2005, China and ASEAN launched the "Early Harvest" Programme (EHP) as part of the ASEAN-China free trade arrangement. In July 2005, China announced the expansion of the scope of the special preferential tariff treatment for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.
15. The strategic partnership was also evident in the joint efforts to handle major natural disasters and emergencies. From 2003 to 2005, China and ASEAN cooperated effectively on SARS, avian influenza and the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami within the ASEAN-China dialogue and ASEAN Plus Three cooperation frameworks.

### **3.1.1 Current Structure**

16. Over the last 15 years, the institutional framework to conduct ASEAN-China relations and cooperation has evolved. Today, there are 28 mechanisms within the framework to facilitate cooperation and strengthen relations.
17. At the apex of the framework is the annual ASEAN-China Summit, which provides the strategic direction for relations. The Summit is supported by the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting, which meets annually to review relations and provide policy guidance. The Ministers are supported by the ASEAN-China SOC, which focuses on strategic, political and security cooperation, and the ASEAN-China JCC, which coordinates the overall implementation of ASEAN-China cooperation and acts as the custodian of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund.

18. At the sectoral level, several mechanisms have been developed over the years, reflecting the expanding and intensifying cooperation. ASEAN-China cooperation now covers political and security; trade, investment and economic; science and technology; ICT; transport; transnational crime; and youth. In addition, the ASEAN-China Business Council helps to promote cooperation between the private/business sectors of the two sides while the ASEAN Beijing Committee, comprising the Ambassadors of ASEAN Member Countries in Beijing, helps to promote ASEAN-China relations on behalf of the ASEAN Standing Committee.
19. In addition, ASEAN and China interact and cooperate at other regional and multilateral fora where ASEAN plays a key role. These include the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), and the ARF.

### **3.1.2 Areas of Cooperation**

#### **Political and Security**

20. China has entered into a number of political declarations and agreements with ASEAN in the area of political and security cooperation in the past four years. These include the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues and the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea, which were concluded at the ASEAN-China Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. China was the first Dialogue Partner to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, doing so at the ASEAN-China Summit in October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. While the signing of the DOC signalled the desire of both ASEAN and China to promote trust, confidence and cooperation and to agree on a regional code of conduct in the disputed area, the accession by China to the treaty provided further reassurance on the peace and security of the region and that the treaty would eventually become a code for inter-state relations in the region. China has also reiterated its willingness to work with ASEAN for the early signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ).
21. As a follow-up to the DOC, ASEAN and China convened an ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC on 7 December 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the Meeting, the ASEAN-China SOM adopted the Terms of Reference for the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South

China Sea. The objective of the Joint Working Group is to study and recommend measures to translate the provisions of the DOC into concrete cooperative activities that will enhance mutual understanding and trust. The Joint Working Group held its first meeting on 4-5 August 2005 in Manila. The second meeting of the Working Group has been planned for early of 2006.

22. ASEAN and China signed an MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues in January 2004 in Bangkok to implement the Joint Declaration in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues. In this regard, ASEAN and China have successfully implemented all activities envisioned in the 2004 Annual Plan to implement the MOU.

#### **Trade, Economy and Finance**

23. Trade between ASEAN and China has grown substantially since 1995. In 2003, it grew by 43 percent to a new high of US\$78.2 billion, with China importing US\$47.3 billion from ASEAN, a 50 per cent increase. At the ASEAN-China Summit in 2003, a target of US\$100 billion by 2005 was set for the two-way trade. This target has since been surpassed, which makes China the fourth largest trading partner of ASEAN after the United States, Japan and the European Union. Bilateral trade grew at an annual rate of 39% for the period 2002-2004, reaching US\$105.9 billion in 2004.
24. A similar positive trend can be seen in foreign direct investment between ASEAN and China. In 1991, ASEAN's investment in China was only US\$90 million but grew to US\$4.8 billion in 1998. By 2001, the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stood at US\$26.2 billion, accounting for 6.6 percent of total FDI in China. On the other hand, China's investment in ASEAN is small but increasing.
25. In November 2002, the leaders of ASEAN Member Countries and China signed the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, which provides for an ACFTA by the year 2010 for Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and by 2015 for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV). The Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation was signed between ASEAN and China in October 2003 to further regulate the acceleration of tariff reduction and elimination for products under the EHP and finalise the Rules of Origin (ROO). The EHP has been implemented since 1 January 2004.

26. At the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit in November 2004, ASEAN and China signed the Agreements on Trade in Goods (TIG) and Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation. The Agreement on TIG has been implemented since 20 July 2005, subject to the finalisation of each country's internal procedures, while the Agreement on DSM will provide support to the smooth implementation of the ACFTA. Both sides are now working to conclude at an early date an agreement on trade in services and one on investment under the Framework Agreement.
27. ASEAN and China signed an MOU on Transport Cooperation on the sidelines of the ASEAN-China Summit in November 2004. The MOU will strengthen ASEAN-China transport cooperation in a more holistic and integrated manner and lays a solid foundation for medium-to long-term collaboration to support the ACFTA. So far, three projects have been implemented, and an ASEAN-China maritime transport cooperation framework agreement is being considered.
28. ASEAN and China are now working on an MOU on Quality Inspection and Quarantine in support of the ACFTA.
29. ASEAN and China, through the ASEAN Plus Three process, have achieved progress in promoting regional financial cooperation initiatives by establishing a network of Bilateral Swap Arrangements (BSAs) under the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) monitoring capital flows, strengthening the Early Warning System, taking steps to develop domestic and regional bond markets, enhancing the effectiveness of economic reviews and policy dialogues, and exploring other modalities of regional collaboration and support mechanism.

### **Functional Cooperation**

30. At the ASEAN-China Summit on 6 November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN and China agreed to focus their cooperation on five priority areas in the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, namely, agriculture, ICT, human resource development (HRD), mutual investment and Mekong River Basin development. At the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-China JCC in Phnom Penh on 2-3 March 2005, China proposed the inclusion of five new priority areas, namely, energy, transport, culture, tourism and public health, for ASEAN's consideration.
31. In order to strengthen cooperation in the five agreed priority areas, ASEAN and China signed an MOU on Agricultural Cooperation on 2 November 2002 in Phnom Penh and an MOU on

Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology on 8 October 2003 at the Bali Summit. An “ASEAN-China ICT Week” was held on 12-18 May 2005 in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

32. ASEAN and China are working closely together in implementing the Mekong Basin development programmes and projects within various frameworks, such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) and the Mekong River Commission (MRC). China has contributed US\$5 million to help regulate the navigation channel on the Mekong River within the territories of Lao PDR and Myanmar. China is now a Development Partner in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).
33. ASEAN and China will be establishing an ASEAN-China Fund for Public Health to support the implementation of activities and projects related to health. At the Special ASEAN-China Leaders' Meeting on SARS in April 2003 in Bangkok, China pledged to contribute RMB10 million to the Fund, while Cambodia and Thailand announced that they would contribute US\$100,000 and US\$250,000, respectively, to it.
34. ASEAN and China concluded an MOU on Cultural Cooperation on the sidelines of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Culture and the Arts Meeting (AMCA Plus Three) in August 2005 in Bangkok. A programme framework has been developed to implement the MOU.
35. Cooperation in tourism with China is conducted through meetings of the ASEAN Plus Three National Tourism Organisations and ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers. The cooperation activities within the ASEAN Plus Three framework would include research on tourism and information technology, seminars on hospitality and tourism, tourism publications, tourism networks, and a centre for tourism resource management.
36. ASEAN and China have established the Senior Officials Consultation Meeting on Youth in May 2004 and the ASEAN-China Ministers for Youth Affairs Meeting in September 2004. ASEAN and China have also convened the ASEAN-China Business Young Leaders Summit on 23-28 May 2004 in Guangxi, China.
37. In the area of disaster management, ASEAN and China have adopted an Action Plan to Formulate a Technology Platform for Earthquake-Generated Tsunami Warning System at the China-ASEAN Workshop on Earthquake-Generated Tsunami Warning held in Beijing on 25-26 January 2005.

38. In the second half of 2005, ASEAN and China will be preparing a number of activities to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in 2006. ASEAN and China have established an ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group to assess ASEAN-China relations in the last 15 years and to come up with recommendations for strengthening future relations. The recommendations will be presented to the ASEAN-China Summit on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.

### **3.1.3 Progress and Outstanding Issues**

39. ASEAN-China relations have developed rapidly, with the two sides enjoying good political relations, rapid progress in economic cooperation, and expanded cooperation in other fields, with strengthened mechanisms to facilitate cooperation.
40. On the political front, a solid foundation for the long-term ASEAN-China dialogue partnership is in place, with the establishment of a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity between the two sides. China views its relations with ASEAN as an important link in its diplomacy and a major part of its diplomatic work in the neighbouring region, while ASEAN considers China, along with its other East Asian Dialogue Partners, as an important partner for peace, progress and development in the region. Exchanges between the two sides on international and regional situations have grown. The establishment of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group in 2005 is another manifestation of the growing strategic partnership between the two sides.
41. In the economic field, the process of establishing the ACFTA is progressing, the EHP has been carried out as scheduled and agreements on a DSM and on TIG within the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation have been signed. Tariffs have now been reduced on over 7,000 tariff lines. In 2004, trade between the two sides exceeded US\$100 billion. China has set the goal for trade with ASEAN in 2010 at US\$200 billion. Two-way investment has also expanded. At the end of 2004, paid-up investment was over US\$36 billion. The success of the first ASEAN-China Expo in Nanning in November 2004 offered a new platform for the promotion of trade and investment. The second Expo was held on 19-22 October 2005. The two sides are now negotiating agreements on trade in services and on investment.
42. In the security area, China, the Philippines and Viet Nam took a crucial step in March 2005 in implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea by reaching

the Tripartite Agreement for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking in the Agreement Area in the South China Sea. According to the Joint Declaration of China and ASEAN on the Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues, the two sides are carrying out cooperation in eight important areas: drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal immigration, sea piracy, terrorism, arms smuggling, money laundering and international economic crime. In August 2005, the two sides held the second ministerial meeting on drugs control to further implement the Plan of Action of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD). They participated in the Security Policy Conference at the level of vice-defence minister within the framework of the ARF.

43. In other fields, ASEAN and China have signed MOUs and concluded plans for cooperation in ICT, transportation, culture and the Greater Mekong Sub-region Cooperation. The two sides are now discussing the possibility of signing MOUs on marine and quality supervision cooperation. The ASEAN Member Countries are now tourist destinations of Chinese citizens and in 2004, the tourism exchanges between the two sides surpassed 5 million person times. Non-governmental exchanges will be further enhanced by the establishment of the China-ASEAN Association. At the Eighth ASEAN-China Summit in 2004, the Chinese Premier proposed the establishment of an ASEAN-China energy ministerial meeting mechanism to make full use of the ASEAN Plus Three energy cooperation platform.
44. In response to natural disasters and serious emergency events, ASEAN and China assisted each other in addressing difficulties together and formulated a strategy to handle crises. In April 2003, ASEAN and China convened the Special China-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on SARS, making significant contributions to the prevention and control of this epidemic. In early 2004, when avian influenza broke out in some ASEAN Member Countries, ASEAN and China immediately held meetings to address the issues and find solutions. China offered ASEAN Member Countries relevant technical training programmes. Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004, Chinese Premier attended the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami and announced China's humanitarian assistance to affected ASEAN Member Countries. China is also taking an active part in the post-disaster reconstruction.
45. ASEAN and China have strengthened consultation and coordination on regional and international issues. The two sides have worked together to promote the healthy development of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, ARF, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, APEC, ASEM, Forum for East Asia

and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) and other regional and trans-regional cooperation mechanisms. China supports ASEAN as the driving force in East Asia cooperation. With mutual understanding, ASEAN and China should continue to have dialogue and consultation with each other for promoting their common interest at the United Nations, WTO and other international organisations. ASEAN has acknowledged China as a full market economy, and China supports Lao PDR and Viet Nam in their bid for early accession to the WTO.

46. The positive aspects of ASEAN-China relations in the last 15 years include the following:

- a. Recognising equality and showing mutual respect: Equality among all countries of different sizes, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect for each other's choice of development path.
- b. Seeking common ground and enhancing mutual trust while addressing issues: Find answers to problems and friction through frank dialogue and consultation based on a step-by-step process taking into account each other's comfort level.
- c. Securing mutual benefit and win-win outcomes: Accommodating each other's needs, avoiding unwanted competition, and working for win-win results based on the "prosper thy neighbour" approach, thereby sharing the benefits of cooperation to the fullest extent.
- d. Establishing appropriate mechanisms for cooperation: Mechanisms have been established at various levels for promoting regular dialogue, communication, coordination and cooperation based on agreed priorities and with a view to promoting the long-term interest of the partnership.

47. At the same time, there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed in the relationship in order to further enhance the strategic partnership:

- a. Mutual political trust needs to be enhanced: There is still a gap to be bridged by ASEAN and China in terms of understanding each other's strategic intentions. In this respect, the South China Sea issue will continue to be a sensitive problem in the relations even though great strides have been made by ASEAN and China in reducing tensions in the disputed area.
- b. The depth and breadth of cooperation have yet to match the defined strategic partnership: Greater interaction, consultation and coordination are necessary in implementing initiatives, plans and strategies, so that there is a sense of joint action and ownership of cooperation. Most cooperation activities tend to focus on information exchange, experience sharing and training. ASEAN and China need to move to the next stage of implementing activities to

strengthen the partnership, identifying niches for cooperation and implementing priority flagship projects. An area that would require greater effort from both sides is cooperation on major regional and international issues.

- c. Progress of cooperation in different fields: While ASEAN-China cooperation is planned to be comprehensive and substantive, implementation of strategies, plans and cooperation has to be further accelerated in the identified priority areas.

## 4. FUTURE DIRECTION

### 4.1 Regional and International Environment

- 48. The regional and international situations have changed significantly since 1991, when ASEAN-China relations entered a new phase. Although the Cold War has ended, the international situation remains fluid and uncertain. However, the vigorous pursuit of peace, development and cooperation by the people of all countries has formed a tide of history. For the countries in the region, a stable environment is essential for their continued growth and prosperity.
- 49. As the region develops, it witnesses dialogue, engagement and cooperation among the countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. However, it will have to manage the consequence of two forces driving the world -- globalisation and regionalisation. These trends pose challenges as well as opportunities for both ASEAN and China. Globalisation has led to a more integrated and interdependent world. It has also increased economic disparities within and between nations. At the same time, regionalisation has spread to all parts of the world. Within the region, ASEAN's integration is proceeding steadily. It is seeking to integrate further and become an ASEAN Community by 2020. The rapid development of China helps to promote the integration and development of the region.
- 50. While globalisation and regionalisation have brought about benefits for the region and the world, they also present a number of challenges that have to be addressed collectively as a region and globally. This includes the threat of terrorism and transnational crime; the new and re-emerging infectious diseases; the HIV/AIDS problem; poverty; and the shifting of economic opportunities, advantages and competitiveness.

51. Regional peace and prosperity cannot be taken for granted despite the prevailing peace and stability, since there are several latent flashpoints in the region.
52. ASEAN can and will continue to play an important role in managing the evolving regional configuration with the support of its partners, including China. ASEAN's relations with its Dialogue Partners, the ASEAN Plus Three process, and ongoing cooperation under other regional processes will help to strengthen these overlapping and complimentary linkages, which will ensure that the regional configuration is robust, open and inclusive.

## **4.2 Key Challenges and Opportunities**

### **4.2.1 Political and Security**

53. The political and security relationship between ASEAN and China is relatively new and developing. It is marked by frequent high-level and other exchanges and dialogue at all levels, intensifying cooperation in non-traditional security issues, building confidence, and further easing tensions in the South China Sea. However, even as ASEAN and China move towards closer cooperation in these fields, they should remember that progress should be made at a pace comfortable to both sides, with confidence-building measures playing a key role in fostering a climate conducive to engagement and cooperation.
54. ASEAN views China as a key player in the Asia-Pacific region and attaches great importance to its relationship with China. The relationship between ASEAN and China should be considered in the broader strategic context of the Asia-Pacific region in which there are other stakeholders who have contributed and can continue to contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity. ASEAN and China should continue to strengthen cooperation with each other and with other key players.

### **4.2.2 Economic and Financial**

55. Emerging from the Asian financial crisis of 1997, ASEAN has made bold restructuring moves. The growth of China has fuelled the ASEAN economies' recovery. As East Asia emerges as a core of economic activity, the pressing challenge facing ASEAN and China remains the improvement of their peoples' livelihoods and the sharpening of the region's competitiveness.

56. Guided by the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II of 2003, ASEAN is working towards an ASEAN Community by 2020 consisting of the security, economic and socio-cultural communities. The ASEAN Community is meant to further strengthen regional stability, prosperity and progress by ensuring peace; an integrated ASEAN economy characterised by the free flow of goods, services, and people and freer flow of capital; a vibrant and open ASEAN societies interacting with one another, where human development is given top priority; and an outward-looking ASEAN which will play a pivotal role in the international arena and in building the regional architecture.
57. China, too, is at an important juncture in its modernisation drive. It is pressing ahead with economic reform and opening-up which will benefit the region. Just as China's development is closely linked with ASEAN's prosperity, ASEAN is an important regional partner for China. It is thus imperative that ASEAN and China build a strong foundation of mutual interests, based on economic cooperation and political solidarity that allows both sides to harness their strengths and consolidate their resources to increase the dynamism and resilience of their individual economies while enhancing the region's overall economic attractiveness and competitiveness.
58. To this end, ASEAN and China should focus on enhancing the economic linkages that will support the web of inter-connected trading systems that they are weaving. This would allow both sides to take advantage of opportunities generated by the region's growth and deal with trans-boundary challenges such as environmental protection, sustainable development, conservation of energy resources and human resource development. ASEAN and China should involve more levels and sectors of society in the economic growth of the region and the further development of the ASEAN-China relationship.
59. Financial cooperation is an area that both sides should focus on as they build a comprehensive partnership. The Asian financial crisis has shown the importance of cooperation among the countries in the region to ensure that such a crisis does not recur in the region. The CMI and the Asian Bond Market Initiatives (ABMI) need to be further strengthened to ensure regional financial stability. The CMI should become a more effective and disciplined framework for self-help and support in addressing short-term liquidity difficulties and to supplement existing international financial arrangements. The ABMI should move towards the development of deeper and more liquid regional bond markets for the efficient allocation of the large pool of savings in Asia to finance productive investment in the region, including infrastructure development, a key to integration and economic development.

#### **4.2.3 Socio-Cultural**

60. Even as ASEAN and China strive for closer cooperation in the political/security and economic spheres, they must not lose sight of the fact that their endeavours are ultimately for the benefit of their collective population of 1.8 billion people. There is therefore a need to promote greater awareness of the benefits of the ASEAN-China relationship amongst their peoples.
  
61. Historically, ASEAN has received influences from both the Eastern and the Western civilisations. People-to-people ties between ASEAN and China go back a long way. Likewise, ASEAN Member Countries' contacts with the West have also left an enduring legacy in administration, education and ideas. The unique blend of the diverse cultures and peoples has given this region one of the most culturally colourful legacies in the world. The unique cultural traits of ASEAN as well as China's long history and culture should be harnessed to reinvigorate the Asian cultural landscape. The diversity between ASEAN and China should be a force that drives them towards greater interaction and mutual understanding and appreciation. To encourage their peoples to live in harmony and respect each other's differences, they should promote greater exchanges between youth, media, parliamentarians, cultural and art groups, social organisations, and educational institutions. This would help to create a more vibrant and well-rounded relationship between ASEAN and China.

#### **4.2.4 Human Resources and Development Cooperation**

62. The ASEAN Member Countries and China are developing countries. They have abundant natural resources as well as human resources. Over the years, ASEAN and China have placed emphasis on developing human resources, both in the public and private sectors, to stay competitive in the global economy.
  
63. Human resource development has been given priority in ASEAN-China dialogue relations with special focus on science and technology and information technology, which are the keys to the further development and progress of both economies as the world economy becomes more competitive and economies become more interdependent.
  
64. ASEAN and China are actively involved in the development of the Mekong sub-region. China is committed to assisting ASEAN in constructing part of the Lao PDR section of the Bangkok-

Kunming Highway. China had contributed US\$5 million for dredging the Mekong River within the territories of Lao PDR and Myanmar for navigation, and this was completed in April 2003. China has also provided US\$1 million for the feasibility study for a new pan-Asia rail link section in Cambodia. China is committed to promoting industrial, tourism and other cooperation in the Mekong region. China is also ready to help the downstream countries in flood management, disaster reduction and the use and conservation of water resources. ASEAN and China should continue their cooperation so that the economic development of the Mekong sub-region is shared by all.

65. At the same time, the development of ASEAN and China will be dependent on the availability of energy. In this regard, energy cooperation will be critical for both sides' further growth and development. ASEAN and China should continue to work closely together in energy security within the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework and under the ASEAN-China dialogue relations.

#### **4.2.5 Institutional Framework**

66. ASEAN-China relations have been transformed from a consultative partnership to a strategic partnership in just 12 years. While this shows the importance of relations to both sides and the high level of commitment to further strengthen relations, there is a need to look at the existing institutional framework and "working methods" to ensure that the current mechanisms will be able to propel the strategic partnership in a balanced and comprehensive manner, with both sides equally driving the process.
67. While the ASEAN-China Summit has become the key decision-making and direction-setting mechanism for the strategic partnership, the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers Meeting continues to play the role of providing policy guidance and overall coordination of ASEAN-China relations. Similarly, the ASEAN-China SOC facilitates and contributes to strengthening strategic and political and security cooperation, including building confidence on the issue of the South China Sea. The ASEAN-China JCC, assisted by its Working Group, coordinates the overall implementation of ASEAN-China cooperation, including the monitoring of the implementation of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action and the utilisation of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund.

68. The sectoral dialogue mechanisms have assumed an increasingly important role in promoting cooperation in the priority areas identified for the dialogue relations, since cooperation is much broader and substantive now. Each of these sectors is formulating specific plans and programmes to promote cooperation and funds are being provided separately by China for such activities in most instances.
69. While there have been preliminary discussions between ASEAN and China on streamlining the mechanisms of the dialogue, especially with regard to the ASEAN-China SOC and ASEAN-China JCC, it has been agreed that the current structure, as it is, would be adequate to meet the needs of the strategic partnership. Attempts have been made to ensure that the scope and agenda of the SOC and JCC do not duplicate and that both mechanisms perform distinct roles. So far, there have been no real problems encountered.
70. As the cooperation expands and intensifies, there may be a need to develop new mechanisms. What is more urgent however, is to look at improving the “working methods”, especially in coordinating the expanding and intensifying cooperation and project implementation. This is especially so since the sectoral bodies in the dialogue framework operate independently of one another even though the ASEAN Departments in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member Countries and the Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China are mandated to coordinate the overall cooperation. The primary responsibility for coordinating the dialogue partnership rests on the Country Coordinator, currently Cambodia, for the ASEAN side, and China. The country coordinatorship is on a three-year cycle. The current cycle will end in July 2006. The ASEAN Secretariat which attends all the sectoral meetings under the dialogue as well as the dialogue meetings involving the Foreign Ministries, serves as an informal interlocutor across these mechanisms and their meetings. More coordination between ASEAN and China is necessary as cooperation intensifies. ASEAN and China need to understand each other’s project approval processes to ensure that projects are approved expeditiously.
71. One issue that would require the urgent attention of ASEAN and China as they carry out the Plan of Action to implement the Strategic Partnership and consolidate the cooperation will be that of resource mobilisation. While China’s financial contribution to the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund and ASEAN’s in-kind contribution to project implementation are highly appreciated, more resources will be required to implement the strategic partnership. This is especially so if ASEAN and China want to move to the next stage of implementing concrete activities and flagship projects.

#### 4.3 Vision of Future ASEAN-China Relations

72. The growth of China-ASEAN relations in the past 15 years has laid a solid foundation for future cooperation. In the next 15 years and beyond, China and ASEAN, with their highly similar development goals, have a good prospect of strengthening cooperation and building and giving substance to their partnership. However, confronted with both opportunities and challenges, both sides should keep the relationship in tune with the changing times.
73. The strategic partnership should be deepened on all fronts with focus on economic, political and security, social and cultural cooperation. Building on the ACFTA, the two sides should exert efforts to facilitate the free flow of goods, services, capital and labour to enhance the linkages between their economies. Security cooperation needs to be enhanced to ensure and further promote harmonious relations among neighbouring countries.
74. ASEAN and China should contribute to the building of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond, through the ASEAN Plus Three process, EAS, the East Asia community, APEC, the ARF and other regional processes and forums to realise lasting peace, stability, prosperity and development in the region and beyond. They should also strengthen cooperation to promote common interest in regional and international fora.

#### 4.4 Guiding Principles

75. The relationship between ASEAN and China is a strong, comprehensive and mutually beneficial one. It is the one of the most substantive and dynamic of ASEAN's relations with its Dialogue Partners. In order to keep the momentum and realise the above-mentioned vision through the efforts of both sides in the next 15 years, the following principles should continue to be observed.
  - a. The development of relations between ASEAN and China should continue to be based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and the Ten Principles of the Bandung Asian-African Conference.
  - b. Each ASEAN Member Country conducts its relations with China along two tracks: the bilateral and the multi-lateral, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

- c. ASEAN and China, in expanding the areas of cooperation, need to follow the principle of consensus and move at a pace that is comfortable to both sides.
- d. It is important to avoid an overlap of mechanisms. ASEAN and China should, in introducing new initiatives, try as much as possible to build upon the existing processes, procedures and institutions.
- e. In promoting regional peace and security, it is important to adopt an open and inclusive approach, and to continue to strengthen linkages that have been developed between ASEAN and all its Dialogue Partners.

#### **4.5 Recommendations**

- 76. In the light of the above, we, the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons, underscore the equal importance of the ASEAN-China partnership in ASEAN's external relations and the belief that a comprehensive approach will be needed to propel the strategic partnership in the next 15 years. The focus should not only be on enhancing and consolidating existing cooperation, but also on identifying specific niches for new cooperation in the face of the dynamic developments in the region and new and emerging challenges. We believe that cooperation should take a balanced form and be driven jointly by both sides. We also believe that the institutional framework needs to be agile and responsive to the changing needs of the partnership as it evolves.
- 77. In formulating the recommendations, we have taken into account the need to be forward-looking and bold, thereby complementing and adding value to, but not duplicating the measures in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action and ongoing cooperation. The recommendations focus on key areas and issues where relations and cooperation need to be enhanced, using an open, inclusive and win-win approach.
- 78. We have classified the recommendations into short-term, and medium and long-term measures in the key sectors of cooperation so as to prioritise their implementation and not tax the limited resources available in ASEAN and China. The short-term measures are those that could be implemented in the next 1-5 years, while the medium-term and long-term measures could be implemented anytime within the next 6-15 years.

79. Since ASEAN-China relations and regional economics and politics are dynamic, we propose that both sides periodically review the implementation of the measures to ensure that these continue to be relevant to the strategic partnership and to modify them to suit the changing needs.

### **Strategic/Political and Security Cooperation**

80. Peace and stability in the region are an important prerequisite for the continued economic growth of ASEAN and China. There can be no peace without security, and no security without peace. The strong ties between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, including China, form an important component of regional cooperation. Through bilateral cooperation between ASEAN and China, and the multilateral fora and regional mechanisms such as the ARF, both sides will endeavour to promote greater interaction among the political, defence and security establishments in the region, as well as support confidence-building measures and enhanced dialogue. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

#### ***Short-Term Measures***

##### **High-Level Interactions**

- High-level interactions and contacts should be further enhanced so that there will be greater comfort levels among leaders, ministers, top policy makers, officials and technical experts to discuss, respond, address and resolve urgent and other issues in the relations in a timely manner. In this regard, mutual briefings and clarifications on issues and developments in ASEAN and China as well as the regional and international outlook should become a consistent practice in ASEAN-China fora. Workshops at various levels for each side to illuminate for the other its strategic outlook and military posture could be held. Both sides could look at the establishment of a track 1.5 mechanism involving government officials, think-tanks and scholars to discuss issues that may impact the dialogue relations and to look at ways and means to strengthen the relations.

##### **Addressing Transnational Issues**

- Cooperation in addressing transnational issues should continue to be an important aspect of cooperation between ASEAN and China. These issues could affect the economic dynamism of the region, have a pronounced negative social impact on their people, and affect the cordial bilateral relations. In this regard, cooperation in addressing terrorism and other transnational crimes should move forward from sharing of information and expertise to the next stage of

concrete cooperation. Some of the areas that require urgent action are trafficking in persons and drug trafficking. ASEAN and China should also work on other areas such as maritime security, to contribute to the safety of the sea lanes which are crucial to the livelihood of the regional economies.

### **Cooperation in Addressing Natural Disasters**

- The 26 December 2004 Tsunami disaster drove home the message of the importance of regional cooperation in the field of disaster management and humanitarian relief. Natural disasters have a serious impact on the economic and social development of countries and this is compounded by the fact that many countries in the region may not have adequate capability to provide relief in calamities of major magnitude. This will require mutual assistance in mitigating the effects of disasters and for speedy relief action. ASEAN and China should develop a framework for cooperation taking into consideration ASEAN's Regional Programme on Disaster Management, and go beyond strengthening early warning capacities. It should include a response action plan, a disaster information and communication network, research and capacity building, and public awareness and education. Premium must be placed on pre-disaster investment strategies to reduce risks through hazard management.

### **Energy Cooperation**

- The continued development of the region will require a steady supply of energy resources. China is the second largest consumer as well as the second largest producer of energy in the world. The energy consumption of ASEAN is also expected to increase as the region becomes more industrialised. This will require ASEAN and China to work within the ASEAN Plus Three process and the dialogue process to promote energy stability, security and sustainability. ASEAN and China should coordinate efforts to integrate alternative and renewable energy sources, including biofuels, into the regional energy supply chain, undertake feasibility studies on oil stockpiles, cooperate closely in maintaining the stability of the energy market, and prepare for supply disruptions. Public discussions on the energy outlook, prospects and strategies of ASEAN Member Countries and China could be promoted to provide inputs to ASEAN-China policy makers on energy cooperation.

### **Cooperation in Multilateral Fora**

- Cooperation in multilateral fora needs to be further enhanced. ASEAN and China are participants of many regional and international fora, processes and organisations. Therefore, there are opportunities for them to cooperate on issues of common concern and interest. By

working together, ASEAN and China can make an important contribution to the interests of Asia and developing countries in an increasingly globalised world.

### **Cooperation with the UN**

- The UN continues to be the most important organisation for multilateralism and for meeting the challenges of the millennium. The UN, as the core of the collective security mechanism, plays an irreplaceable role in international cooperation to ensure global peace. It promotes and supports mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve common prosperity and the spirit of inclusiveness to build a harmonious world together. ASEAN and China should make concerted efforts to support and promote the role of the UN and its specialised agencies, and work with them to ensure peace, prosperity and development in the region and the world. Both should work closely with other stakeholders in promoting the UN reform agenda.

### ***Medium-Term and Long-Term Measures***

#### **ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit**

- ASEAN and China should look at the possibility of convening a Commemorative Summit in China at an appropriate time to profile the strategic partnership and chart the course for the long-term relationship.

#### **Cooperation in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

- Establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in Southeast Asia is a key commitment of the ASEAN Member Countries under the Treaty on SEANWFZ. ASEAN is an active proponent of disarmament and non-proliferation. China has announced its support for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in Southeast Asia and is committed to nuclear non-proliferation. Both sides should work closely together in regional and international fora to promote disarmament and non-proliferation. Seminars and workshops could be convened to better understand each other's positions on these issues.

#### **South China Sea Issue**

- The South China Sea disputes need to be resolved even though efforts of ASEAN and China have reduced tensions in the disputed area. In this regard, discussions on United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and how it applies to the South China Sea could be promoted. In the longer term, ASEAN and China should work towards the conclusion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea, on the basis of consensus, to secure peace and

stability in the disputed area and implement the cooperative measures in the DOC to propel the growth and development of the claimant States and the region in the future.

### **Resolving Border Issues**

- Moving towards resolving bilateral and maritime border disputes between ASEAN Member Countries and China will help to enhance the mutual trust and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China. This will be clear evidence of the commitment of both sides to the partnership and will accelerate the pace of building a substantive and comprehensive partnership.

### **Defence Cooperation**

- ASEAN and China should institute defence cooperation starting with holding workshops and seminars on security issues of common concern and strengthening bilateral military personnel exchanges and training. ASEAN Member Countries and China could observe each other's military exercises and hold joint military exercises in the non-traditional security field as well as in other areas as outlined in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action.

### **Economic Cooperation**

81. The thrust of economic cooperation between ASEAN and China should be to identify areas of synergy from which both sides can mutually benefit. China's growth presents new opportunities for ASEAN just as closer economic integration within ASEAN will benefit China. ASEAN and China can work together to promote closer economic linkages between their economies in the areas of trade, investment, finance, transport and communications, energy cooperation, tourism, and infrastructural development. The economic opportunities presented by ASEAN's integration and China's rapid development, and the closer linkages being established between ASEAN and China through the strategic partnership will enable both sides to contribute to the Doha Development Agenda. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

### ***Short-Term Measures***

#### **ASEAN-China Free Trade Area**

- Both sides should maximise the gains from the ACFTA by promoting and ensuring that the synergies from China's economic growth and ASEAN economic integration are tapped. This

will require an interlocking network of economic linkages among production bases, supply chains, services to support economic activities, and mutual investments. ASEAN and China should commission joint studies on subjects such as the promotion of two-way investments, as well as opportunities and obstacles to trade and investment. Studies should be conducted, involving regional and international financial institutions, to look into the impact of ACFTA on SMEs and farmers, and how the least developed ASEAN Member Countries could benefit from the EHP. Customs cooperation should be stepped up and harmonisation of product standards should be pursued with China taking into consideration ASEAN's relevant agreement, including mutual recognition arrangements. Discussion on intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement should be promoted. These actions will contribute to the effective implementation of the various agreements that are already concluded or will be concluded under the FTA. Meanwhile, negotiations on the trade in services and on investment between ASEAN and China should be accelerated.

### **Investment and Business Cooperation**

- In order to strengthen cooperation in two-way investment, ASEAN and China will require enhancing the investment climate in the region. As the two economies come together, there will be a need to promote dialogue on investment policy and environment and to set up common information exchange platforms, such as linking up China's one-stop centres with counterpart institutions in ASEAN Member Countries. There should be a mechanism for the business sector of ASEAN and China to inform the policy-makers on impediments to and constraints on doing business in ASEAN and China. Regular seminars on doing business in ASEAN and China should be convened.

### **Cross Border Trade and Investment**

- As the economic linkages strengthen and physical interconnectivity improves between ASEAN and China, both sides should look into enhancing cross-border trade and investment and movement of people. ASEAN and China should set up specific programmes and projects to promote and facilitate border trade and investments so that these regions will also benefit from the comprehensive and substantive partnership that both sides are forging. This will also help narrow the development gap in the less developed regions of ASEAN and China.

### **Small and Medium Enterprises**

- SMEs play an important role in promoting economic growth and development in ASEAN Member Countries and China, and in ensuring that development is sustainable. ASEAN and

China should cooperate in creating an environment for the SMEs to operate and grow. Both sides should promote investment, trade, technological transfer and information exchanges between SMEs in ASEAN and China so that more business partnerships and ventures will take place. In this regard, ASEAN and China should set up information web sites and organise seminars, workshops and trade fairs to promote SME cooperation. In this regard, the Nanning Expo should be recognised as a regular event for promoting trade and investment.

### **Infrastructure and Transport Cooperation**

- Good physical interconnectivity to promote economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts is indispensable for building the strategic partnership. Infrastructure and transport projects will require huge financial investment. In this respect, ASEAN and China should establish investment schemes with the assistance of their private sectors, in addition to those provided by ADB and other international financial institutions, to fund important transport and infrastructure projects of importance to ASEAN-China economic cooperation.

### **Finance and Monetary Cooperation**

- Financial cooperation between ASEAN and China should be given more emphasis. Cooperation needs to be intensified in the issuance of bonds to raise private capital for investments in the region. ASEAN and China could enhance cooperation on swap arrangements under the CMI to reduce the impact of liquidity shortfalls and financial instability.

### **Agricultural Cooperation**

- Agriculture continues to be an important sector for cooperation in the light of its contribution to economic and social development in ASEAN and China, especially in addressing poverty, increasing incomes of farmers and providing better standards of living for the people. Apart from focusing on exchanging information and expertise in the field of agriculture, both sides should promote education in and awareness of the use of modern methods of farming, management of livestock, trade with small farm holders, the use of advanced science and technology to improve agricultural production, and the exchange of meteorological data. The private sectors of ASEAN and China should also explore business opportunities for joint ventures and investment in this sector in third countries.

### **Science and Technology**

- Science and technology is an important element and catalyst for national and regional economic advancement. ASEAN and China should continue to strengthen cooperation in

science and technology, as laid out in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action, such as in the areas of ICT, biotechnology and food science.

### **Narrowing the Development Gap**

- ASEAN and China should work on narrowing the development gaps in the region as they strengthen their economic linkages. China should actively contribute and assist in the implementation of the VAP. China and ASEAN should continue their assistance to CLMV countries and other sub-regions in ASEAN under various programmes.

### ***Medium-Term and Long-Term Measures***

#### **ASEAN-China Free Trade Area**

- The ACFTA will continue to be a centre-piece of the strategic partnership. ASEAN and China should further strengthen the FTA through freer movement of skilled labour, capital, and transfer of technology. New protocols should be drawn up to promote cooperation in these areas. In order to assist relevant industries, especially the SMEs, to mitigate the impact of FTA, ASEAN and China should look at setting up a mechanism to assist the affected industries.

#### **Agricultural Cooperation**

- In order to sustain the momentum in agriculture cooperation, both sides should consider establishing a committee made up of government, academic and private representatives to coordinate projects for enhancing agricultural cooperation. The committee could identify joint efforts in promoting research activities on policies and products, networking with various agricultural institutions and agencies, and dispensing consultative services in agriculture. A research and information exchange centre in common areas of interest such as agriculture, fisheries and livestock should be established to further promote cooperation in this field.

#### **Finance and Monetary Cooperation**

- In the longer-term, capital market linkages and listing (e.g. shares market) and greater financial market integration should be promoted. ASEAN and China should pursue cooperation in liberalisation of financial services.

#### **Tourism Cooperation**

- ASEAN and China should seize the opportunity to strengthen tourism cooperation in this

area as outlined in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action. In addition, ASEAN and China could look at further promotion of open skies policy, visa-free travel and the setting up of tourism cultural centres to promote and strengthen tourism cooperation.

#### **ASEAN-China Centre for Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion**

- In order to promote trade, investment and tourism cooperation in a more integrated manner, ASEAN and China could establish an ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing. This could act as a one-stop centre for the dissemination of information; explain economic policies, rules and regulations in doing business in ASEAN and China; and provide assistance to potential investors from ASEAN and China. Such a centre could also provide advisory services, facilitate investment decisions and promote entrepreneurial opportunities.

#### **Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

82. People-to-people ties are vital in bringing the region closer together, serving as an important bedrock for the cooperation amongst the governments. Located in a region with diverse cultures and religions, ASEAN and China can work together in building bridges across the communities in the region, through exchanges at various levels and in different fields.
83. Promoting greater cultural awareness and preserving the rich and diverse heritage is part and parcel of creating a harmonious community of nations where people can live in peace and prosperity. ASEAN-China socio-cultural cooperation will be an important channel through which both sides can work towards the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we recommend the following measures:

#### ***Short-Term Measures***

##### **Cooperation in Education**

- ASEAN and China should further strengthen cooperation in the field of education to create better understanding and appreciation about the history and contemporary developments in ASEAN and China. This could include: enhanced cooperation between the ASEAN University Network and Chinese universities; more undergraduate exchange programmes and post graduate studies; setting up a university forum for ASEAN and Chinese students to exchange views and ideas; and language training to better understand the psyche of ASEAN Member Countries and China and to facilitate business connections. An ASEAN-China prestigious

scholarship to promote exchanges of students and other student exchange programmes should be developed as a flagship project.

### **Health Cooperation**

- Health cooperation between ASEAN and China will increasingly be a key aspect of the ASEAN-China strategic partnership in view of the emergence of infectious diseases such as SARS and avian influenza, and the re-emergence of old infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue. ASEAN and China should place priority on implementing the actions outlined in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action in this respect. The ASEAN-China Special Fund to support bilateral efforts on SARS should be augmented and its scope should be widened to include other emerging infectious diseases such as avian influenza. Both sides could share experiences and capabilities in developing a quality generic pharmaceuticals industry to make medicines more affordable to their people and to cooperate in joint production of vaccines, traditional medicines and herbal medicines. In order to better direct and coordinate the cooperation in this important field, ASEAN and China should immediately set up an ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting.

### **Arts and Culture**

- Promoting arts and culture will serve to bring the societies of ASEAN and China together. ASEAN and China should better promote and market arts and culture in the region, and create educational, training and internship opportunities in the arts, culture and creative industries in the region. It should build upon the existing linkages between the libraries in ASEAN and China and extend these linkages to include museums and cultural centres. Both sides can celebrate common traditional festivals and could use these occasions to jointly organise celebrations.

### **People-to-People Contact**

- Contact should be further encouraged among the youth, media personnel, parliamentarians, tourists, and students, as well as cultural and educational programmes. In this regard, a flagship project on people-to-people contact should be developed and launched with each year focusing on specific themes and groups. Cultural and sports activities among universities and various organisations in ASEAN and China could be organised on a regular basis to deepen understanding, and cooperation. Urban, rural and sub-regional linkages between the local governments and businesses in ASEAN and China could be promoted as well as sister cities programmes and direct partnership between provinces of ASEAN and China.

### Youth

- Specifically to promoting dialogue, cooperation and sharing of ideas among young entrepreneurs, both sides could look at the establishment of an ASEAN-China Youth Entrepreneurs Association. The China Youth Volunteers Programme for ASEAN Member Countries should be expanded to give the youth first-hand knowledge of working, living and contributing to the communities in the region. Likewise, more youth from ASEAN should be encouraged to undertake volunteer work in China. Cultural and sports festivals should be held regularly to promote comradeship among youth from ASEAN and China.

### ***Medium-Term and Long-Term Measures***

#### **Environmental Cooperation**

- Environment cooperation in the ASEAN-China strategic partnership needs to be bolstered. A high-level seminar on environment policy and cooperation is needed to identify policy issues and potential areas for cooperation. Both sides undertake environment management training as they pursue economic development in a sustainable manner. In this regard, ASEAN and China could establish a Green ASEAN-China Region Agency to provide practical information and coordinate activities related to promoting public and corporate knowledge on the environment; promoting the participation of companies and communities to achieve environmental standards; and networking with the international community. At the same time, ASEAN and China should underpin their cooperation in environment by establishing a strategic framework to preserve biodiversity and improve management of natural resources.

#### **Health Cooperation**

- ASEAN and China could consider setting up an information, research and development centre for infectious diseases and a promotion centre for traditional medicine.

#### **Arts and Culture**

- Arts and cultural cooperation could be further enhanced with the establishment of cultural centres to promote cooperation and awareness. Both sides could also work towards a regional institute for design through a network among design schools in the region.

### **ASEAN-China Foundation**

- ASEAN and China, in promoting HRD, should consider establishing an ASEAN-China Foundation to promote scholarly exchanges, and research and training on social, cultural, educational and technical areas.

### **Poverty Alleviation**

- ASEAN and China should look at ways to raise the standard of living of the marginalised groups by accelerating the goal of poverty reduction within the framework of the UN Millennium Development Goals, promoting rural development, facilitating universal access to education for increased employability, providing micro-credit for promoting entrepreneurship among the poor, strengthening social safety nets, promoting health and nutrition, and enhancing food security and safety.

### **Institutional Framework**

84. The institutional framework of ASEAN and China should support the implementation of the strategic partnership, including the ASEAN-China Plan of Action. Adjustments to the various mechanisms will have to be made, if necessary, as the strategic partnership evolves. In the immediate term, ASEAN and China should look into improving the coordination mechanisms and processes so that there will be no major obstacles to the smooth implementation of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action and other ongoing and future cooperation. In this regard, we propose the following measures:

#### ***Short-Term Measures***

##### **Review of ASEAN-China Mechanisms**

- ASEAN and China should periodically review the mechanisms in the ASEAN-China dialogue relations to ensure that they continue to support the dynamic relation and take into account the ongoing developments in ASEAN and China as well as the region.

##### **Prioritisation of Cooperation**

- ASEAN and China should focus and prioritise the areas of cooperation in its 5-year Plan of Action so that all priority activities can be implemented as soon as possible and the limited resources could be allocated for the most important aspects of cooperation. Besides, ASEAN and China should augment the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund so that cooperation can

move from the stage of information and experience sharing to more concrete projects befitting the strategic partnership.

#### **Resource Allocation**

- ASEAN and China should improve their consultation and coordination in the implementation of activities and projects. The Working Group of the ASEAN-China JCC should be convened more regularly to monitor the implementation of the cooperation projects and the ASEAN Secretariat should be provided with sufficient resources to assist in coordinating the implementation of the cooperation in all the sectors under the ASEAN-China dialogue relations.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

85. ASEAN and China have established a fruitful partnership in the last 15 years, which has contributed to the peace and stability as well the prosperity of the region. Relations have gone from strength to strength with multi-faceted cooperation. However cooperation has yet to reach a level commensurate with the strategic partnership. This will take time as the partnership is still young. ASEAN and China will have to continue the dynamic pace of cooperation to ensure that the next 15 years will offer much more benefits for both sides. One essential element for this partnership is to ensure a healthy and open environment where ASEAN is able to continue its dynamic external relations while strengthening its partnership with China.
86. While there is a need to strike a balance in the key areas of cooperation, economic cooperation should continue to drive the relations, since this area will continue to act as the catalyst for putting in place a firm foundation for ASEAN-China cooperation and relations. At the same time, social and cultural cooperation, especially people-to-people contacts, will have to be enhanced and consolidated to bring about a “we” feeling among the peoples of ASEAN and China.
87. The institutional framework and working methods should keep in pace with the cooperation. As far as possible, existing mechanisms should be used to promote cooperation and relations so that the institutional framework continues to be nimble and simple. A practical approach should be adopted when looking at new mechanisms since resources are scarce on both sides to coordinate expanding cooperation. ASEAN and China should keep in mind the need to avoid duplication in establishing mechanisms and to avoid creating mechanisms for single issues. Multitasking existing mechanism, if feasible, should be studied.

88. While there are plans and programmes drawn up for enhancing cooperation, the success factor will very much depend on how these initiatives are implemented and the level of commitment from both sides as well as the resource constraints. ASEAN and China will have to factor these considerations in implementing its ongoing and future cooperation.
89. Since ASEAN-China relations are dynamic and continue to evolve with the changing times and situation in the region and beyond, it will be necessary for both sides to conduct regular reviews of their relations and cooperation to ensure that the measures proposed by the ASEAN-China EPG remains relevant, and to modify them to suit the need of their evolving strategic partnership.



# 04

## Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group



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# **Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group**

## **Background**

1. At the 8th ASEAN-China Summit on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao proposed to designate the year 2006 as the Year of Friendship and Cooperation between ASEAN and China to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations. With a view to strengthening ASEAN-China cooperation, the Premier also proposed to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to take stock of ASEAN-China relations in the past 15 years and to come up with recommendations for advancing future ASEAN-China relations.

## **Purpose**

2. The EPG will take stock of ASEAN-China relations in the past 15 years and explore ways and means to deepen and widen the existing cooperation between ASEAN and China as well as to recommend concrete measures for deepening ASEAN-China relations in the next 15 years, taking into account existing mechanisms and documents already adopted by both sides.

## **Scope of Work**

3. The functions of the EPG will be as follows:
  - 3.1. Assess ASEAN-China dialogue relations in the past 15 years;
  - 3.2. Recommend concrete and practical measures to deepen and widen existing and future ASEAN-China strategic partnership into comprehensive cooperation that will enhance mutual understanding and trust;

- 3.3. Recommend a strategy for the effective implementation of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity;
- 3.4. Study the institutional framework of ASEAN-China dialogue relations and recommend measures to enhance and streamline its processes; and
- 3.5. Recommend strategies for ASEAN and China to constructively engage within a wider context, including moving forward the East Asia Cooperation process.

### **Composition**

4. Each Government of the ASEAN Member Countries and China will appoint one eminent person from the political, academic, cultural, economic or business circle of their respective country to be members of the EPG, and one assistant for each EPG member;
5. The ASEAN Secretary-General will assign one of his senior staff members to act as a resource person and one assistant to assist in keeping records of the EPG meetings. The ASEAN Secretariat shall assist the EPG members in drafting the final report.
6. EPG members will participate in all activities in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their countries.

### **Frequency and Venue**

7. The EPG will meet at least two times, once in China and another in ASEAN, prior to the 9th ASEAN-China Summit to be held in December 2005 in Malaysia. Additional meetings could be convened, if and when necessary, as determined by the Group.

### **Decisions**

8. All decisions will be based on consultation and consensus.

## **Chairmanship**

9. The meeting shall be co-chaired by one EPG member from an ASEAN Member Country and one from China. The EPG will elect the Co-chairs at its first meeting. The ASEAN Co-chair will be the same person for all EPG meetings.
10. When the meeting is held in an ASEAN country, the Government of the country of the elected ASEAN Co-chair will host the EPG meeting.
11. The host country will provide secretarial services and administrative assistance for the meeting such as the arrangement of facilities and documentation.

## **Reporting**

12. The EPG final report recommending concrete measures for strengthening and advancing ASEAN-China partnership based on key ASEAN-China documents will be submitted to the Leaders of ASEAN and China at the 9th ASEAN-China Summit to be held in December 2005 in Malaysia, through the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting.

## **Agenda**

13. The agenda of the meeting will be prepared by the Co-chairs in consultation with all members of the Group.

## **Funding**

14. Funding support for the participation of EPG members and their assistants as well as the two representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat will come from the Asian Special Cooperation Fund and/or the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund.

## **Amendment**

15. This Terms of Reference can be amended by mutual agreement of the ASEAN Member Countries and China. The EPG members may also recommend amendments to the TOR through their respective countries.

**Final Provision**

16. This Terms of Reference shall take effect when the endorsement of the ASEAN Member Countries and China has been obtained.
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# 05

## Brief Biographies of ASEAN-China Eminent Persons



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## Brief Biographies of ASEAN-China Eminent Persons

### 1. H.E. Tan Sri Musa Hitam (Co-chairman, Malaysia)

H.E. Tan Sri Musa Hitam received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Malaya, his Masters Degree at the University of Sussex and was a Fellow at the CFIA Harvard University. He also holds Honorary Doctorates from Sussex University and University Malaysia Sabah. He is a Fellow of the Malaysia Institute of Management, and Member of the Advisory Board of the Malaysian “Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations”. H. E. Tan Sri Musa Hitam held various posts at the international level at various times. These included different posts at different times with the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Before becoming Malaysia’s fifth Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs in 1981-1986, H.E. Tan Sri Musa Hitam held a number of key government ministerial posts, Trade & Industry, Primary Industries and Education. At National Level, H.E. Tan Sri Musa Bin Hitam was the Chairman of the Malaysia National Commission on Human Rights from 2000-2002. For his services, he was given awards by various State governments in Malaysia and the Yang DiPertuan Agong (King) awarded him a title which made him a “Tan Sri”. He is currently Chairman of two public listed companies i.e. Lion Industries Berhad and Kumpulan Guthrie Berhad and a Joint Chairman of Malaysia-China Business Council.

### 2. H.E. Qian Qichen (Co-chairman, People's Republic of China)

H.E. Qian Qichen, born in Tianjin in 1928, is a native of Shanghai. In 1954, he studied in the former Soviet Union. From 1955 onward, he served as Second Secretary in the Chinese Embassy in the former Soviet Union, Division` Director and Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Higher Education of the People's Republic of China. In 1972, he served as Counselor in the Chinese Embassy in the former Soviet Union.

In 1974, he was Ambassador to Guinea and concurrently to Guinea-Bissau. In 1977, he was Director-General of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He became Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1982 and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1988. He served as State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1991 and was appointed Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic

of China and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1993. From March 1998 to March 2003, he was Vice Premier of the State Council. From 2003 to 2004, he served as a member of the UN High-level Panel on Challenges, Threats and Change.

### **3. H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng (Brunei Darussalam)**

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng received his Degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Swansea and his Masters Degree in Philosophy and Social Anthropology from the London School of Economic and Political Science, United Kingdom. He started his career at the Brunei Museum as Deputy Director and Director and subsequently was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam as Director-General of ASEAN-Brunei Darussalam. He was Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner for New Zealand. In May 1986, he became the Director of Politics at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was promoted to the post of Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the same year. He was appointed by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah as a member of the Privy Council in 2003 and as an official member of the Legislative Council in 2004. For his services, he was conferred the title of Pehin Menteri and Dato Seri Paduka as well as other meritorious awards by His Majesty. At present, he is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.

### **4. H.E. Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth (Kingdom of Cambodia)**

H.E. Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth holds many senior and highly responsible positions in the Kingdom of Cambodia. He is the Chairman of the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), the think tank for all Socio-Economic matters; Adviser to the Prime Minister; and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. In addition, he is a member (representing the Prime Minister) of the Board of Governors of the National (Central) Bank of Cambodia and serves as an Alternate Governor for Cambodia on the Boards of Governors for the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth is the author of various publications on democracy and economic development of Cambodia as well as on globalization and economic integration in the region. He holds an MA and a PhD in Political Science from Moscow State University and a Diploma in International Business from Moscow School of Business.

### **5. H.E. Jusuf Wanandi (Republic of Indonesia)**

H.E. Jusuf Wanandi has long been Indonesia's best known analyst of Southeast Asian regionalism and the politics and foreign policies of Indonesia and the United States. He holds leadership positions in the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, the Prasetya Mulya Graduate School of Management in Jakarta, and the Foundation of Panca Bhakti University in Pontianak (West Kalimantan). He heads the company that publishes Indonesia's leading English-language daily, *The Jakarta Post*. He co-founded Indonesia's most successful foreign-affairs think tank, *the Centre for Strategic and International Studies*. He has co-authored or co-edited more than a dozen books, including

*Europe and the Asia Pacific* (1998), *Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region* (1993), and *Asia and the Major Powers* (1988).

#### **6. H.E. Khamphan Simmalavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**

H.E. Khamphan Simmalavong was born in 1935. He graduated from the University of Montpellier in France majoring Economic and Trade in 1962. He started his career at the Ministry of National Economy in 1963 and then became a member of the National, Political and Consultative Council of Lao PDR in 1973 to 1975. After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976, he held several positions at the Foreign Service as Counselor of Economic and Trade at the Lao Embassy in Bangkok in 1977; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao PDR to Thailand and concurrently covering Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines and also Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to ESCAP from 1980-1990. He was appointed as Vice Minister of Commerce and Tourism in 1990. He became Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Cambodia in 1991 and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, and concurrently covering Great Britain, Italy, Spain and Portugal from 1995-2002. Before his retirement, he was Vice Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

#### **7. H.E. U Aung Thaung (Union of Myanmar)**

H.E. U Aung Thaung is currently the Minister of Ministry of Industry (1) of Myanmar. He was appointed as the Minister for Industry I in 1997. He served for thirty years in the Army starting from Second Lieutenant to Colonel. He became Tactical Commander from 1964 to 1993. He was appointed as Deputy Minister of Trade in 1993 and afterward he became Minister of Livestock and Fisheries from 1996 to 1997. For his services, he has received various awards including General Service Medal, People's War Medal, State Peace and Tranquility Medal, Military Meritorious Service Medal, Service to the State Medal and others.

#### **8. H.E. Ambassador Rodolfo C. Severino (Republic of the Philippines)**

H.E. Rodolfo C. Severino is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. Having been Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from 1998 to 2002, he is working on a book on issues facing ASEAN. As a member of the faculty at the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines in the school year 2003-2004, he lectured on regional economic cooperation, the elements of competitiveness, and leadership in the management of change. Before assuming the position of ASEAN Secretary-General, Severino was Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. In the Philippine Foreign Service, Severino was Ambassador to Malaysia from 1989 to 1992 after serving in several other posts, including Washington, D. C., and Beijing, as well as in Manila. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities from the Ateneo de Manila and a Master of Arts degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

## **9. H.E. Professor Tommy Koh (Republic of Singapore)**

Professor Tommy Koh is Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies, National Heritage Board and Chinese Heritage Centre. He was Dean of the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore from 1971 to 1974. He served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the U.N. (New York) from 1968 to 1971 and from 1974 to 1984. He was Ambassador to the U.S. from 1984 to 1990. Profosser Koh was President of the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea from 1981 to 1982. He was Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and the Main Committee of the Earth Summit from 1990 to 1992. He served as the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1993. He has been a Member of three WTO dispute panels, twice as Chairman. He was the founding Chairman of the National Arts Council and founding Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation.

## **10. H.E. Kasem S. Kasemsri (Kingdom of Thailand)**

H.E. Kasem S. Kasemsri is presently Chairman of the Natural Park Public Company Ltd. He is also the Honorary Chairman of the Thailand-U.S. Business Council, being the Founder and the first Chairman of the Council. Formerly a career diplomat, he rose through the ranks to become twice the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the highest career position in 1980-1982 and 1986-1991. He was the Thai Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia (1972-1975), the first Thai Ambassador to the People's Republic of China (1975-1979), and the Thai Ambassador to the United States of America (1982-1986). In national politics, he was a Member of Parliament, House of Representatives in 2001-2005. He served as a Senator in 1981-1982, 1986-1989 and 1989-1991. In Government, his appointments included Minister of the Prime Minister's Office in 1991-1992, Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1995-1996, and Deputy Prime Minister in 1996.

## **11. H.E. Nguyen Manh Cam (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)**

H.E. Nguyen Manh Cam joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1952. He served as Ambassador of Viet Nam to Hungary, concurrently accredited to the Republic of Austria and the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1973. He subsequently served as Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently accredited to the Republic of Austria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Swiss Confederation. In 1981, he was appointed as Vice Minister of Foreign Trade. Then he became Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Soviet Union. He was elected as Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 9th Session of the 8th National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in 1991. He was member of the Defense and Security Council in 1992-2002. He was elected as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1997. After his retirement in 2002, he continued to do research on international relations.



# 06

## List of ASEAN-China Eminent Persons' Assistants and Resource Persons



# List of ASEAN-China Eminent Persons' Assistants and Resource Persons

## a. ASEAN-China Eminent Persons' Assistants

- **Mr. Latif Tuah**  
Director-General  
ASEAN-Brunei Darussalam  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Brunei Darussalam
- **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron**  
Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance  
and Secretary General of the Supreme National Economic Council  
Kingdom of Cambodia
- **Mr. Sugeng Rahardjo**  
Director  
Directorate for ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Intra-Regional Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Indonesia
- **Mr. Bounnheuang Songnavong**  
Deputy Director-General  
Institute of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lao People's Democratic Republic
- **H.E. Dato' Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan**  
Former Ambassador to China  
Malaysia
- **H.E. U Kyaw Thu**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Union of Myanmar
- **H.E. Romualdo A. Ong**  
Former Ambassador to China  
Republic of the Philippines
- **Mr. Andrew Tan Kok Kiong**  
Deputy Secretary (Policy)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Singapore
- **Dr. Sarasin Viraphol,**  
Executive Vice President of Charoen Pokphand Kingdom of Thailand
- **Dr. Hoang Anh Tuan**  
Vice President  
Institute of International Relations  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
- **Dr. Qin Yaqing**  
Vice President  
China Foreign Affairs University  
People's Republic of China

## b. Resource Persons

- **Mr. S. Pushpanathan**  
Unit Director  
Plus Three Relations and External Relations  
ASEAN Secretariat
- **Dr. Termsak Chalermpalanupap**  
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General for Executive Affairs  
ASEAN Secretariat



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