

Joint Statement on ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered on 14 November 2018 in Singapore, at the 21st ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity:

REAFFIRMING that ASEAN-China relations are among the most substantial of ASEAN's Dialogue Partnerships, with both sides committed to fostering friendly relations, good neighbourliness, and mutually-beneficial cooperation;

RECALLING that at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit held on 13 November 2017, ASEAN and China welcomed the designation of the year 2018 as the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's commitment to the major task of innovation-driven growth with the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Innovation by the Leaders of ASEAN in November 2017 in the Philippines, and recognising that instantiating this Declaration through cooperation with China as an ASEAN Dialogue Partner will provide it with a solid foundation;

EMPHASISING the need to further enhance STI cooperation between ASEAN and China in areas of mutual interest, and promote innovation-driven development;

Hereby agree to:

1. Explore new and sustainable cooperation mechanisms for ASEAN-China STI cooperation.
2. Strengthen innovation through the ASEAN-China Joint Science and Technology Committee.
3. Continue promoting the implementation of the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Project launched in 2012, in a pragmatic, efficient and dynamic way, while sharing experiences and cooperating to promote sustainable development in the region.
4. Enhance exchanges of STI talents to promote regional S&T development and capacity building, by continuing the Talented Young Scientist Program, training courses of advanced applicable technology and S&T management.

5. Identify key priority areas in ASEAN-China STI cooperation to further enhance the innovation agenda through exchanges of information, experience and expertise in research and development, technology transfer and commercialisation.
6. Continue exploring collaboration among science parks by sharing best practices and experiences while promoting and intensifying the usage of existing STI parks in order to enhance innovation and networking.
7. Continue to facilitate collaboration in technology transfer through the sharing of experiences and best practices, and further enhancing collaboration among research institutes, higher learning institutions and enterprises among all ASEAN Member States and China.
8. Welcome the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) as well as China's support for the ASCN initiative.
9. Utilise the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund to implement all related activities under ASEAN-China STI initiatives.