

Draft REMARKS

H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN

Hand-over Ceremony of Aid from the Chinese Government to the ASEAN Secretariat

ASEAN Secretariat, 21 April 2020 (10 AM)

(Note: Remarks by SG will be given after the remarks of Ambassador Deng Xijun. Remarks will just be for 3 minutes.)

Ambassadors Deng Xijun, Noel Servigon, Tran Duc Binh

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good morning to all of you. Thank you very much Ambassador Deng Xijun for your remarks and kind words.
2. I want to thank everyone for coming to this simple hand-over ceremony during these uncertain times following the outbreak of COVID-19.
3. Since the onset of the outbreak, the cooperation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China in responding to COVID-19 pandemic has been sustained at national and regional levels through the health and all other relevant sectors.
4. The ASEAN Health Sector cooperation with the China health counterparts have continued strongly through their transparent and timely technical exchanges and information sharing. Technical coordination, assistance and updated exchanges are currently pursued at the levels of the senior health officials, health experts and Health

Ministers through the ASEAN-China or ASEAN Plus Three Health platforms. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Video Conference on COVID-19 in April further committed in bolstering the coordination on orchestrated response measures, and rapid research and development for diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines.

5. The ASEAN and China Foreign Ministers at their Special Meeting on COVID-19 in February affirmed the commitment of both sides to work together in dealing with the pandemic. Further coordination and collaboration efforts in mitigating the impact of the pandemic particularly to public health, trade and travel at all levels are currently being enhanced.
6. Last week, ASEAN Leaders met via video conference and reaffirmed ASEAN's strong commitment to take collective action and coordinate policies, together with enhancing collaboration with Dialogue Partners, in the fight against the pandemic. In addition, a Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 also took place, which issued a Joint Statement to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, including China, through the APT framework and health mechanisms.
7. Today's contribution of medical supplies and equipment to the ASEAN Secretariat is much appreciated, particularly during this challenging time. In observing further social distancing measures, and personal hygiene and sanitation, these supplies of medical masks, hand sanitisers, and infrared thermometers will certainly benefit more than 300 staff of the ASEAN Secretariat. I, therefore, with gratitude accept this aid on their behalf.

8. The adage of “Stay Strong ASEAN” is not only realized at the political level in the region but also very much extended to the welfare and well-being of each of the staff at the ASEAN Secretariat. With this aid, we demonstrate that we support one another even at the community and individual levels in ensuring that we stay safe and healthy.

9. Rest assured that these supplies will be distributed accordingly. Thank you very much for assisting me in further extending help to our hard-working staff at the ASEAN Secretariat.

“Stay strong ASEAN.”