



2017中国-东盟旅游合作年  
ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation

**Special Meeting of ASEAN-China National Tourism Organizations**  
16 March 2017, Manila, the Philippines

**PRESS RELEASE**

1. The Special Meeting of the ASEAN-China National Organisations was held on 16 March 2017 in Manila, in conjunction with the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation. The Special Meeting was jointly co-chaired by Mr. Anan Wongbengjarat, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, and Ms. Li Yaying, Director General, National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China.
2. The Heads of delegation reiterated their commitment to implementing the decision of ASEAN-China Leaders made at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, to designate 2017 as the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation, and looked forward to enhancing cooperation with a view to boosting two-way tourist visits and promoting greater people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and China.
3. The Heads of delegation were pleased to note the significant growth of tourism exchange between ASEAN and China in 2016. Total number of arrivals from China to ASEAN was 19.8 million, an increase of 6.4 per cent as compared to 2015, while the number of ASEAN tourists to China recorded 10.34 million, an increase of 57.8 per cent compared to 2015.
4. The Heads of delegation welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement and its protocols, which facilitated the enhancement of air connectivity between ASEAN and China. Since the implementation of the Agreement, 37 cities in ASEAN have been connected with 52 cities in China through nearly 5,000 direct flights per week. The Heads of delegation encouraged relevant ASEAN-China committees to make more active and intensive engagement in the area of aviation cooperation to further support of the development of two-way tourists traffic between ASEAN and China.
5. The Heads of delegation agreed that the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation would be celebrated through promotion campaigns, famtrips, press trips and joint booths at travel marts organised in both ASEAN Member States and China. In strengthening ASEAN-China tourism development, there would be workshops/seminars on marketing and capacity building for tourism professionals. The Heads of delegation agreed that those events organised would be in conjunction with Visit ASEAN@50 activities to

commemorate 50 years of ASEAN.

6. The Heads of delegation acknowledged the important role of the ASEAN-China Centre in supporting the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation through their planned events and activities to be carried out in 2017. The Heads of delegation thanked ACC for active support and looked forward to the successful realization those planned events and activities in 2017.

7. The Heads of delegation expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the People's Republic of China for hosting the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation. The Heads of delegation also expressed their appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of the Philippines for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Special Meeting of the ASEAN-China NTOs.

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