Excellency,

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of the People’s Republic of China.

Since its commencement in 1991, ASEAN-China relations have seen important achievements and our cooperation has expanded to cover a wide range of areas, making the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership among the most substantive and dynamic partnerships in the region.

As ASEAN-China political cooperation continues to strengthen, we are committed to working together to promote and maintain peace, security and stability in our region, including in the South China Sea. ASEAN-China economic, trade and investment relations have expanded rapidly with China becoming the largest trading partner of ASEAN since 2009. Both sides are also working together towards the early entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement which will contribute to an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system.

ASEAN and China also continue to foster people-to-people ties and enhance cooperation in sectoral areas such as public health, climate change, environment, and disaster management, including for a successful “Year of ASEAN-China Sustainable Development Cooperation” to enhance the sustainability and resilience of the regional recovery.
Furthermore, the solidarity and friendship between ASEAN and China are manifested in our close cooperation and mutual support in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in working toward a swift post-pandemic recovery of the region.

I look forward to working closely with Excellency in further strengthening ASEAN-China relations and preparing for a successful Commemorative Summit in October this year.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

DATO LIM JOCK HOI