

Overview of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations commenced when H.E. Qian Qichen, the then Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, attended the opening session of the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 1991 in Kuala Lumpur as a guest of the Malaysian Government in which he expressed China's keen interest to cooperate with ASEAN for mutual benefit. Subsequently, China was accorded full Dialogue Partner status at the 29th AMM in July 1996 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2. The relationship between ASEAN and China was elevated to a higher plane with the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity at the 7th ASEAN-China Summit in October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. ASEAN and China have completed three plans of action for the period of 2005-2010, 2011-2015, and 2016-2020. The new plan of action (2021-2025) was adopted in November 2020 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China.

3. At the 21st ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2018, the Leaders adopted the Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 that aims to further advance the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and closer cooperation.

4. 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, a Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 7 June 2021 in Chongqing, China to commemorate the anniversary. The Meeting reviewed past achievements and shared views on the future of ASEAN-China relations. Several activities were also conducted to celebrate the 30th anniversary, such as Conference on Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and Commemorative Photo Exhibition and Reception on the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China relations.

5. Other key milestones of the relations include: (i) launch of the ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing at the 14th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2011 in Bali; and (i) China's appointment of its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN and establishment of the Mission of ASEAN to ASEAN in Jakarta in September 2012.

Political and Security Cooperation

6. ASEAN and China continue to enhance political-security dialogue and cooperation through various ASEAN Plus One mechanisms including summit, ministerial and senior officials' meetings, as well as in broader ASEAN-led frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).

7. China was the first Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to accede to the TAC in October 2003. China's accession to the TAC has contributed to the stature of the TAC as the code of conduct for inter-state relations in the region. China was also the first Nuclear Weapon State (NWS) which expressed its intention to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ.

8. ASEAN and China sustained engagement to discuss political cooperation through the convening of the ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (ACJCC), the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation (ACSOC), and the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Session with China. For the past two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings of these mechanisms, except the ACJCC meeting in 2020, have been conducted via videoconference.

9. Amidst the outbreak of Corona Virus Disease-2019, a Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers Meeting held on 20 February 2020 in Vientiane. The Meeting issued a Statement outlining measures to strengthen cooperation in fight against COVID-19. China has extended support to ASEAN and ASEAN Member States in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19, including its contribution of USD 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

10. ASEAN and China signed the Declaration on the Conducts of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in November 2002 in Phnom Penh. ASEAN and China adopted the Guidelines to implement the DOC on 21 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. Further, the PMC Plus One Session with China held on 25 July 2016 in Vientiane endorsed the Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and China on the Full and Effective Implementation of the DOC which reflected its commitment to ensure the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. At their meeting on 6 August 2017 in Manila, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and China adopted the framework of the Code of Conduct. At the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017, ASEAN Member States and China officially announced the launch of the COC negotiations.

11. The scope of ASEAN and China security cooperation encompasses a wide array of issues, ranging from defence, maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, drugs and cross-border activities, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as cyber security. Cooperation in these areas is carried out through several ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) and their subsidiary bodies.

12. The ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting have also been held since then, with the 12th Meeting held on 15 June 2021 via videoconference.

13. China has taken an active role in the ADMM-Plus in fostering practical cooperation in all seven priority areas, namely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian mine action, and cybersecurity. China co-chaired ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Counter Terrorism for the 2017-2020 cycle and currently China is co-chairing the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action with Cambodia for the 2021-2023 cycle.

14. Annual consultations are held between ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and China and between the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and China to promote their cooperation in combating transnational crimes and other non-traditional security issues. A

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and China on cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues was signed in 2004 and renewed in 2009. The succeeding MOU was signed at the Fifth AMMTC + China Consultation on 21 September 2017 in Manila. The 8th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting and China (SOMTC+China) was held on 30 September 2021 via videoconference.

15. In combatting illicit drug trafficking, ASEAN and China cooperate under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD)+China Consultation since 2012. The 4th ASEAN-China Coordination Meeting held in Ha Noi in 2018 adopted the Terms of Reference of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD). The 6th ASOD+China Consultation held on 30 August 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia deliberated on the draft Technical Guidelines on the Utilisation of China's Contribution to ACCORD Fund.

Economic Cooperation

16. ASEAN and China signed the ACFTA in 2002 and was realised in January 2010. The two sides agreed to upgrade the ACFTA with the signing of the ACFTA Upgrade Protocol on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. The Protocol entered into force on 1 July 2016. This year is a milestone year for ASEAN-China economic relations as it marks the 10th anniversary of the full establishment of ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA).

17. The establishment of the ACFTA has strengthened ASEAN and China's economic relations. China has retained its position as ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009. Trade between ASEAN and China has more than doubled since 2010, from USD 235.5 billion to USD 507.9 billion in 2019 (18% of ASEAN's total trade) and almost quadrupled since the entry into force of the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods Agreement in 2005. According to China's statistics, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the trade volume between ASEAN and China during January-June 2020 increased by 2.2% against the downtrend where ASEAN leaps to become China's largest trading partner for the first time, making ASEAN and China each other' top trading partner.

18. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow from China to ASEAN has increased by 185% from USD 3.6 billion in 2010 to USD 9.1 billion in 2019, accounting for 5.7% total FDI flows to the region. In 2019, China was ASEAN's fourth largest source of FDI among ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, after the U.S., Japan and the EU.

19. China is a participating country of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement which was signed at the 4th RCEP Summit on 5 November 2020.

20. An annual expo to expand trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN and China has been held since 2004, namely the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO). The expo aims to promote trade in goods, investment cooperation, advanced technology transfer, trade-in services, city-to-city exchanges, industrial connection and subregional cooperation of ASEAN and China. The 18th CAEXPO was held on 10-13 September 2021 in Nanning, China.

21. ASEAN and China agreed to expand cooperation to the area of production capacity cooperation to provide opportunities to further strengthen economic and trade relations and serve to boost confidence and increase engagement among businesses

from ASEAN and China. A Joint Statement between ASEAN and China on Production Capacity Cooperation was issued at the 19th ASEAN-China in 2016. Separately.

22. ASEAN and China have agreed to synergise common priorities in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A Joint Statement on Further Deepening the Cooperation on Infrastructure Connectivity between ASEAN and China was issued by the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017. Further, at the 22nd ASEAN-China Summit held on 3 November 2019 adopted the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the MPAC 2025 and the BRI.

23. 2018 was designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation to explore and enhance cooperation in new areas under the 4.0. Industrial Revolution. A Joint Statement on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation was adopted by the 21st ASEAN-China Summit in November 2018. 2020 was designated as the Year of ASEAN-China Digital Economy Cooperation. A number of activities were conducted under the theme of the year and the Initiative on Building ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy.

24. Cooperation in tourism is growing. 2017 was designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation to boost tourists and people-to-people exchanges between the two sides. A Joint Statement on Tourism Cooperation was issued by the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017 to further strengthen cooperation in this area, including the agreement to establish a high-level cooperation mechanism between relevant tourism authorities, to be convened on a regular basis. Several activities were conducted in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, including: the ASEAN Culture and Tourism Online Exhibition, the 3rd ASEAN-China Belt and Road Culture and Tourism Exchange Week, the 7th Sichuan International Tourism Expo, and the China International Travel Mart.

25. ASEAN-China cooperation in agriculture focuses on enhancing cooperation in human resource development through a series of training courses on agricultural technologies to help train agricultural technicians and officials of ASEAN Member States. The MOU between the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on Agricultural Cooperation (2007-2011) was renewed on 27 September 2013 for a period of five years.

26. Cooperation in quality inspection is pursued under two MOUs on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation (SPS) and Strengthening Cooperation in the Field of Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment (TBT) between ASEAN and China were signed on 20 November 2007 and 24 October 2009, respectively. To implement the MOUs, ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine on SPS and TBT was established and held alternately every year.

27. ASEAN and China continued to strengthen their cooperation in Information and Communication Technology. ASEAN and China in November 2013 signed an MOU on cooperation in ICT, which covers the areas such as promoting industry, human resources and infrastructure development, as well as cooperation in new technologies and information exchange. The 13th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting with China (TELMIN+China) held on 6 December 2018

in Bali, Indonesia extended the MOU and looked forward to further strengthening the cooperation within the framework of the MOU.

28. 2020 was designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Digital Economy Cooperation. The ASEAN-China Digital Economy Cooperation is aimed to substantiate the efforts of ASEAN and China in this area and provide valuable opportunities for both parties to explore new initiatives to advance digital transformation in areas such as digital infrastructure development, artificial intelligence, big data, smart cities as well as to share experience or lessons in using digital technologies to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The ASEAN-China Digital Economy Development Cooperation Forum was held on 15-16 July 2021 to share best practices on various areas related to the digital economy cooperation, including cross-border e-commerce and digital trade.

29. On transport cooperation, ASEAN and China signed an MOU on Transport Cooperation in November 2004 in Vientiane. The MOU aims to promote medium and long-term cooperation. ASEAN and China signed two agreements on transport, namely i) ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Agreement (AC-MTA) signed on 2 November 2007 and ii) ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA) signed on 12 November 2010. ASEAN and China are working towards the full liberalisation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA).

30. ASEAN and China continued to forge cooperation in developing smart cities. The 22nd ASEAN-China Summit in November 2019 adopted the ASEAN-China Leader's Statement on Smart City Cooperation Initiative and appreciated China's continued interest in advancing innovation-driven development in ASEAN cities.

31. ASEAN and China continue to enhance minerals cooperation through various projects and activities. The China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Forum has been held annually since 2011. The 11th China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Forum and Exhibition was held in Nanning, China, on 20 May 2021.

32. Cooperation on science, technology and innovation was highlighted with the designation of 2012 as the ASEAN-China Year of Cooperation in Science and Technology. A series of activities were implemented to mark the year, including among others the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation and launching of the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership (STEP) Programme. The China-ASEAN Technology Transfer Center has contributed to facilitating information sharing, resource matchmaking and other related services to encourage collaboration between Chinese and ASEAN enterprises and science parks.

33. Further, 2018 was designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation (YOI). A Joint Statement on ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation was issued at the 21st ASEAN-China Summit in November 2018. A series of activities were organized throughout the year to mark the YOI, including, among others, forums and symposium on technology transfer innovation, e-commerce, Smart Cities, youth entrepreneurship, and new renewable energy.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

34. ASEAN and China cooperate in a variety of areas, including public health, science and technology, education, culture, labour and social security, environment, media, youth, social development, poverty reduction, and disaster management.

35. In health sector, the Ministers on Health of ASEAN and China signed an MOU on Health Cooperation at the Fourth ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting (AC-HMM) on 6 July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand. To operationalise the MOU, yearly priorities of collaboration are agreed by ASEAN and China through the ASEAN China Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (AC-SOMHD) and the ASEAN China Health Ministers Meeting. With the conclusion of the MOU on 3 August 2020, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) held via videoconference on 27 August 2020 agreed to renew the MOU which is expected to be adopted at the 8th ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting in October 2021.

36. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN and China sustain their commitment to addressing public health emergency threats jointly. Exchanges of the ASEAN-China Vaccine Friend have been held three times. The "ASEAN-China Vaccine Friend", co-led by the Department of Asian Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry and the ASEAN Committee in Beijing, was established to strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation in information sharing, research and development, and production and application of vaccines. The first two events/exchanges were held in October 2020 and March 2021. The Third Exchange, held on 22 July 2021 via videoconference, focused on sharing experiences among AMS and China on their initiatives to address the pandemic's impact, including vaccination programmes.

37. ASEAN and China continue to attach great importance to people-to-people exchanges, especially in the sectors of youth, culture, education. Both sides celebrated 2014 as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year, 2016 as the ASEAN-China Educational Exchange Year, 2017 as the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation and 2019 as ASEAN-China Year of Media Exchanges.

38. In the education sector, the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) has been held annually since 2008 in Guiyang, China. The 13th CAECW was held on 23-29 September 2021 via videoconference and offline in Guizhou Province, China, with the theme of 'Uniting Knowledge and Action to Jointly Build an Educational Prospect of Sustainable Development Cooperation'. Under the ASEAN China-Young Leaders Scholarship (ACYLS) programme, was launched at the sidelines of the PMC 10+1 Session with China on 30 August 2019 in Bangkok. The scholarship project for 2019-2023 is on-going.

39. Cooperation in culture is pursued through the implementation of Plans of Action on ASEAN-China Cultural Cooperation. The year 2014 was designated as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year with various activities undertaken in ASEAN Member States and China. At the 4th AMCA+China in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in October 2018 the Ministers adopted the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and Arts 2019-2021.

40. Cooperation in environment is guided by the ASEAN-China Environmental Protection Cooperation Strategy papers. Implementation of activities under the action plans of the Cooperation Strategy is coordinated with the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC), which was established in Beijing on 17 March 2010 and

officially inaugurated on 24 May 2011. The first and second Cooperation Strategy papers covered the period 2009-2015 and 2016-2020, respectively. Activities has been successfully implemented on the priority areas of policy dialogue and exchange, environmental data and information sharing, biodiversity and ecological conservation, environmental industry and technology for green development, marine protection and environmentally sustainable cities. The Framework ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025) was adopted by the ASEAN Ministers on Environment and China in February 2021.

41. 2021 is designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation with an opening ceremony held in Beijing. An ASEAN-China cooperation symposium was held on 17 September 2021 with the theme of *advancing ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for sustainable development in the new normal*. To reiterate their commitment to strengthening sustainable development cooperation, the ASEAN-China Leaders at the 24th Summit will adopt the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in Green and Sustainable Development.

42. ASEAN and China have continued to organise exchange visits for media personnel. 2019 was designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Media Exchanges (YOME). A number of activities was implemented by relevant ministries and institutions in ASEAN and China to commemorate YOME. A Joint Statement on Strengthening Media Exchanges and Cooperation between ASEAN and China was adopted at the 22nd ASEAN-China Summit in November 2019. As part of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, an ASEAN-China Short Video Contest is being held to strengthen media role to promote people-to-people exchanges.

43. Cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication is continued to be strengthened particularly through the ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Fifteen such forums have been held thus far. The 15th ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction was held on 22 June 2021 in Beijing, with the theme of 'ASEAN-China Cooperation: Promoting Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction'. The forum facilitated exchanges in field of social development and poverty reduction between China and ASEAN. Earleir in 2020, the Extraordinary ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Reduction Forum was held virtually on 29 July 2020 with the theme 'Joining and Fighting against COVID-19, Promoting Poverty Alleviation' for knowledge sharing and cooperation to tide over the crisis and accelerate actions on poverty eradication, particularly in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

44. Funded by the ACCF, the ASEAN Development Outlook: Inclusive and Sustainable Development project is ongoing to assess the current state, challenges, opportunities, lessons learned, best practices and outlook of inclusive and sustainable development in ASEAN.

45. ASEAN and China have also agreed to enhance cooperation in disaster management. Both sides also deliberated on the proposed establishment of the ACDM and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) Plus China mechanism and the way forward. Further, the 8th AMMDM held on 27 November 2020 looked forward to the inaugural ACDM and AMMDM Plus China in 2021. The inaugural

Meeting of the ACDM Plus China was held on 10 June 2021 via videoconference while the first AMMDM Plus China is scheduled for 14 October 2021.

Development Cooperation

46. China contributes annually to the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) to support the implementation of ASEAN-China cooperation projects. In 2019, China increased its annual contribution to USD 10 million. In 2020, China also contributed USD 10 million in total.

47. An ACCF Project Management Team (AMT) has been established in Jakarta to enhance the utilization of the ACCF. The AMT assists in planning, design, management, implementation and programming of ACCF funded programmes/projects.
