

QUOTE

19 July 2021

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASEAN-CHINA DIALOGUE RELATIONS

His Excellency
Li Keqiang
Premier of the State Council
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), I am pleased to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China on the auspicious occasion of the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations as well as the Centenary Founding of the Communist Party of China.

Over the past three decades, the ASEAN-China relationship has become one of the most strategic and comprehensive partnerships, through a number of significant achievements.

Recently, ASEAN and China have also worked closely together to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, we deeply appreciate China's generous contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, provision of medical supplies, equipment and vaccines to the region, as well as its efforts in strengthening ASEAN's public health sector.

On trade and economic cooperation, China continues to be ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009 and we became each other's top trading partner for the first time in 2020. We commend China's commitment to long-term prosperity, including in promoting ASEAN-China Sustainable Development Cooperation and being the first Dialogue Partner to have ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

We are also pleased with the strengthening of people-to-people ties between ASEAN and China through culture, education, tourism and media. In particular, we welcome the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Scholarship, which was launched in 2019.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank China for its firm commitment in supporting ASEAN Centrality in the regional architecture and China's participation in various ASEAN-led processes which has contributed to the promotion of peace and stability in the region. We also appreciate Your Excellency's personal efforts in ensuring that the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership secures a better future for our peoples.

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

SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
OF BRUNEI

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