



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 18TH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 NOVEMBER 2015

OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION

The 18th ASEAN-China Summit, chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, was held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Li Keqiang.

2. China welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of region-building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged China to contribute towards the realisation of the visions and goals outlined in the *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*.

3. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum as well as China's support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorates its 10th anniversary in 2015.

4. We noted with satisfaction the achievements within the framework of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015). We noted the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020).

5. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's continued support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and looked forward to the imminent establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). We looked forward to its role in facilitating regional connectivity, along with China's continuing support for the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and its post-2015 agenda.

6. The Leaders also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and towards that end, looked forward to China's continued cooperation and support for narrowing the development divide in the region, including through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor document as well as the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

7. The Leaders underscored the importance of strong economic relations between ASEAN and China towards achieving greater regional economic integration. China continues to be ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009 while ASEAN has remained China's third largest trading partner since 2011. We noted that two-way trade reached US\$366.5 billion in 2014, accounting for 14.5 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. ASEAN received US\$8.9 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from China, accounting for 7.1 per cent of total inflows to ASEAN in the same year.

8. We welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) and the signing of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Certain Agreements between ASEAN and China, and looked forward to its early entry into force. We reaffirmed our commitment to complete our Future Work Programme expeditiously in order to achieve the twin goals of two-way trade and investment of US\$1 trillion and US\$150 billion respectively by 2020. We instructed our officials to address the remaining technical issues as soon as possible as well as the issue of strengthening production capacity cooperation for mutual benefit.

9. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership, consolidate our strategic relations and maintain close high-level exchanges while continuing to deepen mutual trust and confidence. ASEAN Leaders noted China's initiatives including the *2+7 framework of cooperation* and the *21st Century Maritime Silk Road* and looked forward to working together for mutual benefit.

10. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2009-2015 and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen our cooperation on environment. In this regard, we looked forward to the early adoption of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020.

11. We took note of the outcome of the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, which was held in Beijing, China on 15-16 October 2015. Among others, the Meeting explored avenues of practical cooperation and welcomed the forging of closer ties, to be carried out within the existing ADMM-Plus framework.

12. We welcomed the endorsement of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation, which would further strengthen public health cooperation including preparedness and response on emerging infectious disease health threats such as Ebola and MERS CoV.

13. We underscored the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability as well as upholding freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea.

14. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not resort to threat or use of force; and for the sovereign states directly concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, including

through friendly consultations and negotiations, in accordance with international law including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982).

15. We welcomed the outcomes of the 15th ASEAN-China JWG on DOC and the 10th ASEAN-China SOM on DOC held in Chengdu, China on 19-20 October 2015 and agreed to maintain the momentum of regular official consultations and work towards the early conclusion of a COC on the basis of consensus.

16. We expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-China Centre for its continued role in promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China.

17. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue relations in 2016, we agreed to convene a commemorative summit and hold a series of commemorative activities that are jointly agreed upon between ASEAN Member States and China with a view to promoting closer cooperation in various fields encompassing political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. Thus far, we have jointly agreed to the following:

- i. exchange congratulatory messages between equivalent leaders of China and Laos, as ASEAN Chair for 2016, and between China's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretary-General;
- ii. hold receptions in Beijing and Jakarta;
- iii. hold an ASEAN-China Joint Cultural Performance;
- iv. organise the Second ASEAN-China Youth Exchange Visit; and
- v. organise an ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneur Forum.

18. We also took note of 2016 being designated as the Year of Educational Exchange.
