

# 2016-2020 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

*Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015*

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# 2016-2020 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

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This Plan of Action aims at implementing the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity signed on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia to enhance and elevate the strategic partnership, friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation, and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China for the period of 2016-2020. The POA also aims to address emerging regional and global challenges over the next five years.

This POA builds upon the significant achievements made in the relations between ASEAN and China that began in 1991 and the successful implementation of the POA 2011-2015, promotes the establishment of a peaceful, stable, integrated, prosperous, and caring ASEAN Community and contributes to the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

This POA also affirms China's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora.

ASEAN and China hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

## 1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY

### 1.1. Regular High-Level Contacts, Visits, and Interactions

1.1.1. Enhance regular high-level contacts and make good use of all available opportunities to exchange views on ASEAN-China relations and regional as well as international issues of common interest and concern.

### 1.2. Political Dialogue and Cooperation

1.2.1. Deepen ASEAN-China consultations and cooperation through the following ASEAN-led fora: ASEAN-China Summit, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with China (PMC+1), ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations (SOC) and the ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and other ASEAN-led fora, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus);

1.2.2. Deepen existing ASEAN-China cooperation by further exploring areas of cooperation through proposals and initiatives noted by ASEAN Leaders, such as China's proposed 2+7 Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China relations and China's initiative to build up ASEAN-China Community of Common Destiny. Take note of China's proposal to explore the possibility of a treaty of good neighborliness, friendship and cooperation between China and ASEAN Member States.

### 1.3. Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia

1.3.1. Uphold the purpose and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia (TAC) to enhance regional peace, security and prosperity as well as to promote mutual confidence and trust, including, among others, supporting ASEAN in convening workshops and seminars to assess the progress of the implementation of the TAC.

1.4. Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

- 1.4.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in accordance with the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ), including through the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen the SEANFWZ Treaty (2013-2017).
- 1.4.2. Intensify the on-going efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear- weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty.

1.5. Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and towards a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC)

- 1.5.1. Push forward the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety in order to maintain regional peace and stability and to promote mutual trust, dialogue and cooperation in the South China Sea, including through the regular convening of the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on the Implementation of the DOC and the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC (JWG).
- 1.5.2. Work together to intensify substantive discussions towards the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus.
- 1.5.3. Carry out agreed joint cooperative projects and activities, as well as mutually agreed Early Harvest-Measures which contribute to the promotion of mutual trust and confidence in the South China Sea in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC.
- 1.5.4. Continue to work together and cooperate on enhancing maritime security and maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, including to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
- 1.5.5. Undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and have Parties concerned undertake to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.5.6. Promote trust, confidence building and encourage concerned parties to prevent incidents at sea in accordance with the principles of the DOC.
- 1.5.7. Adhere to universally recognised principles of international law including the 1982 UNCLOS and other relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organisation.
- 1.5.8. Promote joint cooperation and dialogue in areas such as marine scientific research, protection of the marine environment, safety of navigation and communication at sea, search and rescue operation, humane treatment of all persons in danger or distress, fight against transnational crimes, as well as cooperation among military officials.

## 1.6. Human Rights

- 1.6.1. Support ASEAN's effort to implement the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant human rights declarations and instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are party.
- 1.6.2. Collaborate to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through regional dialogues, seminar and workshops, education and awareness raising activities, as well as exchanges of best practices and other capacity building initiatives. This includes supporting the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), as well as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

## 1.7. Non-Traditional Security

- 1.7.1. Increase the exchange of visits and enhance cooperation under the framework of ASEAN-China Ministerial and Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC and SOMTC + China) Consultations and ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial and Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crimes, as well as other relevant frameworks to strengthen cooperation in the field of non-traditional security including the ASEAN-China MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues, and enhance dialogue on law enforcement and security.
- 1.7.2. Promote sharing of information and enhance exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as capacity building measures through mutual visits, training courses, workshops, seminars, and video conferencing between relevant agencies of ASEAN and China on non-traditional security challenges, such as natural disasters, counter-terrorism, cyber-crimes and transnational crimes, where possible.
- 1.7.3. Enhance capacity building efforts between ASEAN and China in the area of combating trafficking in persons and promote cooperation on the exchange of information between concerned agencies in ASEAN Member States and China so as to effectively prevent and combat human trafficking, prosecute offenders and protect victims, including by initiating victim support programmes in order to assist and repatriate victims to the origin countries.
- 1.7.4. Promote cooperation and participation in activities in the region, including within the framework of the Bali Process on People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), as the region-wide forum that involves source, transit and destination countries.
- 1.7.5. Explore the possibility to link activities within the POA and the Bali Process, such as capacity building and exchange of information between concerned agencies, where appropriate, and with a view to ensure complementarities and avoid duplications.
- 1.7.6. Collaborate to enhance competency and explore further cooperation in drug control and drug trafficking, criminal forensic technology, border control management, anti-money laundering, countering terrorism including its financing, investigation into international economic crimes and cybercrimes, including through exchange of best practices, experiences, and capacity- building. This includes promoting cooperation in accordance with their respective laws in fields such as evidence gathering, tracing of crime proceeds, asset recovery, apprehension and investigation of criminal fugitives and encourage each other to enter into bilateral legal arrangements therein.

- 1.7.7. Promote closer cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies between ASEAN and China through, among others, use of existing regional and international facilities and mechanism, where applicable, including cooperation between maritime law enforcement agencies on combating transnational crimes at the sea in line with respective laws and regulations.
- 1.7.8. Strengthen cooperation on criminal investigation and prosecution in accordance with domestic law and policies.
- 1.7.9. Promote mutual visits and exchange among police academies, law enforcement agencies and law enforcement academies in ASEAN and China.
- 1.7.10. Promote linkages and increase exchange of visits of experts and scholars on specific areas and support joint research in the field of non- traditional security and share research results.
- 1.7.11. Promote cooperation on law and legal matters, including among relevant judicial and prosecutorial authorities, where applicable, through the ASEAN- China Prosecutors-General Conference.
- 1.7.12. Promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) including financial and technical supports, where appropriate, to the Centre.
- 1.7.13. Strengthen cooperation in combating extremism.

#### 1.8. Military Exchanges and Cooperation

- 1.8.1. Promote dialogue and strengthen practical cooperation in areas including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, military medicine and humanitarian demining through the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework including through the ASEAN-China Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting, so as to enhance mutual trust and confidence building and maintain regional peace and stability.
- 1.8.2. Continue to strengthen exchanges involving high-level military personnel, professional groups and academies, and vigorously conduct joint training and personnel exchanges at appropriate levels.

## 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### 2.1. ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA)

- 2.1.1. Implement the ACFTA agreements and outcomes from upgrading the ACFTA agreements to further strengthen ASEAN-China relations, with an aim to improve trade balance between ASEAN Member States and China, and endeavor to achieve the Leaders' goal of two-way trade of USD 1 trillion and two-way investment of USD 150 billion by 2020.
- 2.1.2. Actively implement trade facilitation measures and address non-tariff barriers.
- 2.1.3. Monitor problems arising from the implementation of ACFTA agreements and resolve them amicably and constructively through consultations.
- 2.1.4. Assist enterprises of both sides to take advantage of the benefits arising from the various ACFTA agreements to enhance trade, investment, and tourism between ASEAN and China by optimizing the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, and encouraging the effective use of ASEAN-China Free Trade Business Portal.

- 2.1.5. Actively undertake cooperation in trade and investment facilitation, transport infrastructure connectivity and construction, human resources development through strengthening exchange of expertise and economic and technical cooperation.
- 2.1.6. Explore the possibility of establishing economic and trade cooperation zones between China and interested ASEAN Member States, use various trade and investment promotion activities in ASEAN and China such as the ASEAN- China Expo, ASEAN-China Business and Investment Summit, Western China International Fair, and China Kunming Import and Export Commodity Fairs as platforms and, among others, make good use of ASEAN-China Investment Cooperation Fund to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and expansion of two-way trade and investments.
- 2.1.7. Promote exchanges and cooperation among chambers of commerce and industry associations of ASEAN and China, in coordination with the ASEAN-China Business Council and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), through workshops and other mutually agreed activities.
- 2.1.8. Consider adopting concrete measures to carry out safety checks on food and agricultural products.

## 2.2. Finance

- 2.2.1. Deepen cooperation under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), by improving the Operational Guidelines through test runs and Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) frameworks to further enhance the operationalization and effectiveness of the CMIM.
- 2.2.2. Support the development of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Office (AMRO), improve the quality of its surveillance activities and analysis of the regional macroeconomic and financial situation, strengthen its institutional capacity and ensure effective CMIM decision-making and operation, as well as actively support the economic review and policy dialogues by the ASEAN+3 parties.
- 2.2.3. Support the establishment and operation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in accordance with the Articles of Agreement of the AIIB, and support cooperation between AIIB and other multilateral financial institutions including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to facilitate regional connectivity.
- 2.2.4. Support the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region, to allow the region's large savings to be channeled to finance its own investment needs and promote the issuance of and facilitating the demand for local currency- denominated bonds, improving the regulatory framework and related infrastructure for the bond markets, as well as continue exploring the viability of starting with bilateral linkages and ultimately developing and making transition into an integrated solution to advance regional settlement infrastructure that promotes cross-border securities transactions in the region.
- 2.2.5. Continue to study possible enhancement of regional financial cooperation and explore future key areas in strengthening financial cooperation under the ASEAN+3 framework.
- 2.2.6. Explore possibility of the local currency usage in trade settlements.
- 2.2.7. Promote human resource development and capacity building in banking and financial sectors including through the ASEAN-China Inter-Bank Association, if appropriate.
- 2.2.8. Support greater financial inclusion for sustainable growth, through the promotion of

initiatives to improve access to financial services and products for individuals and Small and Medium Enterprises. This includes areas such as capacity building and technical assistance in financial literacy, effective intermediary and distribution channel, various finance facilities, consumer protection, national and other existing credit guarantee mechanisms, where applicable, and enhanced dialogues among regulators and stakeholders.

2.2.9. Strengthen cooperation to improve financial infrastructure development in the region.

### 2.3. Food, Agriculture and Forestry

2.3.1. Continue strengthening dialogue and exchanges of information in agricultural sector under the ASEAN Plus Three Framework through consultations, training, and sharing of best practices.

2.3.2. Further implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and China on Food and Agriculture Cooperation and MOU between ASEAN and China on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation.

2.3.3. Continue implementing the Agreement on ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and organise regular ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Cooperation Strategic Roundtable Conference to explore the channel and mechanism for strengthening strategic cooperation in food security with a view to improving regional food security.

2.3.4. Enhance cooperation related to crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries, and strengthen exchange of advanced applicable technology and capacity building, including through the ASEAN-China Action Plan on Comprehensive Food Productivity Enhancement.

2.3.5. Enhance cooperation in R&D through providing training courses on agricultural technology and food safety.

2.3.6. Promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fisheries resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty and to optimise the benefit of the people and economies in the region.

2.3.7. Enhance cooperation on preventing and controlling cross-border animal and plant diseases by exchanging information, techniques and experiences on early warning, epidemic surveillance and development of vaccine to improve animal and plant disease prevention, control system and disease notification system.

2.3.8. Explore possible cooperative initiatives on management of forest areas including wildlife protection and implementation of wildlife-related multilateral agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



#### 2.4. Maritime Cooperation

- 2.4.1. Continue to promote dialogue and exchanges in maritime cooperation through relevant platforms on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and mutual benefit. This includes further exploring initiatives such as China's proposed Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century.
- 2.4.2. Make use of resources available for ASEAN-China cooperation and conduct cooperative projects in maritime economy, maritime connectivity, maritime science and technology promotion and application, maritime environmental protection, maritime security, maritime cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

#### 2.5. ICT

- 2.5.1. Continue to strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges through the ASEAN-China Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting and other mechanisms.
- 2.5.2. Further implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology, and the Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development.
- 2.5.3. Implement the ASEAN-China Computer Emergency Response Teams Cooperative Mechanism, optimise network security incidence response and procedures, promote information and data sharing, and conduct capacity building and project cooperation.
- 2.5.4. Work together to improve ASEAN-China information and communication infrastructure connectivity.
- 2.5.5. Strengthen cooperation in developing rural telecommunications, expanding networked applications and advancing e-commerce applications.
- 2.5.6. Support the implementation of ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020.

#### 2.6. Science, Technology and Innovation

- 2.6.1. Build closer cooperation in science, technology and innovation through mechanisms such as the ASEAN-China Joint Science and Technology Committee and ASEAN Plus Three Science and Technology Senior Officials' Meeting, as well as the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Ministers Meeting.
- 2.6.2. Vigorously implement the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Programme (STEP), which includes conduct of joint research and development, including through the building of joint laboratories, technology demonstration, promotion and transfer, including through the ASEAN-China Technology Transfer Centre and networking of centres of excellence, capacity building and personnel exchange, including through the Talented Young Scientists Visiting China Programme.
- 2.6.3. Strengthen the cooperation, academic exchange and scientific research in the field of agriculture between ASEAN and China.
- 2.6.4. Strengthen exchange and cooperation in new and renewable energy technologies and discuss the formulation of an action plan on new and renewable energy.

## 2.7. Space Cooperation

- 2.7.1. Encourage the peaceful uses of outer space and cooperation in areas such as the transfer of technologies, joint technological research and development, capacity building efforts in space technology and its applications in accordance with international laws, national law and regulations of the participating states.

## 2.8. Transport

- 2.8.1. Further strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges through the ASEAN- China Transport Ministers' Meeting and other relevant mechanisms.
- 2.8.2. Continue to implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Transport Cooperation and the Agreement on Maritime Transport between ASEAN and China, making use of, among others, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and consider using the China-initiated special China-ASEAN infrastructure loan, where appropriate, for cooperation in transportation infrastructure connectivity.
- 2.8.3. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan 2011-2015 and its successive strategic plan.
- 2.8.4. Enhance cooperation in maritime transportation and development of seaports and promote cooperation among port cities with the objective of improving connectivity in all ASEAN Member States and China.
- 2.8.5. Promote cooperation in aeronautical and maritime search and rescue.
- 2.8.6. Support smooth operationalisation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (ATA) and its protocols at an early date, and strengthen comprehensive civil aviation cooperation between ASEAN and China.
- 2.8.7. Continue engagement between ASEAN and China in the area of aviation cooperation, and eventually putting in place a liberal and substantial air services framework in support of the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.
- 2.8.8. Continue the efforts to improve the use of the Kunming-Bangkok highway and accelerate the completion of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) missing links for early ASEAN-China railway infrastructure connectivity.
- 2.8.9. Further strengthen cooperation in human resources development in the field of transport.

## 2.9. Tourism

- 2.9.1. Strengthen policy dialogue and cooperation through the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and strengthen cooperation in implementing ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 and the ASEAN Plus Three Memorandum of Cooperation on Tourism Cooperation.
- 2.9.2. Strengthen ties and cooperation among tourism authorities and enterprises of ASEAN and China at all levels, encourage exchange of tourism- related statistics and information, encourage joint development of tourism products, and conduct relevant cooperation projects.

- 2.9.3. Encourage each other's participation in tourism-related events, such as the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum and the China International Travel Mart.
- 2.9.4. Promote inclusive tourism development in accordance with ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP 2016-2025).
- 2.9.5. Encourage cooperation and explore the development of measures to facilitate coordination during emergency and crisis situations and to cushion impacts of unforeseen circumstances on tourism.
- 2.9.6. Promote the role of ASEAN-China Centre in supporting tourism in the region.
- 2.9.7. Train professionals in tourism management for ASEAN countries.

## 2.10. Energy and Mineral Cooperation

- 2.10.1. Strengthen policy exchanges and dialogue on energy particularly on hydropower, mineral and geosciences and share information and experiences on clean energy development, particularly on hydrology, hydropower, coal and clean coal technology, and gas-fired power plant, latest mineral exploration and conservation technology, and geothermal energy, among others, through regional fora and seminars.
- 2.10.2. Enhance energy cooperation and encourage investment in energy infrastructure development in resource exploration, power generation, power trade and interconnection between interested ASEAN Member States and China, downstream oil and gas industry, renewable and alternative energy, civilian nuclear energy for peaceful use while giving careful and due regard to the security, environmental, health and internationally recognised safety standards of the energy source, for mutual benefit, while at the same time also respecting national's domestic obligatory standards.
- 2.10.3. Enhance information sharing, joint research and development and technical exchange in the development of new and renewable energy sources and technologies such as bio-energy, hydropower, wind, solar, clean coal technology, gas-fired power plant, hydrogen and fuel cell.
- 2.10.4. Boost cooperation in the promotion of energy conservation and sharing best practices and capacity building in energy efficiency and conservation as well as explore joint research in energy conservation policy, where possible.
- 2.10.5. Encourage enterprises from both sides to actively participate and invest in mineral resource exploration and development for mutual benefit while ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development.
- 2.10.6. Enhance geological and mineral cooperation through joint study, capacity building programmes, development of database and information exchange and sharing of experiences for mutual benefit.
- 2.10.7. Strengthen cooperation in research and development, sharing of experience, and capacity building in sustainable mining.

## 2.11. Quality Inspection

- 2.11.1. Implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation.
- 2.11.2. Hold regular ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine to enhance the exchanges and cooperation between relevant authorities at different levels.

- 2.11.3. Continue regular dialogue between ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standard and Quality (ACCSQ) and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), improve website of SPS cooperation to facilitate information sharing and to explore and undertake joint study and capacity building projects.

## 2.12. Customs

- 2.12.1. Deepen exchange and cooperation in customs including through the ASEAN-China Customs DG Consultation Meeting and Customs Coordinating Committee Meeting.
- 2.12.2. Continue to implement cooperation projects and activities under the areas of cooperation identified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on Customs Cooperation.
- 2.12.3. Promote trade facilitation cooperation between ASEAN and China through development of customs techniques and application of ICT in customs cooperation.
- 2.12.4. Support efforts to achieve the entry into force of and promote the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement with a view to push for cooperation in trade facilitation for faster clearance of goods.
- 2.12.5. Promote Implementation of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards by considering, among other things, sharing of best practices and experience and mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes, as appropriate.

## 2.13. Intellectual Property

- 2.13.1. Strengthen policy dialogue and exchange including through ASEAN- China Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting.
- 2.13.2. Continue to implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property.
- 2.13.3. Strengthen cooperation in the field of intellectual property and enhance capacity building, technical assistance and training of intellectual property professionals on the creation, acquisition, utilisation, commercialisation, protection, management and enforcement of intellectual property.
- 2.13.4. Strengthen information sharing and best practices in protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

## 2.14. SMEs

- 2.14.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) including sharing best practices, experiences, and capacity building on the development of SMEs and convening of seminars, workshops, and symposiums.
- 2.14.2. Strengthen policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities including relevant stakeholders on SMEs and pragmatically advance SMEs cooperation.
- 2.14.3. Support closer ties between SME-support institutions of ASEAN countries and China, and cooperate in SME trade and investment, personnel training and the

building of industrial parks.

2.14.4. Strengthen SME cooperation in traditional areas including trade, agriculture and tourism, and explore relevant new areas of cooperation.

2.14.5. Encourage active participation of ASEAN Member States in the China International SMEs Expo, as well as encourage participation of ASEAN Member States and China in other relevant trade shows and activities to promote SMEs of both sides to expand their markets.

### 2.15. Industrial Cooperation

2.15.1. Enhance productivity by promoting cooperation in upgrading production facilities, particularly in fields of advance technology, green and creative industries where applicable.

2.15.2. Encourage industry clusters by promoting supply chain linkages of industry sectors with mutual interests by both sides.

2.15.3. Promote innovation cooperation by encouraging exchanges of key technology and its application to business innovation.

2.15.4. Encourage further cooperation and consultation on ASEAN-China trade issues where necessary.

## 3. **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION**

### 3.1. Public Health

3.1.1. Enhance policy dialogue and exchanges through ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other relevant mechanisms.

3.1.2. Implement the ASEAN-China MOU on Health Cooperation, and support relevant cooperation programmes including through the use of ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Fund.

3.1.3. Deepen cooperation in preventing and controlling emerging and reemerging infectious and communicable diseases, especially on early detection, report, prevention, control and treatment, and conduct exchanges of technologies, personnel and experiences to enhance response capability.

3.1.4. Cooperate in preparedness and responses against pandemic influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs).

3.1.5. Strengthen exchange and cooperation in chronic disease prevention and control, reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and improve health conditions and living standard of people in the region.

3.1.6. Promote cooperation and exchanges of information and expertise on non-communicable diseases including mental health.

3.1.7. Promote exchanges on occupational medicine including diagnosis, treatment and prevention of occupational diseases.

3.1.8. Strengthen cooperation on traditional medicine, complementary and alternative medicines (TM/CAM) focusing on its protection, development and integration to healthcare system, subject to the individual member state's priorities and domestic regulations.

3.1.9. Strengthen cooperation in the areas of health promotion, including through the use of information and communication technologies for the continued development of public health, and the promotion of healthy cities and sustainable sanitation management.

3.1.10. Continue to cooperate in training of health executives and professionals.

### 3.2. Education

3.2.1. Promote cooperation to increase exchange of visits by high-level educational authorities. Make good use of the ASEAN-China Education Exchange Week and the ASEAN-China Center to conduct comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging exchanges and cooperation to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China.

3.2.2. Continue to promote student mobility and the provision of Chinese Government scholarships to ASEAN Member States, including the Double 100,000 Students Mobility Programme, and encourage the creation of mechanisms to facilitate mutual recognition of academic degrees, where appropriate.

3.2.3. Continue to deepen practical cooperation between tertiary institutions with emphasis on talent cultivation, student mobility, and joint research and language teaching, where appropriate.

3.2.4. Promote cooperation and exchanges among schools and vocational institutions.

3.2.5. Continue to promote youth exchanges in the fields of languages, culture, art and heritage with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and further deepen friendship.

3.2.6. Continue to hold training courses for professionals at different levels and in different areas by using relevant educational institutions.

3.2.7. Promote and encourage academic exchanges and the co-hosting of academic conferences including through the Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks.

3.2.8. Explore promoting Chinese language classes/courses including in technical and vocational institutions through providing/increasing the number of Chinese-speaking teachers.

### 3.3. Culture

3.3.1. Continue to enhance policy communication and exchanges among authorities in charge of culture, and encourage further the role of ASEAN-China Center in promoting cultural exchanges.

3.3.2. Implement the ASEAN-China MOU on Cultural Cooperation and the Plan of Action on ASEAN-China Cooperation in Culture (2014-2018).

3.3.3. Conduct active exchanges and cooperation in literature, libraries, archival materials, museums, performing arts, visual arts, art education, other relevant public cultural facilities and cultural/creative industry.

3.3.4. Encourage and support cooperation between departments of historical relics, archaeology and cultural heritage preservation, museums, archives, libraries, and cultural institutes.

3.3.5. Cooperate to explore markets for cultural products and vigorously develop cultural/creative industry.

- 3.3.6. Endeavour to support each other in hosting high-profile traditional and/or contemporary cultural and art events.
- 3.3.7. Jointly preserve and promote national and traditional festivals as well as encourage and support exchanges and cooperation in traditional games and sports.
- 3.3.8. Continue to hold ASEAN-China Cultural Forum, and explore ways of jointly hosting the Forum.
- 3.3.9. Strengthen cooperation on human resources development and training in the cultural field, including through the exchange of experiences on the hosting of large scale activities.
- 3.3.10. Promote the exchange of experts and expertise in culture, traditional and contemporary art, heritage and emerging industries (e.g. digital media and online games).
- 3.3.11. Encourage the existing China Cultural Centers in ASEAN Member States to promote regular cultural exchange and cooperation.

#### 3.4. Human Resource and Social Protection

- 3.4.1. Implement human resources development plans, conduct training for civil servants and encourage exchange of experiences and joint cooperation in human resources market building, labour market information, vocational skill development, labour law and regulations and social security policies.
- 3.4.2. Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue, and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM+3) and ASEAN Plus Three Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3).
- 3.4.3. Encourage public and public and private sectors to participate in human resources development and exchanges.
- 3.4.4. Explore ways to establish social welfare and social protection cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and China which may include, among others, exchanges of policy, information and experiences in these areas.
- 3.4.5. Strengthen cooperation on social welfare, especially on that of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women and children, including through supporting efforts to share experiences/studies on social welfare and protection policies.
- 3.4.6. Promote the exchange of information, sharing of experiences, training and cooperation between government agencies and Disabled People's Organisation (DPOs) on issues concerning persons with disabilities, including measures to strengthen family and community support for persons with disabilities.
- 3.4.7. Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3).
- 3.4.8. Promote cooperation in the work for the elimination of violence against women and elimination of violence against children.

#### 3.5. Poverty Reduction

- 3.5.1. Promote exchange and cooperation among relevant authorities in implementing relevant poverty alleviation initiatives including the ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Reduction Forum and China's proposed initiative on poverty alleviation in East Asia.

- 3.5.2. Strengthen cooperation in building the capacity of ASEAN+3 village leaders and further enhance the rural community development in ASEAN+3 countries.
- 3.5.3. Continue to hold a series of seminars on poverty reduction policy and practices and offer academic degree in education on poverty reduction and rural development for ASEAN Member States, strengthen cooperation on human resources development in this area.
- 3.5.4. Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue, and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRPDE+3).
- 3.5.5. Facilitate poverty reduction authorities to establish cooperation through mutual visits of personnel, knowledge sharing, information exchanges and joint study.
- 3.5.6. Render policy consultations and technical support and participate in the design of poverty reduction projects and formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in accordance with the needs of ASEAN Member States.
- 3.5.7. Support rural and community development by encouraging relevant agencies of ASEAN Member States and China to explore exchange of information and expertise in land use, planning and development, and management.

### 3.6. Environment

- 3.6.1. Continue to promote environmental cooperation including through the eventual conclusion and effective implementation of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020, strengthen environmental high-level policy dialogue, including through the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum and promote environmental cooperation through the work of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre.
- 3.6.2. Support the Implementation of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry, strengthen exchange and cooperation on environmentally sound technologies and explore the possibility of demonstration projects based on ASEAN-China Demonstration Base for Environmental Technology and Industry Cooperation to support ASEAN and China's endeavor in pursuing green and environmentally sustainable development.
- 3.6.3. Strengthen dialogue and exchange experiences in managing urban and rural environmental protection and implement demonstration projects on cooperation in urban and rural environment to improve living environmental quality in the region, and explore partnership for ecologically friendly urban development.
- 3.6.4. Explore cooperation in environmental data and information sharing, including, where appropriate, the possibility of establishing a joint platform on environmental information sharing.
- 3.6.5. Enhance environmental capacity building and environmental education cooperation, carry out joint-training courses, joint research, and staff exchange programmes to enhance capacity and raise the level of regional environmental management and enhance public environmental awareness in the region.
- 3.6.6. Carry out cooperation in co-beneficial areas such as joint study/research, capacity building experience sharing in the field of air and water quality management, and health and environmental protection and management.
- 3.6.7. Promote cooperation to provide the peoples of ASEAN access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare, and other social services so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.



- 3.6.8. Promote cooperation on environmental protection and preservation with the objective of attaining environmental sustainability.
- 3.6.9. Explore possible cooperative initiatives to support the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).
- 3.6.10. Promote cooperation which supplement activities under the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC).
- 3.6.11. Explore possible cooperative initiatives, among others, on management of priority biodiversity conservation areas such as ASEAN Heritage Parks and implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### 3.7. Media

- 3.7.1. Continue to strengthen policy communication and dialogue through the ASEAN-China Ministers Responsible for Information Meeting.
- 3.7.2. Enhance exchange and discussion between mainstream media of ASEAN countries and China, promote mutual visits and exchanges of journalists and strengthen cooperation in news reporting, expand areas of news coverage and increase the depth of content.
- 3.7.3. Strengthen cooperation on news network.
- 3.7.4. Promote Cooperation in producing films; facilitate co-production and exchanges of films and TV programmes as well as marketing of TV programmes.
- 3.7.5. Encourage exchanges of hosting and active participation in films and TV festivals and exhibitions and relevant trade events.
- 3.7.6. Promote exchange and cooperation between technicians and professionals in television, film, and broadcasting.
- 3.7.7. Engage and encourage the mainstream media to promote a positive international image of ASEAN-China relations.

### 3.8. Disaster Management

- 3.8.1. Effectively implement the MOU on Disaster Management Cooperation between ASEAN and China.
- 3.8.2. Strengthen technical cooperation in disaster management, disaster prevention, disaster risk monitoring and disaster risk reduction, early-warning, relief and rehabilitation, conduct emergency response and rescue skills training, and the sharing of good practices, experiences and information.
- 3.8.3. Strengthen cooperation in earthquake and tsunami early warning.
- 3.8.4. Improve hardware and software infrastructure on disaster management through projects and exchanges involving experts.
- 3.8.5. Continue to support the implementation of the second phase of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme for 2013-2015 and beyond, continue cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and promote capacity building in disaster management.

- 3.8.6. Promote capacity building on Emergency Medical Service (EMS), through information sharing, exchanging experiences and knowledge and providing workshops and training courses on EMS administration and support, among others.

### 3.9. Local Government Cooperation and People-to-People Exchanges

- 3.9.1. Promote dialogue, exchange of visits and sharing of experiences among local governments, including governors and mayors.
- 3.9.2. Continue to promote people-to-people exchanges through exchange programmes among various groups, including women and youth, and through cooperation in elderly persons affairs and active aging, and among people-to- people friendship organisations.
- 3.9.3. Promote people-to-people exchanges through various platforms and programmes, such as ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Youth, ASEAN- China Youth Camp, GMS Youth Friendship Programme (also known as Lancang-Mekong Youth Friendship Exchanges<sup>1</sup>), and encourage both sides to use other platforms/programmes such as ASEAN-China Youth Exchange and Activity Center, China-ASEAN Youth Friendship Association, and China- ASEAN Women Training Center.
- 3.9.4. Encourage cooperation between local governments in ASEAN and in China on the improvement people's quality of life and livelihood in less developed areas.
- 3.9.5. Explore the establishment of a network of sister cities/provinces between ASEAN Member States and China.

## 4. CONNECTIVITY

- 4.1. Enhance cooperation on ASEAN Connectivity, including through capacity building and resource mobilization for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity.
- 4.2. Continue to enhance the mechanism between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee of the China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee (CWC-CACCC) to forge cooperation and develop flagship projects in enhancing ASEAN Connectivity.
- 4.3. Strengthen cooperation to improve infrastructure development in the region, by encouraging sustainable and efficient infrastructure investment through public and private partnership and other modalities to mobilise private sector investment, where appropriate.
- 4.4. Explore ways to Improve connectivity between ASEAN and China by synergising common priorities identified in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity, and China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

## 5. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP

- 5.1. Intensify support and assistance, financially and technically, for ASEAN's narrowing development gap between ASEAN Member States and integration efforts by implementing the IAI Work Plan II and its successor documents through enhancing infrastructure development, human resource development, information and communication technology and regional and sub-regional development.

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<sup>1</sup> As referred to in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action (2011-2015).

## **6. MEKONG RIVER BASIN AND SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1. Continue to strengthen cooperation under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) frameworks, as well as under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in various areas including law enforcement and security, transportation, sustainable development, environment and climate change, information communications, water quality, sustainable usage and management of water resource, health, tourism, food and agriculture to support ASEAN Community building efforts.
- 6.2. Implement the Framework for Economic Cooperation between BIMP-EAGA and China by strengthening cooperation in the priority sectors identified for BIMP-EAGA development, namely agriculture, transport, infrastructure, ICT, natural resources, tourism and SMEs as well as providing technical and capital assistance for BIMP-EAGA programmes and projects.

## **7. COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **7.1. East Asia Cooperation**

- 7.1.1. Remain engaged in discussions and continue coordination on an inclusive and rules-based regional architecture and support ASEAN efforts in promoting norms and principles enshrined in among others, the ASEAN Charter and other ASEAN relevant instruments such as the TAC and the EAS Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) towards the development of a more rules-based regional architecture.
- 7.1.2. Continue to support ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a main vehicle to realise the long-term objective of establishing an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force, including through effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
- 7.1.3. Work closely to strengthen the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region.
- 7.1.4. Promote common interests in East Asia and cope with common challenges through the East Asia Forum, Network of East Asia Think Tanks (NEAT), Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks (NACT), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and other mechanisms.

### **7.2. Promotion of Moderation**

- 7.2.1. Support the principles of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony.
- 7.2.2. Encourage cooperation on interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives including the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and promoting moderation as a core value to counter extremism and acts of violence in all aspects.

### **7.3. Inter-regional Cooperation**

- 7.3.1. Maintain cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

7.3.2. Actively promote the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) process.

7.3.3. Strengthen cooperation in G20-related matters.

7.3.4. Further promote dialogue and mechanism in South-South Cooperation such as the G-77 and China, as well as other inter-regional frameworks such as the Forum of East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), Asian- African Conference and New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

#### 7.4. Cooperation in the UN

7.4.1. Continue to enhance cooperation at the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and common concern, inter alia, UN reform, matters affecting international peace and security, counter-terrorism, climate change, and development agenda.

7.4.2. Enhance closer communication and coordination among the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and China at the UN.

#### 7.5. Cooperation within Other International Organization

7.5.1. Promote cooperation on WTO issues, including, but not limited to, securing a full and balanced implementation of all elements of the Bali Package as well as formulating a Post-Bali Work Programme, with the aim of concluding the remaining Doha Development Agenda issues and making the multilateral trading system more responsive to the priorities of developing and least developed countries.

### **8. ASEAN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

8.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacities in the ASEAN Secretariat as well as in other ASEAN institutions and bodies, particularly in corporate development and project management, in order to increase support to all ASEAN-centred institutions.

### **9. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

9.1. This Plan of Action will be implemented under the appropriate funding support through ASEAN Member States and China, including the ASEAN- China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) and other funds.

9.2. Concerned sectoral bodies in ASEAN and agencies in China will jointly draw up specific work programmes/projects to implement the actions and measures outlined in this Plan of Action.

9.3. Review of this Plan of Action will be made through appropriate ASEAN- China mechanisms, including through the relevant ASEAN-China Ministerial Meetings, ASEAN-China SOC and ASEAN-China JCC. Progress report of the implementation of this Plan of Action will be submitted through PMC Session + 1 with China to the annual ASEAN-China Summit.