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Panel III: China-ASEAN Partnership: Prospect, Goals and Roadmap

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OUTLINE

GOALS

Paragraph 4 of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (Seventh ASEAN-China Summit, Bali, 8 October 2003):

“We declare that the purpose of the establishment of a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity is to foster friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China by deepening and expanding ASEAN-China cooperative relations in a comprehensive manner in the 21st century, thereby contributing further to the region's long-term peace, development and cooperation. This strategic partnership is non-aligned, non-military, and non-exclusive, and does not prevent the participants from developing their all directional ties of friendship and cooperation with others”

ROADMAP

I. PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY (EIGHTH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT, VIENTIANE, 29 NOVEMBER 2004)

- Formulated “to serve as a 'master plan' to deepen and broaden ASEAN-China relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next five years (2005-2010)”.
- “This Plan of Action will also support the implementation of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, signed in Bali on 7 October 2003, leading to an ASEAN Community.”

1. Political and Security Cooperation

- ***Regular High-level Contacts, Visits and Interactions.*** Increase regular high-level bilateral visits and interactions; promote dialogue on ASEAN-China cooperation and regional and international topics of common interests and concerns.
- ***Mechanisms for Dialogue and Cooperation.*** Enhance the role of the various

committees at the senior-officials level; improve coordination and communication among existing ASEAN-China mechanisms.

- ***Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.*** Promote the role of the TAC as a code of conduct in inter-state relations in Southeast Asia; urge other Dialogue Partners to accede to the TAC.
- ***Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.*** China's support for realising SEANWFZ and its readiness to sign the Protocol to the Treaty at an early opportunity; cooperate in encouraging all NWS to sign the Protocol.
- ***Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea.*** Implement the Declaration; establish mechanisms for implementation; promote joint cooperation and dialogue in various areas; promote trust and confidence building; work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the SCC on the basis of consensus; adhere to terminologies used in UNCLOS and other instruments of the IMO.
- ***Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security.*** Implement the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China Cooperation in the Field of NTS Issues and the MoU on Cooperation in NTS issues; enhance cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes; increase interaction, cooperation, training, intelligence-sharing; support development projects aimed at eradicating poverty and socio-economic disparity; address the root causes of transnational crime and terrorism.
- ***Military Exchanges and Cooperation.*** Promote mutual trust and confidence; conduct dialogues on security and defence issues; consider observing exercises and explore possibility of joint exercises; cooperate in peacekeeping.

2. **Economic Cooperation**

- ***ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.*** Expedite implementation of the Framework Agreement; fulfil obligations under the Early Harvest programme and the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods Agreement; expedite negotiations on Trade in Services and Investment;
- ***Investment Cooperation.*** Promote mutual investments, networking and cooperation among governments, business associations, academic institutions, etc; strengthen law enforcement and regulations.
- ***Financial Cooperation.*** Strengthen dialogue and cooperation through the APT

framework; enhance the effectiveness of the Chiang Mai Initiative.

- **Agricultural Cooperation.** Implement the MoU between the ASEAN Secretariat and China's Ministry of Agriculture; human resource development, high-tech exchanges; improve productivity and diversification; enhance trade and marketability of food, agriculture and forestry products/commodities; harmonise protocols on food safety.
- **ICT Cooperation.** Implement the MoU between ASEAN and China on cooperation in ICT; establish and develop ASEAN-China broadband optical fibre network; HRD cooperation; maintain and enhance cybersecurity; combat cybercrime; cooperate in R&D and transfer of technology.
- **Transport Cooperation.** Conclude an MoU between ASEAN and China on transport cooperation and see to the implementation thereof; formalise a consultation mechanism for maritime transport cooperation; develop an ASEAN-China regional maritime transport cooperation framework agreement; Asian Highway Network; complete Kunming-Bangkok highway by end of 2007; build capacity in port management, etc.
- **Tourism Cooperation.** Explore possibility of establishing high-level cooperation mechanism between tourism authorities; joint promotion campaigns.
- **Energy Cooperation.** Explore possibility of establishing high-level cooperation mechanism between energy authorities; promote greater openness, transparency and cooperation in energy security and sustainable energy development activities; renewable energy; private sector investment in joint energy resource exploration and development; conservation; exchange information on energy pricing and market stabilising initiatives.
- **Mekong River Basin Development Cooperation.** Strengthen cooperation under the framework of the GMS and AMBDC; Singapore-Kunming Rail Link.
- **Initiative for ASEAN Integration.** Increase support for integration efforts by implementing IAI projects and the VAP.
- **Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).** Strengthen cooperation in SMEs, agriculture, transport, infrastructure and ICT, natural resources, and tourism.
- **SMEs Cooperation.** Explore possibility of establishing an SMEs Joint committee; jointly identify possible areas of cooperation.

3. **Functional Cooperation**

- ***Public Health Cooperation.*** Establish regional epidemiological and laboratory networks; establish mechanisms on early notification, control and monitoring of infectious and emerging diseases; strengthen technology exchanges and training activities.
- ***Science and Technology Cooperation.*** HRD and joint R&D activities in areas identified by the ASEAN-China Joint Science and Technology Committee (JSTC); cooperation among technology-oriented SMEs.
- ***Education Cooperation.*** Continue to implement ASEAN-China Academic Cooperation and Exchange Programme; joint research and training; teaching each other's language; scholarships; visa procedures for Chinese students and faculties.
- ***Culture Cooperation.*** Active exchanges and cooperation in literature, the performing arts, visual arts and cultural industry.
- ***Labour and Social Security Cooperation.*** Information exchange, with a view to formulating policies and regulations on labour flow in the future.
- ***Human Resources Development (HRD) Cooperation.*** Cooperate in priority areas under ASEAN-China cooperation and other emerging areas of cooperation in ASEAN, through training courses, etc; encourage private sector participation in HRD process.
- ***Local Government Cooperation and People-to-People Exchanges.*** Exchanges between local governments, non-governmental friendship institutions; youth exchanges.
- ***Environmental Cooperation.*** Strengthen existing mechanisms to implement priority and potential areas of cooperation; cooperate under APT framework.
- ***Media Cooperation.*** Explore possibility of setting up a press officials' dialogue mechanism; mutual visits and exchanges of journalists; cooperate in news reporting, production of TV programmes; advance and reinforce positive international image of ASEAN-China relations.

4. **Cooperation in International and Regional fora**

- ***East Asia cooperation.*** Implement measures recommended in the EASG report within APT framework; coordination and cooperation to further the APT process.
- ***Inter-regional cooperation.*** Coordination and cooperation in the ARF, APEC, ASEM; promote South-South cooperation.

- **Cooperation in the UN.** Dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual interest; closer coordination and regular meetings between Perm Reps of ASEAN Member Countries and China in the UN.
- **Cooperation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).** Cooperation in the multilateral trading system to make it more responsive to the priorities of the developing countries.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASEAN-CHINA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP (12 OCTOBER 2005; SUBMITTED TO THE NINTH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT, KUALA LUMPUR, 12 DECEMBER 2005)

The ASEAN-China EPG classified the recommendations into short-term, and medium- and long-term measures in the key sectors. The short-term measures are those that could be implemented in the next 1-5 years, while the medium-term and long-term measures could be implemented within the next 6-15 years.

1. Strategic/Political and Security Cooperation

- **Short-term measures**
 - **High-level interactions.** To develop greater comfort levels among leaders, ministers, top policy makers, etc, to discuss, respond, address and resolve urgent and other issues in the relations in a timely manner; mutual briefings and clarifications on issues and developments in ASEAN and China, regional and international outlook; 1.5 track mechanisms.
 - **Addressing transnational issues.** Concrete cooperation in addressing terrorism and other transnational crimes. Urgent action needed on trafficking in persons and drug trafficking. Also, areas such as maritime security, safety of sea lanes.
 - **Cooperation in addressing natural disasters.** To go beyond strengthening early warning capacities; developing response action plan, disaster information and communication network, etc. Premium to be placed on pre-disaster investment strategies.
 - **Energy cooperation.** Work within APT and dialogue process to promote energy stability, security and sustainability; coordinate efforts to integrate alternative and renewable energy sources into the regional energy supply chain; feasibility studies on oil stockpiles; cooperate to maintain stability in the energy market and prepare for supply disruptions.
 - **Cooperation in multilateral fora.** Enhanced cooperation in the interests of Asia

and developing countries.

- **Cooperation with the UN.** Concerted efforts to support and promote the role of the UN and its specialised agencies; work closely with other stakeholders in promoting UN reforms.
- *Medium-term and long-term measures*
 - **ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit.** To be convened at an appropriate time to profile the strategic partnership and chart the course for the long-term.
 - **Cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation.** Work closely in regional and international fora to promote disarmament and non-proliferation.
 - **South China Sea issue.** Work towards the conclusion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea on the basis of consensus; implement measures in the DOC.
 - **Resolving border issues.**
 - **Defence cooperation.** Workshop and seminars on security issues of common concern; strengthening bilateral military personnel exchanges and training. Observation of each other's military exercises and hold joint military exercises in the NTS field and other areas outlined in the ASEAN-China Plan of action.

2. **Economic Cooperation**

- *Short-term measures*
 - **ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.** Studies on promoting two-way investments, opportunities and obstacles to trade and investment, impact of ACFTA on SMEs and farmers; customs cooperation; harmonisation of product standards; Intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement; acceleration of negotiations on trade in services and investment.
 - **Investment and business cooperation.** Promote dialogue on investment policy; set up common information exchange platforms.
 - **Cross-border trade and investment.** Specific programmes and projects to promote and facilitate border trade and investments.
 - **Small and medium enterprises.** Promote investment, trade, technological transfer and information exchanges between SMEs.
 - **Infrastructure and transport cooperation.** Establish investment schemes with the assistance of private sector to fund important transport and infrastructure projects.

- **Finance and monetary cooperation.** Intensify cooperation in the issuance of bonds to raise private capital for investments. Enhance swap arrangements under the Chiang Mai Initiative.
- **Agricultural cooperation.** Promote modern methods of farming, management of livestock, trade with small farm holders, use of advanced science and technology to improve production.
- **Science and technology.** Strengthen cooperation in areas such as ICT, biotechnology and food science.
- **Narrowing the development gap.** Implementation of the VAP.
- **Medium-term and long-term measures**
 - **ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.** Further strengthen the FTA through freer movement of skilled labour, capital and transfer of technology; set up mechanism to assist industries affected by FTA.
 - **Agricultural cooperation.** Set up a committee to coordinate projects, identify joint efforts in promoting research activities, etc. Establish research and information exchange centre to promote further cooperation.
 - **Finance and Monetary Cooperation.** Promote greater integration of financial markets in the longer-term; pursue cooperation in liberalisation of financial services.
 - **Tourism cooperation.** Promotion of open skies policy, visa-free travel, setting up tourism cultural centres to promote and strengthen tourism cooperation.
 - **ASEAN-China Centre for Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion.** Establish in Beijing, as a one-stop centre to promote trade and investments.

3. **Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

- **Short-term measures**
 - **Cooperation in Education.** Enhanced cooperation between the ASEAN University Network and Chinese universities; more exchange programmes; promote language training.
 - **Health Cooperation.** Implement actions in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action; augment the ASEAN-China Special Fund; share experiences and capabilities to develop generic pharmaceuticals industry to make affordable medicines; set-up an ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting.
 - **Arts and Culture.**

- **People-to-People Contact.** Encourage contact among youth, media personnel, parliamentarians, tourists and students.
- **Youth.** Establish an ASEAN-China Youth Entrepreneurs Association, expand the China Youth Volunteers Programme for ASEAN member countries.
- **Medium-term and long-term measures**
 - **Environmental Cooperation.** Establish a Green ASEAN-China Region Agency to provide practical information and coordinate activities to promote public and corporate knowledge on the environment.
 - **Health Cooperation.** Set up an information, research and development centre for infectious diseases.
 - **Arts and Culture.**
 - **ASEAN-China Foundation.** Established to promote scholarly exchanges and research and training on social, cultural, educational and technical areas.
 - **Poverty Alleviation.** Accelerate poverty reduction with the framework of the UN MDGs; promote rural development; universal access to education; providing micro-credits to the poor; social safety nets; health and nutrition; food security and safety.

4. **Institutional Framework**

- **Short-term measures**
 - **Review of ASEAN-China Mechanism.** Periodic review of mechanism to take into account developments in ASEAN, China and the region.
 - **Prioritisation of Cooperation.** Focus on priority areas in Plan of Action so that resources are channelled to the most important aspects; augment ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund.
 - **Resource Allocation.** Convene the WG on the ASEAN-China JCC more regularly to monitor implementation of cooperation projects; provide the ASEAN Secretariat with sufficient resources to assist in coordinating the implementation of cooperation in all sectors under ASEAN-China dialogue relations.

PROSPECTS

- Notable achievements in China-ASEAN Partnership in the last decade
- Critical to implement Roadmap of recommended measures
- Bright Prospects if China and ASEAN can overcome challenge of political will essential for task ahead.