

ASEAN + China

8th ASEAN + China Summit

Chairman's Statement: Deepening ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vientiane, 29 November 2004

1. ASEAN Leaders held a productive meeting with H.E. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the People's Republic of China. We exchanged views on regional and international political and economic issues of common concern. We also reviewed developments in ASEAN-China relations in recent years. We acknowledged the increasingly important role China has been playing in regional and global affairs.
2. ASEAN Leaders commended China's active and important role in promoting the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsular. We noted with encouragement the achievement of the three rounds of the Six-Party Talks. ASEAN Leaders expressed their hope that China would continue to play an important role in the quest for a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsular. We shared the view that there is a need to engage into dialogue to promote mutual confidence and common approach, and that the Six-Party Talks should be reconvened at the earliest possibility to bring about the common goal of denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsular.
3. We expressed our deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Iraq and agreed that the United Nations' leading role in Iraqi post-war construction is important and relevant to the future of the Iraqi people. We are deeply concerned with the situation in the Middle East and called for a peaceful solution to end the violence in this region.
4. We welcomed the accession of the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and encouraged other non-Southeast Asian countries to accede to the Treaty. We shared the view that efforts should be pursued to promote the Treaty as a code of conduct for inter-state relations in the region.
5. ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the One-China Policy and believed that maintaining peace and stability across Taiwan Straits conforms to the common interests of all countries in the region.
6. China commended ASEAN for the signing of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), and expressed its support to the implementation of VAP, which will contribute to the realisation of the goals in the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II leading to the establishment of the ASEAN Community comprising 3 main pillars, namely, the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). In this connection, China welcomed the adoption of the ASC Plan of Action and the ASCC Plan of Action and expressed its support in the implementation of activities under the two Plans. China also welcomed the signing

of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Integration of Priority Sectors and the Protocols, which will support the realisation of the AEC.

7. We agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the non-traditional security field through the implementation of the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed on 4 November 2002 in Phnom Penh and the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the field of Non-traditional Security Issues signed on 10 January 2004 in Bangkok. We noted with satisfaction that the Annual Plan for 2004 to implement the MOU has been completed and that ASEAN and China will be working on the Annual Plan for 2005.

8. We adopted the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. We are confident that this Plan of Action would accelerate all-dimensional cooperation between the two sides with a view to consolidating and deepening the ASEAN-China strategic partnership. We also identified a number of priority areas, for implementation, under the Plan, which included energy cooperation, especially alternative clean energy, bio-fuels, and hydroelectric power; SMEs and industrial clustering; public health; science and technology as well as quality supervision, inspection and quarantine inspection.

9. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China and agreed to expedite the implementation of the Early Harvest Programme and provide flexibility to the new Member Countries of ASEAN. We welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Trade in Goods and Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism by the ASEAN-China Economic Ministers as part of the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation as well as the signing of the MOU between ASEAN and China on Transport Cooperation.

10. We agreed to develop comprehensive frameworks for our cooperation in the five key areas, namely agriculture, information and communication technology (ICT), human resource development (HRD), Mekong Basin development and mutual investment.

11. ASEAN Leaders congratulated China for the successful holding of the ASEAN-China EXPO in Nanning earlier this month and welcomed China's plan to convene an "ASEAN-China Telecommunications Week" in April 2005, in Shanghai. In the area of investment, ASEAN Leaders supported China's project on holding a high-level Seminar on Promoting Investment by SMEs in East Asia in the second half of 2005.

12. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed China's initiative to dispatch young volunteers to ASEAN countries, particularly to CLMV. In this connection, we agreed to further develop this initiative into specific projects taking into account the capabilities of Chinese young volunteers and the needs and requirements of ASEAN Member Countries, especially those of the CLMV.

13. The ASEAN Leaders were supportive of China's proposal for commemorating the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations and welcomed China's intention to contribute another US\$ 5 million to the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund in 2005.

14. China reiterated its continued support for ASEAN's integration through various development initiatives such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

15. ASEAN Leaders agreed to recognise China as a full market economy and committed not to apply Section 15 and 16 of the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China to the WTO and Paragraph 242 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to WTO in relation to the trade between each of the ten ASEAN member states and China.

16. We noted with satisfaction the admission of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and expressed appreciation to China for its support for the three ASEAN Member Countries.

17. We expressed our support for Asia's turn to assume the position of United Nations Secretary-General. In this regard, China was pleased to be informed of ASEAN's endorsement of the candidature of H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, for this position.