

# NEWSLETTER



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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

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Chinese Premier Li Keqiang attends the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 via video link in Beijing, capital of China, April 14, 2020.

## Premier Li Keqiang Attends the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19

On the afternoon of 14 April, Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council, attended the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 in Beijing. He was joined by leaders of the ten ASEAN countries, President Moon Jae-in of the ROK, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization, and ASEAN Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam chaired the Summit.

In his remarks, Premier Li noted that with more than 200 countries and regions affected to date, COVID-19 is gravely threatening the health, safety and life of people around the world and is putting the global economy under severe strain.

At the recent Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit, President Xi Jinping highlighted the imperative for the international community to strengthen confidence, act in unity and make a collective response by comprehensively stepping up international cooperation.

APT countries need to build greater awareness of our community with a shared future and send a message of partnership, solidarity and mutual assistance to secure an early victory against COVID-19 in East Asia. Premier Li pointed out that in responding to the outbreak, the Chinese government has consistently adhered a people-centered approach, adhered to the principles of shoring up confidence, strengthening unity, following a science-based approach and taking targeted measures, and has all along been open and transparent.

So far China has achieved major progress in containing the outbreak, and life and work is returning to normal at a faster pace in the country. Going forward, China will keep up the control measures to forestall a resurgence of infection. Any complacency in this regard would be misplaced. In the face of an epidemic of such magnitude, the fortunes of all countries are closely inter-connected; no country can handle the disease all by itself.

*Final*  
Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit  
on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
(14 April 2020)

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, held the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) via videoconference on 14 April 2020. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, in his capacity as the Chair of ASEAN.

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the unprecedented and severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and its adverse impact on the socio-economic development of our respective countries and the world at large.

**EXPRESSING** deepest condolences and sympathies for the loss of life and suffering caused by the pandemic.

**RECOGNISING** the exponential spread and severity of COVID-19, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

**EMPHASIZING** our gratitude and support to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel who have been working with all their hearts and minds to fight the pandemic, saving people's lives.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of people's participation in preventing and controlling COVID-19.

**WELCOMING** steps taken by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to support countries in need by using and enhancing their instruments in response to their members' urgent needs.

**SUPPORTING** the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for all nations to respond decisively, innovatively and collectively to suppress the spread of the virus and address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

**NOTING** the commitment expressed by the G20 Leaders in their Extraordinary Summit statement of 28 March 2020 to present a united front against the common threat of COVID-19.

**STRESSING** the important role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global campaign to control and contain the spread of COVID-19, recognising the importance of implementing the health measures under the

Partial Contents of ASEAN Plus  
Three Summit Statement on  
COVID-19 released after the Summit



APT countries need to enhance macro economic policy coordination, ensure the smooth functioning of the industrial and supply chains, gradually restore social and economic order, and anchor market confidence.

They should make the best effort toward signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement within this year. The relations and cooperation among APT countries will only emerge stronger from defeating the virus.

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[Extraordinary Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit Statement on COVID-19](#)

Premier Li put forward China's proposals on APT cooperation in fighting the outbreak.

First, APT countries need to enhance all-round epidemic cooperation and build up public health capacity.

To curb the spread of the virus, coordination and collaboration among APT countries need to be strengthened. China will continue to do its best to help ASEAN countries through grant assistance and via commercial channels, and China proposed the setting-up of an APT reserve of essential medical supplies.

APT countries also need to support WHO in playing a leading role, and work together to safeguard regional and global public health security.

Second, APT countries need to revitalize economic growth and deepen regional economic integration.

APT countries need to further ease tariffs, eliminate barriers, boost the flow of trade and investment, and keep markets open to each other. They need to maintain the necessary flow of people and goods and stabilize the industrial and supply chains.

APT countries also need to work toward signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement within this year as agreed and endeavor to take regional economic integration to a higher level.

Third, APT countries need to intensify policy coordination to weather all kinds of risks and challenges. They should remain confident about their ability to overcome the financial risks and challenges brought by COVID-19, and serve as an anchor of stability for the region.

We need to make good use of mechanisms such as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), and support multilateral financial institutions in their effort to ensure adequate liquidity. We should also strive to ensure regional grain supply and market security.

Premier Li stressed that viruses are a common enemy of humanity. The Chinese people will continue to stand side by side with other peoples in East Asia and across the world in navigating these tough times. He expressed confidence that together APT countries will prevail over the epidemic.

The participating leaders share the view that in the face of the unprecedented challenge posed by COVID-19, APT countries should carry forward the tradition of cooperation, demonstrate solidarity and join hands in tackling this challenge. It is important to enhance experience and information sharing, conduct joint research and development of drugs and vaccines, and build up regional mechanisms for epidemic control.

SOURCE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

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