



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心  
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

# Newsletter

Special Issue

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## The Inauguration of 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation Held in Beijing

On May 28, the Inauguration of 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation was held in Beijing. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China; Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam, rotating chair of the ASEAN; Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Philippines to the People's Republic of China and the Royal Thai Embassy to the People's Republic of China attended and addressed the ceremony.



It is stressed that China attaches great importance to the strategic partnership with ASEAN. Since the establishment of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations 30 years ago, the two sides have been engaged in friendly exchange and cooperation in eco-environment protection, disaster prevention and reduction, climate change response, poverty alleviation, and other areas concerning sustainable development. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, the Chinese government has been actively implementing the new development philosophy and pursuing a new path of green and low-carbon development which gives priority to ecological conservation. So far, positive progress has been made with significant ecological and environmental improvements, which helps to consolidate the foundation for ASEAN-China sustainable development cooperation.

It is pointed out on the meeting that China is willing to work together with ASEAN to implement the *Framework ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)* and promote cooperation in biodiversity conservation, climate change response, air quality improvement, sustainable cities, marine plastics reduction and other issues of common concern through policy dialogue, capacity building and pilot programs. China will continue to implement "China-ASEAN Green Envoys Program", share policies, models and measures on ecological civilization construction and green development and make joint efforts to promote capacity building of environmental governance and raise public awareness on environment protection in the region.

In their remarks, representatives expressed the expectation that the two sides could regard the event as a new milestone to further explore pathways for sustainable development and enhance sustainable development cooperation.

Under the witness of guests, representatives from ASEAN countries and China jointly inaugurated ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation

Over 80 representatives from Embassies of ASEAN countries in China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, related government departments and international organizations attended the event.



## Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a congratulatory letter to the inauguration of the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation

On May 28, 2021, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a congratulatory letter to the inauguration of the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation.

Premier Li noted that promoting sustainable development is fundamental to solving multiple global problems. He said that last year the leaders of ASEAN Member States and China jointly declared 2021 as the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation, which reflects the hope of the two sides to strengthen cooperation in ecological and environmental protection, disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and poverty reduction, so as to create multi-faceted favorable conditions for the region's sustainable development.

Premier Li pointed out that this year also marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, which has witnessed considerable progress in bilateral relations and cooperation. China has always regarded ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and supported ASEAN in strengthening its centrality in regional cooperation and playing a greater role in building an open and inclusive regional architecture. China stands ready to cooperate with ASEAN partners under the principle of mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win results, deepening practical cooperation in various fields, and working together to build a closer ASEAN-China community with a shared future.

## Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam sent a congratulatory letter to the inauguration of ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei extended his congratulations on the launch of ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation.

Hassanal pointed out that as the rotating chair of ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to the Government and people of People's Republic of China on the launch of the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation.

Brunei Darussalam welcomes the designation of 2021 as the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation in key areas including poverty alleviation, disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and environmental protection.

Hassanal noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations as well as the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Brunei Darussalam-China diplomatic relations. As the rotating chair of ASEAN, Brunei is willing to take the opportunity to promote ASEAN-China cooperation on all fronts and bring greater benefits for the wellbeing of people in the two countries and the region.





## ZHAO Yingmin Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China

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Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, noted that since the establishment of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations 30 years ago, the two sides have been engaged in friendly exchange and cooperation in ecology and environment, disaster prevention and reduction, climate change, poverty alleviation, and other areas concerning sustainable development. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, the Chinese government has been actively implementing the new development philosophy and pursuing a new path of green and low-carbon development which gives priority to ecological conservation. So far, positive progress has been made with significant ecological and environmental improvements, which helps to consolidate the foundation for ASEAN-China sustainable development cooperation. China is willing to work together with ASEAN to implement the *Framework ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)*, continue to implement "ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program", share policies and measures on ecological civilization construction and green development and make joint efforts to promote capacity building of environmental governance and raise public awareness on environment protection in the region.

## Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam

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Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam noted that ASEAN is making positive efforts to realize the 2030 SDGs. Brunei Darussalam has developed a series of mid- and long-term plans to support sustainable development, including *Digital Economy Master Plan 2025*, *National Economy Blueprint 2021*, *National Climate Change Policy* and *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*. Under the impact of COVID-19, countries should enhance mutual trust and cooperation. It is hoped that countries in the region could regard the event as a milestone to make concerted efforts in climate change, poverty reduction, disaster prevention and reduction, and sustainable development and explore ASEAN-China sustainable development pathways.

## Jose Santiago L. Sta. Romana Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to the People's Republic of China

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Jose Santiago L. Sta. Romana, Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to the People's Republic of China, pointed out that ASEAN-China cooperation in ecology, environment and climate is becoming increasingly important. The ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation will facilitate capacity building in environmental governance and sustainable development in ASEAN Member States and promote stronger, mutually-beneficial and sustainable partnership between ASEAN and China.

## Benjamin Sukanjanajtee Minister of the Royal Thai Embassy in the People's Republic of China



Benjamin Sukanjanajtee, Minister of the Royal Thai Embassy in the People's Republic of China, noted that the world has witnessed China's progress in pollution prevention and control, poverty reduction, and food security. Thailand is also committed to promoting the transition to environment-friendly economy and the realization of green recovery in the post-pandemic era. ASEAN-China sustainable development cooperation is of great significance to promoting global actions in addressing climate change and environmental issues. The cooperation will also contribute to the implementation of *Paris Agreement* and 2030 SDGs.

## Lim Jock Hoi Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations, recognized China's efforts in promoting low-carbon economy and noted the significance of a stable and sustainable ASEAN-China relation. ASEAN-China environmental cooperation has achieved positive outcomes. It is expected that the *Framework ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)* would further enhance cooperation in the region and facilitate the realization of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ASEAN Secretariat will support ASEAN Member States to cooperate with China to accelerate green economic recovery in the region.

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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.