



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Statement delivered by

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National People's Congress of China, People's Republic of China)*

Mr. President,

Fellow Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to come to Cebu, a beautiful and well-known historical city, to attend the 27th General Assembly of AIPO. On behalf of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, I would like to extend our warm congratulations on the convocation of this assembly and express our sincere appreciation for the generous hospitality and thoughtful arrangements of the host.

Since the 26th AIPO General Assembly in Vientiane, ASEAN has made fresh headway in its development and integration. Having overcome the challenges of mounting oil price and avian influenza, the countries achieved economic growth at a rate of nearly 6% in 2005. In the same year, ASEAN attracted US\$ 38 billion of FDI, which topped its own record before the Asian financial crisis. Steady progress has also been made in building three ASEAN Communities. Moreover, ASEAN has set about formulating the *ASEAN Charter* with the aim to establishing its legal status. ASEAN economic ministers have decided to move up the date for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community from 2020 to 2015. And its defense ministers have agreed to set up a response mechanism to deal with emergencies in the region at their first meeting. All in all, ASEAN is now more proactively engaged in regional cooperation and international affairs, thus contributing enormously to the maintenance of peace and stability and development in the region. Without the efforts made by AIPO and its member parliaments, ASEAN could not have made so many achievements in the past year. As your friend and partner, we congratulate you on your achievement.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the dialogue partnership between China and ASEAN. It will be an important and memorable year in the annals of China-ASEAN relationship.

Over the past 15 years, we have decided to move our relations towards good-neighbourliness and mutual trust, and put in place the framework of China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, charting the course for the long-term development of the relationship between the two sides.

Over the past 15 years, our mutual political trust has been deepened, our dialogues and exchanges have become closer, and our cooperation has been expanded with improved mechanisms. All this has laid a solid foundation for enduring and stable development of our relationship.

Over the past 15 years, we have conducted good coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs. This has added to the vitality of the East Asian Cooperation and contributed to peace, stability and prosperity of our region.

Now, China-ASEAN relationship is most robust and fruitful. Next month, the heads of state or government of China and ASEAN nations and ASEAN Secretary General will meet in Nanning, Guangxi of China. They will not only celebrate the 15 years of the dialogue partnership between China and ASEAN but also map out a blueprint for future cooperation between the two sides. That meeting will be another milestone in China-ASEAN relationship. I am sure the meeting will be productive and help lift the strategic partnership between us to a new height.

To unswervingly develop good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with ASEAN is the strategic choice of the Chinese Government. China will continue to pursue the policy of building good-neighbourly relationship and partnership with its neighbours and promote all-round cooperation with ASEAN. To boost the growth of our relations, China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to fully implement the *Plan of Action* aimed at promoting our strategic partnership, forge ahead with the building of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), intensify security cooperation in counter-terrorism, drug control, law enforcement and maritime security, and push forward the cooperations under such mechanisms as Great Mekong Sub-region Cooperation (GMS), Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippine East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and the Forum on Economic Cooperation of Beibu Rim.

*Fellow Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We, members of parliaments, are representatives of popular will in our own countries. Friendly inter-parliamentary exchange and cooperation is an important bond between peoples around the world. It is also an important component of the friendly and good-neighbourly relationship between China and ASEAN. We are glad to see numerous new exchanges between China's NPC and its ASEAN counterparts in the past year. Those exchanges gave us the chance to grace old amity by making new friends and foster friendly feelings while deepening cooperation. We sincerely wish that AIPO and its member parliaments will play an even greater role in promoting ASEAN integration and enhancing the mutual understanding and cooperation between ASEAN and its dialogue partners and other countries. The National People's Congress of China is ready to join hands with AIPO and ASEAN parliaments to strengthen the China-ASEAN strategic partnership, and to make new contributions to the building of a harmonious Asia of lasting peace and common prosperity.

I wish this session of AIPO General Assembly a complete success.

Thank you.