

**Speech at the Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK Ministers  
Responsible for Information**

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of the PRC**

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*Distinguished Mr. President,  
Distinguished Mr. Secretary General,  
Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen:*

It is my pleasure to attend the Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK Ministers Responsible for Information in Vientiane, Laos, near the scenic Mekong River. As an important achievement of the ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK (10+3) summit meeting, this meeting broadens the cooperation framework among the 10+3 countries and is of great significance for enhancing mutual trust, strengthening communication and promoting multilateral collaboration. Here, on behalf of the State Council Information Office of China, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the opening of the meeting and greetings to all the delegates attending the meeting.

In 1991, China and ASEAN launched the process of dialogue and cooperation, and established a "strategic partnership towards peace and prosperity" in 2003. Over the past 18 years, the two sides have deepened political mutual trust, promoted economic relations and trade collaboration, and intensified cultural exchanges. All of these have resulted in a more comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation. China and ASEAN are the fourth largest trading partners of each other. As the bilateral trade relationship is getting ever closer, the trade between the two sides accounts increasingly more for each other's total foreign trade volume. In 2010, the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area will be established, further promoting bilateral cooperation and exchanges. The two sides have also carried out good coordination in regional and international affairs. The cooperation between China and ASEAN is not only beneficial to the development of each other, but also conducive to stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region.

It is a common understanding among ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK that the goal of East Asia's cooperation is to achieve peace, prosperity and development in the region. In 2004, the summit between ASEAN, China,

Japan and ROK decided to promote the East Asian community through the 10+3 channel, which was recorded in the official document of the meeting. In the past five years, East Asian countries have strengthened concrete cooperation in the areas of economy and finance, social affairs and culture, and politics and security, laying a solid foundation for the establishment of the East Asian community. China is one of the countries who initiated and fostered East Asian cooperation. We proclaim that the countries in the region should, on the basis of mutual respect and good neighborly relations, seek common ground while reserving differences, resolve disputes appropriately with overall stability a priority, and continue our efforts to help each other while coping with challenges such as the global financial crisis, climate change, and food and energy security. We should strive to promote the healthy and sustainable development of the regional economy and society, encourage cultural diversity, and seek a harmonious co-existence with the intention of mutual learning. We should, following the principle of openness and tolerance, steadily gather our common understanding and deepen cooperation toward the long-term objective of establishing the economic community, with the 10+1 mechanism as the basis and the 10+3 mechanism as the main channel. We are ready to conduct exchanges and cooperation, enhance communication and consultation with ASEAN countries in an active and open manner.

The world is moving towards multi-polarization, and the economy is moving towards globalization. Against this backdrop, China and ASEAN have achieved new progress in media exchanges and cooperation. Chinese media have a broad coverage of the cultural and social developments in ASEAN countries, enriching Chinese people's knowledge of those countries. Likewise, principal media from ASEAN countries also report Chinese affairs and developments in areas of economy, politics, culture and social life. Through various platforms such as TV programs, radio broadcasts and the Internet, local people can get to know China more objectively. Media from China and ASEAN countries have mutually introduced each other's culture, history and economic and social developments through press cooperation, program exchange and media trips. In 2007, the two sides initiated the dialogue between the information ministers from China and ASEAN (10+1), which strengthened the connection and communication between respective information authorities and pushed forward the process of media cooperation. In accordance with the framework contained in the China-ASEAN MOU on Information and Media Cooperation, we have made a steady step forward in information sharing, inter-media cooperation, and human resources training and exchange. We have established a stable media exchange mechanism

with Japan and ROK, which effectively enhances the recognition and emotions between Chinese, Japanese and Korean people, through media forums, media cooperation, and exchange of visits.

In order to further promote active and effective cooperation between Chinese and ASEAN media, I wish to put forward the following suggestions:

First, we should give full play to the role of government departments in advancing information exchange and cooperation. ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK share geographic proximity and similar cultures, and therefore have many advantages in exchange and cooperation. Media play a significant role in promoting nation-to-nation relations. Government departments should guide and facilitate media cooperation among countries, create and provide exchange opportunities, strengthen mutual understanding and trust among different media organizations, and strive to build a favorable and friendly media environment in the region.

Second, we should raise the level of information exchange and media cooperation. We should expand the mutual media coverage among East Asian countries, enrich content and improve the quality and quantity of reports following the principle of truthfulness, objectiveness and comprehensiveness. We should respect the diversity in development modes, cultural traditions and religious beliefs in different countries, and help the public to better understand each other's economic and social developments and policies.

Third, we should voice our opinions more actively in the international arena. At present, the Western media dominate the international opinion. We should try to voice our opinions and move the international opinion environment toward objectiveness and fairness. Through common efforts by the media from the 10+3 countries, we will create an equal and fair space for developing countries in international media and opinion landscape.

*Friends, ladies and gentlemen,*

Last month we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Grand ceremonies were held all over the country. Over the past 60 years, China has witnessed dramatic changes. Its achievements have captured worldwide attention. However, we know that obstacles and challenges still lie ahead. We will unswervingly follow the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, firmly pursue the opening-up strategy of mutual

benefit and win-win, and strengthen cooperation with other countries, including those from ASEAN. China will further enhance information and media cooperation with ASEAN countries, Japan and ROK, and explore new cooperation mechanisms and channels. We hope, together with ASEAN countries, Japan and ROK, to uphold world peace, promote common development, and build a harmonious world.

Through this meeting, the State Council Information Office of China is willing to mobilize media resources, enrich cooperation content, expand cooperation fields and improve the quality and level of cooperation. We will make more efforts to safeguard the common interests of China, ASEAN countries, Japan and ROK, and promote an everlasting, sustainable and stable development of mutual exchanges, cooperation and friendship.

I wish this meeting a great success!

Thank you.