

Building the Community of Common Destiny between China and its Neighbors: the Prospect and Policy Suggestion

Assistant Professor Dr Romyen Kosaikanont

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Outline

- Context: Community of Common Destiny
- Thailand Development Pathway
- Suggestions

Context:

General Prayut Chan-o-cha's address

“The world is gradually shifting from the idea of one country, one goal to one world, one goal. All countries should consider how to cooperate to resolve these issues for **equal benefit**, to **reduce suspicion** and to **build trust**...

... Our regional architecture still lacks balance. Resolving security issues together within the region must be based on a good regional architecture. The end of the Cold War saw this architecture become one of many powers, there may not yet be any clear regulations or rules, which has resulted in uncertainty and has become an increasing challenge for all the countries of the region, especially small and developing countries.”

IISS Shangri-La Dialogue, 3 June 2016 Singapore

Context of CCD

- Comprehensive

President Xi's address at Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference

“to build a CCD, we need to seek win-win cooperation and common development”... “not only applies to the economic field, but also to the political, security, cultural and many other fields.”

- Perceived as
 - opportunities – Aksornsri Panichsarn (2014) golden decade and diamond decade
 - Threats – Chinh (2015)

CCD: Context

- China economic dominance
- Unique economic development model
 - “socialism with Chinese characteristics” “Some people define reform as changes towards the universal values of the West, the Western political system. This is a stealthy tampering with the concept and a misunderstanding of our reform. Our reform is reform that keeps us moving forward on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.”*
- China’s rise has been perceived as threats esp. by superpowers
- CCD is to materialize China’s Dream of great rejuvenation of Chinese nation – advancing diplomacy with neighboring countries, peaceful coexistence.
- New normal – over capacity of production, accumulated knowledge and experiences, AD/CVD (Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties)

CCD

- Community **in the making**
- No clear rules or regulations
- Value of **a peaceful coexistence**
- **Win-win** cooperation (sound environment for China's own development, neighboring development)
- Facilitating the construction of the infrastructure
 - OBOR
 - AIIB

Thailand's development vision and policy

- 1950s Washington Consensus
- 2015: 20 years national vision and strategy of **“Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability”**
- Middle income trap
- Restructuring the economy, industry and manufacturing and infrastructural development for connectivity.

Thailand's dev. vision: Thailand 4.0

- Thailand 4.0 economic model bringing to a value based economy.
- Soraphol Tulayasatien, infrastructural upgrade is a prerequisite.
- Innovation and technology driven in 5 areas of growth industries
 - Food, agriculture and biotechnology
 - Health, wellness and biomedical technology
 - Smart devices, robotics and mechatronics
 - Digital, Internet of Things and embedded tech
 - Creative, culture and high-value services

Reflections

- Thailand and China share common interests in their development pathway.
- “China needs Thailand as much as Thailand needs China for their development”.
- As the **CCD is in the making**, the question remains to be answered is how to make CCD truly “**common, meaningful, and inclusive.**”?

Suggestions

- China facilitating role in defining the common destiny.
- Ensure peaceful coexistence and treat others with respects, complimentary of each other, flexible and open minded.
- Inclusive growth for sustainability.
- Sincerely deal with the arisen difficulties.
- Good monitoring and evaluation mechanism
- Avoid repeating hegemonization

Conclusion

Peaceful rise of China is welcome but China must act as **responsible international player** aiming for inclusive and sustainable development in the region. China should actively **engage with ASEAN** regardless to the enthusiasm or readiness of different countries within the region. China should insist to contribute to the region by **serving as an engine of growth** during the difficult current global economic conditions. China should also continue to **engage in the region** even there is a pertaining **issue of trust** with various countries.