



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY: CAMBODIA-CHINA MILITARY COOPERATION

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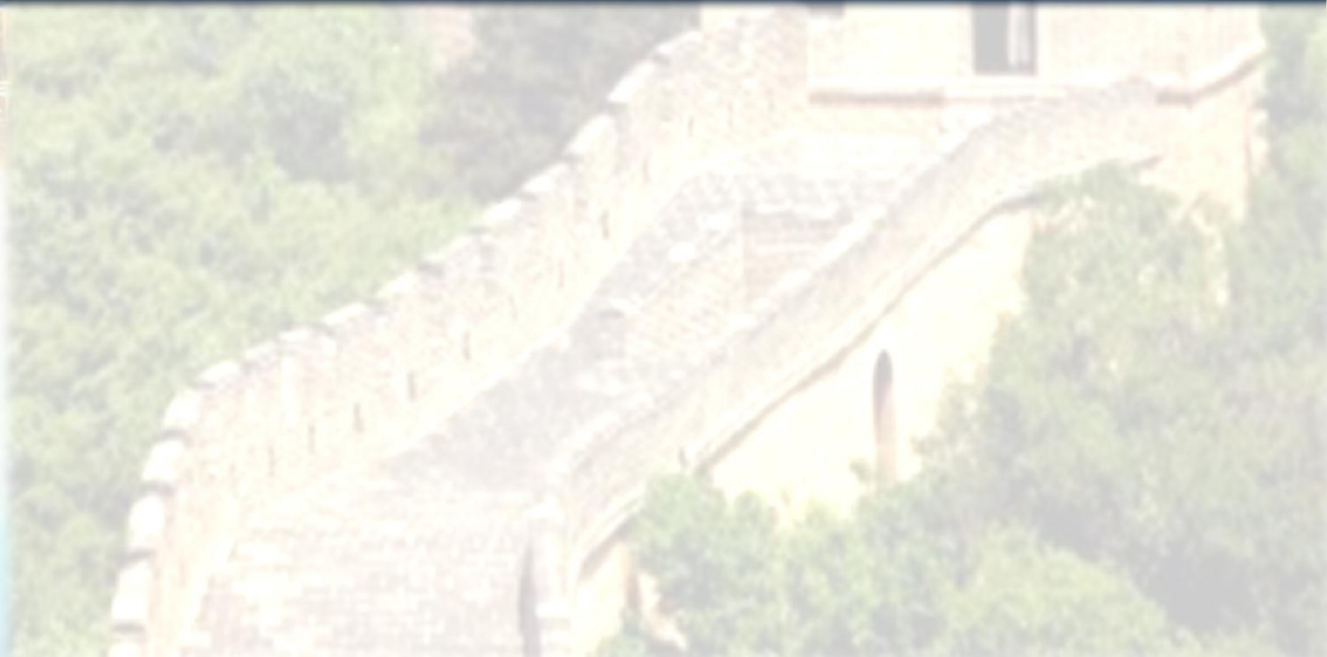
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1

INTRODUCTION



Introduction

- ❑ Nowadays, the world faces many major issues, thus comprehensive solutions need to be addressed by politicians, policy makers, and researchers, and political commitments and long-term visions must be clearly stated.
- ❑ No country can be isolated, it needs cooperation between the countries in the region and in the world, especially neighboring countries.
- ❑ Cambodia and China have very long-standing relations and as neighbors both countries are moving forwards to build the community of common destiny.
- ❑ Neighbors defined by China and Cambodian foreign policy will be examined followed by an overview on brief history of Cambodia-China relations, military cooperation, Cambodia's position over South China Sea issue, and contribution of Cambodia in the efforts to build the community of common destiny.



2

BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMBODIA-CHINA RELATIONS



Neighbors Defined by China

- ❑ China defines its neighbors broadly which include more than 60 countries. China's neighbors can be divided geographically into sub-regions: Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus.
- ❑ According to their comprehensive power and relations with China, these countries could be divided into four main categories: sub-regional great powers (SGP), sub-regional secondary great powers (SSGP), sub-regional small and middle powers with close relations with China (SSCC), and other sub-regional small and middle powers (SSMP).
- ❑ During his visit to Singapore in November 2015, President Xi Jinping expounded clearly that neighborhood will be important for China's overall diplomacy, and China will take on the duty of promoting neighboring peace, stability, and development.

Cambodian Foreign Policy

- ❑ The Kingdom of Cambodia maintains resolutely a policy of permanent neutrality and non-alignment. The Kingdom of Cambodia coexists peacefully with its neighbors and with all other countries throughout the world.
- ❑ The Kingdom of Cambodia shall never invade any country, nor interfere in any other country's internal affairs, directly or indirectly, and shall solve any problems peacefully with due respect for mutual interests.
- ❑ The Royal Government of Cambodia tries to strengthen the foreign relations in 3 types:
 - *Bilateral relation with neighboring countries.*
 - *The bilateral relations and multilateral relations with other countries in the region.*
 - *Broaden the relationship with other countries around the world by respecting the principle of non-alliance movement and other principles of international laws.*

Brief History of Cambodia-China Relations (1)

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- ❑ Despite Cambodia and China do not share a common border but the two countries had long been in a historic, cultural and commercial relationship.
- ❑ The relationship between the countries dates back to early 13th century when Zhou Daguan (Chou Ta-kuan; Khmer Language: **ជីវតាក្វាន់**) led a diplomatic expedition mission to Cambodia and received audiences with Cambodia's King.
- ❑ More than 700 years later, ties between the two countries are at their strongest ever.
- ❑ The relations were the legacy of ancestors and previous leaders of the two nations.

Brief History of Cambodia-China Relations (2)



*In May 1970, Norodom Sihanouk (middle),
Chairman Mao Zedong (left) and Zhou Enlai (right)*

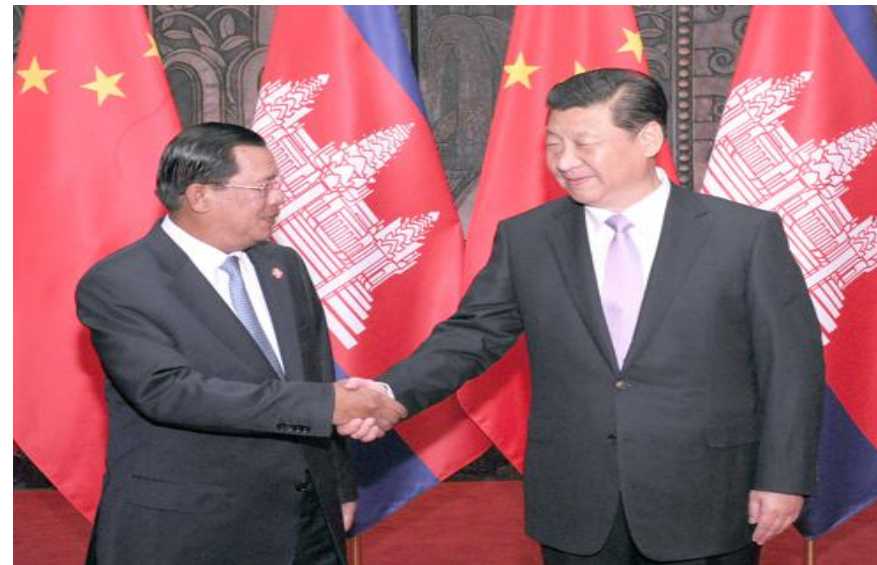
“China is my second home”, Norodom Sihanouk

- ❑ On July 19, 1958, diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia were officially established.
- ❑ During the 1970s and 1980s, King Sihanouk had two long stays in China, which led to a higher level of relationship and trust between the Cambodian royal family and Chinese senior political leaders.
- ❑ The political ties between the two countries have been bolstered considerably since 1997.
- ❑ Post-1997 Prime Minister Hun Sen has become a frequent visitor to the People Republic of China.
- ❑ In 2000, President Jiang Zemin became the first Chinese President to visit Cambodia.
- ❑ In December 2010 Cambodia and China agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership, while Prime Minister Hun Sen and President Hu Jintao met in Beijing.

Brief History of Cambodia-China Relations (3)

- ❑ On March 31, 2012, President Hu Jintao visited Cambodia.
- ❑ On October 15, 2015, President Xi Jinping met in Beijing with Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, who was in China to attend the Asian Political Parties' Special Conference on Silk Road.
- ❑ On October 13-14, 2016 President Xi visited Cambodia. Thirty-one agreements, including soft loan deals of around \$237 million, were signed.

❑ Through the exchanges of the official visits between leaders of the two countries will consolidate traditional friendship, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, promote common development and contribute to long-term and stable development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.





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CAMBODIA-CHINA MILITARY COOPERATION

Some highlights of the military cooperation between Cambodia & China (1)

- ❑ Military cooperation agreements refer to all official agreements between Cambodia and China to strengthen Cambodia military capability and relations between the two countries.
- ❑ In the military field, China is attempting to build closer relations with Cambodia. This includes granted non-refundable assistance for training, military equipment, shelters, health, engineering, military schools and transportation. In the area of human resource training, China has accepted Royal Cambodian Armed Force (RCAF) personnel for training in the strategic, tactical, technical and medical fields.
- ❑ The first post-July 1997 indicator of increased security cooperation between China and Cambodia arrived quite visibly in late 1997 in the form of the 186 trucks and jeeps.
- ❑ In August 1998 China sent a police training team to Cambodia to provide two weeks of training in investigative techniques and physical security to 100 Cambodian policemen.
- ❑ A series of high-level visits in 1999 might serve as the precursor for increased cooperation.
- ❑ Late 1999 China's People Liberation Army offered Cambodia 250 tanks, 230 artillery pieces, 100 military trucks, and an undisclosed number of machine guns.

Some highlights of the military cooperation between Cambodia & China (2)

- ❑ In December 1999 of \$1.5 million in construction materiel for new barracks, ten jeeps, ten ambulances, and parachutes for the Cambodian armed forces' one parachute battalion.
- ❑ Most importantly, the Chinese warship Zhenghe with 400 crews docked in Sihanoukville in Cambodia on November 05, 2008.
- ❑ In June 2010, China donated 250 jeeps and trucks to Cambodia's army.
- ❑ In 2012, China provided Cambodia with \$17 million in military aid and to construct a military training facility in the country.
- ❑ In November 2013, Cambodia had delivery of 12 Harbin Z-9 helicopters by using \$195 million Chinese loan to support the military equipment of Cambodia.
- ❑ After Cambodian national election in 2013 China has handed over 1,000 handguns and 50,000 bullets to Cambodia at the General Commissariat of National Police at the Ministry of Interior.
- ❑ In 2014, China donated 26 Chinese trucks and about 30,000 military uniforms.
- ❑ These are just a few highlights of the military cooperation between the two countries.

Chinese Navy Ship (CNS) Zhenghe in Sihanoukville Port, November 2008

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Chinese navy ship (CNS) Zhenghe entered the Sihanoukville Port of Cambodia, Nov. 5, 2008, thus starting its 9-day official goodwill visit and the first ever entry of Chinese military boat into the Kingdom of Cambodia.

(Photo: Xinhua)

12 China-Made Helicopters Delivered to Cambodia in November 2013

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Chinese-built Zhi-9 helicopters at a handover ceremony in Phnom Penh, Nov 25, 2013. [Photo/Xinhua]

China provided military trucks and uniforms to Cambodia, February 2014

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"China hopes that the aid will help ease the difficulties of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, and will further promote ties and cooperation between the armies and peoples of the two countries", Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jianguo said

Some highlights of the military cooperation between Cambodia & China (3)

- ❑ The military assistance from China to Cambodia has been made at the right time and coming with “no strings attached”.
- ❑ China strictly adheres to the principle of non-interference and firmly believes that each country has its own conditions for its own development path.
- ❑ China’s policy of non-interference in internal affairs means that China offers assistance without conditions being placed on democratic reform, human rights, or environmental protection. China has never addressed or criticized human rights or electoral issues in Cambodia.
- ❑ China has provided a lot of military assistances to Cambodia such as in military training, military equipment and military facility.
- ❑ Although these military contacts are only a beginning, it is likely that they will grow in much the same way that China has developed military ties with other developing nations.
- ❑ China’s military assistance to Cambodia is very important in strengthening Cambodia’s military capabilities for its national security and sovereignty, and for regional stability and security.



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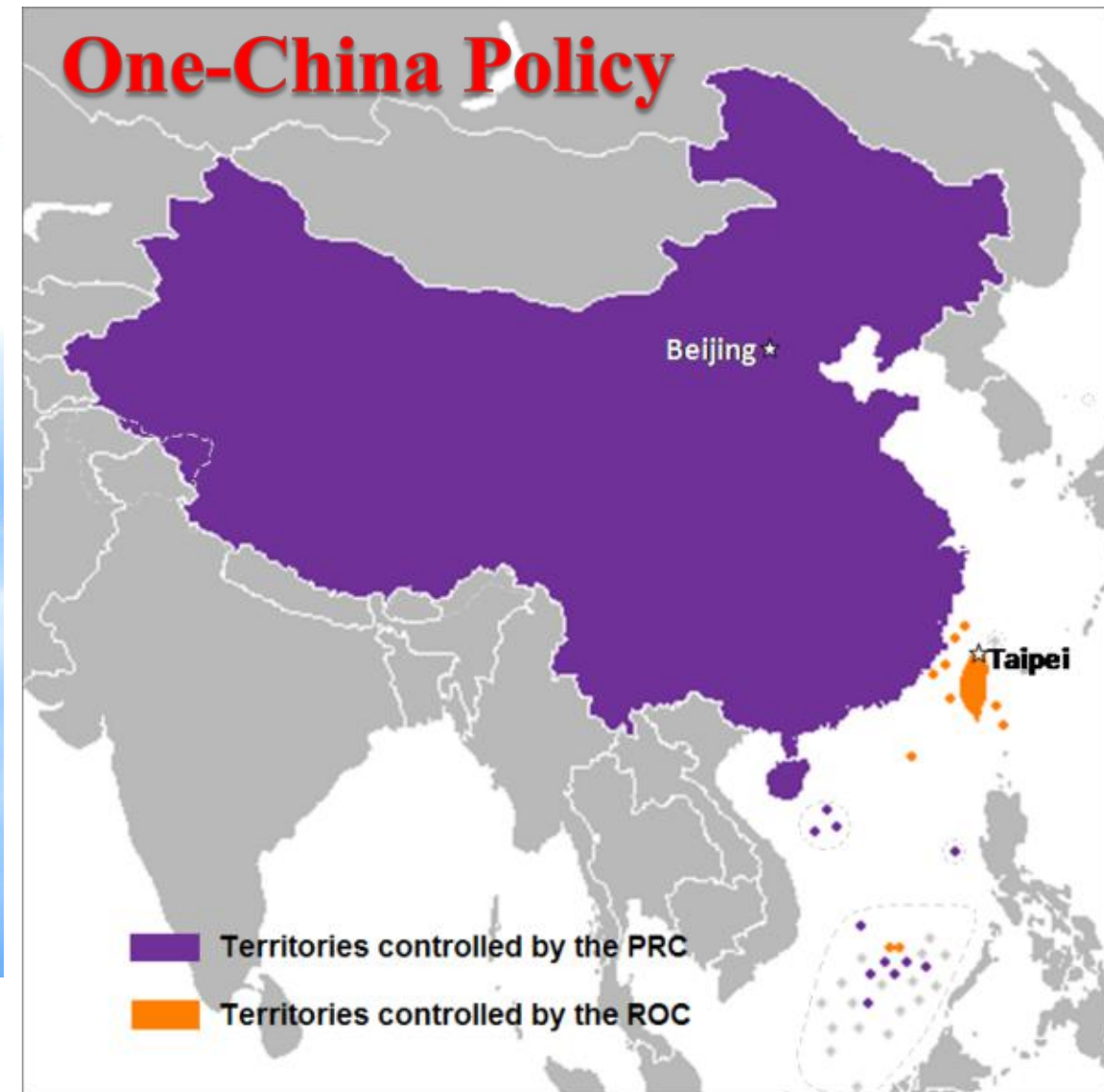
CAMBODIA & CHINA TOWARD THE COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY

Cambodia and One-China Policy

- ❑ Cambodia is a strong supporter of the “One-China Policy”, and has remained committed to China’s security priorities.
- ❑ Prime Minister Hun Sen: *Cambodia will never change its “One-China Policy” which is always adhered by our King Norodom Sihanouk, as the inheritor of the policy; I will continue to pursue it.*”
- ❑ Cambodia has neither political nor official relations with Taiwan. After July 1997 event, Cambodian Government shut down the Taiwan’s representative office in Cambodia, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office. This suggests Cambodia’s strong support of “One-China Policy”.

Cambodia and One-China Policy

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PM Hun Sen: *China, the “Most Trusted Friend” of Cambodia*

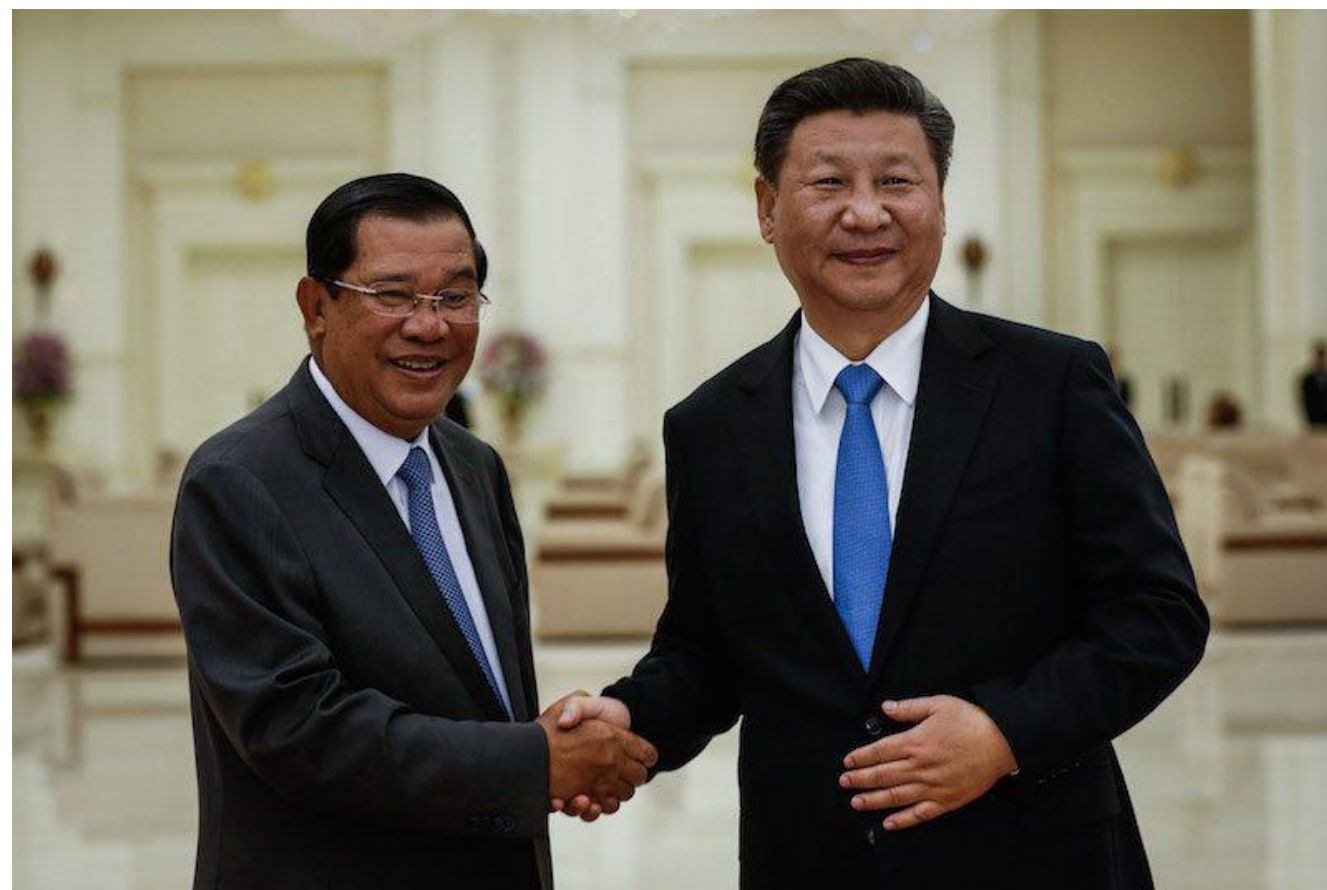
- ❑ In 2003, Prime Minister Hun Sen publicly announced China is the “most trusted friend” of Cambodia.
- ❑ Cambodia and China has been friend-neighbor for a very long time. People of the two countries, ‘We Share the Water, We Share the River’ and have been getting along well with each other.
- ❑ The friendship between the two countries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence has kept going on despite the international political changes.
- ❑ Although Cambodia and China don’t share a border with each other, both of us belong to the Greater Mekong Sub-region; the cooperation of China and Cambodia in regional cooperative mechanisms like GMS, ASEAN+1 and ASEAN+3, will contribute to the prosperity and development of the two countries.

PM Hun Sen: *China, the “Most Trusted Friend” of Cambodia*

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Crowds await Chinese President Xi Jinping's motorcade on 13 Nov. 2016 in Phnom Penh. (Pring Samrang/Reuters)



Prime Minister Hun Sen, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands on 13 Nov. 2016 in PM. Hun Sen's office building in Phnom Penh. (Siv Channa/The Cambodia Daily)

Cambodia and the BRI, AIIB and LMC (1)

- ❑ In September 2013, China's president announced a Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan and in October in the same year, he unveiled the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in Indonesia. The two initiatives were integrated into a “One Belt, One Road” plan and later renamed the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI).
- ❑ The initiative is part of China's oriental wisdom and foreign policy vision of building a community of common destiny which incorporates mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual support and mutual benefits.
- ❑ The BRI upholds the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. It calls for all countries and regions along the “Belt and Road” to participate, to work and share benefits together in a bid to realize an inclusive and sustainable development.

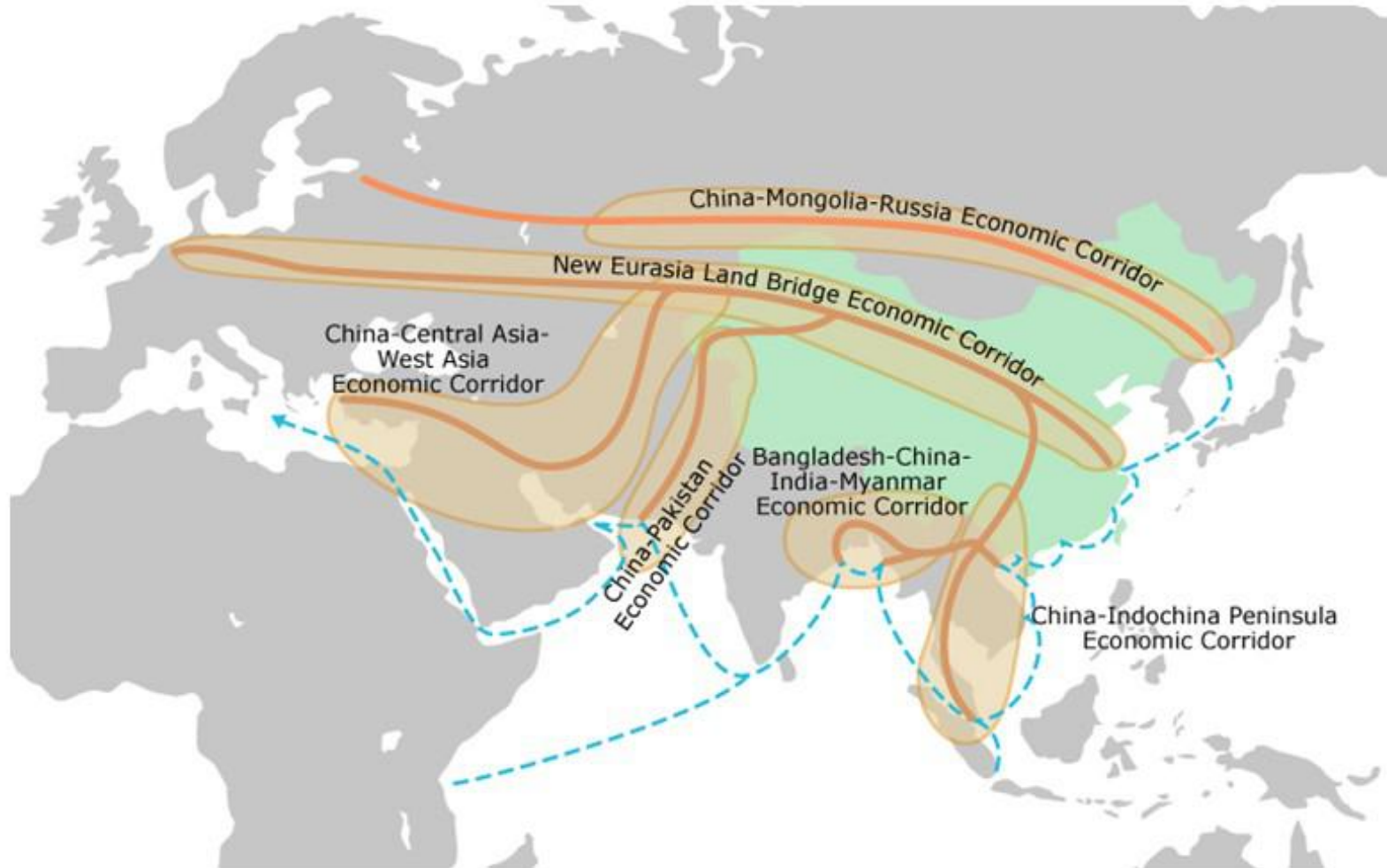
Cambodia and the BRI, AIIB and LMC (2)

- ❑ Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) was initiated by China in November 2015. It is a new initiative for regional cooperation consisting of China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam.
- ❑ The China's two main regional initiatives, the BRI and LMC, will be highlighted as China is taking a leading role in promoting a community of shared destiny through forging win-win cooperation and promoting an open and inclusive international economic system.
- ❑ Cambodia was one of the first countries to express strong support for the BRI proposed by China three years ago. It was also one of the first countries to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- ❑ With a clear vision, collective leadership, enhanced policy coordination and institutional harmonization, the BRI will generate more fruitful results.
- ❑ Being an active member of the BRI, AIIB and LMC, Cambodia has expanded its economic development horizon. However, it needs to strengthen its leadership and governance to maximize the opportunities.

The Belt and Road Initiative

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The Belt and Road Initiative: Six Economic Corridors Spanning Asia, Europe and Africa



1 Infrastructure construction
(China + other countries)



After the infrastructure construction, China will be able to:

1. Further invest through its excess capital
2. Export its technology and personnel
3. Open up new export markets to use up its overcapacity

3 By utilizing the investment by China and other countries, OBOR regions can:

1. Enjoy an increase in productivity and exporting its goods to China and other OBOR regions
2. Enjoy economic growth and mutual development with other OBOR regions

The 1st Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting

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Leaders from six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River convene in Sanya, Hainan on March 23, 2016.

Photo: chinadaily.com.cn



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (third from right) poses with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chanocha (third from left), Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (second from right), Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong (second from left), Myanmar Vice President Sai Mauk Kham (right) and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh (left), in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province, March 23, 2016.

Photo: chinadaily.com.cn

Cambodia and South China Sea Issues (1)

- ❑ Cambodian government has always supported China's opposition to multilateral negotiations regarding the South China Sea dispute.
- ❑ Cambodia did not join in expressing any common position on the verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's decision on the dispute between the Philippines and China. Cambodia, as a non-claimant state, takes no side and considers this as a bilateral matter between the Philippines and China. Cambodia is of the views that we need to maintain the enormous achievement of the cooperative strategic partnership between ASEAN and China and encouraged the parties directly involved to settle the dispute by peaceful means through consultation and negotiation in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982).

Cambodia and South China Sea Issues (2)

- ❑ The Royal Government of Cambodia called on the concerned States to continue using the ASEAN-China mechanism for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and ASEAN and China to further work together to realize the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC); and encouraged the concerned States to collaborate in settling their dispute.
- ❑ Cambodia's neutral and fair stance over the South China Sea issue has importantly contributed to protecting China-ASEAN good cooperation and to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Competing Claims in South China Sea and Beyond, and the Flexing of Military Muscles by Some Major Powers

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South China Sea Issues and Western Media Coverage

Aggressive China Triggers Asia Arms Race



Cambodia Stuck in the Middle Over South China Sea

China's aggressive posture in South China Sea

Cambodia blocks joint statement on South China Sea



ASEAN deadlocked on South China Sea, Cambodia blocks statement

The AMERICAN INTEREST
China Renews \$600 Million Down Payment on Cambodia
Since last week's Hague ruling, Beijing has been busy trying to shore up international support and the results have been mixed. Nevertheless, their efforts are bearing fruit in Phnom Penh, Voice of America reports:



South China Sea Row: What Will Happen Now As Donald Trump Enters The Picture?



South China Sea War: China Begins Oil Drilling, Allies With Brunei, Cambodia & Laos

War Or Peace In The South China Sea?

China's aggression over South China Sea exposes rift between Obama, top Navy advisers



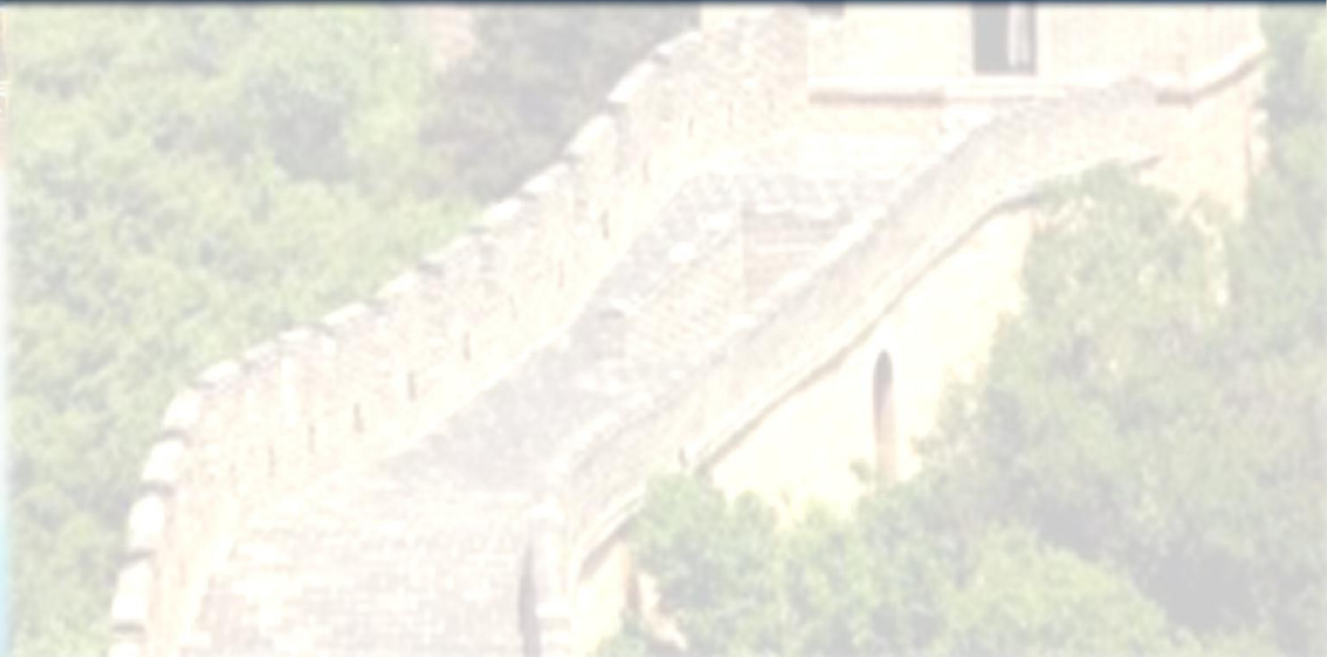
YAHOO! NEWS ASEAN deadlocked on South China Sea, Cambodia blocks statement

South China Sea: Philippines fishing town ruined by Chinese aggression, fishermen say



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CONCLUSION



Conclusion

- ❑ All neighbor countries should become good neighbor which is a basic of peace, security and development. *“Good fences make good neighbors.”*
- ❑ Cambodia-China relations have been linked with historical, cultural and geographical bonds, and political necessity.
- ❑ These relations are healthy ones and go beyond the official agreements and arrangements, beyond the inter-governmental meetings and interactions. These healthy relations have always been based on principle of equal footing and equal rights with no interference into each other’s internal affairs and sovereignty. These growing relations not only contribute to the development of bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and China but also bring about peace and prosperity in the region and the world.
- ❑ Maha Ghosananda popularly known as Somdech Song Santipheap (the Leader of Religion for Peace) said: *“The suffering of Cambodia has been deep, from this suffering comes great compassion, great compassion makes a peaceful heart, a peaceful heart makes a peaceful person, a peaceful person makes a peaceful family, a peaceful family makes a peaceful community, a peaceful community makes a peaceful nation, a peaceful nation makes a peaceful world, and may all beings live in happiness and peace in our universe forever”*.

សូមអរគុណចំពោះការយកចិត្តទុកដាក់!

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谢谢!

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