

Cambodia-China's Cooperation within ASEAN's Framework

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Geography of Cambodia

- Cambodia located in the hinterland of the Indochina Peninsula and the pivotal stretch of the Lower Mekong Basin.

Cambodia's ASEAN Membership

- Cambodia is an important member of ASEAN and plays a critical role in the process of building the ASEAN community and other cooperation mechanisms.

Bilateral relations between China and Cambodia

- China and Cambodia has a long history of friendship which can be traced back to as early as 2,000 years ago.
- In April 2006, China and Cambodia agreed to forge a “Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation.”
- In December 2010, both countries upgraded its bilateral ties to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation.”
- To date, China and Cambodia continue to strengthening the relationship by increasing high level visits of Head of State and Government : a visit made by President Xi Jinping in October 2016.
- China-Cambodia relations have become a model of friendly co-existence and close cooperation among other countries.

1- Political Mutual Trust

- China and Cambodia are good neighborly, mutual and fraternal friends, trusted partners in business. Both countries treat each other with respect and equality. Each understands and supports one another on related to respective core interests, which serves the solid political base for cooperation in other fronts.

2- Win-Win Cooperation

- Cambodia has always been at the forefront of the pragmatic cooperation between China ; ASEAN and other countries.
- China and Cambodia are also good partners under the ASEAN Plus China framework, such as the negotiation on an upgraded FTA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiation and the newly launched Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

3- Harmony in Diversity/Co-existence

- Situation of South China Sea, Cambodia wishes a dispute should be directly resolved by the concerned countries through lateral negotiation and consultation in the overall interests of regional peace, stability and navigational freedom. To ensure peaceful co-existence, from outside the region, some countries have voluntarily taken a high profile intervention in peaceful means regarding South China Sea critical situation.
- On this issue, Cambodia is refrained to be objectively and take lead to fairly advocate for “the dispute shall be resolved by the directly involved parties through lateral high level negotiation and consultation to avoid unnecessary confrontational and adversarial consequences.”

Conclusion

- In a nutshell, China attaches great importance to Cambodia's role in ASEAN and will continue to work together with the latter for a more stable and prosperous future of the bilateral relations and the region.
- Under the guidance of the leaders of both countries and with the support of the two peoples, the traditional friendship between China and Cambodia will be carried forward from generation to generation, and the bilateral ties will gain an even promising future.

Thank you.