

The Future of Thai-Sino Relationship: Challenges and Opportunities

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Outline

- History of Thai-Sino Relationship
- Today's Developments
- What Have Happened
- Look to The Future



Long History of Thai-Sino Relationship

- Ancient Time
- Recorded History (100 B.C. - 1200 A.D.)
- Early History (1300 A.D. - 1800 A.D.)
- Modern History (1800 A.D. - 1949 A.D.)
- Contemporary History (1949 A.D. - 1975 A.D.)
- Modern Time Relationship
(1975 A.D. - present)

Ancient Time

- Thousands of years of relations as neighbors
- Common cultures, values and beliefs
- Differences in interest

Recorded History (100 B.C. - 1200 A.D.)

- Junk Trade (shipping) products needed by the Chinese



Early History (1300 A.D. - 1800 A.D.)

- Exchanges of diplomatic missions
- Pottery diplomacy
- Tributary relationship (around 1300 A.D.), ended in 1853 A.D.



Modern History (1800 A.D. - 1949 A.D.)

- Trading and contacts at people level remained
- Chinese began to migrate to SEA including Thailand
- Dr Sun Yat-sen's movement
 - Visiting SEA nations to garner the support
(1903, 1906, 1908 - twice he visited Bangkok)
 - Tension between Thai-Chinese;
 - Overseas Chinese movement in Thailand
 - Overseas Chinese nationalist

Modern History (1800 A.D. - 1949 A.D.)

(Cont.)

- 1911 Revolution, establishment of Republic of China
- 1932 Political Revolution in Siam, Absolute Monarchy system was changed to a Monarchy Constitutional system
- Thai-Sino diplomatic relations was established in January 1946 after WW II
 - CCP took over China 1949 but Thailand continued to recognize Taipei until 1975

Modern History (1800 A.D. - 1949 A.D.)

(Cont.)

- Thailand's position was on the opposite of PRC during 1949 and 1975
- Efforts to establish official relations between Thailand and PRC 1955-1958
- No more contacts between the two (Sarit era)
- Conflict became apparent
- Fighting between the Royal Thai Government and the CPT erupted in August 1965

Contemporary History (1975 A.D. - present)

- Sino - Soviet clash in 1969 had an impact on the International politics
- Sino - US diplomatic relations in 1972 was a significant sign of the international system
 - China's UN membership in 1974
 - The US influence in SEA was reduced
 - Indochinese Communist prevailed
 - The establishment of ASEAN in 1967

Contemporary History (1975 A.D. - present)

(Cont.)

- Thailand and China established their diplomatic ties on 1 July 1975 while the relationship between CCP and CPT continued
- Early stage of the relationship was seen as untrustworthy relations, since the CCP still supported the CPT
 - In 1976-1977, political turmoil in Thailand and China temporarily disrupted the relationship of the two countries
 - In 1978, the relationship was restored, with the exchange of high-level visits
 - Better understanding was achieved

Contemporary History (1975 A.D. - present)

(Cont.)

- Vietnamese troops invaded (December 1978) and occupied Kampuchea (1979)
 - Closer cooperation between Thailand and China consequently China ended her support to the CPT in 1979
- The relationship of the two during 1980-1989 witnessed the beginning of 'unofficial strategic partner' and the relations in military field

Today's Developments

- A special close partnership was described as the Thai-Sino relationship during 1990-2005
- security cooperation through the ASEAN Regional Forum (1994)
- Joint Communique on Cooperation Plan in the 21st Century between Thailand and China (5 February 1999)
 - China expanded her cooperation to cover Mekong sub-region (Commercial transportation in Mekong river agreement April 2000)

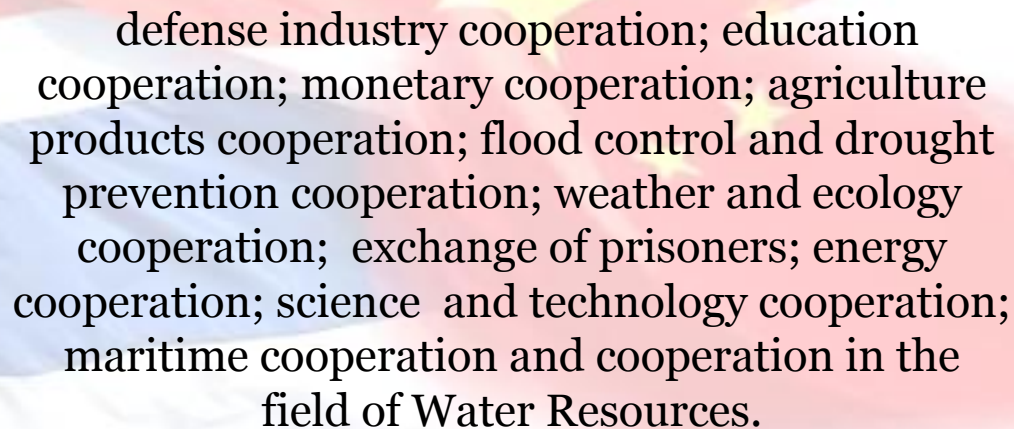
Today's Developments (Cont.)

Bilateral cooperation between Thailand and China covers;

science and technical trade; civil aviation; investment protection; joint commission on economic cooperation; avoidance of double taxation; tourism; extradition agreement; judicial cooperation; cooperation on economic, trade and technology; drugs control; cultural cooperation; family planning cooperation; tax reduction of vegetables and fruits; mutual assistance in criminal; cooperation and assistance in customs; cooperation in information and telecommunications; military cooperation; environmental protection cooperation.

Today's Developments (Cont.)

- Thai-Sino joint strategic cooperation;



defense industry cooperation; education cooperation; monetary cooperation; agriculture products cooperation; flood control and drought prevention cooperation; weather and ecology cooperation; exchange of prisoners; energy cooperation; science and technology cooperation; maritime cooperation and cooperation in the field of Water Resources.

a very few problems during the past years.

What Have Happened

Constructivism Viewpoint



- International politics, economic development, technology advancement, domestic strategies have shaped and influenced over the course of relations of countries
- Traditions, values, cultures and religious have influence as well

Look to The Future



Challenges:

- Bilaterally : trade, investment and cultural exchanges which already underway through the existing mechanisms
 - OBOR
 - flow of goods and services across the two borders
- Non-bilaterally or factors beyond control both man-made factors and natural factors that need patience, mutual understanding, long term visions and efforts, which may need new knowledge and mechanisms.

Proposals : second tracks on demographic, climate change and future prospects

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