



**Royal University of Law and Economics**

**Final Report on**

**ASEAN–China Relations through the  
Education and Health Sectors**

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**Miss. THY LYDA**

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**DR. RAYMOND LEOS**

**International Program**

**Bachelor's Degree in International Relations**

**Cohort 8**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Health and Education are the important sectors in the development of human resource and economic development of the countries. In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), some countries are still facing challenges in both sectors. All individual states have the role to play in improving, protecting, and promoting health and education sectors. The ASEAN Community was created for this purpose. It has three pillars and for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar is a part of opening a world of opportunities to Member States' cooperation on a wide range of area, including education and health. Moreover, quality healthcare and education call for ASEAN governments to work closely with China. China and ASEAN became a dialogue partner to create opportunities and interests on both sides.

This research paper aims to bring out the relationship between ASEAN and China by specifically focus on Health and Education sectors through ASEAN and China and ASEAN member states with China so that they can improve their human resource. This paper will be divided into 5 parts: (1) the first part of our thesis will be the introduction which provides the general background, research problem, research objectives and questions, scope and limitation, research methodology and the research significance. (2) Chapter one will be the literature review from scholars and legal experts who have raised out the problems regarding ASEAN and China on Health and Education sectors. (3) Chapter two will explain the overview of ASEAN and the relations between ASEAN and China in the Health sector and Education sector since the past to the present. (4) Chapter 3 will focus on bilateral relation between ASEAN member states and with China in both sectors. (5) Finally, the last part will conclude and provide some recommendation regarding the effectiveness of ASEAN and China on the education and health sectors.

**KEYWORD: ASEAN, China, Health, Education**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ACFTA	:	ASEAN-China Free Trade Area
ACHMM	:	ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting
AEC	:	ASEAN Economic Community
AFTA	:	ASEAN Free Trade Area
AIDS	:	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AMM	:	ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting
AMS	:	ASEAN Member States
APEC	:	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APSC	:	ASEAN Political-Security Community
ASCC	:	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	:	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BFSU	:	Beijing Foreign Studies University
BLCU	:	Beijing Language and Culture University
BRI	:	Belt and Road Initiative
CAEW	:	China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week
CHED	:	Commission on Higher Education
CHEXPO	:	China's prestigious Healthcare Products Expo
Covid-19	:	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSR	:	Corporate social responsibility
EIDs	:	Emerging Infectious Diseases
G20	:	Group of 20
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	:	Information and Communications Technology



IGOs	:	Intergovernmental Organization
Lao PDR	:	The Lao People's Democratic Republic
MOU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPAC	:	Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTS	:	Non-traditional Security
PLA	:	People's Liberation Army
PPE	:	Personal Protective Equipment
PRC	:	The People's Republic of China
PUMC	:	Peking Union Medical College
TCM	:	Traditional Chinese Medicines
SARS	:	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SOMHD	:	Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning
SPS	:	Senior Parliamentary Secretary
TEC	:	Technology-Enabled Care
TM/CAM	:	Traditional Medicine/Complementary and Alternative Medicines
UHC	:	Universal Health Coverage
UN	:	United Nations
WHO	:	World Health Organization
YUFL	:	Yangon University of Foreign Language

# INTRODUCTION

## General Background

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN is a regional inter-governmental organization that was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand. Initially, ASEAN was created by the five nations which were: Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.<sup>1</sup> After the creation of ASEAN, some countries in Southeast Asia started to join the ASEAN community. The countries that joined ASEAN such as Brunei Darussalam on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999; there are currently ten member states of ASEAN up to today.<sup>2</sup> ASEAN was created to give interest to member states which stated that

*“The ASEAN Community is comprised of three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community”<sup>3</sup>.*

The three pillars are working very well that can lead the ASEAN member states to get more potential in the regional and international stages especially with China. The People’s Republic of China is a country located in East Asia with the highest rank of populations and the largest economy. It is an emerging economy that offers lots of market opportunities for foreign investments.

*“ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations could be traced back to 1991, when H.E. Qian Qichen, Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China, attended the opening session of the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in July 1991 in Kuala Lumpur as a guest of the Malaysian Government.”<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> "Overview," Association of Southeast Asean Nations, <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/overview/> (accessed on May 25, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> ibid

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> "ASEAN-China dialogue Relations," Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Last modified November 22, 2010, <http://my.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/eastasia/jzjk/t771055.htm> (accessed on May 25, 2020).

5 years later, China and ASEAN became the official dialogue partner that “China was accorded as a full Dialogue Partner status at the 29th AMM in July 1996 in Jakarta, Indonesia.”<sup>5</sup> Both ASEAN-China works very closely together to make the relationship become more and more effective. There have been plentiful opportunities and good foundations created since the establishment of the strategic partnership between ASEAN-China, as stated by Gou Yanjun.<sup>6</sup>

*“China-ASEAN cooperation has become the most successful and dynamic model for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. China and ASEAN are like the binary star shining on the international stage, delivering tangible benefits to the two billion people from the two sides, and promoting peace, stability and prosperity of the region and beyond”,*<sup>7</sup>

As stated by Dr. Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

*“The relationship between ASEAN and China is a strong, comprehensive and mutually beneficial one. It is one of the most substantive and dynamic of ASEAN’s relations with its Dialogue Partners. Each ASEAN Member Country conducts its relations with China along two tracks: the bilateral and the multilateral, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.”*<sup>8</sup>

The bilateral and the multi-lateral are to give the interest for ASEAN member states and China through the ASEAN Community especially is on Socio-cultural Community. Socio-cultural Community is that

*“The commitment to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards the promotion of sustainable development to face new and emerging challenges in ASEAN”*<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> "ASEAN Socio-Cultural community," Association of Southeast Asean Nations, <https://asean.org/asean-socio-cultural/> (accessed on May 25, 2020).

<sup>6</sup> Gou Yanjun, "2030 Vision for ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership: Perspective Think-Tanks", 2018, <https://www.amazon.com/2030-Vision-ASEAN-Partnership-Perspectives/dp/9813271574> (accessed on May 25, 2020)

<sup>7</sup> "Ambassador Lyu Jian's Keynote Speech at the International Seminar on China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership: New Era, New Vision," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Last modified October 22, 2018, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjb\\_663304/zwjg\\_665342/zwbd\\_665378/t1605996.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/zwbd_665378/t1605996.shtml) (accessed on May 25, 2020)

<sup>8</sup> "Asean: Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group," The ASEAN Secretariat, <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/archive/ASEAN-China-EPG.pdf> (accessed on May 25, 2020)

<sup>9</sup> Supra note 5

The cooperation between ASEAN and China on the process of Socio-cultural Community included the:

*"culture and information, education, youth and sports, health, social welfare and development, women and gender, rights of the women and children, labor, civil service, rural development and poverty eradication, environment, trans boundary haze-pollution, disaster management and humanitarian assistance".<sup>10</sup>*

Inside of the commitment to promote sustainable development on Socio-Cultural Community is Human Resource Development on the area of health and education that are the most important to play on these roles. Health and education are the twin pillars on which we must build the well-being of individuals, and thus a more healthy, equitable and peaceful tomorrow as stated by Sarbuland Khan "Human Development, Health and Education".<sup>11</sup>

*"With five out of eight Millennium Development Goals directly concerning health and education, it is clear that the Council's discussion during the high-level segment on the contribution of human resources development to the process of development carried great importance for achieving the Millennium Declaration goals."<sup>12</sup>*

ASEAN-China socio-cultural cooperation will be an important channel through which both sides can work towards the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

### **Research Problem**

For ASEAN countries, the qualities of their education and health sector still have limitation if compare to the global stage. Some of ASEAN members still have the challenges to address with the issues of quality, equality and access of education of learners that are in need in Southeast Asia. However, Should ASEAN countries need to invest in education and health sector? Education and health sector are the main factors to build human resource development. According to The World Bank's "Invest in Asean: Human Capital Development" A child born in ASEAN today will only achieve 59% of their potential productivity when

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<sup>10</sup> ibid

<sup>11</sup> Sarbuland Khan, "Human Development, Health and Education", Last modified 2002, <https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/health%26educ.pdf> (accessed on May 26, 2020).

<sup>12</sup> ibid

growing up, countries in which a child born to achieve the quality of health care and education; Singapore is a high income, Malaysia and Thailand are the upper middle income while Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR are the lower middle income.<sup>13</sup>

Most of the ASEAN members are developing countries; since education is a long-life learning and health sector requires professional training with high technology, both also need the responsibilities and commitment from the government of the states or contribution from others countries. ASEAN has struggled on a lot of issues that relate to the quality of healthcare in the past and recently, we could see that in the world are facing with a health's crisis due to the Coronavirus or Covid-19 spreading and infecting the population worldwide. ASEAN countries are also facing this problem, most of the ASEAN state members had gone into lockdown or declaring martial law. However:

*"The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, met in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 20 February 2020 for the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease"<sup>14</sup>*

*"the ASEAN Chairman's Statement on ASEAN collective response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 issued on 14 February 2020, which expressed concern over the outbreak of the respiratory illness caused by COVID-19"<sup>15</sup>*

ASEAN and China are dialogue partnership so China always offer a lot of opportunity for the ASEAN countries, according to China Daily: "Trade with China driving ASEAN's growth"

*"China has been ASEAN's largest trading partner in the past 10 years, with bilateral trade reaching \$292 billion in the first half of 2019".<sup>16</sup>*

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<sup>13</sup> World Bank, "Invest in Asean: Human Capital Development", Last modified September 6, 2019, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2019/09/06/invest-in-asean-human-capital-development> (accessed on May 26, 2020).

<sup>14</sup> "Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)," Association of Southeast Asian Nations, last modified February 20, 2020, <https://asean.org/statement-special-asean-china-foreign-ministers-meeting-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/> (accessed on May 26, 2020).

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*

<sup>16</sup> Rajiv Biswas, "China Daily Global: Trade with China driving ASEAN's growth", Last modified January 7, 2020, <http://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202001/07/WS5e13bedaa310fb3de82eb53e.html>(accessed on May 26, 2020).

Beside those fields, ASEAN and China also cooperate on the process of Socio-cultural Community to promote sustainable development on the areas of Health and Education. In our critical opinion we would that if:

1. China can help ASEAN economic growth?
2. Can China help ASEAN countries to improve on the areas of education and health sector?
3. What roles should China play on these both areas?

### **Research Objective and Question**

The current focus is that most of the countries around the world have been concerned is human resource development in the area of health and education sector. However, ASEAN was created by the ten countries, some are the developed countries and some are developing countries.

The current focus is that most of the countries around the world have been concerned is human resource development in the area of health and education sector. However, ASEAN was created by the ten countries, some are the developed and others are developing countries.

For some are the developing countries, especially in the developing countries Human resource development is very important. Some of the ASEAN member states that are the developing countries still have the challenges to access to education because of their high-poverty status and the lack of modern technology.

What's more, the quality of healthcare also still limited to ASEAN countries. Because of the Covid-19, that is spreading to around the world and it had become a major concern for ASEAN countries to resolve. China plays a considerable role in order to help ASEAN nations to resolve these types of problems. China works on both areas in the bilateral relation and

multilateral relation through ASEAN to help and improve it. To sum up, this research paper will work on finding the answer to these 3 Research Questions:

1. What's the relation between ASEAN-China in the past until present in the area of health and education?
2. What's the bilateral relation between ASEAN and China through these two sectors?
3. What's the benefit on both sectors in bilateral and multilateral ASEAN and China?

### **Scope and Limitation**

This research will be covering only on ASEAN-China relation through the socio-cultural community, in which this will primarily focus on human resource development in the area of education and health sector. Therefore, this report will only provide some common basic ideas regarding how ASEAN-China work on the education system and how ASEAN-China work on solving the problem of healthcare and confronted with Covid-19 is spreading out to the ASEAN countries and also to the world. In order to help ASEAN member state, China work on multilateral relation as a dialogue partner with ASEAN and China also work individually with ASEAN members to improve education and healthcare such as the prevention of Covid-19. The report would provide an overview of the three pillars of ASEAN but not specific on Political-Security Community, and ASEAN Economic Community. It would be a complicated and time-consuming case that needs to be studied further. Lastly, this research report would also focus only the opportunity that ASEAN cooperates with China in bilateral relation and through ASEAN in the area of education and health.

### **Research Methodology**

This final report is typically conducted based on secondary data, which is obtained from many reliable sources ranging from the legal documents such as official documents from The Embassy of the People's Republic of China, The royal embassy of Cambodia, Embassy of

Malaysia, Embassy Of The Republic Of The Philippines, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Royal Thai Embassy, Embassy of Singapore, Embassy of Brunei Darussalam, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Embassy Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar, reports from legal experts, ASEAN official website, WHO official website, the NGOs and IGOs websites, government websites, reports, journals, dissertation, prior studies, book publication, case studies, and other electronic sources. By researching based upon these secondary data and consulting with the supervisor as well as other lecturers who are expert in ASEAN-China cooperation, our research will be proceeding to find the effective answer to our research objectives.

### **Significance of Research**

The finding of this research will play a significant contribution to the knowledge of ASEAN and China cooperation like how China take action toward ASEAN on education and health that some of ASEAN member states are facing these obstacles. This paper will demonstrate effectively to help the readers to understand and evaluate the prior history of ASEAN through the ASEAN Community. It will also be helpful to understand the different concept of multilateral and bilateral relation between ASEAN with China and ASEAN members state with China so that the understanding of these two concepts would show on how much China put effort to help ASEAN. This study can help us to get the idea about the opportunity of the ASEAN and China cooperation, from the bilateral and multilateral relationships within the area of education and health sector. Besides, it will be useful for other researchers who could have the same interests in conducting further research on the same topic. We believe that our research study will provide some basis and understandable ground regarding the intervention towards the younger generations, political experts, and researchers,



especially among the Cambodian people to obtain knowledge about this topic for them to further explore and contribute more to raise and spread the concept of this topic widely.

## CHAPTER I: LITERATURE REVIEW

Anthony R. Welch stated about ASEAN-China cooperation through education on his research article "China-ASEAN Relations in Higher Education: An Analytical Framework" that, China's dramatic economic rise has tended to overshadow other wider perspectives on the developing China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) relationship, including in higher education.<sup>17</sup> He argued that, notwithstanding current territorial disputes, and a history of discrimination against ethnic Chinese in several parts of ASEAN, prospects for a deepening of relations in higher education remain strong.<sup>18</sup> He said that there are three countries were selected to make an assessment manageable on higher education such as; Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam. He explained that Singapore is the smallest country if compare to the other three represents a prosperous with the highly-developed nation-state, a well-developed infrastructure, and strong ambitions within the region including China (around 60 per cent of its populace is of Chinese origin).<sup>19</sup> Moreover, Malaysia represents a middle-income ASEAN state with a population around 29 million (With an ethnic Chinese populace comprising around 25 per cent), this country has ambitions within the region to promotion of its higher education sector.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, Vietnam with by far the largest population of around 88 million has the least well-developed higher education system, as part of an overall profile that places it within the lower-income range.<sup>21</sup> He asserted that, the collaboration in higher education can be potentially gains more benefits for both sides. He said that ASEAN member states are positioning themselves as best they can to take advantage of the China market, including in

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<sup>17</sup> Anthony WELCH, "China-ASEAN Relations in Higher Education: An Analytical Framework", Last modified January 2012, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283136603\\_China-ASEAN\\_relations\\_in\\_higher\\_education\\_An\\_analytical\\_framework](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283136603_China-ASEAN_relations_in_higher_education_An_analytical_framework) (accessed on August 3, 2020).

<sup>18</sup> *ibid*

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

educational services, as China seeks to extend its soft power regionally, including via the numerous Confucius Institutes.<sup>22</sup>

However, according to Jacob KUMARESAN and Suvi HUIKURI stated on their ERIA Discussion Paper Series: "Strengthening Regional Cooperation, Coordination, and Response to Health Concerns in the ASEAN Region: Status, Challenges, and Ways Forward" that, the regional cooperation on the Health sector among the countries is very important.<sup>23</sup> On their research paper they focused on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) existing cooperation in health sector with regional and global actors.<sup>24</sup> They raised example that, as people increasingly travel across country borders, infectious diseases spread wider and faster so the countries need to have the cooperation and develop their strategies in order to fight and to prevent with the spreading of the diseases.<sup>25</sup> According to Yanzhong Huang, since stated in his journal "Pursuing Health as Foreign Policy: The Case of China", since 2003, China has been actively engaging Southeast Asian countries in health-related cooperation.<sup>26</sup> He said that China cooperation with ASEAN countries has focused on combating diseases as Non-traditional security (NTS) threat, thereby creating a stable security environment for its economic development while reassuring regional nations that its rise does not threaten them.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, in March 2005, China proposed to include public health and four other areas as priorities for

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<sup>22</sup> *ibid*

<sup>23</sup> Jacob KUMARESAN and Suvi HUIKURI, ERIA Discussion Paper Series: "Strengthening Regional Cooperation, Coordination, and Response to Health Concerns in the ASEAN Region: Status, Challenges, and Ways Forward", Last modified September 7, 2015, <https://www.eria.org/publications/strengthening-regional-cooperation-coordination-and-response-to-health-concerns-in-the-asean-region-status-challenges-and-ways-forward/> (accessed on August 3, 2020).

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

<sup>25</sup> *ibid*

<sup>26</sup> Yanzhong Huang, "Pursuing Health as Foreign Policy: The Case of China", <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/207620527.pdf> (accessed on August 3, 2020).

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

cooperation with ASEAN by established the “China-ASEAN Public Health Fund” to finance the health-related activities and projects.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> *ibid*

## **CHAPTER II: THE CONCEPT OF ASEAN-CHINA RELATION**

### **2.1. The Brief History of ASEAN**

On 8 August 1967, five leaders the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand standing together in the main hall of the Department of Foreign Affairs building in Bangkok, Thailand and signed a treaty by the value of that document, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was created.<sup>29</sup> After the creation of ASEAN, there are another 5 countries in Southeast Asia has become the members of ASEAN such as Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.<sup>30</sup> The aim and purpose of these ten ASEAN member states are:

- Advance the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through collective endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership to build up the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations.<sup>31</sup>
- Develop regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.<sup>32</sup>

The ASEAN Member States have accepted the following fundamental principles as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia that gives basic principles in the conduct of relations among countries in Southeast Asia and their relations with other High Contracting

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<sup>29</sup> "History", Association of Southeast Asian Nations, <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/history/> (accessed on May 23, 2020).

<sup>30</sup> "Association of Southeast Asian Nations", Building a Safe World, Last modified March 26, 2019, <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/association-southeast-asian-nations-asean/> (accessed on May 23, 2020).

<sup>31</sup> "ASEAN Community", One Vision One Identity One Community, Last modified October 2018, <https://asean.org/storage/2019/01/17a.-October-2018-ASEAN-Community-2018-folded-brochure.pdf> (accessed on May 23, 2020).

<sup>32</sup> *ibid*

Parties. The Treaty has 37 High Contracting Parties including all ASEAN Member States and Development Partners of ASEAN.<sup>33</sup>

ASEAN has experienced many significant changes and developments approaching a new, more integrative and forward-looking stage, namely the ASEAN Community 2015. The idea of creating the ASEAN Community came up in 2003. The state leaders confirm their strong commitment to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015, and signed the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015.<sup>34</sup>

The ASEAN community was created to further strengthen ASEAN integration is facing the development of international political constellation. For this reason, the establishment of the 2015 ASEAN Community is depended on three pillars, namely the Political-Security Pillar, the Economic Pillar, and the Socio-Cultural Pillar.<sup>35</sup> After the creation of the ASEAN Community, the ASEAN Charter was created. The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008.<sup>36</sup> The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN.<sup>37</sup>

### **2.1.1. ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)**

One of the pillars of ASEAN Community-ASEAN Vision 2020 accelerated into 2015.<sup>38</sup>The creation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community is noted as a significant

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<sup>33</sup>“ASEAN Accepts Peru’s Request to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)”, ASEAN, Last modified February 28, 2019, <https://www.asean2019.go.th/en/news/asean-accepts-perus-request-to-accede-to-the-treaty-of-amity-and-cooperation-in-southeast-asia-tac/> (accessed on May 28, 2020).

<sup>34</sup> Supra note 1

<sup>35</sup> “Establishment of ASEAN Community 2015”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Last modified March 17, 2015, [https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/108/halaman\\_list\\_lainnya/establishment-of-asean-community-2015](https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/108/halaman_list_lainnya/establishment-of-asean-community-2015) (accessed on May 28, 2020).

<sup>36</sup> Supra note 1

<sup>37</sup>ibid

<sup>38</sup> Lina A. Alexandra, "ASEAN Political-Security Community in 2015: Is it possible?", [https://crawford.anu.edu.au/acde/ip/pdf/lpem/2011/Lina\\_2011.pdf](https://crawford.anu.edu.au/acde/ip/pdf/lpem/2011/Lina_2011.pdf) ( accessed on May29, 2020)

achievement in promoting and preserving peace in the Southeast Asian region.<sup>39</sup> The original idea of ASEAN Security Community was suggested in Bali Concord II (2003) and then being improved into ASEAN Political-Security Community.<sup>40</sup> The APSC Blueprint is advised by the ASEAN Charter and the principles and purposes contained therein. It provides a roadmap and timetable to establish the APSC by 2015. The APSC seeks to further strengthen partnership and partnership between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partner and other external parties counting regional and international organizations.<sup>41</sup>

### **2.1.2. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)**

Initiatives for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) can be traced back to as early as 1992 when ASEAN leaders assigned the creation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).<sup>42</sup> The formal establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), on 31 December 2015, marks an important milestone in ASEAN economic integration agenda. Moreover, The Blueprint towards the beginning of The AEC also was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, gives broad directions through strategic measures for the AEC from 2016 to 2025.<sup>43</sup>

Achieving the objectives of AEC turns to a better investment climate in ASEAN. The AEC promotes the implementation of trade, services, investment, and other reforms necessary

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<sup>39</sup> Putra, Bama Andika, Darwis, & Burhanuddin, " ASEAN Political-Security Community: Challenges of establishing regional security in the Southeast Asia", Last modified 2019, [https://www.jois.eu/files/2\\_601\\_Putra%20et%20al.pdf](https://www.jois.eu/files/2_601_Putra%20et%20al.pdf)( accessed on May29, 2020)

<sup>40</sup> Supra note 38

<sup>41</sup> ASEAN: One Vision One Identity One Community, "ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY (APSC)", Last modified 2018, <https://asean.org/storage/2019/01/32.-November-2018-Fact-Sheet-on-APSC1.pdf>( accessed on May29, 2020)

<sup>42</sup> Invest fin ASEAN, "ASEAN Economic Community", Last modified 2020, <http://investasean.asean.org/index.php/page/view/asean-economic-community/view/670/newsid/755/about-aec.html>( accessed on May29, 2020)

<sup>43</sup> Association of Southeast ASIAN Nations, "ASEAN Economic Community", <https://asean.org/asean-economic-community/>( accessed on Jun 1,2020)

in each ASEAN Member States, thereby improving each country's location offers. At the regional level, the AEC is critical in developing the ASEAN as a region and making it one of the most competitive economic blocs in the world.<sup>44</sup>

### **2.1.3. ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)**

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is part of three important pillars that are relevant and correspondent in the framework of the formation of the ASEAN Community in 2015.<sup>45</sup> The ASCC regional cooperation covers a wide range of fields like Culture and Arts, Information, Education, Health Youth and Sports, Social Welfare and Development, Gender, Women and Children's Rights, Labour, Civil Service, Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Environment, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.<sup>46</sup> The ASCC Blueprint was accepted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am/Hua Hin, Thailand.<sup>47</sup> The goals of the ASCC are anticipated to be achieved by implementing concrete and productive actions that are people-centred and socially responsible.<sup>48</sup>

As the year 2015 draws to a close, the ASCC blueprint 2025 was created. The ASCC 2025 starts a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully recognize human development, resiliency and sustainable development as we face new and emerging challenges together.<sup>49</sup> Moreover, for the Education and Health sector, ASEAN works very hard to provide

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<sup>44</sup> Supra note 42

<sup>45</sup>MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, "ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community", Last modified March 17, 2015, [https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/115/halaman\\_list\\_lainnya/asean-socio-cultural-community](https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/115/halaman_list_lainnya/asean-socio-cultural-community)( accessed on Jun 1,2020)

<sup>46</sup> ASEAN: One Vision One Identity One Community, "ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC)", <https://asean.org/storage/2019/01/34.-November-2018-Fact-Sheet-on-ASCC.pdf>( accessed on Jun 1,2020)

<sup>47</sup> Royal Thai Embassy, " ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community", <http://www.thaiembassy.org/copenhagen/en/other/64903-ASEAN-Socio-Cultural-Community.html>( accessed on Jun 1,2020)

<sup>48</sup> *ibid*

<sup>49</sup>ASEAN: one vision, one identity, one community, "ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025", Last modified March 2016, <https://asean.org/storage/2016/01/ASCC-Blueprint-2025.pdf>(accessed on Jun 3, 2020)



Equitable Access for All. To give mechanisms and build up an institutional capacity to promote greater access to basic social services for all, such as health services and education including early childhood education and vocational education, skills training, and promotion of skills recognition.<sup>50</sup> Promote equitable opportunities to quality education and approach to information with priority given to the advancement of universal entry education.<sup>51</sup> Develop a community that is healthy, caring, sustainable and productive and one that exercises a healthy lifestyle resilient to health threats and has universal access to healthcare.<sup>52</sup> Inspire institutional and technical innovations in the provision of social services and health care.<sup>53</sup>

## **2.2. Past and Current relation between ASEAN-China on education and health sector**

### **2.2.1. Education Sector**

In 2008, the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW), introduced by the Ministry of Education of P. R. China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of P. R. China, and the People's Government of Guizhou Province, has been successfully held in Guizhou, P. R. China for 9 successive years. CAECW has become an effective platform for educational and cultural exchanges between China and ASEAN.<sup>54</sup> There are 12th CAECW was created from 2008 to 2019.

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> CAECW working together for a New China-ASEAN Partnership**

On July 26 2008, the 1st CAECW opened in Guiyang, Guizhou, P.R.C. On July 28, the university rectors and representatives attended the University Rectors Forum of the 1st

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<sup>50</sup> ibid

<sup>51</sup> ibid

<sup>52</sup> ibid

<sup>53</sup> ibid

<sup>54</sup> China-ASEAN Educational Information Network, "About CAECW ", Last modified 2008, <http://english.caedin.org/gylz.jsp>(accessed(on Jun 4, 2020)

CAECW and they released the Guiyang Statement of the University Rector's Forum of the First China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week. The participants are from China, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.<sup>55</sup> For China-ASEAN Double 100,000 Student Exchange Program encourage an increased number of scholarships built available from both sides; use more educational resources and opportunities to strengthen regional economic growth and human resources development; and encourage student flexibility across national borders.<sup>56</sup> It increases the number of ASEAN students in China and Chinese students in ASEAN to 100,000. ASEAN students learn for degrees and in the period normally had a current enrolment of around 230 ASEAN students over 35% were studying for degrees.<sup>57</sup>

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> CAECW about Mutual Progress Practical Cooperation Win-win Results**

On August 5 2009, the 2nd China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) opened in Guiyang, Guizhou, P.R. China to strengthen the friendship, mutual understanding and collaboration between China and ASEAN countries, to promote cooperation among the universities in the region, to provide more chances for students' communications, and to push forward China-ASEAN economic and cultural exchange and development.<sup>58</sup> 34735 ASEAN students are in China and 68510 Chinese students in ASEAN nations. The government of China continually increases government scholarships for ASEAN nations to create favourable

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<sup>55</sup> *ibid*

<sup>56</sup> *ibid*

<sup>57</sup> K. Mundy, A. Green, B. Lingard, & A. Verger, "Handbook of Global Education Policy", Last modified February 13, 2016, <https://books.google.com.kh/books?id=NuwACgAAQBAJ&pg=PA395&lpg=PA395&dq=China-ASEAN+Double+100,000+Student+Exchange+Program&source=bl&ots=t-RCJCFg1B&sig=ACfU3U2zZucLf9hHA5yG1FSQrLJskLXZqQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjTg7iD8pvqAhUD7WEKHX9KBjIQ6AEwAHoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=China-ASEAN%20Double%20100%2C000%20Student%20Exchange%20Program&f=false>(accessed on Jun 4, 2020)

<sup>58</sup> ASEAN-China Center, " 2nd China-ASEAN Cooperation Week Held in Guiyang,China", Last modified November 14, 2018, [http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2009-07/16/c\\_13316987.htm](http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2009-07/16/c_13316987.htm) (accessed on Jun 4, 2020)

studying and living environments.<sup>59</sup> 18 Confucius Institutes and 14 Confucius Classes have been created in ASEAN nations, with an enrollment of 60300 students; 5062 volunteer Chinese language teachers have been appointed to 10 ASEAN nations; from 2006 to 2008, 2986 experts were dispatched to train teachers of Chinese for ASEAN nations; 2334 people from ASEAN nations move to China for Chinese training. Up to 2008, 439 Confucius Institute scholarships have been granted to 10 ASEAN nations.<sup>60</sup>

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> CAECW about Win-win Cooperation Harmonious Coexistence**

The China-ASEAN Education Minister Roundtable Conference & the 3rd China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) opened in Guiyang, Guizhou, P.R. China On August 3 2010.<sup>61</sup> The Chinese government has always associate great importance to educational exchanges and cooperation with the ASEAN nations. China-ASEAN had created a comprehensive partnership of cooperation in education and developed new methods of educational exchanges with regional characteristics.<sup>62</sup> China was ready to strengthen its collaboration with ASEAN in people-to-people exchanges. <sup>63</sup> Each country has its unique educational system which can be exchanged for mutual understanding and support the creation of cooperative mechanisms to improve educational cooperation and exchanges and Promoting strategic cooperation between ASEAN countries and China. <sup>64</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network, "Vice-minister Hao Ping Addressed a Speech on the Opening Ceremony", Last modified August 9, 2009, <http://english.caedin.org/article.jsp?id=1657&itemId=180>(accessed on Jun 4, 2020)

<sup>60</sup> *ibid*

<sup>61</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network , "2010—The 3rd China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Chronicle of Events", Last modified April 1, 2016, <http://english.caedin.org/article.jsp?id=2166&itemId=109>(accessed on Jun 4, 2020)

<sup>62</sup>Embassy of The People's Republic of China in the Republic of Philippines, Last modified October 12, 2010, <http://ph.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/ASEAN/t895054.htm>(accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>63</sup>Wikileaks, "THA/THAILAND/ASIA PACIFIC", Last modified September 18, 2012, [https://wikileaks.org/gifiles/docs/84/849812\\_tha-thailand-asia-pacific-.html](https://wikileaks.org/gifiles/docs/84/849812_tha-thailand-asia-pacific-.html)(accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>64</sup> *ibid*

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> CAECW about More Practical and Effective Cooperation between China-ASEAN Higher Education, Innovative Platform of Exchanges, and Initiative of Guizhou Universities in the Opening-up**

The Fourth China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, sponsored both by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the People's Government of Guizhou Province, opened on 17 August 2011 in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province. The 4th CAECW is to propel a more practical and effective China-ASEAN higher education cooperation, to build an open and innovative exchange platform, and to provide Guizhou universities priority to open to the outside world.<sup>65</sup>As a consequence of the past 3 fruitful sessions of the Week, a total of 31 ASEAN universities have signed 135 cooperative agreements with 47 Chinese universities and more than 40000 ASEAN students have to go to China to study and over 70000 Chinese students have studied in ASEAN countries.<sup>66</sup>The Chinese universities involved have established all the lingual majors of each ASEAN country, nearly 5000 Chinese teachers and volunteers and trained around 10000 Chinese teachers were sent to ASEAN countries. Moreover, China has set up 18 Confucius Institutes and 14 Confucius classrooms and nearly 1000 ASEAN students have gone to China to take part in the Summer Camps.<sup>67</sup>

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Open Innovation, Practical, and Cooperative**

In 2012, Over 600 representatives from ASEAN universities, educational authorities, embassies of ASEAN countries, the ASEAN-China Centre, the ASEAN Secretariat, the

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<sup>65</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network , "4th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Opens in Guiyang", Last modified Jun 9, 2015, <http://wwsw.caedin.org/en/article.jsp?id=1867&itemId=132>(accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>66</sup>Zhang Wei, " Fourth China-Asean Education Week commences in Guiyang", Last modified January 4, 2011, <https://e.gznu.edu.cn/info/1043/1153.htm>(accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>67</sup> ibid

ASEAN University Network and many Chinese universities joined in 5th CAECW.<sup>68</sup> Since 2010, under the Double 100,000 Students Plan, the number of Chinese students studying in ASEAN Countries had exceeded 100,000, and ASEAN studying in China, more than 50,000. Furthermore, universities in Guizhou Province have been engaged in fruitful cooperation and exchanges with their ASEAN counterparts.<sup>69</sup>

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Practical Cooperation Harmonious Development Mutual Prosperity**

Guizhou Province achieved the Double 100 Thousand Mobility Students Plan by setting up Guizhou Provincial Scholarship for Overseas Students and provided Special Scholarship for ASEAN Students On September 16 2013.<sup>70</sup> Universities from China and ASEAN agree to establish “China-ASEAN University Mathematics Alliance” On September 17. On September 18, “China-ASEAN Education Integration, Qualification Recognition and Quality Assurance Seminar” Consensus was signed in Guiyang, that arrange solid foundation for further discussion on mutual recognition of credit and degrees and implementing China-ASEAN education policy integration.<sup>71</sup>

### **The 7<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Hand in Hand, Education for people**

The 7th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week is co-hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Guizhou Provincial People's Government, opened ceremoniously in Guiyang International Eco-Conference Center On September 1, 2014.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Singapore, China-ASEAN Cooperation in 2012, Last modified November 19, 2012, <http://www.chinaembassy.org.sg/eng/xwdt/t990374.htm>(accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>69</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network, "Fifth China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Opens in Guiyang", Last modified Jun 9, 2015, <http://www.caedin.org/en/article.jsp?id=1868&itemId=133> (accessed on Jun 5,2020)

<sup>70</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network , "2013–The 6th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Chronicle of Events", Last modified April 1, 2016, <http://english.caedin.org/article.jsp?id=2169&itemId=109> (accessed on Jun 6, 2020)

<sup>71</sup> *ibid*

<sup>72</sup> ZUNYI Medical University, " The Opening Ceremony of the 7th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Opened Grandly in Guiyang", Last modified October 22, 2014, <https://iec.zmu.edu.cn/info/2032/1314.htm> (accessed on Jun 7, 2020)

China has achieved the task ahead of time with Chinese students studying in ASEAN countries more than 110,000. In the meantime, ASEAN students studying in China are up to 70,000, an increase of 17% compared to that of 2012 and the number are rapidly rising.<sup>73</sup> By Mr. Chen Min'er, the Governor of Guizhou Province said that

*“2014 is a year for China-ASEAN culture exchange, in which more than 150 events of cultural exchanges will be held. We are willingly to seek opportunities and open a new prospect for China and ASEAN Education Cooperation.”<sup>74</sup>*

### **The 8<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Learning for each other for the well-being of the future**

In 2015, CAECW aims to establish an educational brand promoting China-ASEAN cooperation. CAECWs have attracted over 4,880 participants, 1,050 colleges or universities, as well as educational organizations from China, ASEAN and other countries, with 654 education agreements and cooperation memorandums being signed.<sup>75</sup>

*“The China-ASEAN Innovation Achievements Expo in Marine Science and Technology was one of the most significant events of the 8th CAECW.”<sup>76</sup>*

Over 30 achievements from more than 20 Tianjin University research groups were exhibited at the event. TJU held this Expo given its stability in marine science and technology and ability to be influential in this region. The Expo aimed to develop international exchanges, and foster technological cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> China-ASEAN Educational information Network, "Speech at Ministers Forum the 7th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Hao Ping (Deputy Minister of MOE)", Last modified October 2, 2014, <http://english.caedin.org/article.jsp?id=1973&itemId=120> (accessed on Jun 7, 2020).

<sup>74</sup> *ibid*

<sup>75</sup> The 8th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, "An Overview of CAECWs", Last modified August 3-7, 2015, [http://www.ceaie.edu.cn/uploads\\_ceaie/soft/150708/1-150FPA143.pdf](http://www.ceaie.edu.cn/uploads_ceaie/soft/150708/1-150FPA143.pdf) (accessed on Jun 8, 2020).

<sup>76</sup> Tianjin University Office of International Cooperation, "Tianjin University Hosts the China-ASEAN Innovation Achievements Expo in Marine Science and Technology", Last modified 2015, [http://ico.tju.edu.cn/en/News\\_6888/picture\\_news/201703/t20170313\\_291738.htm](http://ico.tju.edu.cn/en/News_6888/picture_news/201703/t20170313_291738.htm) (accessed on Jun 8, 2020).

<sup>77</sup> *ibid*

The event allows the participants to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in scientific research as well as bring a platform for universities, colleges and schools to create a long-term partnership.<sup>78</sup>

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Education First, Make Dream Come True Together**

In 2016, China and ASEAN have hosted Education Cooperation Week for eight consecutive years, and have confirmed nearly 800 cooperation agreements, forging a resounding brand of people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Both sides can draw on each other's advantages and share resources for mutual benefit and win-win results in education.<sup>79</sup>

Premier Li Keqiang, Education is a fundamental way to cultivate the younger generation and create a better life, Li said.

*“This year is China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Year, and it will be marked by nearly 300 activities across China and ASEAN. China is willing to work with ASEAN to provide more talent and intellectual support for each other to boost a closer China-ASEAN community of shared destiny.”<sup>80</sup>*

Chinese Vice-Premier Liu Yandong made a keynote speech during Monday's opening ceremony and she said,

*“Education had been one of the highlights of increasing cooperation between the two sides in recent years. She said that China and ASEAN can share resources and draw on each other's strengths in education for mutual benefit.”<sup>81</sup>*

She suggested the two sides could improve cooperation to draw on each other's strategies, build branding to expand the influence of education week, and enrich forms of exchanges to lift the level of cooperation in basic education, vocational education and linguistic

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<sup>78</sup> ASEAN Learning Center Department of local Administration, "ASEAN and People's Republic of China", <http://asean.dla.go.th/public/article.do;jsessionid=CF40BBB132C9BED762064C7530F5AF64?menu2Id=86&countryCode=3&lang=en&cmd=goViewByCountry> (accessed on Jun 8, 2020).

<sup>79</sup> ASEAN-China Center, "ACC Secretary-General Attended the Opening Ceremony of the 9th CAECW", Last modified August 10, 2016, [http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2016-08/10/c\\_135583416.htm](http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2016-08/10/c_135583416.htm) (accessed on Jun 8, 2020).

<sup>80</sup> The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, "People-to-people exchanges become new pillar for China-ASEAN ties", Last modified August 2, 2016, <http://www.scio.gov.cn/m/32618/Document/1485791/1485791.htm> (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>81</sup> *ibid*

education. Liu also proposed a China-ASEAN Maritime Silk Road scholarship to elevate student exchanges between China and ASEAN.<sup>82</sup>

**The 10<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Share a Decade Achievements in Education Cooperation, start a New provided information about education and technology.**

In 2017, CAECW has to turn into a well-known and important platform for educational exchange between China and ASEAN Countries such as Philippines, Laos, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Brunei to more understanding and friendship to pave more ways to practical education cooperation, to increase multi-dimensional cooperative fields and to strengthen regional communication development.<sup>83</sup> Vice Premier Liu Yandong, announced that,

*“China will provide no less than 20,000 Chinese governmental scholarships to ten ASEAN countries to support outstanding ASEAN students to study in China.”<sup>84</sup>*

CAECW plays an important role in deepening both sides’ educational exchanges and cooperation and has accomplished fruitful outcomes. Both sides are trying on the Action Plan of China-ASEAN Education Cooperation 2017-2020 to arrange future cooperation across the board.<sup>85</sup> Series of activities were held to strengthen the intercollegiate cooperation, encourage teacher and student exchange, develop the quality of talent, and provide the regional economic construction and social development between China and the ASEAN.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> English.Gov.CN, "Vice-premier attends opening ceremony of China-ASEAN education event", Last modified August 1, 2016, [http://english.www.gov.cn/state\\_council/vice\\_premiers/2016/08/01/content\\_281475406458353.htm](http://english.www.gov.cn/state_council/vice_premiers/2016/08/01/content_281475406458353.htm) (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>83</sup> Kopertip Indonesia, "Kopertip Indonesia attends the 10th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week held on 28 - 31 July 2017 in Guiyang, PR.China", Last modified August 2017, <http://www.kopertipindonesia.or.id/en/china-asean-education.html> (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>84</sup> ASEAN-China Center, "The 10th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Commenced in Guiyang", Last modified October 28, 2017, <http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2017-09/2919.html> (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>85</sup> *ibid*

<sup>86</sup> *Supra* note 83



## **The 11<sup>th</sup> CAECW about a New Beginning for Educational Cooperation, a New Future for Culture Exchange**

In 2018, the education week aims at providing an opportunity for educational and cultural exchanges and increasing mutual understanding and friendship between China and Southeast Asia.<sup>87</sup> Tian Xuejun, deputy minister of education, said that;

*“China and ASEAN countries should constantly deepen cooperation to realize the target of exchanging 300,000 students in 2025.”<sup>88</sup>*

Secretary-General Chen Dehai also met with honoured guests from ASEAN countries and China, including Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat and relevant directors of its regional centres, Mr. Chen Yan, Mayor of Guiyang Municipality, Mr. Chen Li, Director of Foreign Affairs Office of Guizhou Province, H.E. Mr. Cao Guoyong, Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Jiaotong University and Mr. Li Yuenan, Deputy Director-General of Hainan Provincial Education Department. All gave the willingness to enhance cooperation, begin more collaborative projects and activities, and make positive contributions to deepen ASEAN-China people-to-people exchanges.<sup>89</sup>

## **The 12<sup>th</sup> CAECW about Enhancing Pragmatic Cooperation and Sharing Development Achievements**

Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education) and Manpower Low Yen Ling attended the opening ceremony of the 12th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province on 22 July 2019.<sup>90</sup> Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister for Education of China, and

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<sup>87</sup> China Cultural.ORG, "China-ASEAN Education Week opens in Guizhou", Last modified August 10, 2018, [http://en.chinaculture.org/wacce/2018-08/10/content\\_1253864.htm](http://en.chinaculture.org/wacce/2018-08/10/content_1253864.htm) (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>88</sup> GUIZHOU, China, "China-ASEAN education week opens in Guian", Last modified July 27, 2018, [http://www.eguizhou.gov.cn/2018-07/27/content\\_36673952.htm](http://www.eguizhou.gov.cn/2018-07/27/content_36673952.htm) (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>89</sup> ASEAN-China Center, "ACC Secretary-General Chen Dehai Attended the 11th CAECW", Last modified July 26, 2018, <http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2018-07/3471.html> (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, "Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education) and Manpower Low Yen Ling attended the opening ceremony of the 12th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province

representatives from the education sector of ASEAN countries were also present. In her remarks,

*“Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS) reaffirmed the close cooperation between ASEAN and China in the education sector, including the launch of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship programme. It provides full scholarship awards for deserving ASEAN students to pursue postgraduate degrees, short-term research or training courses in universities in China.”<sup>91</sup>*

ASEAN and Guizhou have supported education cooperation in recent years, and about 71 per cent of international students in the Chinese province come from ASEAN nations. Universities in Guizhou have begun partnerships with 85 education establishments in ASEAN.<sup>92</sup>

### **2.2.2. Health Sector**

Since its establishment in 1980, the ASEAN Health Cooperation has gone a long way in protecting the region from high-impact public health emergencies such as SARS, HPAI H5N1, 2009 H1N1 pandemic, MERS-CoV, Ebola virus disease and Zika virus, and in collectively engaging with populations in the prevention and control of specific conditions, such as non-communicable diseases.<sup>93</sup>

### **Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) Bangkok**

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on 22 July", Last modified July 29, 2019, <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Mission/Guangzhou/Mission-Updates/2019/08/SPS--Low-Yen-Ling-attended-the-12th-China-ASEAN-Education-Cooperation-Week-in-Guiyang-City> (accessed on Jun 9, 2020).

<sup>91</sup> ibid

<sup>92</sup> COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM ONLINE NEWSPAPER, "12th ASEAN-China education cooperation week opens", Last modified July 24, 2019, <http://en.dangcongsan.vn/world-events-and-comments/news/12th-asean-china-education-cooperation-week-opens-529535.html> (accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

<sup>93</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations, "Overview", <https://asean.org/asean-socio-cultural/asean-health-ministers-meeting-ahmm/overview-2/> (accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

For a Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) adopted On 29 April 2003.<sup>94</sup> Leaders of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China issued a joint statement in Bangkok, requesting for collective efforts in the world to fight SARS.<sup>95</sup>The leaders of ASEAN Member Countries and the People's Republic of China,

*"ASEAN and China will develop and strengthen cooperation on SARS control and take coordinated measures to reduce and eliminate its multifaceted impact on our region, taking into account the practical measures adopted by the ASEAN + 3 Ministers of Health Special Meeting held on 26 April 2003 in Kuala Lumpur."*<sup>96</sup>

The Chinese government pledged at the meeting to contribute 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars) to a special fund to promote cooperation with ASEAN in containing the disease. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said,

*"China will gradually lift a travel ban to ASEAN countries to reduce SARS impact on the ASEAN regional economy, which has suffered a blow due to the disease."*<sup>97</sup>

## **JOINT STATEMENT 4th ASEAN-CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING 6**

### **July 2012, Phuket, Thailand**

On July 6, the fourth ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting (ACHMM) was held in Phuket Island, Thailand. Participants identified the priority areas for bilateral health cooperation, shared experience over smoking control and signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and Governments of the Member Countries of ASEAN Health Cooperation.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations, "Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) Bangkok", <https://asean.org/joint-statement-of-the-special-asean-china-leaders-meeting-on-the-severe-acute-respiratory-syndrome-sars-bangkok/> (accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

<sup>95</sup> China.org.cn, "ASEAN, China Issue Joint Statement on Fighting SARS", <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2003/Apr/63637.htm>(accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

<sup>96</sup> *ibid*

<sup>97</sup> Most Popular, "China-ASEAN Join Hands in Fighting SARS", Last modified April 30, 2003, [http://en.people.cn/200304/30/eng20030430\\_116075.shtml](http://en.people.cn/200304/30/eng20030430_116075.shtml) (accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

<sup>98</sup> Embassy of the People's Republic of China in The Lao People's Democratic Republic, "China-ASEAN Cooperation in 2012", Last modified November 11, 2019, <http://la.china-embassy.org/eng/news/t990470.htm> (accessed on Jun 10, 2020).

Four points to be discussed at the round table of the 4th ACHMM were suggested, and these were: i) tobacco and free trade, ii) smoke environment, iii) banning CSR by the tobacco industry and iv) resource for tobacco control.<sup>99</sup>

Dr. Nopporn Cheanklin, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, on the situation of tobacco use and tobacco control in AMS and China, He said,

*"ASEAN and China have become potential market for tobacco industry; ii) overall increase in adult population will keep numbers of smokers high in Asia; iii) cheap cigarettes are widely available due to tariff reduction or become zero under free trade agreement; and, iv) transnational tobacco companies are expanding their business in Asia by acquisition or taking over local tobacco companies."*<sup>100</sup>

## **JOINT STATEMENT 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING**

**19 September 2014, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

On 19 September 2014, The Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS), representing the ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, convened the 5th ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. AMS shares the concerns and expresses the commitment to strengthen the cooperation in the spirit of governments and people of ASEAN and China.<sup>101</sup> AMS present that,

*"We note the progress made in ASEAN and China cooperation in tobacco control and commit to reduce the use of tobacco. We also note the need to strengthen the capacity of countries to design, implement, monitor and evaluate tobacco control programs. We acknowledge the effort of ASEAN and China collaboration to implement the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (A/RES/66/2) as well as Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in 2013. We commit to promote collaboration in capacity building, experience sharing and research on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases."*<sup>102</sup>

The Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States also presents that,

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<sup>99</sup> "Report of the 4th ASEAN – China Health Ministers Meeting", Last modified July 6, 2012, <http://www.bihmoph.net/userfiles/file/fr4th%20ACHMM%20Report-Final.pdf> (accessed on Jun 11, 2020).

<sup>100</sup> ibid

<sup>101</sup> e-Health Bulletin, "BETTER HEAL FOR ASEAN COMMUNITY BEYOND 2015", Last modified September 18, 2014, <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/17.-September-2015-ASEAN-e-Health-Bulletin-Issue-6.pdf> (accessed on Jun 11, 2020).

<sup>102</sup> ibid

*“We welcome ASEAN-China cooperation in communicable disease prevention and control, especially the collaboration on malaria, dengue fever, HIV and AIDS, and plague prevention and control in the border areas. We commit to strengthen the ASEAN-China cooperation on capacity building for public health personnel in the region. China will work closely with AMS to implement both management and technical training programs which contribute to strengthening regional capacity in public health. We commit to strengthen the ASEAN-China cooperation in traditional medicine and its contribution to universal health care, where applicable. We realize the importance of cooperation and the sharing of information to support the quality, safety and efficacy of traditional medicine; and protection and conservation of indigenous health resources, including traditional knowledge and bio-resources. We welcome the sharing of experiences on using traditional medicine in strengthening primary health care. We commit to implement the ASEAN-China MOU on health cooperation and task the ASEAN-China SOMHD to expedite the finalization and operationalization of the Plan of Action.”*<sup>103</sup>

## **JOINT STATEMENT 6 the ASEAN-CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING**

### **7 September 2017, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

In September 2017, The Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS), representing the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Minister of Health of the People’s Republic of China opened the 6 the ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting (ACHMM) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.<sup>104</sup> AMS represents that,

*“We fully support the inclusion of Health Promotion and eHealth/ICT as new priority areas under the ASEAN-China health cooperation for 2017-2018, adding on the existing priority areas, namely: Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases; Public Health Emergency Response; Ensuring Food Safety and Rapid Alert System; Strengthen Human Resource Development for Health; and Traditional and Complementary Medicine.”*<sup>105</sup>

*“We discuss the value and implications of the use of technology in healthcare and acknowledge the connected health approach (also known as technology-enabled care, TEC) that involves the convergence of health technology, digital media and mobile devices which enables patients, cares and healthcare professionals to access data and information more easily and improve the quality and outcomes of both health and social care. We, thus, welcome the sharing of experiences and best practices in the region towards supporting the implementation of cost-effective connected health approach to priority health initiatives such as Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Disaster Health Management. We support the implementation of activities under Food Safety and Rapid Alert System, particularly in addressing concerns on food safety standards and strengthening risk assessment, as well as, in improving emergency response systems to food safety incidents, and food outbreaks.”*<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Ibid

<sup>104</sup> "JOINT STATEMENT 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING 7 September 2017, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam", [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/6th-ACHMM-Joint-Statement\\_FINAL.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/6th-ACHMM-Joint-Statement_FINAL.pdf) (accessed on Jun 12, 2020).

<sup>105</sup> ibid

<sup>106</sup> ibid

**JOINT STATEMENT 7 TH ASEAN CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING  
30 AUGUST 2019, SIEM REAP, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

The 7 the ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting (ACHMM) on 30 August 2019 in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia have convened by The Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS), representing the ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Health of the People's Republic of China.<sup>107</sup> AMS presented that,

*“We fully support the inclusion of Innovations for Enhancing Quality of Health Services as a new priority area under the ASEAN-China health cooperation for 2020-2021, adding on the existing priority areas of collaboration for 2019-2020 such as prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; promoting healthy and active ageing; addressing communicable diseases with specific focus on tuberculosis, malaria, HIV and AIDS, and schistosomiasis, and cross border-communicable diseases joint collaboration; and, strengthening the quality of traditional and complementary medicine.”<sup>108</sup>*

*“We commit to strengthen Innovations for Enhancing Quality of Health Services that utilize information and health outcomes to address challenges in enhancing quality of health services through the promotion of health innovations, quality interventions and ensuring an enabling environment for it. This commitment will be included in the relevant work programme of the ASEAN Health Sector Cooperation beyond 2020.”<sup>109</sup>*

**Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the  
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

In Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 20 February 2020, The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China have met for the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).<sup>110</sup> The meeting was co-chaired by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Secretary Teodoro Lopez Locsin of the Philippines, the country coordinator for ASEAN-China

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<sup>107</sup> Supra note 104

<sup>108</sup> ibid

<sup>109</sup> ibid

<sup>110</sup> "Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)", <https://asean.org/storage/2020/02/ASEAN-China-SFMM-Statement-on-COVID-19-20-Feb-2020-Final.pdf> (accessed on Jun 14, 2020).

cooperation. Foreign ministers of ASEAN member states joined the meeting.<sup>111</sup> Foreign Minister Wang Yi, said that,

*“China and ASEAN countries are like members of a family with a shared future. The two sides should engage in closer and more proactive cooperation to effectively prevent the spread of the virus, protect the life and health of all our people, and knit a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future. Through such cooperation, the two sides will work to improve public health management in the region and further contribute to regional and global public health.”*

For this purpose, Wang put forth four proposals

**First, enhancing collaboration for the better inter-agency response,** Greater coordination must be ensured between the health, quarantine, transportation and border control agencies of the two sides. A Special China-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on COVID-19 could be held at an appropriate time to form and put the direction of cooperation at a higher level.<sup>112</sup>

**Second, looking ahead and setting up permanent mechanisms to serve the long-term interests of the two sides.** To help more rapid response, a China-ASEAN liaison mechanism could be created to enhance public health emergency preparedness. The achievement could also be made to put in place China-ASEAN reserve centers for epidemic-control provisions.<sup>113</sup>

**Third, being guided by reason and overcoming fear.** The professional and authoritative recommendations by the World Health Organization should be respected. Normal travel and trade should be fully re-established at an early date.<sup>114</sup>

**Fourth, turning the challenge into an opportunity and fostering new areas of cooperation.** Both an opportunity and fostering new areas of cooperation should harness the power of the Internet and digital technologies to speed up the transformation of their economies

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<sup>111</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Convened in Vientiane", Last modified February 20, 2020, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1748009.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1748009.shtml) (accessed on Jun 15, 2020).

<sup>112</sup> *ibid*

<sup>113</sup> *ibid*

<sup>114</sup> *ibid*

and step up cooperation in e-commerce and mobile payment. Greater efforts are required to enhance urban management and strengthen the response, decision-making and management capabilities in major public emergencies.<sup>115</sup>

The ASEAN foreign ministers appreciated the importance of this convenient meeting. They recommended China's resolute measures in battling the epidemic and its open, transparent and highly responsible attitude, and applaud China for its admirable resolve in setting up an inter-agency system with unprecedented scale in human history.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> *ibid*

<sup>116</sup> *ibid*



### **CHAPTER III: OVERVIEW OF ASEAN MEMBER STATE AND CHINA RELATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND HEALTH SECTORS.**

Education and Health Sectors are the parts of the Socio-Cultural Community that is one of the three pillars of ASEAN countries. Education and Health Sectors are the most important way to create human resource development. Human resource development is very significant to the transformation of the developing countries to well-developed nations. Even though the people had been educated but if they have the health problem so they wouldn't be part of the human capital or human resources. Even if the people gained the health benefits but with less education so they would also not be part of the human capital too. Education and Health sector should be walking together in a parallel direction. According to the Schools & Health: the impact of education,

*"Education is fundamental to sustainable development, it is a powerful driver of development and one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health; it enables people to be more productive, to earn a better living and enjoy a better quality of life, while also contributing to a country's overall economic growth"<sup>117</sup>*

*"The links between health and education are reciprocal; not only is good health important for children to make the most of their educational opportunities, but the educational setting (both formal and informal) can be important in promoting good health. Compelling evidence indicates that good health and nutrition are prerequisites for effective learning".<sup>118</sup>*

If the countries have a lot of educated people and received proper health services, it would mean that the countries already reached the required objective or goal in developing their countries. And it's should be a good idea for developing countries to improve their education and health system to further enhanced the national development within their states. However, for the ASEAN countries, some members have already become developed countries while others are still developing countries. For the developed countries, education and health system

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<sup>117</sup> Schools & Health, "The Impact of Education", Last modified Jun 15, 2020, <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/Pages/education.aspx> (accessed on Jun 15, 2020).

<sup>118</sup> ibid

are already in high standard but some of the developing countries education and health system still requires constant improvement. Similarly, Education and Health sector are part of the ASEAN-China to strengthen their relations. However, to show their commitment on what both partners want to improve the ASEAN-China cooperation, they have set the plan for the future achievement such as The ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2016-2020 signed on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia, to enhance and elevate the strategic partnership, friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation, and good neighbourliness between the ASEAN and China for the period of 2016-2020.<sup>119</sup> ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on the occasion of the 22nd ASEAN-China Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on 3 November 2019.<sup>120</sup> In the meeting,

*"RECALLING the commitment to broaden and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation to further strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership as envisaged in the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 on 14 November 2018, Joint Statement of the 19th ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations on 7 September 2016, Joint Statement between ASEAN and China on Further Deepening the Cooperation on Infrastructure Connectivity and Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation on 13 November 2017"*<sup>121</sup>

There are the following how ASEAN-China cooperating on the area of Education and Health sector.

### ❖ Education

On the area of education ASEAN-China should be:

*"Promote cooperation to increase exchange of visits by high-level educational authorities. Make good use of the ASEAN-China Education Exchange Week and the ASEAN-China Center to conduct comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging exchanges and cooperation to promote people-to- people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China."*<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> "Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)", <https://www.asean.org/storage/images/2015/November/27th-summit/ASEAN-China%20POA%20%202016-2020.pdf> (accessed on Jun 16, 2020).

<sup>120</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations, " ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the Master Plan ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)", Last modified November 2019, <https://asean.org/storage/2019/11/Final-ASEAN-China-Joint-Statement-Synergising-the-MPAC-2025-and-the-BRI.pdf> (accessed on Jun 17, 2020).

<sup>121</sup> *ibid*

<sup>122</sup> *ibid*

It means that ASEAN-China should be creating more the exchange programmes on education for their peoples in order to improve their people's connections.

*"Continue to promote student mobility and the provision of Chinese Government scholarships to ASEAN Member States, including the Double 100,000 Students Mobility Programme, and encourage the creation of mechanisms to facilitate mutual recognition of academic degrees, where appropriate."*<sup>123</sup>

This means that the Chinese government should be providing more scholarship to the ASEAN countries in order to facilitate mutual recognition of ASEAN countries academic degree. Both parties should continue to practice their cooperation between tertiary institutions with emphasis on talent cultivation, student mobility, and joint research and language teaching, where appropriate.<sup>124</sup> In order to improve their cooperation and exchanges among schools and vocational institutions.<sup>125</sup> ASEAN-China should continue to promote youth exchanges in the fields of languages, culture, art and heritage with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and further deepen friendship by using relevant educational institutions.<sup>126</sup> Moreover, both parties should be Promote and encourage academic exchanges and the co-hosting of academic conferences to their students including through the Network of ASEAN-China Think- tanks.<sup>127</sup>

#### ❖ Health

On the area of health sectors ASEAN-China should enhancing their policy dialogue and exchanges through ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other relevant mechanisms by implement the ASEAN-China MOU on Health Cooperation, and support relevant cooperation programmes including through the use of ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Fund .<sup>128</sup> The two parties should

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<sup>123</sup> ibid

<sup>124</sup> ibid

<sup>125</sup> ibid

<sup>126</sup> ibid

<sup>127</sup> ibid

<sup>128</sup> ibid

be Cooperate in preparedness and responses against pandemic influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) by deepen cooperation in preventing and controlling, strengthen exchange and cooperation in chronic disease prevention and control, reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and improve health conditions and living standard of people in the region.<sup>129</sup> Moreover, ASEAN-China should be promote cooperation and exchanges of information and expertise on non-communicable diseases including mental health, occupational medicine, traditional medicine, complementary and alternative medicines (TM/CAM) focusing on its protection, development and integration to healthcare system, subject to the individual member state’s priorities and domestic regulations.<sup>130</sup> However, recently in response to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and China at a special meeting on 20 February 2020 in Vientiane, Lao, issued a statement on COVID-19 in which they agreed to step up cooperation in the region against COVID-19 by sharing information and best practices on time, including exchanging available epidemiological information, technical guidelines and solutions for epidemic prevention and control, diagnosis, treatment and surveillance, to enhance capacity in emergency preparedness and response.<sup>131</sup>

**The beneficial of ASEAN-China gain from cooperating on Education and Health sector**

Education	Health
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<sup>129</sup> *ibid*  
<sup>130</sup> *ibid*  
<sup>131</sup> *Supra* note 110

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ASEAN-China Education Cooperation week</li> <li>- ASEAN-China Educational Exchange Year</li> <li>- China-ASEAN Student Exchange Program</li> <li>- ASEAN-China Education Training Mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance policy dialogue relation and exchanges through ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting</li> <li>- Strengthen exchange and cooperation of information, expertise, technologies, personnel and experiences to enhance response capability between both partners.</li> </ul>
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Source: **Adi Maulana** Vocational and Technical Education China & Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)

### 3.1. Indonesia- China Relation

China and Indonesia relations have been ongoing for centuries and were officially recognized in 1950.<sup>132</sup> Both countries are among the largest nations in Asia in terms of both area and population, China is the most populous nation on earth, while Indonesia has the 4th largest population in the world. Indonesia participates actively in the economic cooperation of ACFTA (ASEAN-China Free Trade Area) which will take effect in 2020 with the agreement at the beginning of 2015.<sup>133</sup> Indonesia also plays a part in various China and ASEAN collaboration not only in trade but almost every sector, for example, politics, education, culture, tourism, science, technology, transportation, agricultural, health, and information.<sup>134</sup> According to

<sup>132</sup>RIZAL SUKMA, "Recent Developments in Sino—Indonesian Relations: An Indonesian View", <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25798231?seq=1> (accessed on Jun 18, 2020).

<sup>133</sup> Adi Maulana, "THE EDUCATION RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND INDONESIA AS ASEAN MEMBER", Last modified February 2018, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323450643\\_THE\\_EDUCATION\\_RELATIONSHIP\\_DEVELOPMENT\\_BETWEEN\\_CHINA\\_AND\\_INDONESIA\\_AS\\_ASEA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323450643_THE_EDUCATION_RELATIONSHIP_DEVELOPMENT_BETWEEN_CHINA_AND_INDONESIA_AS_ASEA) (accessed on Jun 18, 2020).

<sup>134</sup> Supra note 1

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*"Indonesia should focus on preparing Indonesian people, especially their education, to face global market. Learning from other Asian countries, it may not be wise not to cooperate with other countries. Countries need to keep on cooperating and coordinating for development of human resources and involves itself in manpower planning and job placement and increasingly in the coordination of science and technology."*<sup>135</sup>

It's mean that Indonesia wants to create a human resource by improving their education and health sector to be more effective, by trying to learn from others countries not only among the ASEAN countries but also with others foreign countries. Before the relationship between Indonesia and China was rough but now their relations had been improving. China and Indonesia works together on the area of education and health because of the state's interest, Indonesia needs to build their human resource capacity, in order to develop their countries, while China wants to put away their complicated historical past between both parties, for increasing benefit of economic growth.

*"China and Indonesia are two big countries in Asia with similar national interests and objectives in partnership, peace and prosperity of G20, APEC, 10+1, and 10+3, in which Indonesia is an active participant."*<sup>136</sup>

There are the following of education and health sector that Indonesia and China are cooperating.

### **3.1.1. Education**

The education partnership between China and Indonesia started the earliest. Indonesia and China have signed many memorandums of understanding (MOU's) throughout their diplomatic relation in many fields including education. Indonesia has become the highest investor with China that lead China economic growth while expanding the education to

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<sup>135</sup> World Education News + Reviews, "Education in Indonesia", Last modified March 21, 2019, <https://wenr.wes.org/2019/03/education-in-indonesia-2> (accessed on May 5, 2020).

<sup>136</sup> Supra note 142

Indonesia. Many of other Chinese universities have also begun a partnership with counterparts in Indonesia, such as

*"Al-Azhar University in Jakarta and Malang Muhammadiyah University in Malang, East Java, partner with Confucius Institute, the Chinese cultural center that offers Mandarin trainings and facilitates exchange programs between Chinese and Indonesian students. A few private universities in Indonesia have also signed MOU's with China's Ministry of Education to offer scholarships to underprivileged Chinese students to study in Indonesia. In China itself, as of December 2017 there have been 16 universities that teach Indonesian language and culture as sub-majors, and many have predicted that in the near future there will be more universities offering Indonesian language and culture studies."<sup>137</sup>*

All of this reason can make most of the Indonesian people interested in learning the Chinese language and make the countries prosper in the areas of education. Moreover, China has built a lot of institution in Indonesia in order to promote education within their cooperative partnerships. The cooperation between both countries would also allow a lot of opportunities, not only for the students but also for the teachers. For example, the students and the teachers can learn from other countries by exchange program, cultures, and scholarships, in order to enhance the mutual understanding and friendship between the countries.

### **3.1.2. Health**

Besides other fields, Indonesia and China also are improving with the health sector. Despite the lack of recorded achievement reporting anything about the Indonesia and China cooperation on the area of the health sector, but currently both countries are growing in this focused area. According to Asia & Pacific: China holds 2nd healthcare product expo products in Jakarta to promote cooperation, on November 27-29, 2019 China's prestigious Healthcare Products Expo (CHEXPO ASEAN) is coming back for its second time in Jakarta, to promote and enhance cooperation between China and Southeast Asian countries in the pharmaceutical

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<sup>137</sup> Isyana Adriani, "Indonesian Sub-Majors at Chinese Universities and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)", Last modified September 2018, file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/Indonesian\_Sub-Majors\_at\_Chinese\_Universities\_and\_.pdf (accessed on May 5, 2020).

and medical sectors after succeeding in last year's exhibition.<sup>138</sup> Taking place in the Jakarta International Expo in Central Jakarta, this year's exhibition is featuring an experience zone set up for China and ASEAN countries to exhibit their healthcare products, such as traditional therapies and medicines, food supplements, medical equipment as well as healthcare testing services.<sup>139</sup> The expo provides an excellent opportunity between Indonesia and China to strengthen their relationship and to improve with the health sector. Recently, around the world are facing with the outbreak of Coronavirus and Indonesia also faced with this problem. According to Asia-Pacific reported on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, Coronavirus cases in ASEAN nation had reached nearly 30,000, as Indonesia becomes one of the worst-hit countries among the ASEAN member states, as estimated reports around 6,575 cases of coronavirus, with 582 deaths so far. Respond to this problem China also tries to help Indonesia by providing some assistances in battling this virus. The medical equipment includes disposable masks, N-95 masks, protective clothing, goggles, gloves, shoe covers, infrared thermometers and surgical caps, which will be used by the country's doctors and fast-response team for COVID-19.<sup>140</sup> It clearly shows that the relations between China and Indonesia in the area of health are progressing positively.

### **3.2. Thailand-China Relation**

China-Thailand relations developed positively in 1978, China is Thailand's second-largest export market while China is also Thailand's largest importer of goods into the country in 2010.<sup>141</sup> Moreover in order toward the development of their relations, as a "competent

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<sup>138</sup> Xinhua, "China holds 2nd healthcare products expo in Jakarta to promote cooperation", Last November 27, 2019, [http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off\\_the\\_Wire/2019-11/27/content\\_75453835.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2019-11/27/content_75453835.htm) (accessed on May 7, 2020).

<sup>139</sup> Ibid

<sup>140</sup> Center for Strategic & International Studies, "Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker", Last modified April 20, 2020, <https://www.csis.org/programs/southeast-asia-program/southeast-asia-covid-19-tracker-0> (accessed on April 20, 2020).

<sup>141</sup> Sompop Manarungson, "Thailand-China Cooperation in Trade, investment and official development Assistance", file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/Documents/01\_thailandandchina.pdf (Accessed on Jun 25, 2020).



authorities of the two countries signed cooperation documents in economy and trade, science and technology, education, maritime cooperation, energy and other sectors".<sup>142</sup>That's can provide a lot of significance to both countries. Besides those fields, Thailand and China also cooperated on the areas of Education and Health sector in order to promote human capital development. Recently, Education and Health sectors in Thailand already improving. Even though, Thailand already improving with their education and health sector but Thailand still need to cooperate with China on this both areas in order to gain more knowledge and new experiences

### **3.2.1. Education**

The relationship between China and Thailand on the area of education are closer and closer since China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, the economic and trade ties between China and Thailand while bilingual job-seekers are in great demand.<sup>143</sup> According to Xinhua.net "China focus: Belt and Road Initiative boosts China-Thailand education cooperation", Ma a former teacher at Yunnan Normal University in southwest China's Yunnan province was sent to Thailand in 2005 to teach Chinese in Thailand.<sup>144</sup> She said that years ago some Chinese parents and students believed that only students with poor grades would study in Thailand and that they could not find good jobs after graduation.<sup>145</sup> While Thai teachers also held the misconception that Chinese students were poor at studying. Ma added she hoped to introduce more outstanding Chinese students to Thailand's prestigious schools. Recently, Ma said the number of applicants including those with good grades has

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<sup>142</sup> Embassy of the People Republic of China in the Kingdom of Thailand, "Bilateral Relations", Last modified September 8, 2019, <http://www.chinaembassy.or.th/eng/ztgx/gxgk/> (Accessed on Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>143</sup> Huaxia, "Xinhua: China focus Belt and Road Initiative boosts China-Thailand education cooperation", Last modified November 05, 2019, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/05/c\\_138530990.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/05/c_138530990.htm) (Accessed on Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>144</sup> *ibid*

<sup>145</sup> *ibid*

increased from a few to dozens or even hundreds each year.<sup>146</sup> It has been estimated that more than 30,000 Chinese were studying in Thailand as exchange students as well for degrees, especially in the graduate level.<sup>147</sup> China has set up Confucius Institutes at many universities around Thailand to promote Chinese culture and language.<sup>148</sup> More than 10,000 Thai youths were studying Chinese languages and other disciplines in Chinese universities.<sup>149</sup> The Thai government has sent more than 200 students from many provinces to study in China under the scholarship.<sup>150</sup>

### **3.2.2. Health**

Thailand is a country that has been successful on the health system. The country has been able to achieve significant health improvements by building a health system that offers universal coverage and by establishing outstanding medical universities.<sup>151</sup> Even though Thailand already improve on health sector but Thailand government still cooperated with China. According to China Medical Board, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited Peking Union Medical College campus and CMB offices on April 6, 212 to strengthen historical ties between China and Thailand in health.<sup>152</sup> Her Royal Highness' visit follows her family's long support of modern medicine and medical education as demonstrated by the parallel histories of PUMC and Siriraj Medical School. The relations between both countries in the areas of health are more improving. On 09 August 2019 in Bangkok, the opening ceremony of the China-Thailand Joint Research Institute of Natural

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<sup>146</sup> Ibid

<sup>147</sup> Chulacheeb Chinwanno, "Rising China and Thailand's Policy of Strategic Engagement", file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/Documents/4-3.pdf (accessed Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>148</sup> Ibid

<sup>149</sup> Ibid

<sup>150</sup> Ibid

<sup>151</sup> China Medical Board, "Thailand; Pioneering Linkage of Knowledge for Good Health", Last modifies September 17, 2012, <https://chinamedicalboard.org/news/thailand-pioneering-linkage-knowledge-for-good-health> (accessed Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>152</sup> ibid

Medicine was held to promote cooperation on natural medicine research, training between the two countries.<sup>153</sup>

### **3.3. Singapore-China Relation**

Recently, the relations between Singapore and China had been neutral but friendly. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, since 2003 China has been Singapore's largest trading partner while Singapore has been China's largest foreign investor.<sup>154</sup> Singapore enjoys strong and substantive relations with the People's Republic of China, anchored by frequent high-level exchanges, multifaceted cooperation, growing people-to-people exchanges, and robust economic ties.<sup>155</sup> To strengthen their relations Singapore and China signed a Memorandum Of Understanding On Establishing The Asean-China Centre Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations And The Government Of The People's Republic Of China.<sup>156</sup> In the purpose to strengthen the cooperation between the parties based on equity, friendship and mutual benefit that covering to the three ASEAN's pillars included education and health sectors.<sup>157</sup> Even though Singapore is a developed country with the education and Health sectors at international high standards. Singapore still wishes to cooperate and exchange with the other countries. There are some bilateral relations between Singapore-China on the areas of Education and Health Sectors.

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<sup>153</sup> China.org.cn, "China-Thailand joint research institute on medicine launched in Bangkok", Last modified August 9, 2019, [http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off\\_the\\_Wire/2019-08/09/content\\_75084297.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2019-08/09/content_75084297.htm) (accessed on Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>154</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, "People's Republic of China; Overviews ", <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/SINGAPORES-FOREIGN-POLICY/Countries-and-Regions/Northeast-Asia/Peoples-Republic-of-China> (accessed on Jun 26, 2020).

<sup>155</sup> *ibid*

<sup>156</sup> Asean-China Center MOU, "Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the ASEAN-China Center between the Governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the people republic of China", <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-CHina-Centre-MOU-revised-signed-in-2017.pdf> (accessed on Jun 25, 2020).

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid*

### **3.3.1. Education**

Education is one of the bilateral relations between Singapore and China for closer diplomatic ties. The bilateral relations on the education field, both countries cooperated by signing the MOU on education such as; in 1999 the ministry of education between the two countries agreed to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding on Exchanges And Cooperation in the field of Education between the Ministries of education of the Republic of Singapore and the People's Republic Of China.<sup>158</sup> In the purpose of the MOU is to consolidate and promote mutual educational exchanges and cooperation between both parties. Moreover, the two countries also signed Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the ASEAN-China Centre between the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the People's Republic of China, that covering almost every sector included education.<sup>159</sup>

### **3.3.2. Health**

Health is one of the bilateral relations between Singapore and China to strengthen their cooperation both countries cooperated by signed the MoU on Health sectors. In 1999 The Governments of the Republic of Singapore and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) that PRC agrees to share expertise in developing and regulating TCM while Singapore will share with the PRC information on TCM regulations and research and development of TCM in Singapore

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<sup>158</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "Memorandum of Understanding on Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Education Between the Ministries of Education of the Republic of Singapore and the People's Republic of China", Last modified April 19, 2002, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjb\\_663304/zzjg\\_663340/yzs\\_663350/gjlb\\_663354/2777\\_663548/2778\\_663550/t16196.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2777_663548/2778_663550/t16196.shtml) (accessed on Jun 26, 2020).

<sup>159</sup> Supra note 165

and train personnel from PRC in health management.<sup>160</sup> Moreover, in 2012 both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) And the Government of the People's Republic of China on Health Cooperation that focuses on health cooperation between the parties.<sup>161</sup> Furthermore, in 2016, SingHealth, the largest group of a healthcare institution in Singapore signed an MOU with West China Hospital that comprised a three-year training program for the medical professions at the West China Hospital.<sup>162</sup> However, in response to the outbreak of Covid-19 the two countries decided to provide support towards each other by sharing their experiences, and other equipment to combat the epidemic. On 1 April 2020, the Ministers of the two countries Joint Meeting on COVID-19 in the purpose to exchange views between the parties how to combat, prevent and control with the virus outbreak.<sup>163</sup>

### **3.4. Malaysia-China Relation**

Since 1974 Malaysia-China started to rebuild their relations by improving bilateral relations.<sup>164</sup> The bilateral relation is included economic interest and political alliance. In May 1999, the leader of Malaysia visited China to participate in the official celebration of the 25th

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<sup>160</sup> Singapore Government Press Release, "Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Singapore and China on Traditional Chinese Medicine", July 22, 1999, <https://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/data/pdfdoc/1999072203.htm> (accessed on Jun 28, 2020).

<sup>161</sup> "Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) And The Government Of The People's Republic Of China On Health Cooperation", Last modified July 6, 2012, <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-China-MOU-on-Health.pdf.pdf> (accessed on Jun 28, 2020).

<sup>162</sup> Malyanah Bte Manap, "Memorandum of Understanding between Singapore and China in healthcare", Last modified March 26, 2017, <https://today.mims.com/memorandum-of-understanding--mous--between-singapore-and-china-in-healthcare> (accessed on Jun 28, 2020).

<sup>163</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "China-Singapore Joint Meeting on COVID-19 Joint Press Statement", Last modified April 1, 2020, <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2020/04/20200401---SG-China-JM-Covid> (accessed on Jun 28, 2020).

<sup>164</sup> Joseph Chin Yong Liow, "Malaysia-China Relations in the 1990s: The Maturing of a Partnership", <https://online.ucpress.edu/as/article/40/4/672/23697/Malaysia-China-Relations-in-the-1990s-The-Maturing> (accessed on Jun 29, 2020).

year of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing.<sup>165</sup> During that time the Malaysian governments makes a statement that China was a friend. Recently, the relationship between Malaysia-China had improved since China have a close relation with ASEAN, as Malaysia is one of the ASEAN state members. According to Premier Li Keqiang held talks with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Beijing on 20 August 2020, saying China will work with Malaysia to promote neighbourly friendship to a new high level.<sup>166</sup> The bilateral between Malaysia-China was cooperated almost every sectors included Education and Health sector.

### **3.4.1. Education**

The education relation between Malaysia-China is developed, as we compared to last time. Malaysia-China on the bilateral relationship in the field of education has become more important. Firstly to elaborate the background of Malaysia-China relations; and secondly, to examine the achievement of educational exchange between Malaysia and China since 1974, especially on the higher education aspect.<sup>167</sup> In 1997 the government between both countries Malaysia and China signed an A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Education Cooperation to promote educational cooperation between the two countries.<sup>168</sup> As an important aspect of the relationship between Malaysia and China, the educational exchanges have gone through different historical stages and are moving forward. After signing the MOU the educational exchange between the two countries has improved. The students from both countries received new opportunities from their government or the private sector for exchange

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<sup>165</sup> Ibid

<sup>166</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "China pledges to lift ties with Malaysia to new high", Last modified August 20, 2018, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1586905.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1586905.shtml) (accessed on Jun 29, 2020).

<sup>167</sup> Universiti Putra Malaysia Institutional Repository (UPMIR), "Malaysian perspective on Malaysia-China relations and the bilateral educational exchanges between Malaysia and China", last modified 2019, <http://psasir.upm.edu.my/id/eprint/70571/> (accessed on Jun 29, 2020).

<sup>168</sup> ibid

programs or obtaining scholarship through the two countries. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia, almost 100 Malaysian students were studying in China. But in contrast, there were more than 5000 Chinese students in Malaysia till 2000.<sup>169</sup> In 2011 Malaysia-China was signed the Framework Agreement to Facilitate Mutual Recognition in Academic Higher Education Qualifications and with the rise of China and the current promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative that was included Educational, Malaysia-China relations on the fields of Education with continuous improvement.<sup>170</sup> To sum up, Malaysia and China have reached the best result on the education relations that will reach a higher level which benefits people of the two countries.

#### **3.4.1. Health**

Malaysia is a country that was classified by the World Bank as an upper-middle-income country; its society and economy were transformed by rapid economic growth in the latter half of the 20th century.<sup>171</sup> Most of the Malaysian people are living in urban areas provide with good health system. According to Malaysia Health System Review, Malaysia's population (now numbering over 28 million with 70% living in urban areas) has benefited from a well-developed health care system, good access to clean water and sanitation, and strong social and economic programs.<sup>172</sup> However, recently many countries are facing with the Coronavirus, with Malaysia also facing with this situation. Even though Malaysia has a good health system but the early confrontation to this virus was not easy to prevent. According to Worldometer last updated on

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<sup>169</sup> *ibid*

<sup>170</sup> *ibid*

<sup>171</sup> Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, "Malaysia Health System Review", Last modified 2013, file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/9789290615842\_eng.pdf (accessed on Jun 29, 2020).

<sup>172</sup> *ibid*

July 04, 2020, the total of Malaysia case on Coronavirus is 8658, deaths 121 people.<sup>173</sup> The statistic is the higher for Malaysia if compared to some of the ASEAN countries. However, China is a country that the coronavirus originated and have the experiences to combat with this pandemic, China response to Malaysia with this virus by working together to prevent the spreading of this virus. On 16 May 2020, the Defence Minister of Malaysia and the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China have made a phone call together, in the discussion both ministers updated each other on the prevention and control measures undertaken by both countries to fight on the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>174</sup> During that time China has provided Medical equipment to Malaysia to prevent this pandemic.

*"The items included 100,008 units of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Nucleic Acid Diagnostic Kit (PCR-Fluorescence Probing) test kits; 100,000 pieces of N95 face masks; 500,000 pieces of surgical masks; 50,000 units of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and 200 ventilators."<sup>175</sup>*

Malaysia-China collaboration on fighting against Coronavirus can make the two countries have closer relations and becoming strong partners.

### **3.5. Philippines-China Relation**

The diplomatic relations between Philippines-China have improved since 1975 when the two countries become the bilateral partnership which concluded almost 100 bilateral agreements.<sup>176</sup> Philippines-China cooperated by the bilateral agreements is to strengthen their

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<sup>173</sup> Worldometer, "World Counter Malaysia", Last modified July 04, 2020, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/malaysia/> (accessed on July 04, 2020).

<sup>174</sup> Ministry of Defence Malaysia, "Malaysia China Boost Cooperation in Fighting COVID-19", Last modified May 16, 2020, <http://www.mod.gov.my/en/mediamenu-2/news/722-malaysia-china-perkukuh-kerjasama-tangani-covid-20> (accessed on July 04, 2020).

<sup>175</sup> Veena Babulal, "News Start Times: China delivers medical equipment to Malaysia to aid Covid-19 fight", Last modified March 28, 2020, <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/03/579028/china-delivers-medical-equipment-malaysia-aid-covid-19-fight> (accessed on July 04, 2020).

<sup>176</sup> Embassy of the Philippines Beijing, China, "PHL-CHN Relations", <https://beijingpe.dfa.gov.ph/84-phl-chn-relations> (accessed on July 4, 2020).



relations, stability and security, and economic development. On 20-21 November 2018, China-Philippines joint the Full text of China-Philippines statement during the president of the Chinese government visited the Philippines.<sup>177</sup> During the meeting both countries recalled the history of friendly exchanges between China and the Philippines, charted the course for the future of China-Philippines bilateral relations, had an in-depth exchange of views on regional and international issues of common interest, and reached important consensus.<sup>178</sup> The bilateral agreement of the two the countries cooperated almost every sectors included Education and Health sectors.

### **3.5.1. Education**

Education is one of the bilateral agreement of Philippines-China relations. On the education field, the Ministry of Education of both countries cooperated to each other by signing the Memorandum of Understanding on basic of education. The objective of the MOU is to improve education between the two countries by increase people-to-people contacts, public awareness, mutual understanding, increase the number of universities, as well as active participation among the Philippines peoples and Chinese peoples through educational exchanges and training programs.

*" It also seeks to promote information sharing on the structure of higher education, academic quality, performance standards, evaluation of results, methodology development, student affairs, and qualifications frameworks, establishment of a credit transfer arrangements, strengthen cooperation in the study of languages and the establishment of additional Confucius Institutes in the Philippines, and participation in educational congresses, conferences, workshops, symposiums, training courses, and exhibits."*<sup>179</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> Yamei, "Xinhuanet: Full text of China-Philippines joint statement", Last modified November 21, 2018, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-11/21/c\\_137622271.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-11/21/c_137622271.htm) (accessed on July 4, 2020).

<sup>178</sup> *ibid*

<sup>179</sup> Ma. Teresa Montemayor, "Philippines News Agency: PH, China bolster academic cooperation in higher education", Last modified August 29, 2019, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1079074> (accessed on July 7, 2020).

Moreover, this academic cooperation manifests our collaborative efforts to deepen and expand support and opportunities to develop future-ready graduates and contribute to innovation and technology for economic growth and national competitiveness for both countries as stated by J. Prospero E. De Vera III the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED).<sup>180</sup>

### **3.5.2. Health**

The Health sector is one of the Philippines-China bilateral agreement relations, on 6 July 2012 the government of Philippines and the government of the people's republic of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation.<sup>181</sup> The objective of the MOU base on Health between Philippines-China is to strengthen the development partnership in health cooperation among both Parties to ensure that the people of their countries are healthy in mind and body and living in harmony in a safe environment.<sup>182</sup> Moreover, the two countries showing their commitment by promoting cooperation between both Parties in the field of health and medical science based on the principles of equality, mutual benefits, mutual respect and mutual understanding between both sides.<sup>183</sup> Furthermore, Philippines-China promoting and developing cooperation in the fields of health through exchanges and cooperation in the fields of traditional medicine, human resource development for public health experts and medical scientists, public health, information and communications technology (ICT) application in health care, and health management.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> *ibid*

<sup>181</sup> *Supra* note 170

<sup>182</sup> *ibid*

<sup>183</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>184</sup> *Supra* note 186

### **3.6. Vietnam-China Relation**

Vietnam is located on the east side of the Indochinese Peninsula and is bordered by the People's Republic of China to the north, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia to the west, and to the East, South and Southwest surrounded by the sea.<sup>185</sup> Vietnam and China shared the border together, making the two countries have a long historically on relations. In the past, the relations between Vietnam-China have faced with dark history that relates to the tension of territorial disputes and other factors, as stated by Ramses Amer Associate Professor in Peace and Conflict Research and Associate Fellow, Institute for Security & Development Policy, Sweden.<sup>186</sup> Recently the relations between the two countries are improving if compared to past events, in order to change their history and restored their relations, the two countries have cooperated together by signing on the bilateral relations agreement in many fields including education and health sector. The cooperation on the bilateral relations between Vietnam-China can let the two countries become a good partnership almost every sector and gain a lot of benefits from it.

#### **3.6.1. Education**

The Education field is one of the bilateral relations between Vietnam and China on the way to improve and strengthen their relations. As long as Vietnam and China shared the border together with the relations between both countries always going up and down, for example the territorial dispute. However, in order to change the dark history between the two countries, Vietnam and China are improving their relations by cooperating bilateral relations.

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<sup>185</sup> "National Institute of Education Sciences of China ASEAN-China Centre: Guidebook to Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China", [https://www.seameo.org/SEAMEOWeb2/images/stories/Publications/Centers\\_Pub/2017SEAMEOChina/GuidebooktoEducationSystemsandReforms.pdf](https://www.seameo.org/SEAMEOWeb2/images/stories/Publications/Centers_Pub/2017SEAMEOChina/GuidebooktoEducationSystemsandReforms.pdf) (accessed on July 10, 2020), (page.272).

<sup>186</sup> Ramses Amer, "Vietnam's Relations with China: A Multifaceted Partnership", Last modified March 17, 2014, <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/chinapolicyinstitute/2014/03/17/vietnams-relations-with-china-a-multifaceted-partnership/> (accessed on July 10, 2020).

On the area of education, Vietnam-China cooperated by signing a memorandum of understanding together such as a Memorandum of Understanding on Education between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Taipei, Taiwan was signed on October 15 and September 15, 2008.<sup>187</sup>

*"On December 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2006 in Taiwan, both parties agree to enter into a MOU on Education in order to contribute positively to strengthening of education and learning-related linkages between Vietnam and Taiwan."*<sup>188</sup>

Moreover, Vietnam-China also signed a memorandum of understanding on training and education cooperation was signed in December 2011 between the authorities from Vietnam and a delegation from Baise city in China's Guangxi province.<sup>189</sup>The both sides pledged to cooperate in the training of scientific and technical research in the purpose to further enhance cooperation between the two countries.<sup>190</sup> Furthermore, on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia the Heads of State/Government of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China Joint Declaration Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity that covering almost every sectors included education.<sup>191</sup> Recently, we see the relations between Vietnam-China are improving since China has closer relations with ASEAN and as Vietnam is also one of the ASEAN's countries.

### **3.6.2. Health**

The Health sector is one of the bilateral relations between Vietnam and China to develop their relations and cooperation. Vietnam and China signed the MOU together on health

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<sup>187</sup> "Law and regulation database of the republic of China: Memorandum Of Understanding On Education Between The Taipei Economic And Cultural Office, Hanoi, Vietnam And The Vietnamese Economic And Cultural Office, Taipei, Taiwan", Last modified 2008, <https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=Y0060233> (accessed on July 10, 2020).

<sup>188</sup> Ibid

<sup>189</sup> "China-ASEAN Expo: Vietnam, China province sign MOU to promote educational cooperation", December 14, 2011, <http://eng.caexpo.org/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=10021&id=98660> (accessed on July 10, 2020).

<sup>190</sup> Ibid

<sup>191</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations, "Plan of Action to Implement the joint declaration on ASEAN-China strategic partnership for peace and prosperity", <https://www.asean.org/storage/images/2015/November/27th-summit/ASEAN-China%20POA%20%202016-2020.pdf> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

cooperation during the ASEAN-China signed the MOU on health cooperation due to Vietnam is one of the ASEAN's members. Considering that, health cooperation is a very important factor for the ASEAN community of the three pillars and also to strengthen the development partnership cooperation among the parties that can be beneficial to their people of their countries living with healthy mind and body.<sup>192</sup> The two parties decided to promote their cooperation on the field of health and medical science based on the principle of equality, mutual benefits, mutual respect and mutual understanding.<sup>193</sup> Recently, responding to the Covid-19 the two countries are ready to work together to against and prevent the epidemic virus. Both countries strengthen their cooperation by sharing the materials and experiences as stated by the both Prime Minister of the two countries during the phone call in April 2020.<sup>194</sup>

### **3.7. Brunei-China Relation**

The cooperation between Brunei-China relations is growing rapidly since China seeks Brunei is one of the countries as a useful source of oil and gas to fuel its economic growth and a voice for better ties between it and ASEAN.<sup>195</sup> Meanwhile, Brunei has considered Beijing to be a crucial partner to engage to both diversify and strengthen its fossil-fuel-based economy and preserve peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>196</sup>In 2013, the People's Republic of China and Negara Brunei Darussalam further strengthened their friendly exchanges and cooperation in various fields and brought their bilateral relations to a new height.<sup>197</sup>The

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<sup>192</sup> Supra note 170

<sup>193</sup> *ibid*

<sup>194</sup> The star, "China to help Vietnam in virus fight, seeks stronger ties with Asean", Last modified April 3, 2020, <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/04/03/china-to-help-vietnam-in-virus-fight-seeks-stronger-ties-with-asean> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

<sup>195</sup> Jamestown Foundation, "Refworld: China and Brunei; Ties That Bind?" Last modifies November 5, 2012, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/509914022.html> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

<sup>196</sup> *ibid*

<sup>197</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "China and Brunei", Last modified 2013, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjb\\_663304/zzjg\\_663340/yzs\\_663350/gjlb\\_663354/2691\\_663386/](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2691_663386/) (accessed on July 11, 2020).

government of the two countries have visited each other and issued the joint statement agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the various field included Education and Health sector.<sup>198</sup> Education and Health sector are the most important factors that develop human resources that most of the countries chose this way to develop their countries.

### **3.7.1. Education**

On the area of education, both governments of Brunei-China cooperated by signing the MOU on Education. On 8 October 2003 in Bali, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of South-East Asian Nations included Brunei and the People's Republic of China Joint Declaration Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity that covering almost every sectors included education.<sup>199</sup> The meaning of an education on the joint declaration is to further activate exchanges in education and improve cooperation mechanisms between the two parties.

*"Efforts will also be made to enhance tourism cooperation and deepen understanding and friendship between the peoples of their countries."<sup>200</sup>*

Moreover, Brunei-China signed the MOU on establishing the ASEAN-China Center between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations included Brunei and the government of the People's Republic of China. On the area of education, both parties have agreed to facilitate educational exchanges and cooperation between both sides, including through the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW), and support for student exchanges and activities for ASEAN students studying in China.<sup>201</sup>

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<sup>198</sup> ibid

<sup>199</sup> Supra note 200

<sup>200</sup> ibid

<sup>201</sup> Asean-China Center MOU, "Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the ASEAN-China Center between the Governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the people republic of China", <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-CHina-Centre-MOU-revised-signed-in-2017.pdf> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

### 3.7.2. Health

The Health sector is one of the bilateral relations between Brunei-China to improve their relations and cooperation. On 29 April 2003 the Special ASEAN-China Leaders Joint Statement Meeting on the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Bangkok, to promote the exchange of information and sharing of experience in respect of SARS control and prevention.<sup>202</sup>

Moreover, Brunei is one of the ASEAN's member countries on July 6, 2012, the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations included Brunei and the government of the People's Republic of China was adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation in Thailand.<sup>203</sup> The purpose was to promote health cooperation between the two parties based on the principle of equality, mutual benefits, mutual respect and mutual understanding.<sup>204</sup> Furthermore, on 18-20<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the Minister of Health Brunei Darussalam attended The "Belt and Road" High-Level Meeting for Health Cooperation: Towards a Health Silk Road in Beijing, China.<sup>205</sup> The purpose of the meeting was to share health development and strengthen health cooperation among the countries through Health Belt and Road.<sup>206</sup> Responded to Covid-19 the two countries are working together and helping each other by exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in containing and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak as stated by Yu Hong Chinese Ambassador to Brunei

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<sup>202</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations, "Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on the severe acute respiratory syndrome", Last modified April 29, 2003, <https://asean.org/joint-statement-of-the-special-asean-china-leaders-meeting-on-the-severe-acute-respiratory-syndrome-sars-bangkok/> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

<sup>203</sup> Supra note 170

<sup>204</sup> ibid

<sup>205</sup> Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam, "Brunei Darussalam Delegation to Belt and Road High Level Meeting for Health Cooperation", Last modified August 18-20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, <http://www.moh.gov.bn/Lists/Latest%20news/DispForm.aspx?ID=105> (accessed on July 11, 2020).

<sup>206</sup> ibid

during attended a handover ceremony of medical material donations from China in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.<sup>207</sup>

### **3.8. Myanmar-China Relation**

The relations between Myanmar and China have a long history due to both countries sharing borders. Moreover, the two countries strengthen their relations by cooperating on bilateral relations that covering almost every sectors. In 2013, China and Myanmar developed comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit and deepened exchanges and cooperation in political, economic, trade, cultural, people-to-people and military fields.<sup>208</sup>The bilateral relations between both countries have developed from time to time and make the two countries have a strongest relations and fast growth. There is some bilateral relation between Myanmar-China agree to cooperate on the areas of Education and Health sector.

#### **3.8.1. Education**

Education is one of the bilateral relation between Myanmar-China on the way to strengthen their relations. On the education field both countries have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on education system between countries. On 8 October 2003 in Bali, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of South East Asian Nations included Myanmar and the People's Republic of China Joint Declaration strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity that covering almost every sectors included education.<sup>209</sup> Furthermore on 14 January 2015, Myanmar's University of Yangon and Yangon University of Foreign Language (YUFL) signed Memorandums of Understanding respectively with the Beijing Foreign Studies University

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<sup>207</sup> Huaxia, "Asia&Pacific: Brunei receives medical material donations from China", Last modified April 23, 2020, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/23/c\\_139002743.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/23/c_139002743.htm) (accessed on July 11, 2020).

<sup>208</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "China and Myanmar", [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/) (accessed on July 12, 2020).

<sup>209</sup> Supra note 200



(BFSU) of China on educational exchange and strengthening ties between the two nations.<sup>210</sup>The agreement was about the exchanges of students, faculty members, scholars and administrative staff as well as research cooperation in the fields of mutual interest and sharing of academic materials and information.<sup>211</sup>

### **3.8.2. Health**

Health is one of the bilateral relation between Myanmar-China to improve their cooperation. To strengthen their relation the governments of the two countries signed the MOU on Health Cooperation during the adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation between the governments of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the People's Republic of China in Thailand on July 6, 2012.<sup>212</sup> In the purpose to promote health cooperation between the two parties based on the principle of equality, mutual benefits, mutual respect and mutual understanding.<sup>213</sup>Moreover, the two countries make Joined Statement on the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) of the Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on 29 April 2003, in Bangkok.<sup>214</sup>In the purpose to promote the exchange of information and sharing of experience in respect of SARS control and prevention.<sup>215</sup>Furthermore, in response to COVID-19 outbreak, China is the country whose the virus originated has provided the equipment and experiences to Myanmar to fight with COVID-19.<sup>216</sup> Moreover, a team of medical personnel from Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

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<sup>210</sup> ASEAN-China Center, "Myanmar, China signs MOU on Educational Exchange", Last modified January 16, 2015, [http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2015-01/16/c\\_133924611.htm](http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2015-01/16/c_133924611.htm) (accessed on July 12, 2020).

<sup>211</sup> *ibid*

<sup>212</sup> *Supra* note 170

<sup>213</sup> *ibid*

<sup>214</sup> *ibid*

<sup>215</sup> *ibid*

<sup>216</sup> Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, "China provides more ventilators for Myanmar to fight COVID-19 ", Last modified 2020, [http://www.lmcchina.org/eng/sbhz\\_2/t1775049.htm](http://www.lmcchina.org/eng/sbhz_2/t1775049.htm) (accessed on July 13, 2020).

has joined with Myanmar's military medical personnel in providing measures of prevention, control, treatment for COVID-19.

### **3.9. Laos-China Relation**

The relation between Laos and China are developing from time to time, According to Assessment and Prospect of China-Laos Development Cooperation; China has become the most significant factor for Laos in the role of economic development and national independence, while Laos also attaches growing importance to strengthening cooperation with China.<sup>217</sup> Moreover, to strengthen their cooperation the two countries are working on the bilateral relations that covering almost every sector. According to Zhou Yongkang a senior official of the Communist Party of China, he said that

*"China will push forward pragmatic cooperation with Laos in all areas to pursue common prosperity and willing to bring the China-Laos all-around strategic cooperative partnership into practice by carrying out detailed plans, projects and operations".<sup>218</sup>*

There are some bilateral relations between Laos with China on the areas of Education and Health sector.

#### **3.9.1. Education**

Education is one of the bilateral relations between Laos and China cooperation. The two countries cooperated by signed the MOU on the education such as the Memorandum Of Understanding On Establishing The Asean-China Centre Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations And The Government Of The

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<sup>217</sup> Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, "assessment and Prospect of China-Laos Development Cooperation", Last modified September 2016, file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/Documents/20170316\_%E4%B8%AD%E5%9B%BD%E4%B8%8E%E8%80%81%E6%8C%9D%E5%8F%91%E5%B1%95%E5%90%88%E4%BD%9C\_%E8%8B%B1%E6%96%87%E7%89%88\_2.pdf (accessed on July 14, 2020).

<sup>218</sup> Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Laos People's Democratic Republic, "of China to push forward pragmatic cooperation with Laos", Last modified August 20, 2011, <http://la.china-embassy.org/eng/zlgx/zyldrhf/t850203.htm> (accessed on July 14, 2020).

People's Republic Of China.<sup>219</sup>The meaning of the MOU are covering all of the three ASEAN's pillars included Education. Furthermore, on June 12, 2019, Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Teacher Education of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports in Beijing.<sup>220</sup>The two parties agreed to build a “Laos-China International Language and Culture Education and Research Base (Laos Sub-center of Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Language Resources)” in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and Luang Namtha.<sup>221</sup>However, the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of education is improving.

### **3.9.2. Health**

On the area of health sector Laos and China cooperated by signed the MOU such as the Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the People's Republic of China on Health Cooperation.<sup>222</sup>The purpose of the MOU is to focus on the importance of the health cooperation on the three ASEAN's pillars and to strengthen the cooperation, and mutual benefits between the parties. According to Asia & Pacific Edition, the executive vice president of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, and Gosorn Sorsulithane, vice president of Traditional Medicine Research Institute under Lao Public Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on medicinal plants research cooperation.<sup>223</sup>The purpose of the MOU is to focus on both parties will jointly set up a traditional medicine research

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<sup>219</sup> Supra note 210

<sup>220</sup> Beijing Advanced Innovation center for Language resources, “Beijing Language and Culture University Signs a MOU with the Department of Teacher Education of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports”, Last modified Jun 12, 2019, <http://yuyanzyuan.blcu.edu.cn/en/info/1065/2029.htm> (accessed on July 17, 2020).

<sup>221</sup> *ibid*

<sup>222</sup> Supra note 170

<sup>223</sup> Asia & Pacific Edition, "China, Laos ink MoU on medicinal plants research cooperation", Last modified April 17, 2018, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-04/17/c\\_137118100.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-04/17/c_137118100.htm) (accessed on July 17, 2020).

centre, which will carry out comparative studies of Chinese and Lao medicinal plants, train Lao medicinal plant resources researchers, and effectively improve medicinal plant resources exploration and application in Laos.<sup>224</sup> Furthermore, in response to Covid-19 the two countries are working together by sharing the experience and epidemic prevention and control.<sup>225</sup> As stated by Lao ambassador to China Khamphao Ernthavanh,

*"She said the China-Laos relationship is not under lockdown despite the epidemic. On the contrary, the two countries support and assist each other in the COVID-19 fight and other areas."*<sup>226</sup>

### **3.10. Cambodia-China Relation**

Cambodia-China relations can be traced back to the early history of Cambodia when a Chinese diplomat paid a visit to Cambodia in the 13th Century both countries can be a close and old friend.<sup>227</sup> Moreover, China is a country always provides aid and assistance to Cambodia especially financial support and Loan with concession and interest-free since Cambodia is a developing country.<sup>228</sup> As stated by Mr. HUOT Sokunthea and Mr. NUCH Ramo,

*"Cambodia is one of the aid-dependent countries whose economic development relies heavily on foreign investment and financial and technical assistance from outside countries."*<sup>229</sup>

Recently, the relations between Cambodia-China are improving. China has become a special contributor to socio-economic development to Cambodia and becomes a good partnership to facilitate investment and trade between the two countries.<sup>230</sup> According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia "Joint

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<sup>224</sup> ibid

<sup>225</sup> Zhang Han, "NPC & CPPCC Annual Sessions 202: Lao ambassador hails China-Laos cooperation in fight against COVID-19", May 26, 2020, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/26/c\\_139083142.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/26/c_139083142.htm) (accessed on July 17, 2020).

<sup>226</sup> ibid

<sup>227</sup> Mr. HUOT Sokunthea and Mr. NUCH Ramo, "The Roles of China's Aid to Cambodia's Socio-Economic Development", Last modified 2016, file:///C:/Users/ACER/Downloads/Documents/Selected%20CICP%20Publications%202016.pdf (accessed on July 17, 2020).

<sup>228</sup> ibid

<sup>229</sup> ibid

<sup>230</sup> ibid

statement between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China", both countries agreed to expand the exchanges and cooperation in almost every fields included Education and Health sector in the purpose to strengthen their cooperation.<sup>231</sup>

### **3.10.1. Education**

Education is one of the bilateral relations between Cambodia-China to strengthen their cooperation. Cambodia is a developing country so Cambodia needs the human resource to develop the country. So, that the cooperation between Cambodia-China in the area of education is very important. According to Mr. HUOT Sokunthea and Mr. NUCH Ramo stated on "The Roles of China's Aid to Cambodia's Socio-Economic Development",

*"Besides foreign direct investment, infrastructure development, trade relations, and ODA, China also provides funding to support education and human resource development in Cambodia. As a country emerging from decades of civil conflicts, Cambodia lacks human capital, which is a crucial requirement undergirding all forms of development. The lack of well-trained teachers, limited schools, low teacher salaries, and other necessary facilities constrain the quality of Cambodian education. Given this, educational support is needed to ensure the development of human resources. Many countries and international organizations have provided financial and technical support for Cambodia to provide better quality education to her people, particularly the younger generation which will be an important force behind Cambodia's future prosperity and development."*<sup>232</sup>

Through the cooperation on education, China contributed lots significantly to Cambodia such as funded aid, scholarships, training programs, and volunteer programs.<sup>233</sup> Furthermore, Cambodia-China has signed a lot of the MoU related to education such as; the Memorandum Of Understanding On Establishing The Asean-China Centre Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations And The Government Of The People's Republic Of China.<sup>234</sup> On 19 May 2019, a primary school from China signed a

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<sup>231</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, "Joint statement between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Republic of China", Last modified May 19, 2017, <https://www.mfaic.gov.kh/site/detail/10447> (accessed on July 20, 2020).

<sup>232</sup> Supra note 236

<sup>233</sup> ibid

<sup>234</sup> Supra note 210

Memorandum of Understanding with a primary school in Phnom Penh on an exchange program aimed at improving the quality of education in the Kingdom.<sup>235</sup>

### 3.10.2. Health

Health is one of Cambodia-China bilateral relation to developing their cooperation. On the area of the health sector, both countries cooperated by signed the MoU together such as; the Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the government of the People's Republic of China on Health Cooperation.<sup>236</sup> A Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the ASEAN-China Centre Between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China.<sup>237</sup> The both of the MoU is focused on the Multilateral between the ASEAN members states included Cambodia with China cooperated on the area of the health sector in order to strengthen their relations. Moreover, on 9 October 2019, Cambodia-China signed the Memorandum of Understanding to help eliminate cataract blindness in Cambodia.<sup>238</sup> According to Xinhua,

*"GX Foundation is a Chinese non-profit and non-governmental organization registered in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with the object of providing humanitarian aid in the public health sector, as stated by Leung"*<sup>239</sup>

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<sup>235</sup> Sen David, Khmer Times: "Chinese school signs MoU on exchange programme", last modified May 23, 2019, <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50606917/chinese-school-signs-mou-on-exchange-programme/> (accessed on July 21, 2020).

<sup>236</sup> Supra note 170

<sup>237</sup> ASEAN, "Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the Asean-China Centre Between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China", <https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/archive/15thsummit/MoU-Establishing-ASEAN-China.pdf> (accessed on July 21, 2020).

<sup>238</sup> China.Org.cn, "China's GX Foundation sign MoU to help eliminate cataract blindness in Cambodia", Last modified October 9, 2019, [http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off\\_the\\_Wire/2019-10/09/content\\_75282560.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2019-10/09/content_75282560.htm) (accessed on July 21, 2020).

<sup>239</sup> ibid

Moreover, in response to Covid-19 outbreak, China helped Cambodia by sent the Chinese experts to share the experiences and the medical equipment to help Cambodia to fight and to prevent the virus.<sup>240</sup>

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<sup>240</sup>The States Council information office the People's Republic of China, "A race against virus: Chinese medical experts help neighboring countries battle COVID-19", Last modified April 8, 2020, [http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/in-depth/2020-04/08/content\\_75907083.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/in-depth/2020-04/08/content_75907083.htm) (accessed on July 28, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

The relations between ASEAN-China started from 1991, when H.E Qian Qichen Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China attended the opening session of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 1991 in Kula Lumpur as a guest of the Malaysian government. In 1996 China accorded full Dialogue Partner status at the 29<sup>th</sup> AMM in July, Jakarta. After that ASEAN-China has very close relations together and becomes a good partnership almost every sectors included health and education.

In this research study, we have studied about ASEAN-China relations through the areas of education and health sectors, in which we have questioned about why ASEAN-China decided to cooperated and strengthen their relations through these two areas.

In this research paper has found out that education and health sectors are the most importance factors for ASEAN-China to strengthen their relations because education and health sectors are linked together to create human resource that most of ASEAN countries needed to develop their countries. As we see that most of the ASEAN's countries are developing countries the qualities of education and health sector still have a limitation, though countries need more the educated peoples and guarantee that their people are livings with healthier in order to develop their countries. Moreover, cooperating on the areas of education and health sectors helped ASEAN-China get closer and closer because it can allow the peoples of the two parties getting closer through their collaboration's activities. However, education and health sectors are not only the most importance factors for ASEAN-China to strengthen their relations but also allow them to gains more beneficial.

In addition, our research papers had discussed about the Bilateral and Multilateral of the ASEAN-China cooperation through the two areas. We found that ASEAN-China have set the plan for the future achieving together such as; The ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2016-2020



signed on 8 October 2003, to enhance and elevate the strategic partnership, friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation and good neighborliness between ASEAN and China for the period of 2016-2020. Furthermore, the two parties joint statement on Synergizing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and Belt and Road Initiative on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Summit in Bangkok. The cooperation was covering almost every sector including education and health sectors. Though agreement specially focused on strengthen their relations and mutually beneficial cooperation. Within this, we agreed on the same line with Anthony R. Welch said that higher education is the ASEAN-China developing relations and its can be potentially gains more benefits for both sides. He asserted that ASEAN member states are positioning themselves as best they can to take advantage of the China market, including in educational services, as China seeks to extend its soft power regionally.

Moreover, we also agreed in the same line with Jacob KUMARESAN and Suvi HUIKURI who claimed on their ERIA Discussion Paper Series: "Strengthening Regional Cooperation, Coordination, and Response to Health Concerns in the ASEAN Region: Status, Challenges, and Ways Forward" that the regional cooperation on the Health sector among the countries is very important, ASEAN should strengthen their health cooperation with the regional collaboration. They raised example that, as people increasingly travel across country borders, infectious diseases spread wider and faster so the countries need to have the cooperation and develop their strategies in order to fight and to prevent with the spreading of the diseases as the case of Coronavirus outbreak, spreading, and harmful to the world. China is a country where Covid-19 originated has tried to cooperate with the ASEAN countries and others countries to combat with this virus.

Furthermore, we are strongly supported to Yanzhong Huang who stated on his journal that since 2003, China has been actively engaging Southeast Asian countries in health-related

cooperation. He said that China cooperation with ASEAN countries has focused on combating diseases as Non-traditional security (NTS) threat, thereby creating a stable security environment for its economic development while reassuring regional nations that its rise does not threaten them. Moreover, he also said that in March 2005, China proposed to include public health and four other areas as priorities for cooperation with ASEAN by established the “China-ASEAN Public Health Fund” to finance the health-related activities and projects.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- China should be find more effective actions in response to Covid-19 outbreak, since China is a country which Covid-19 originated.
- China and ASEAN relation should be establishing more framework that focus on health and education sector since most of the ASEAN countries are developing countries so human resource development are very importance.
- There should be more establishment of the Bilateral and Multilateral agreement between ASEAN and China on the area of Education and Health sector.
- China should support ASEAN by providing more funding such as providing more Scholarship, building school and hospital, giving aid to improve the modern learning and technology in order to develop the quality of education and healthcare.
- China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week should be more active by creating more activities and providing more opportunities for ASEAN-China's students to gains more knowledge.
- Allowing each countries to inspect each other health and education systems, which would allow individual nations to get an in-depth images of the ASEAN nations of what they lacked and what is needed for improvement in those sectors.

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