

(Translation)

H.E. Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister

The Republic of Singapore, Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Singapore

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of China-ASEAN strategic partnership, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government, warm congratulations to you and through you, to the governments of all ASEAN member states.

China was the first to accede to the *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia* in 2003, and the first to establish a strategic partnership with ASEAN. Thanks to the concerted efforts of China and ASEAN countries over the past 15 years, China-ASEAN relations have maintained sound and steady development, as evidenced by stronger political mutual trust, closer business ties, fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation, and unprecedentedly robust people-to-people exchanges. This relationship has delivered tangible benefits to the two billion people of our both sides, and promoted peace, stability and prosperity of this region and beyond.

China-ASEAN relations, which are set to mature and upgrade, are embracing new opportunities. China has all along seen ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy. China is committed to be ASEAN's good partner for common development, peace, greater openness, win-win progress, innovation, inclusiveness and mutual learning. We will work with ASEAN to build a strategic partnership at a higher level and an even stronger community with a shared future, taking our relations to an even brighter future.

Li Keqiang

Premier of the State Council
The People's Republic of China

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