

Promotion of China-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance

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Abstract: This paper explores the role and impact of the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance in promoting the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and ASEAN. By reviewing the longstanding cooperation foundation and development process between China and ASEAN countries, the paper analyzes the background, objectives, and achievements of the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance. It discusses the alliance's role in promoting bilateral relations development from the perspectives of educational cooperation, cultural exchange, and technological innovation, and provides prospects for the alliance's development. Furthermore, the paper proposes relevant suggestions for further strengthening cooperation.

Keywords: China-ASEAN relations, international education development, educational cooperation

1. Introduction

China and ASEAN countries have always been important partners to each other, with close ties and cooperation in politics, economy, culture, and other fields. As the influence of China and ASEAN countries in global affairs continues to grow, their cooperation has deepened. Against this backdrop, educational exchange and cooperation have become crucial in promoting bilateral relations. The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance has emerged to facilitate cooperation and exchange in the field of education, injecting new impetus and vitality into the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and ASEAN.

2. China-ASEAN Cooperation Foundation

2.1 Historical Review of China-ASEAN Cooperation

China's cooperation with ASEAN countries has a long history, dating back to ancient times, particularly during the period of the Silk Road (Yang et al., 2023). Over two thousand years ago, China engaged in extensive trade and cultural exchanges with the Southeast Asian region. These exchanges not only facilitated the spread of goods and culture but also deepened mutual understanding and friendship between the two sides.

With the evolution of history, especially since the 20th century, China's cooperation with ASEAN countries has entered a new stage. From the 1950s to the 1970s, China and ASEAN countries actively supported each other's independence and autonomous development politically. During this period, they united to address external pressures, safeguarding regional peace and stability. In 1971, with China's restoration of its lawful seat in the United Nations, its relations with ASEAN countries were further strengthened, formalizing diplomatic ties. In 1989, China and ASEAN signed the "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation," laying a solid foundation for future cooperation.^[1]

This historical review illustrates that the cooperation between China and ASEAN countries not only has deep historical roots but has also continued to grow and develop in modern times. Through political

trust and mutual cooperation, the two sides have deepened their understanding and friendship, laying a solid foundation for closer cooperation in the future.

2.2 Overview of Cooperation Areas and Achievements

Cooperation between China and ASEAN countries covers multiple areas including politics, economy, culture, education, and technology, yielding fruitful results.

In the political sphere, both sides have strengthened high-level visits and political dialogues, establishing stable cooperation mechanisms (Tan & Chin, 2020). This political cooperation has not only enhanced mutual trust and understanding but also provided a common platform and stance for addressing regional and international issues.

Economically, both sides signed the "China-ASEAN Free Trade Area Agreement," promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, deepening economic complementarity (Bi, 2021). The implementation of this agreement has not only promoted the economic development of both sides but also provided a more convenient trade environment for enterprises inside and outside the region.

In the cultural field, various cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and tourism activities have been held, enhancing understanding and friendship among the people. These cultural exchange activities have not only enriched the cultural life of both peoples but also promoted the prosperity and development of the regional cultural industry.^[2]

Through joint efforts, various cooperation mechanisms and platforms have been established, such as the China-ASEAN Expo, East Asia cooperation, and Mekong cooperation, continuously expanding the depth and breadth of cooperation. These cooperative achievements have benefited not only the countries and peoples of both sides but also made positive contributions to regional peace and development processes.

3. Establishment and Development of China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance

3.1 Background and Motivation of the Alliance

The establishment of the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance stems from the common desire and urgent need of China and ASEAN countries to strengthen educational cooperation. Education, as an important means to promote cultural exchanges and enhance mutual understanding, is considered a key area for promoting comprehensive cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

3.1.1 Effective Approach to Educational Cooperation

Both sides recognize that educational cooperation is an effective approach to enhancing cultural exchanges and mutual understanding. Through educational exchanges and cooperation, it is conducive to deepening friendly relations among countries in the region and enhancing mutual understanding and trust. This education-based cooperation also lays a solid foundation for deeper comprehensive cooperation in the future.^[3]

3.1.2 Addressing Global Educational Challenges

Facing the challenges of education in the context of globalization, China and ASEAN countries need to strengthen cooperation to jointly address various challenges in the field of education (Yan & Xu, 2020) and enhance the overall competitiveness of the region. Trends such as internationalization, digitization, and diversification of education pose new requirements and challenges for education systems and teaching models. Through cooperation, both sides can explore effective strategies to address these challenges and improve the quality and level of education.

3.1.3 Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative

Educational cooperation is also an important part of promoting the Belt and Road Initiative. Strengthening cooperation between China and ASEAN countries in the field of education helps promote the development of education in countries along the Belt and Road, enhance the level of talent cultivation, and promote the sharing and exchange of educational resources in the region. Through educational cooperation, it is possible to further strengthen the connection and cooperation among

countries along the Belt and Road, achieve complementary advantages, and promote common development.

In summary, the establishment of the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance has profound historical background and practical motivations. Both sides look forward to promoting the development of regional education and advancing the process of regional peace and prosperity through educational cooperation.

3.2 Objectives and Tasks of the Alliance

3.2.1 Objectives of the Alliance

3.2.1.1 Strengthening Education Policy Dialogue and Exchange

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance aims to strengthen education policy dialogue and exchange to promote the reform and development of the education systems of both sides. The core of this objective lies in promoting the coordination and uniformity of education policies through in-depth exchanges and cooperation. By regularly holding education policy dialogue meetings, high-level consultations, and other forms of communication, both sides engage in extensive discussions on education systems, curriculum design, teaching methods, and other aspects, enhancing mutual understanding and jointly formulating and implementing education policies to provide policy guarantees and guidance for educational cooperation (Huang & Fang, 2023).

3.2.1.2 Deepening the Sharing and Cooperation of Educational Resources

The Alliance is committed to deepening the sharing and cooperation of educational resources to promote the complementary and optimized allocation of educational resources. By establishing cooperation mechanisms and platforms, both sides can share teaching resources, research results, educational technologies, etc., thereby improving the quality and level of education. This includes the sharing of teaching materials, teaching methods, as well as cross-school cooperation and exchanges of education experts, teachers, students, etc. By promoting the sharing and cooperation of educational resources, the Alliance aims to meet the diverse educational needs of countries in the region and promote the common development of regional education.^[4]

3.2.2 Tasks of the Alliance

3.2.2.1 Establishing Sound Cooperation Mechanisms and Platforms

To achieve the above objectives, the Alliance has formulated a series of tasks. The first is to establish sound cooperation mechanisms and platforms to promote exchanges and cooperation between both sides in education policies, curriculum design, teaching methods, etc. By organizing activities such as education policy seminars, teaching method exchange meetings, etc., continuous momentum and support are provided for educational cooperation to ensure the smooth operation of cooperation mechanisms.

3.2.2.2 Promoting the Sharing and Utilization of Educational Resources

Secondly, the Alliance is dedicated to promoting the sharing and utilization of educational resources. By conducting joint research projects, teacher exchanges, student visits, and other activities, it facilitates the sharing and utilization of educational resources. Through transnational cooperation projects, all parties utilize educational resources to their fullest extent, jointly enhancing the quality and level of education, and promoting the development of regional education.

3.2.2.3 Strengthening Talent Cultivation and Research Cooperation

Finally, the Alliance focuses on strengthening talent cultivation and research cooperation. By promoting the internationalization of higher education institutions on both sides, nurturing talents adaptable to regional development needs, and enhancing research cooperation, the Alliance aims to enhance the overall innovation capabilities of the region, injecting new vitality and impetus into the region's economic development and social progress.

3.3 Major Achievements Since the Establishment of the Alliance

Since its establishment, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance has achieved numerous accomplishments, covering policy dialogues, project cooperation, and cultural exchanges, among other aspects.

At the policy level, both sides have strengthened dialogue and coordination on education policies, promoting the reform and development of education systems. Through regular high-level dialogue meetings, education policy seminars, and other activities, both sides have engaged in in-depth exchanges and discussions on education reform, curriculum design, teaching methods, etc. This policy-level cooperation helps countries learn from each other's successful experiences, jointly address challenges in the education field, and promote progress and development in education.

In terms of project cooperation, both sides have conducted a series of collaborative projects covering education, research cooperation, talent cultivation, and other fields. Through joint research projects, teacher training, student exchanges, etc., both sides have strengthened the sharing and cooperation of educational resources, enhancing the quality and level of education. These project collaborations not only promote the development of education in both sides but also provide strong support for talent cultivation and technological innovation in the region.

In terms of cultural exchanges, various education forums and academic exchange activities have been held, deepening the mutual understanding and cooperation among education professionals on both sides. Through exchanges, visits, academic discussions, and other forms, both sides have strengthened the connections and cooperation among education professionals, promoting the common development of regional education. These cultural exchanges not only enhance friendship and cooperation among the people of the region but also lay a solid foundation for deeper cooperation in the future.^[5]

In summary, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance has achieved fruitful results since its establishment, playing an important role in policy dialogues, project cooperation, cultural exchanges, etc., and making positive contributions to the development of regional education and the strengthening of regional cooperation.

4. Role of the Alliance in Educational Cooperation

4.1 Sharing and Exchange of Educational Resources

4.1.1 Sharing of Educational Resources

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance is committed to promoting the sharing and exchange of educational resources. In this regard, the Alliance encourages educational institutions from both sides to engage in the sharing and cooperation of educational resources by establishing cooperation mechanisms and platforms. This includes the sharing of teaching materials, teaching methods, curriculum designs, and the collaboration and exchange of talents such as education experts, teachers, and students across schools.

4.1.2 Exchange of Educational Resources

Through organizing educational exchange activities, academic seminars, international education exhibitions, and other forms, the cross-border exchange of educational resources has been facilitated. Educational institutions from both sides have conducted activities such as teacher training, student exchanges, and education exhibitions, enriching the sources and forms of educational resources. Additionally, with the development of information technology, the digitization of educational resources sharing and exchange has been promoted.

Through the sharing and exchange of educational resources, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance provides significant support for enhancing the quality and level of education in the region. This cooperation not only enriches the sources and forms of educational resources but also promotes cooperation and exchanges between educational institutions from both sides, injecting new vitality and impetus into the development of regional education.

4.2 Education Project Cooperation and Implementation

4.2.1 Education Project Cooperation

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance has achieved fruitful results in education project cooperation. Both sides have carried out a series of cooperative projects covering areas such as educational reform, discipline construction, and scientific research cooperation. These projects aim to collectively address challenges in the education sector, enhance education quality, and promote regional talent cultivation and technological innovation.^[6]

4.2.2 Implementation of Education Projects

During the project implementation process, the Alliance emphasizes win-win cooperation and fully leverages the strengths and resources of all parties involved. Through collaborative efforts, the Alliance ensures the smooth progress and successful outcomes of projects. Encouraging enhanced communication and feedback among parties, adjustments to project implementation plans are made promptly to maximize project benefits.^[7-8]

The cooperation and implementation of education projects not only promote the development of education sectors on both sides but also provide significant support for talent cultivation and technological innovation in the region. Such project cooperation not only expands the depth and breadth of cooperation in the education field but also establishes long-term and stable cooperative relationships between both sides, injecting new vitality and impetus into the progress and development of regional education.

4.3 Dialogue and Coordination of Education Policies

4.3.1 Dialogue on Education Policies

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance promotes communication and exchange between both sides on education policies through regular education policy dialogue meetings, high-level consultations, and other forms. Through these dialogues, in-depth discussions on education systems, curriculum settings, teaching methods, and other aspects are conducted, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting policy coordination and cooperation.

4.3.2 Coordination of Education Policies

In terms of coordinating education policies, the Alliance focuses on addressing issues and obstacles encountered in education cooperation between both sides, promoting policy coordination and unity. Through dialogue and consultation, both sides jointly formulate a series of policy documents and action plans for education cooperation, providing policy guarantees and guidance. Additionally, the Alliance encourages enhanced alignment and coordination of education regulations, creating a favorable policy environment to facilitate the deepening development of education cooperation.

Through dialogue and coordination of education policies, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance provides important support and guarantees for education cooperation between both sides. This policy-level cooperation not only helps solve problems and obstacles encountered in cooperation but also provides policy guidance and guarantees for the development of education sectors on both sides, promoting the progress and development of regional education.

5. Alliance's Role in Cultural Exchange and Technological Innovation

5.1 Cultural Exchange and Language Communication

5.1.1 Cultural Exchange

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance plays a crucial role in promoting cultural exchange. By organizing cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and cultural forums, it deepens mutual understanding and awareness of each other's cultures among the people on both sides. These activities not only showcase the unique cultural charm of each side but also promote the development and cooperation of cultural industries. Cultural exchange enriches people's spiritual lives and lays a solid foundation for friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

5.1.2 Language Communication

Language communication is an essential means of cultural exchange. The Alliance enhances the language proficiency and communication skills of personnel on both sides through language training, translation exchanges, and other activities. Simultaneously, it strengthens the teaching and research of Chinese and languages of ASEAN countries (such as English, Thai, Indonesian, etc.), providing linguistic support for cultural exchange. This strengthening of language communication not only facilitates communication and understanding between people but also provides an important foundation and guarantee for cooperation and development between the two sides.

Through cultural exchange and language communication, the China-ASEAN International

Education Development Alliance promotes humanistic exchange and understanding between the two countries. This exchange not only enriches people's cultural lives but also injects new vitality and impetus into cooperation and development between the two sides. At the same time, strengthening language communication also provides more convenient conditions and guarantees for cooperation and exchange in various fields between both sides.

5.2 Technological Innovation Cooperation and Talent Cultivation

5.2.1 Technological Innovation Cooperation

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance is committed to promoting technological innovation cooperation. Both sides have carried out a series of collaborative research projects covering fields such as information technology, biomedicine, and environmental protection. Through joint research, technology exchange, and transfer, the translation and application of technological innovation achievements have been facilitated. This cooperation not only contributes to the common progress of both sides in the field of technology but also provides crucial support for the sustainable development of the region.

5.2.2 Talent Cultivation

Talent cultivation is a crucial guarantee for technological innovation. The Alliance promotes the exchange and cultivation of talents on both sides by establishing mechanisms and platforms for talent cultivation. Joint training programs and research internships have been conducted by universities on both sides, cultivating talents with international perspectives and innovative capabilities, thus providing talent support for regional technological innovation. These talents have made outstanding contributions to academic research, technological innovation, and economic development in the region, injecting new vitality and impetus.

Through technological innovation cooperation and talent cultivation, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance injects new vitality into regional technological innovation and development. This cooperation not only promotes the common progress of both sides in the field of technology but also makes significant contributions to the sustainable development and prosperity of the region. Meanwhile, strengthening talent cultivation also provides reliable support for talent development and technological innovation in the region.

5.3 Interdisciplinary Cooperation and Industry-Academia Collaboration

5.3.1 Interdisciplinary Cooperation

Interdisciplinary cooperation is a crucial way to promote technological innovation. The Alliance encourages both sides to carry out interdisciplinary cooperation projects, integrating their respective advantageous resources to solve complex problems. Through interdisciplinary cooperation, the exchange of knowledge and collision of innovative thinking are promoted, facilitating the leapfrog development of technological innovation. This cooperation model breaks down disciplinary boundaries, promotes communication and cooperation between different fields, and provides new ideas and methods for solving major scientific problems and addressing complex challenges.

5.3.2 Industry-Academia Collaboration

Industry-academia collaboration is an important approach to promote the transformation and application of technological achievements. The Alliance promotes the deep integration of industry, academia, and research by establishing mechanisms and platforms for industry-academia collaboration. Joint research and development, technology transfer, and talent training activities have been conducted by both sides, accelerating the commercialization and industrialization of technological achievements and promoting the upgrading and transformation of regional industrial structure. This integration effectively combines research results with practical production, promotes the transformation and application of technological innovation achievements, and drives the development and upgrading of regional industries.

Through interdisciplinary cooperation and industry-academia collaboration, the China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance injects new vitality into regional technological innovation and industrial development. This cooperation model breaks down disciplinary and industrial boundaries, promotes communication and cooperation between different fields, and provides crucial support and guarantee for the sustainable development and economic prosperity of the region.

Meanwhile, strengthening industry-academia collaboration also provides a solid foundation and guarantee for the upgrading of industries and technological innovation on both sides.

6. Conclusion

The China-ASEAN International Education Development Alliance, as an important platform and mechanism for promoting the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and ASEAN, plays an irreplaceable role. Through educational cooperation, cultural exchanges, and technological innovation, the Alliance has promoted the deepening and expansion of relations between the two sides. However, it is also necessary for both parties to continue strengthening cooperation, continuously improving the Alliance mechanism, and addressing challenges in the new situation to achieve the goal of win-win cooperation and common development.

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