

# **Keynote Speech**

**by**

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**Chairman of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council**  
**(APRC)**  
**Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign**  
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**at**

**Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)**  
**Forum on “Belt and Road” Cooperation and Asia**  
**Business Conference**

**co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China**  
**and Fujian Provincial People’s Government**

**Fuzhou, China, 18-19 May 2015**

Excellency Wang Qinmin, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of CPPCC and Chairman of All- China Federation of Industry and Commerce,

Excellency, You Quan, Party Secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee,

Excellency, Su Shulin, Governor of Fujian Province,

Excellency, Liu Zhenmin, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China,

Excellency Yang Yue, Party Secretary of CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee ,

Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Heads of Delegation from ACD Countries,

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to be invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and Fujian Provincial People's Government to deliver a Keynote Address to the ACD Forum on "Belt and Road" Cooperation and Asia Business Conference organized in this beautiful and important city of Fuzhou, of Fujian Province today. I have to commend the organizer for selecting such a timely topic for our exchanges of view in the next two days.

The venue of Fuzhou, Fujian Province is also most appropriate for the "Belt and Road" Conference as Fujian has

been assigned by the Government of China to be a “Core Zone” for the Maritime Silk Road.

Moreover, over 600 years ago Mr Zheng He’s journey to the world left from a county in Fuzhou where he visited many countries in Asia including my country, Thailand.

Accordingly, we are bonded together by both history and by present day maritime cooperation.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

When I proposed the idea of Asia Cooperation Dialogue at the International Conference on Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Manila in 2000, only two years passed by when foreign affairs ministers of 18 Asian countries met in Cha-am, Thailand to launch ACD and discuss areas of cooperation and modalities of our cooperation. The principles of comfort level, volunteer in joining any cooperation project, inclusiveness of the group, informality and building strength out of diversity were agreed as a cornerstone for ACD cooperation. From 2002 to 2015 ACD has grown to encompass 33 countries from West Asia to Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia (ASEAN) and East Asia Regions with over 20 projects ranging from SMEs to education, tourism and financial cooperation. The annual Foreign Ministers Meeting at different venues hosted alternately by members and informal meetings at the sideline of the UN General Assembly meeting have moved ACD to a high level of close cooperation, with the first Summit hosted by Kuwait in 2013 and the second Summit is about to be hosted by Thailand in 2016.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Having some experiences of chairing ACD Foreign Minister's meeting twice and attending two other Annual Meetings, including as a Deputy Prime Minister representing the Prime Minister of Thailand at the Opening Session of ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting with then Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan and former Premier Wen Jia Pao of China in Islamabad, I could strongly attest to you all that the ACD family and the discussions we had are far different from any other fora I had ever been through. The atmosphere of confidence and trust, the spirit of cooperation by leaving bilateral conflicts behind and a vision of "building strength out of diversity" have bonded all countries into what could be seen as a Community of Asia, an Asian family where values and potentials are shared while remaining differences untouched and understood.

In the past two years, we have seen new initiatives from the Chinese leadership i.e. "One Belt and One Road" which includes the 21st century Silk Road and the new Maritime Silk Road with the newly established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB), China -ASEAN Maritime Fund and several initiatives to link China and ASEAN and the rest of Asia. Of the latest is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). To me these initiatives coupled with the USD240 billion reserve pooling among ASEAN+3, China Japan and South Korea under Chiangmai Initiative Multilateralisation and the Asia Bond Market launched under ACD years ago form a reality that physical and financial connectivity is actually taking place in Asia.

With the One Belt and One Road, over 40 countries in Asia will benefit from improved infrastructure especially sea

and airports, roads and railroads, oil and gas pipelines. This will obviously benefit trade, both in goods and services, investment, consumption, and capital markets in Asia. Those outside the Asian region will also benefit similarly in this economically borderless world, a world of virtual connectivity.

In this connection, I appreciate the Chinese effort to bring Asian countries to a prosperous future. I recall President Xi Jin Ping's speech at the Opening of Boao Forum for Asia Conference in late March this year that "if you want to walk fast, walk alone, if you want to walk far, walk together." Working with ACD with established mechanism and working modalities will complement the Chinese effort to walk together with most of Asian nations. Asian people will have a better living standard, poverty will be reduced and business will grow for all to benefit. In this way, the Chinese policies derived from President Xi Jin Ping's speech at the 18<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress in early March this year of i.e. peace, development cooperation and win-win situation can be clearly seen in the Chinese foreign economic policy as well. The new initiatives reflect Chinese emphasis on peace, on cooperation with all countries large and small, near and far and intention for better living standard of all people on the Asian Continent.

The new initiatives aim to create the win-win situation, i.e. for all to walk far by walking together.

It is indeed gratifying to see ACD Forum on One Belt and One Road Cooperation. It will be even more gratifying and exciting to see the initiatives accepted by ACD members and to see the initiatives gaining support to become a reality.

Although several parts of the Silk Road have already been implemented, the rest of the implementation relies also on comfort level, confidence, volunteerism and inclusiveness of the initiative, all the requirements which are the cornerstone of ACD and have been practiced for over a decade.

I truly believe that One Road and One Belt with support from ACD will make the new initiatives successful and will strengthen pragmatic cooperation under ACD. With these combinations which can be mutually reinforcing, the theme of Boao Forum for Asia Conference in late March this year of moving towards a community of common destiny will be clearly understood, accepted and successfully implemented.