

Analysis on the Development Framework of China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future under the Mechanism of Inclusiveness and Cooperation

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Abstract. The inclusive and cooperative thoughts were used to explore the new framework and the order of “China-ASEAN community with a shared future”. Through analyzing the facing problems and transformation of development path under the framework, the writer discussed the new thoughts and plans on how to promote the local development, soften the regional contradicts, and develop closer relationships.

Keywords: inclusiveness and cooperation; a community with a shared future; development path; cooperation framework.

1. Introduction

The recovering economy has made all the countries increasingly closer, and inclusiveness and cooperation have been the new trend in the development of international relations. “China-ASEAN community with a shared future” is exactly in such new international background. We should view the development among regions from a new perspective. If we can look at the model and framework from the aspect of inclusiveness and cooperation, we will have a clearer and direct cognition with the new order between China and ASEAN and direction for regional development.

2. Existing Problems under the Development Framework of “China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future”

2.1 Lack High Political Trust

The biggest problem faced by the “China-ASEAN community with a shared future” is lacking mutual trust, especially in politics, and the most obvious is the dispute over the South China Sea and influence of “China threat theory”. Both of them failed to realize the effect of their positions, behaviors and attitudes on each other, and they haven’t found an appropriate model for communication and cooperation. Mutual trust is key to the community and our cooperation framework. Regarding this point, Chinese leaders have always attached importance to mutual trust. Recent years have witnessed the development of our political trust, especially in solving the problem of ethnic Chinese and regularly holding summits. It can be found that our political trust order is experiencing gradual establishment and perfection. But it still takes a long time for the two countries to establish high political trust, which requires us to set aside our disputes and alertness over the South China Sea, make political communication in a friendly manner, and build up our political trust under the mechanism of inclusiveness and cooperation.

2.2 Insufficient Internal Cultural Identity

Cultural identity is of great significance to such regional community with a shared future like China and ASEAN, which can be seen from the efforts of the European Union (EU) in developing, cultural legislation and cultural identity. To some degree, cultural identity is different from outside internal identity, and the former is mainly meaning that both sides have common interests and shared future, and they approve the core basic values of inclusiveness and cooperation within the community [1]. In fact, since Zheng He’s journey to the Atlantic over two hundred years ago, there have been some cultural communication between China and Southeast Asia. At that time, cultural identity was showed in the worship of all Southeast countries for China and the friendship with Zheng He. Along

with the increasing connection between China and ASEAN, our cultural development has been strengthened. However, there also exists the lack of cultural identity, which is the result of ASEAN deeply influenced by western culture in modern development. And now, it is intervened and manipulated in politics by America, so it is alert to the socialism with Chinese characteristics. For another, it is afraid of being culturally assimilated due to the huge gap of national power. And China should also be vigilant to the bad purpose of western culture's peaceful transformation in the cultural communication with ASEAN. Only integrating cultural identity with internal economic and political cooperation can we better realize our mutual benefit and development.

2.3 Different Degrees of Economic Development

To develop domestic economy and realize national interests is the basic purpose of all countries in international relations, so it is in the development of community. The increasing economic trade and communication of China-ASEAN community has promoted the economy of both sides. However, it is the degree and balance of our economic development that should be highlighted. Obviously, China is superior than ASEAN in economic gross and development rate. Even though our internal economic cooperation and trade can be strengthened to some extent, there is more restriction of trade protection due to different development degree. Both of us have the common situation of large population and abundant cheap labor force. In addition, our competition is far bigger than the cooperation and assistance during the transferring of international industries. There are some overlapping parts in our industrial structure, and both of us severely rely on European and American market. So, China and ASEAN have less dependence on each other. All of these factors have brought enormous challenges for the common economy of regional community.

3. The Transformation of the Development Path of “China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future”

3.1 Inclusive and Integrated Cooperation between China and ASEAN

Since ancient times, China has promoted that “harmony is the most precious”, and numerous saints advocated “harmony” and inclusiveness, which is the profound cultural deposits manifested by China, an ancient civilization. In addition, it is the core value of developing “China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future “. Due to the special geological positions and history of both sides, the relationship is cooperative but vigilant. And the countries of ASEAN ever were tributaries for China in the past. So, it is natural for them to be alert with China's prosperity and the development of our community, and afraid that current pattern and status will be dramatically changed. Inclusive cooperation means respecting the differences, finding the overlapping interests and integrating them on the basis of seeking common principles. Such integrated mode is corresponding with Chinese cultural connotation and the internal development within ASEAN, so openness and positiveness will provide more opportunities for the development of “China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future” [2].

3.2 The Connection of China's “The Belt and Road” Initiatives and ASEAN Strategic Path

“The Belt and Road” Initiatives is the significant strategy and pattern for Chinese development in the new period, while ASEAN plays a vital part in the construction. Establishing a good relationship with all countries of ASEAN is in line with its own development strategy. China hopes to foster the diplomatic relations with other countries, and expand our development to other regions even the whole world, which is also a great opportunity for ASEAN. They can develop and construct themselves with the help of China's reform and opening up. B&R is of great integration in regional development strategy, mechanism and system. Firstly, its infrastructure construction and trade can magnify the dividends and benefits of regional development [3]. Secondly, it can better regulate and promote regional interactive system and mechanism, providing a new model for global regional

development. Finally, a series of communication measures achieved in B&R can make regional relationship more peaceful and stable.

3.3 The Integration of China's "Agreeableness" and ASEAN Strategic Stronghold

In recent years, President Xi Jinping has emphasized the importance of being harmonious and friendly neighbor for many times. Numerous related diplomatic policies and behavioral principles have expressed the "agreeableness" of China, which is significant to developing our community with ASEAN. ASEAN is located in a special geographical position, which is the strategic stronghold for China, Europe and America. The dispute over the South China Sea could clearly reflect the competition for international interests. To some extent, ASEAN, as a special force, can effectively safeguard regional even global peace and stability. However, the change of economic and political pattern worldwide has left fewer choices for ASEAN. Regarding some important principles and problems, they should have a clearer attitude. The vital strategic stronghold is increasingly important in such international environment. The agreeable image of China and the strategic position of ASEAN should be better integrated in our community to develop new order for regional interaction and create peaceful and stable environment for regional development.

4. China's Policy Choice under the Development Framework of "China-ASEAN Community with a Shared Future"

4.1 Open up in a More Friendly Manner

In recent years, with the increasing reform and opening up, China has shaped an agreeable and responsible image as a great power during the foreign economic and cultural communication and development. Being friendly to our neighbors is always the significant part in our diplomatic things. China hopes to provide a more peaceful and friendly development environment by means of politics and diplomacy, bring the dividends of its own development to the Southeast Asia even the whole world. This point is consistent with the interests of ASEAN countries to some extent. Even though ASEAN is located in a strategic stronghold, and its development demands can be satisfied through negotiating and balancing with great powers, even affecting and regulating their behaviors, the core interests of ASEAN countries is still the internal development. And our friendly and open cooperation is in line with their interests, which can provide more opportunities for the development and construction of our community.

4.2 Insist on the Principle of Inclusiveness to Relieve Doubts and Fears

Some scholar has pointed that the disputes and behaviors between China and other ASEAN countries is due to the negligence of discomfort and insecurity brought by each other in the communication. Both sides failed to adapt to the model of large countries with rather fast development getting along with small neighbors. Regarding such big country like China, it is inevitable for ASEAN countries to be vigilant and afraid. They need to worry about their survival and security, after which is the development. Therefore, some tough policies and measures will just increase their worries and fears [4]. Insisting on the inclusiveness is of great significance to the construction of China-ASEAN community with a shared future, relieving ASEAN countries' doubts and fears, strengthening their understanding and recognition, and develops closer community.

4.3 Communicate with Each Other based on Equal Cooperation

Seeking the overlapping interests is the crucial part in the construction of China-ASEAN community with a shared future. We can expand common cooperation and interests through equal cooperation, and regulate the framework under equal and inclusive mechanism. Economic basis is the common interest, so we are supposed to find the conjunction point of overlapping interests, satisfy common interest demand, and explore interactive models and behavioral principles.

5. Conclusion

Recent years have witnessed the increasing cooperative fields of China-ASEAN community with a shared future. The pragmatic cooperation has covered more than 20 fields, such as agriculture, transportation and culture. And it is expanding the emerging areas like finance, high-tech and green industries, and ocean. This year marks the year of the China-ASEAN maritime cooperation. Both sides designed and constructed over 40 projects, such as China-ASEAN maritime cooperation center, maritime emergency hot line and marine institute. All of them are being orderly implemented. In addition, we have faced non-traditional security challenges together, such as international financial crisis, transnational crime, natural disasters and cross-boundary infectious diseases these results have fully manifested the vigorous cooperation between China and ASEAN, forecasting a good future for our relationship. Also, it is turned out that countries with various nations, beliefs and cultural backgrounds can enjoy peace and development together as long as they insist on the spirit of silk road, namely, peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit”.

In conclusion, such mechanism and community make it possible for the common development more specific and normal. It is a new model and path integrated traditional Chinese wisdom and ASEAN characteristics. Although some problems exist in the development between China and ASEAN, the framework is gradually promoted along with the construction of “China-ASEAN community with a shared future”. It is supposed to give full play to its profound cultural connotation, and the important role of ASEAN in B&R through shaping our agreeable image. The inclusive cooperation should be integrated with ASEAN strategic position to develop more peaceful and stable regional order. And the “China-ASEAN community with a shared future” should be the cornerstone of our common development and major platform for our communication and interaction.

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