

# Research on the New Mechanism of China and ASEAN Countries Police Law Enforcement Cooperation in the Context of Regular Epidemic Prevention

Ting Zhang<sup>1, \*</sup> and Sheng-he Yuan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>International Police law-enforcement Cooperation Academy, China People's Police University, Langfang, Hebei, 065000, China.

\*Corresponding author. Email: CarlyZhang@foxmail.com

## ABSTRACT

In the context of the continued global spread of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia epidemic, it is of great importance and highly urgency to innovate the traditional police law enforcement cooperation mode. Applying Krasner's international mechanism theory, this paper innovates a new mechanism for police law enforcement cooperation for China and ASEAN countries; also proposes the implementation path of the new mechanism from the aspects of endogenous power enhancement, operational system construction and liaison and coordination capacity. Valuable theoretical research and practical strategies are provided for the police law enforcement departments of China and ASEAN countries to overcome the future challenges in the possible long-term fight against epidemic to build a closer China and ASEAN community with a shared future.

**Keywords:** international police law enforcement cooperation, China and ASEAN Countries, new mechanism, regular Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia prevention

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The year of 2021 is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China and ASEAN relations in sustainable development and cooperation. During the 30 years, as the largest trading partners, China and ASEAN have deepened their all-round cooperation, having become the most dynamic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the outbreak of Covid-19 has brought great challenges to jointly prevent and combat criminal activities and maintain their own and regional security and stability in China and ASEAN countries' police law enforcement agencies.

Affected by the Covid-19, police law enforcement cooperation between China and ASEAN countries is facing new challenges such as the halt of traditional face-to-face coordination, the increasing security risks in new styles of cross-border cybercrimes, and the dealing with the balance between the cross-border joint law enforcement and the regular preventing and controlling the epidemic in their countries [1]. Furthermore, accounting for 13% of cybercrimes, the cross-border features of cybercrimes have been highlighted: committing fraud and gambling crimes through internet such as using gambling websites and overseas casinos to lure domestic gamblers into cross-border gambling trap, resulting in a substantial increase in online gambling crimes. [2]

Therefore, it is particularly crucial to make efficient use of the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence and other

emerging scientific and technological means to accelerate the digital transformation of police law enforcement cooperation between China and ASEAN countries, to explore new patterns of police law enforcement cooperation in the regular epidemic prevention, and to reduce regional security risks and to overcome new difficulties in police law enforcement cooperation in the possible long-term of epidemic prevention and control.

## 2. THE THEORETICAL ANALYSIS BASIS OF THE NEW POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION MECHANISM

Once the concept of "international mechanism" was proposed, a large number of institutionalized acts in international relations were truly placed within the perspective of international relations studies. Provided by Krasner, in the authority definition, "international mechanism" is defined as "a combination of principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around actors in a particular single issue area." [3] Connotationally, the four terms have relatively definite meanings: "principles" are the beliefs in facts, causality and sound judgement; "norms" are the standards of behavior defined by rights and obligations; "rules" are specific prescriptions or prohibitions on action; and decision-making processes are the general practices for making and implementing collective choices. [4]

The establishment of the China and ASEAN police law enforcement cooperation mechanism, in terms of the design and the practical application strategies, aims to closer the ties and interaction on the police departments cooperation, bringing positive impetus to the development of cooperation between the two sides. In the mechanism, China and ASEAN can reconcile the conflicting interests of each other and integrate the advantageous police resources to achieve the police law enforcement cooperation.

### 3. CONTENT OF THE NEW POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION MECHANISM

#### 3.1. One Construction Principle

On Nov.22 2021, China and ASEAN decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership at the Special Summit to commemorate the 30th anniversary of their dialogue relations. President Xijiping proposed, China and ASEAN should “work hand in hand to build on what has been achieved and work toward a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future, and make our region and the world even more prosperous and beautiful.”[5]China and ASEAN countries are already close and good neighbors narrowly separated by a strip of water, both of whom have gained a deeper comprehension of the concept of the community with a shared future for mankind during the epidemic lasting for nearly two years. The “joint fight against the Covid-19” has brought a broad consensus and deepened the concept of cooperation in police law enforcement of China-ASEAN. Therefore, China and ASEAN should uphold the principles in the new mechanism of police law enforcement: building the concept of “a community of security” and promoting the integration of cooperation in regional police law enforcement in regular epidemic prevention.

#### 3.2. Two Role Targets

In the regular epidemic prevention, the cooperation and interaction of the police departments between China and ASEAN may follow two logical lines: The first one is enhancing the prevention and control of the epidemic and integrating the concept of community with a shared future for mankind through the whole process of China's police law enforcement cooperation with ASEAN countries, which should be the overall goal and action guide. The second is building the police capacity of ASEAN countries, deepening the cooperation of police law enforcement, realizing the integration of regional police law enforcement cooperation with a new pattern.

#### 3.3. Three Types of Cooperation Mechanisms

First, a “triple link”(joint prevention, liaison and joint control) police cooperation mechanism should be established between China and ASEAN countries on the prevention and control of the epidemic. It's extremely important to carry out risk prevention and control due to the concealment and rapidity of the spread of novel coronavirus. [6] First, China and ASEAN countries can rely on big data, cloud computing, Internet of Things, “Internet+”, artificial intelligence and other modern technological means to establish a grid-based multi-level “epidemic risk joint prevention network”. The joint prevention network consists of the police department, Entry-exit Administration [7], centre for disease and prevention, customs department and diplomatic department of China and ASEAN countries. The joint effort to prevent epidemics in China-ASEAN is the basis of the successful development of police law enforcement cooperation. Second, focusing on the Entry-Exit of China-ASEAN, both sides should establish a bilateral and multilateral “Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Risk Liaison Mechanism” at border crossings, which includes the establishment of a database for sharing information on the epidemic and a dedicated communication channel. Third, on the basis of the joint prevention network and liaison mechanism, a “Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Risk Network”(NCPRN) should be established close contacts of NCP infected patients. When a patient or suspected case of NCP is detected at a border, the law enforcement officers of the immigration/police departments will promptly exchange information with the relevant countries involved and take effective and rapid measures to enforce quarantine of related persons according to the NCPRN, so as to achieve precise prevention and control of the epidemic. Second, a big data collaboration mechanism for police law enforcement cooperation in China-ASEAN should be established. 1) Building a new mechanism of online and offline cooperation in policing. The police law enforcement departments of China-ASEAN can fully study and push forward the construction of an online police law enforcement cooperation platform jointly, and promote the realization of an online and offline fusion model for regional police law enforcement cooperation, such as online special police law enforcement exchange and cooperation or training programs in the context of regular epidemic prevention relying on the Internet, cloud computing, internet of things, artificial intelligence and 5G mobile communication technology; conducting online police law enforcement joint operations in accordance with the needs of the epidemic in practice for exploring new data police law enforcement cooperation models; carrying out the offline operations, where conditions permitting, to modify and make up for the shortcomings of the online model, ensuring the effectiveness of the implementation of the data police law enforcement cooperation pattern. 2) Promoting the establishment of China-ASEAN police big data sharing and collaboration mechanism with the characteristics of “scientific, standardized, equal and unified”: through building a platform for sharing

information on police data, the operating procedure of "collection-research and judgment-command-feedback-evaluation" is formed to ensure that intelligence, command and action; Meanwhile, by the means of clarifying the type and quality of police big data sharing, standardizing the collaborations matters in query, exchange, service, highly efficient sharing of police big database information, the efficiency of police law enforcement cooperation is promoted to jointly combat the transnational crimes, safeguard the regional security and maintain the international orders.

Third, a support mechanism for police law enforcement cooperation should be established in regular epidemic situations in China-ASEAN. 1) Under the "10+1 cooperation framework", with bilateral and multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding(MOU) on police law enforcement cooperation in epidemic, the legal infrastructure for police law enforcement cooperation in regular epidemics should be promoted to form a legal system that meets the realities and development needs of regional police law enforcement and security cooperation and takes into account the concerns and interests of all parties to ensure the efficient operation in regular epidemics. 2) By strengthening the liaison and coordination support mechanism for regular police law enforcement cooperation and full implementing regional, bilateral and multilateral consensus on regular epidemic prevention, a multi-level police cooperation leadership support system based on international norms, rules and procedures and other joint coordination and guarantee operation mechanism should be established, so as to ensure a stable and continuous flow of information, timely and smooth communication, and efficient operational collaboration in cooperation in regular epidemic prevention. 3) Establishing a sound mechanism to support the scientific and technological cooperation in the police enforcement cooperation in regular epidemic. On the premise of fully respecting and guaranteeing the sovereignty and interests of all parties, China-ASEAN countries should widely build a consensus on the application of science and technology for police law enforcement cooperation in regular epidemic, continuously strengthen the investment in funding and R&D for the application of science and technology, and assist police law enforcement officers of relevant countries to enhance their technical application capabilities, so as to provide reliable scientific and technological hard and soft support for China-ASEAN police cooperation in epidemic prevention.

#### **4. THE IMPLEMENTATION PATH OF THE NEW POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION MECHANISM**

##### ***4.1. Continuously Enhancing the Endogenous Impetus for the New Mechanism Construction***

##### ***Guided by the "China and ASEAN Community with a Shared Future" Initiative.***

Cooperation begins with the need for reality and lasts for a long time in the concept of mutual integration. It has been 30 years since China and ASEAN established dialogue relations, and the relationship has become the most successful and vigorous model of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Accompanied by in-depth pragmatic cooperation in various economic and social fields, police law enforcement cooperation in China-ASEAN has gained outstanding achievement and become one of the keys to maintaining regional security and stability and promoting development and prosperity. At present, the world is undergoing great changes in a century--being valuable in security and development, the international configuration and international order are facing deep adjustments, and various instabilities and uncertainties have intensified the turbulence and changes in the international situation. Under such an objective environment and profound background, the police law enforcement cooperation in China-ASEAN should be more firmly guided by the "China and ASEAN Community with a Shared Future" Initiative. By means of full mutual respect and sincere communication and consultation, China and ASEAN should vigorously promote the regional security concept of police law enforcement cooperation, the profound integration and the effective joint cooperation construction and strategic planning. Meanwhile, the exchange on cooperation concept should be strengthened continuously in regular epidemics. By means of using vivid cases and objective and real data, China-ASEAN should widely strive for international discourse on police law enforcement cooperation and public opinions to accumulate endogenous momentum for the construction of new mechanisms of police law enforcement cooperation.

##### ***4.2. Strengthening the Operational System of the New Mechanism with the Support of the "International Law and Regional Cooperation Treaties" and Other Codes of Conduct***

Police law enforcement cooperation is an important handle and vehicle of international exchange and cooperation, a significant externalized form of mutual relations among countries, and an essential way to maintain the security and stability of the countries and the regions. China and ASEAN countries, as stakeholders of regional security, should be more united and collaborative in the construction of the operational system of the new mechanism of police law enforcement cooperation in regular epidemic prevention to jointly maintain the regional security, stability and fairness and justice. While fully complying with the norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, both sides should strive to improve the construction of bilateral, multilateral and regional legal systems for police law enforcement cooperation. At the same time, under the

framework of regional cooperation, both sides should fully explore and expand the potential of police law enforcement cooperation, so as to provide strong support and guarantee for the efficient operation of the new mechanism of cooperation.

#### **4.3. Improving the Liaison and Coordination Ability of the New Mechanism by means of "Preventing and Combating Key Cross-Border Criminal Activities"**

The form and development of cross-border criminal activities in China and ASEAN countries is silently changing due to the ongoing impact of epidemic. On one hand, due to the environment of temporal and spatial isolation caused by the epidemic, the situation of criminal activities has increased such as engaging in or organizing cross-border telecommunications fraud, cross-border online gambling and others. On the other hand, the epidemic continues to spread globally. Due to the different means in epidemic prevention and control, vaccination and other reasons, there has been an increase in illegal entry and exit from the country (border) and smuggling across the country (border). These types of key cross-border criminal activities not only seriously endanger the lives of people in the countries and regions and seriously affect the economic and social recovery and healthy development, but also increase the serious risk of introducing variants of the virus or triggering the clandestine spread of the virus across borders. Therefore, the new mechanism should be preventing and combating key cross-border criminal activities. Based on the regional cooperation framework, a multi-level operational liaison and coordination mechanism for bilateral, multilateral and regional police law enforcement cooperation should be established. For example, a "ministry-provincial-city" level operational coordination mechanism for the prevention and combating of key crimes, in order to achieve early detection, efficient early warning and coordinated action, will enhance the liaison and coordination capacity of the new police enforcement cooperation mechanism in the regular epidemics.

### **5. ACHIVEMENTS OF THE NEW POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION MECHANISM**

Throughout all the above innovative implementations, the international police law enforcement cooperation has been developing sustainably and efficiently. First, China-Laos, Myanmar-Thailand cooperation has gained great achievements. For example, up to Sep.21 2021, Joint Patrol and Law Enforcement operation on the Mekong River conducted successfully 109 times; Second, the extradition and handover of transnational criminals proceed smoothly. For example, On June 2nd, 2020, the Vietnamese Ministry

of Public Security handed over three Chinese criminal suspects to the Chinese police; Third, the scope of police cooperation has expanded far beyond the original scope itself. For example, police cooperation between China and Cambodia during the epidemic has reached other fields such as science and technology, education and social governance. In a word, China-ASEAN should integrate win-win cooperation into the process of international police cooperation, and take the building of a community with a shared future for human security as the ultimate goal. [8]

### **6. CONCLUSION**

Under the combined effect of the world's major changes rarely seen in a century and the continuous spread of the epidemic, the subjective and objective influencing factors which the police law enforcement cooperation in China and ASEAN countries will continue to undergo continuous and complex changes. Therefore, during the regular epidemic prevention, the police law enforcement cooperation needs to more firmly uphold the concept of China-ASEAN community with a shared future, widely coalesce consensus on police law enforcement cooperation, and rely on modern technological means, such as big data, cloud computing, Internet of Things, "Internet+" and artificial intelligence, to form new mechanisms for more scientific and efficient police and law enforcement cooperation also the intelligent police cooperation networks. The new mechanism of police law enforcement cooperation in regular epidemics provides strong support to effectively respond to the risks of epidemic prevention and control, prevent and combat cross-border criminal activities, and jointly maintain regional security and stability and the safety of people's lives and properties in China-ASEAN.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Ting Zhang thanks the financial support by Social Science Fund of China People's Police University (ZQN202214, ZQN2020025).

### **REFERENCES**

- [1] GONG Chen, TIAN Gui-chao, Research on Countermeasures for Deepening "the Belt and Road" Cooperation in Science and Technology in the Context of Normalization of COVID-19. China Scitechnology Think Tank, 7, p. 90, 2021(In Chinese)
- [2] NING liang-wen, HAO Yan-hua, Liu Ze, et al, Major Influencing Factors of High Public Compliance Behavior in China during Regular Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Epidemic: A Random Forest



Model Analysis. *Chinese Journal of Public Health*, vol. 37(7), pp. 1096-1100, 2021. (In Chinese)

[3] Stephen D. Krasner. (1983). *International Regimes*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, p. 2.

[4] MEN Hong-hua. Criticism of the Main Schools of International Mechanism Theory. *World Economics and Politics*, 3, pp. 23-29, 2000. (In Chinese)

[5] XI Jinping, Speech at Special Summit to Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China-Asian Dialogue Relations. Xinhua Website, 2021-11-22. (In Chinese)

[6] QIAN Jin-yu, Epidemic Prevention and Control in Modern Cities from the Perspective of Risk Management. *Theoretical Exploration*, vol. 243, pp. 22-30, 2020. (In Chinese)

[7] Annotation: It should be noted that depending on the country, there are differences in the institutional settings. Some countries' entry and exit management departments are subordinate to the police department (e.

g. China's National Immigration Administration is subordinate to the Ministry of Public Security, and Vietnam's National Immigration Administration is subordinate to Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security), while some countries' entry and exit management departments are separated from the police department (e. g. Thailand's National Immigration Administration is subordinate to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Indonesia's National Immigration Administration is subordinate to the country's Ministry of Justice and Human Rights).

[8] HUANG De-kai, PEI Yun, Progress, Problems and Countermeasures of "the Belt and Road" International Police Cooperation under the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Public Security Education*, 6, pp. 70-76, 2021. (In Chinese)