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China and Thailand Join Hands to Jointly Build a High-quality "Belt and Road"

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Abstract: As an important country in Asia, China and Thailand are committed to building high-quality "Belt and Road", which not only reflects the profound friendship between the two countries, but also represents their joint efforts in regional development and international cooperation. This paper discusses the current situation of cooperation between China and Thailand under the framework of "Belt and Road", and analyzes how the two sides can promote economic growth, cultural exchanges and regional stability through high-quality cooperation. In this process, how can China and Thailand coordinate their respective development strategies, jointly solve the problems encountered in the cooperation, and promote regional peace and development while maintaining their respective national interests. Through in-depth analysis, it aims to provide useful thinking for promoting international cooperation under the Belt and Road " initiative.

Keywords: China-Thailand Friendly; High Quality; "Belt and Road".

1. Introduction

As an important platform for promoting international cooperation and regional economic development, the Belt and Road initiative is attracting wide attention from the world. In particular, China and Thailand, as countries with important influence in Asia, their cooperation under the "Belt and Road" framework is not only of great significance to both sides, but also provides new impetus for the development of regional and even global economy. China and Thailand jointly build "Belt and Road" and focus on high-quality cooperation and development, which not only demonstrates the profound friendship between the two countries, but also provides an effective cooperation model for jointly facing the challenges of globalization.

2. Building Bridges and Roads: Infrastructure Cooperation

China and Thailand jointly build the "Belt and Road" project, showing remarkable achievements in infrastructure cooperation, especially in the China-Thailand railway construction projects. The project is not only a symbol of bilateral cooperation, but also an important measure to promote regional connectivity. China has introduced advanced high-speed rail technology in the project to help build an efficient infrastructure system, significantly reduce transportation costs, and lay a solid foundation for the construction of a new pattern of all-round infrastructure connectivity in the ASEAN region. In addition, China and Thailand have also made significant progress in the field of digital infrastructure, and the digital transformation of infrastructure is gradually becoming a new highlight of cooperation. The construction of digital transportation, storage and logistics systems not only improves transportation efficiency, but also facilitates the business exchanges between the two countries. In particular, it is worth mentioning that the establishment of the electronic logistics center effectively integrates the logistics resources and optimizes the supply chain management. In this process, the application of the Beidou system also greatly improves the efficiency of logistics management. In addition, the planning and construction of the digital industrial park not only promotes industrial upgrading, but also provides a new platform for the deep integration of the industrial chains of the two countries. These cooperation projects not only strengthen the cooperation between China and Thailand in the field of infrastructure, but also provide a solid foundation for the further development and deepening cooperation of regional economy. Through these projects, China and Thailand will jointly promote the modernization of the infrastructure in the region and inject new impetus into the sustainable development of the regional economy. Take the construction of China-Thailand railway as an example. As a landmark cooperation project under the framework of "Belt and Road" jointly built by the two countries, it has become a highlight of China-Thailand cooperation since the first phase of the project started in December 2017[1]. The steady progress of this major project reflects the depth of cooperation between China and Thailand in the field of infrastructure. The China-Thailand railway is not only an important physical infrastructure connecting the two countries, but also a key channel to promote the connection of economic, trade, investment and logistics networks. Through the construction of China-Thailand railway, it is expected that the transportation efficiency in the region will be greatly improved, the construction of regional development platform will be strengthened, and a more complete regional transportation network will be formed.

3. Formulate win-win Navigation AIDS: Rules and Standards Connectivity

Under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Agreement of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), China and Thailand have clearly preferred the "soft connectivity" of rules and standards. This strategy provides a solid foundation for bilateral cooperation. Through high-level policy agreements, China and Thailand

are committed to speeding up the alignment of rules and standards in key areas such as infrastructure construction, trade standards, finance and taxation, and customs cooperation, so as to provide strong support for the high-quality joint construction of "Belt and Road". China and Thailand have effectively promoted the smooth implementation of infrastructure projects by coordinating relevant rules and standards. In the field of trade, by simplifying trade processes and reducing trade barriers, China and Thailand not only strengthen bilateral trade exchanges, but also promote the liberalization and facilitation of regional trade. In terms of finance and taxation, China and Thailand have established closer cooperation mechanisms to provide more favorable conditions for enterprises to invest by coordinating financial policies and tax systems and cross-border trade. At the same time, the two sides have also made significant progress in customs cooperation by sharing information and simplifying customs procedures to effectively improve the efficiency of customs clearance and reduce trade costs. Through these specific measures, the consensus between China and Thailand in formulating cooperation rules not only contributes to the common economic development of both sides, but also plays an positive role in promoting the process of regional economic integration. This cooperation model based on rules and standards reflects the firm determination of China and Thailand to pursue win-win results and common development under the framework of Belt and Road cooperation [2].

4. Weaving a Network of Culture: Art Exchange between China and Thailand

The focus of cultural exchanges between China and Thailand is to promote cooperation and exchanges between the two countries in art, education and cultural heritage protection, so as to deepen mutual respect between the two cultures. Through holding cultural festivals, art exhibitions, folk art performances, film festivals and book fairs, China and Thailand provide opportunities for the people to experience each other's cultures. These activities not only promote cultural and artistic exchanges, but also deepen the emotional exchanges between the two peoples. At the same time, the exchanges and cooperation between China and Thailand in the field of education are also increasingly strengthened. Cooperation programs, academic seminars and student exchange programs between the universities of the two countries are increasing, providing more opportunities for students from both sides to learn about each other's cultures. In addition, the two countries have also cooperated in the protection and inheritance of cultural heritage, jointly held seminars to exchange experience, and jointly protect and carry forward the cultural heritage of mankind. Taking the successful holding of the 12th China-Thailand Strategy Seminar as an example, the Xiamen campus of Huaqiao University will build a high-end dialogue platform for the cultural and artistic exchanges of China and Thailand. With the core theme of "Working hand in hand to shape the common future of China and Thailand", the event will deepen the mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries in the cultural field. The seminar was co-hosted by Huaqiao University and the National Research Institute of Thailand, providing valuable opportunities for experts and scholars from the two countries to exchange ideas and share wisdom. This not only marks a new high point for China-Thailand cooperation in the field of cultural think tanks, but also injects new vitality into the long-term development of the two cultures. During this seminar, experts and scholars from China and Thailand had in-depth discussions on cooperation in various fields, focusing on promoting the construction of china-Thailand cooperation mechanisms. Through joint academic research, information sharing, exchange of personnel visits and joint publication of academic achievements, the cooperation between China and Thailand has been deepened in an all-round way. Such in-depth academic exchanges not only strengthen the cultural and educational ties between the two countries, but also lay a solid foundation for further cooperation. The successful holding of the seminar demonstrated the new height of cultural exchanges between China and Thailand and emphasized the importance of deepening bilateral all-round cooperation. The annual China-Thailand Strategy Seminar has developed into an important link for cultural exchanges and think tank cooperation between the two countries, providing intellectual support for the two countries to jointly build a "Belt and Road" community of shared future. Such exchange activities not only promote in-depth cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, education and scientific research, but also add new content to the friendship between China and Thailand and provide a more solid cultural foundation for jointly building "Belt and Road".

5. Broaden the Road of Trade: Strengthen Economic and Trade Exchanges

Strengthening economic and trade exchanges has become an important part of bilateral cooperation and is committed to creating a more open and inclusive business environment. In terms of reducing trade barriers, China and Thailand are committed to reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers and promoting the free circulation of goods and services, thus providing a broader market space for enterprises of both sides. In terms of optimizing the trade structure, the two countries should strengthen the economic complementarity and enhance the sustainability of bilateral trade through diversified commodity trading. In terms of trade facilitation, China and Thailand have significantly improved trade efficiency through measures such as simplifying customs clearance procedures, strengthening customs cooperation and promoting the development of e-commerce. In addition, the two sides have made remarkable achievements in investment cooperation and jointly promoting a series of major investment projects, especially in infrastructure, energy, science and technology and agriculture, to inject new impetus into the economic development of the two countries. China and Thailand have also signed bilateral economic and trade agreements to establish a closer economic partnership and provide policy support for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. These agreements not only cover traditional trade in goods, but also extend to emerging areas such as trade in services, e-commerce and technology transfer. Through these cooperation mechanisms, China and Thailand have made joint efforts to not only enhance bilateral economic connectivity, but also make positive contributions to regional economic integration. Take agricultural trade as an example. According to the data of 2022, as Thailand's largest trading partner, the trade volume between China and Thailand

reached us $135 billion, of which the total agricultural trade was US $13.1 billion, and Thailand's exports to China reached US $10.3 billion, showing a steady growth trend. In the first quarter of 2023, Thailand's agricultural exports to China reached us $2.25 billion, up 25.6% year on year, highlighting the importance of the Chinese market in Thailand's agricultural trade. With the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), Thailand has achieved zero tariff or immediate zero tariff reduction on 895 agricultural products subject to China, covering 53.4% of Thailand's agricultural products. In addition, Thailand has lowered some taxes or maintained the benchmark tax rate on 87 sensitive agricultural products. In contrast, China imposed zero tariffs on 960 agricultural products in Thailand to zero, covering 65.3 percent of agricultural products [3]. This measure is conducive to enhancing the mutual benefit of agricultural trade between China and Thailand. Through the implementation of the RCEP agreement and the joint efforts of both sides, the China-Thailand agricultural trade has shown a broader prospect for development. Such close economic and trade cooperation not only promotes the development of agriculture in the two countries, but also brings more choices and benefits to the two peoples. Through such a cooperation model, China and Thailand have not only enhanced their bilateral relations, but also made important contributions to the prosperity and development of the regional economy in the process of jointly building the "Belt and Road".

6. Promoting People-to-People Exchanges: Activating the Tourism Context

Under the "Belt and Road" initiative, the cooperation between China and Thailand to revitalize the tourism industry is an important part of our cooperation. In particular, after the huge impact of COVID-19 on global tourism, both sides pay more attention to the recovery and development of tourism. China and Thailand have adopted a series of measures in their tourism cooperation, aimed at promoting the rapid recovery and long-term prosperity of tourism. First of all, China and Thailand have actively coordinated and simplified tourist visa procedures and reduced administrative procedures, making it more convenient for people of the two countries to travel. At the same time, the number of direct flights should be increased, and the city and frequency of airline coverage should be increased to provide more choices for tourists. In addition, the two sides have also made great efforts to promote tourism, promoting each other's tourism resources and cultural characteristics through various channels to attract more tourists to visit. China and Thailand are also jointly developing tourism products, such as launching tourism packages for different markets, organizing cultural tourism activities, and developing rural tourism and eco-tourism. These featured tourism products not only enrich the tourism market, but also promote the in-depth cultural exchanges between the two countries. At the same time, to ensure the sustainable development of tourism, China and Thailand have also strengthened cooperation in tourism safety, tourism quality management and tourism environmental protection. Through these cooperation measures, China and Thailand will not only successfully revitalize the tourism industry hit by the epidemic, but also lay a solid foundation for the long-term development of tourism in the two countries. This tourism cooperation model not only enhances the competitiveness of China and Thailand, but also provides richer tourism experience for the two peoples, deepens the cultural friendship between the two countries, and plays a positive role in promoting people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation under the "Belt and Road" initiative [4].

7. Conclusion

With China and Thailand commit to the high-quality cooperation of the Belt and Road initiative, the cooperation between the two countries has entered a new stage of development. Both China and Thailand have shown strong willingness and substantive results for cooperation in terms of infrastructure construction, rules and standards formulation, cultural and artistic exchanges, economic and trade exchanges and the recovery of the tourism industry. Such in-depth cooperation not only strengthens the bilateral relations between China and Thailand, but also provides new impetus for regional and even global economic growth and cultural exchanges. In the future, with the further cooperation between the two countries under the "Belt and Road" framework, it is expected to bring more innovative cooperation models and open up new paths for regional and global economic prosperity. On the road of joint construction, China and Thailand will work hand in hand to create a more prosperous and harmonious future.

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