



Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018

Session Summary (No. 51)

Boao Forum for Asia Institute

April 11, 2018

Roundtable 18

Asia Regional Cooperation Organization

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., April 11, 2018

Venue: ICC, Level 1, Peacock 1

Moderator:

QI Zhenhong, Director of China Institute of International Studies

Panelist:

LIM Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary-General

GONG Jianwei, Executive Director of secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

YANG Xiuping, Director of ASEAN-China Centre

LEE Jong-heon, Secretary-General of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) of China, Japan and the ROK



LIN Shajun, Secretary-General of Asia Cooperation Dialogue

Potapenko, Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Jusuf WANAND, Co-founder and senior fellow, Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

CHEN Dongxiao, Director of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

Dattesh D. Parulekar, Asst. Professor, Centre for Latin American & International Studies, Goa University of India

YI Peng, director of Pangoal Institution

LIU Qing, Director, Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, China Institute of International Studies

Key points:

- The Asian region has bright prospects in cooperation. Globalization faces new challenges. Strengthening regional cooperation is very important for seizing opportunities and solving challenges. Asia has made great achievements in regional cooperation and has great prospects for cooperation in the future.
- Regional cooperation shall be promoted in Asia. Concept innovation and mechanism innovation have released greater space for technological innovation and injected greater vitality. Technological innovation in turn will promote innovation in ideas and institution. There is still a long way



to go in terms of innovation.

- Globalization is like a train. Once it gets started, there is no turning back. All countries should realize this.

Synopsis:

Regional cooperation in Asia is bucking the trend and showing great prospects

CHEN Xiaodong said that in recent years, the economic globalization has suffered difficulties and setbacks, so to speak. However, regional cooperation in Asia is bucking the trend, showing highlights one after another. It becomes an important source of power for the rapid rise of Asia, injecting strong positive energy into global peace and development.

CHEN Xiaodong said that in a new starting point, China will step up its investment in regional cooperation, share development opportunities and achievements with all countries, and jointly lead the Asian regional cooperation into a new era for a new chapter.

CHEN Xiaodong proposed three points for future regional cooperation in Asia. First, innovate the concept of cooperation, and seek a great vision for development. To enhance the level of regional cooperation, ideas must have primary consideration. We shall not seek supremacy, or engage in zero-sum game. The community of a shared future for humanity proposed by President Xi Jinping is in line with the global trend and the aspirations of the countries and regions for tackling challenges and seeking common development. The Asian region cooperation has opened up new broad prospects. It is expected that all parties will work together to realize this vision, make Asia an



antecedent version of building a community of a shared future for humanity, and jointly build a world of common prosperity, openness, inclusiveness and cleanliness.

Second, uphold openness and inclusiveness and build a regional cooperation framework. We must promote positive interaction and complementary cooperation among organizations in the countries and regions, build a compound multi-level and multi-pronged regional cooperation framework, deal with challenges in a timely and effective manner, and promote regional common development. It is necessary to align the development strategies, integrate economic factors, make effective use of resources, complement with each other in respective strengths, and create a new pattern of integrated economic development in Asia. The Belt and Road is an open and inclusive road and a road of mutually beneficial cooperation. China will uphold the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration and align the Belt and Road Initiative with such key initiatives as ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for linked development.

Third, adhere to mutual benefit and win-win results, and share development dividends. Faced with intensifying trade protectionism, we must adhere to the goal of global linkage and common prosperity, hold high the banner of openness and cooperation, jointly build an open world economy, maintain the multilateral trading system, promote regional free trade cooperation, bind our future together, and seek open, inclusive, balanced economic globalization.

LIU Zhenmin said that the United Nations has been vigorously promoting regional cooperation in various regions of the world, but the United Nations has limited capability in view of the current prevalent trade protectionism. From the viewpoint of global leaders, the information they send is very clear – suppressing the anti-globalization thought and continuing to advance



globalization.

LIU Zhenmin said that regional cooperation has become a very important trend. This trend has become even more pronounced after the end of World War II, especially after the end of the Cold War. In the traditional fields, regional cooperation has become a crucial economic, social and regional framework. Regional peace and cooperation promote economic and social development in a region.

LIM Jock Hoi said that China and ASEAN countries have bright prospects for cooperation. She is full of confidence in the future, and the development of the world. LIM Jock Hoi believed that the future cooperation and development of China and ASEAN, and the global development have bright prospects. Cooperation among the countries is very critical in such sectors as cross-border e-commerce. In this area, ASEAN will continue to strengthen cooperation with relevant countries and promote innovation. This year marks the ASEAN-China Innovation Year. Therefore, there is no time more appropriate for ASEAN. ASEAN will continue to enhance cooperation with China in science and technology. ASEAN has much to learn from China in this area, including financial technology, e-commerce, and the development of smart cities. ASEAN has also realized that it is highly necessary to increase cooperation with Asian countries in the current era.

GONG Jianwei said that Asia has demonstrated robust economic development over the past few decades. Asia shares new innovation and development strategies with the world. Previously, these global strategies were almost monopolized by the West. Asia also accounts for half of the world's investment in R&D, and has made enormous strides, especially in robotics and artificial intelligence. As Asia's economy, science and technology develop, Asia is also playing an increasingly important role. Because of these and the changing demographic structure of Asia, the future



belongs to Asia, and the center of global innovation and development is being tipped towards Asia. At the same time, economic and technological development is uneven in Asia, as some countries have made great progress, while other Asian countries fall behind the curve. This will result in local economic and social inequality which in turn triggers conflicts in some parts of Asia. In today's globalized world, it is necessary to ensure that the fruits of innovation and development are shared with the less developed countries, so that they get out of the vicious circle of poverty. This will require greater cooperation among regions in Asia, promote cooperation within and between regions, and share their experiences in the field of innovation and development.

GONG Jianwei said that Asian countries have common goals and a common vision. This allows Asian countries to establish a sound mechanism to promote mutual development, ensure mutual security and achieve common goals. Asian countries must cope with new challenges and threats in concert. China, a member state of CICA (and also the chair) can promote cooperation among Asian countries in various fields, including economy, agriculture, the development of SMEs, energy security, finance, information technology and sustainable development. China can share innovative ideas and best practices, and carry out training projects, seminars, and business forums to achieve this goal.

Dattesh D. Parulekar said that the logic for promoting regional cooperation in Asia is crystal-clear. The Belt and Road Initiative has historical roots. To make regional cooperation in Asia more concrete and more realistic for implementation, Asian countries shall discuss with an open mind instead of engaging in competition. The future goals of the Asian countries are the same. The parties shall work towards the same goal, while differences or different opinions can be completely bridged.



The road of cooperation and innovation in the Asian region

YANG Xiuping stated that innovation is the driving force for development. Asia in regional cooperation has always been moving forward through innovation and exploration. Since this year, the Belt and Road Initiative has injected new impetus into regional cooperation. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Silk Road Fund and other regional financial institutions come into being at the right time. In addition, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism has also made remarkable progress and yielded fruitful results. Asian countries should take advantage of the situation to advance Asian regional cooperation to a new level. She offered three points in this regard.

First, promote policy coordination and tap new potential for cooperation. We shall study the strategic planning of Asian countries in innovation and development and identify more points of interest convergence. It is necessary to grasp the opportunities brought by the new round of technological revolutions, and strengthen cooperation in the areas of smart manufacturing, digital economy, and sharing economy; cultivate new momentum for development; and inject new connotations into regional cooperation.

Second, Asian countries need to improve the mechanism and build more innovative cooperation platforms. The China-ASEAN Technology Transfer Center has been established by China and ASEAN, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences has set up an innovation cooperation center in Bangkok, Thailand. Asian countries should give full play to these institutions and cultivate more new cooperation platforms.

Third, promote and encourage exchanges among technological personnel and scientific research institutions and cultivate more innovation-minded personnel. At the 20th ASEAN-China Summit last year, China advanced the China-ASEAN personnel development plan, and provided 3,000 research and



training places for ASEAN in 2018. China also expressed that it would arrange 500 visits to China for ASEAN scientists in the next five years for short-term scientific research, offer 1,200 training places for ASEAN technology and management personnel, and put into operation ten joint laboratories. China and ASEAN should work together to take effective measures and implement the aforesaid initiatives as soon as possible.

YI Peng said that concept is foremost in Asia's cooperation and innovation. On the front of the cooperation of the Asian region, concept is foremost. The latest philosophy in the current times shall be provided. Many international organizations have a long history, but also need to move with the times in a new era. To move with the times, all think tanks and organizations consistently provide ideas for scientific planning.

LIU Qing considered that different international organizations have different advantages, and Asian regional organizations shall draw on the advantages of each regional organization to compensate for their weaknesses. We shall adopt innovative cooperation models, remove political obstacles, strengthen links among Asian countries, and establish a multi-level network for better ties. Therefore, Asian regional organizations should strengthen cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, while at the same time enhancing cross-regional cooperation.