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FOR THE 2ND CHINA-ASEAN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION FORUM**

NANNING, GUANGXI, CHINA

11 SEPTEMBER 2021

Leaders of the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China

His Excellency, Mr. Tian Shihong, Vice-Minister of the State Administration of Market Regulations (SAMR) and Administrator of Standardisation Administration of China (SAC),

ASEAN Colleagues,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. It is my pleasure to join you at the 2nd China-ASEAN International Standardisation Forum. I would like to express my appreciation to the State Administration of Market Regulations of the People's Republic of China (SAMR), the Standardisation Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC), and the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, for inviting me back to speak at this Forum. I recall the beautiful city of Nanning from two years ago when I attended the inaugural China-ASEAN International Standardisation Forum. The world has undergone a lot of change since then. I am glad to be able to re-connect with you over video today.

Standardisation Cooperation for Sustainable Development

2. This year marks the 30th anniversary of dialogue relations between ASEAN and China. Over the past three decades, our relations have grown and deepened, particularly in our economic relations. Despite the pandemic, trade between ASEAN and China has continued to grow robustly. In fact, according to data released by the Chinese General Administration of Customs, two-way trade volumes climbed seven percent in 2020, making ASEAN China's largest trading partner.

3. International standards provide a key mechanism for ASEAN and China to address urgent priorities like climate change. Globally, COVID-19 has also emphasized the need for a renewed focus on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cognizant of this, ASEAN and China designated 2021 as the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation. This will allow us to further our cooperation in areas such as climate change impact mitigation, combating marine debris, promoting clean energy, poverty eradication and disaster management.

4. With people increasingly moving online for work and play due to the pandemic, we should also seize opportunities to collaborate in the digital economy and development of smart cities, including leveraging initiatives such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. In this regard, international standardisation provides an open and inclusive approach for multiple stakeholders to agree on a common understanding of systems interoperability, safety matters and quality benchmarks.

Standards for Sustainable Development and Growth

5. Last year, ISO, IEC and ITU-T established a new Joint Task Force to coordinate international standardisation for smart cities and consider the global learnings from the COVID-19 crisis. This Joint Task Force will be engaging with stakeholders to identify standardisation needs and guide collaborations in the broader

standardization ecosystem such as exploring the creation of a smart cities standards mapping.

6. ISO and IEC standards also offer a variety of tools for governments and organisations to support green recovery efforts. These range from enabling climate change mitigation efforts, to supporting clean energy. For example, ISO and IEC have a suite of standards for developing programmes to control and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions or to safely integrate renewable energy systems with electrical grids.
7. As ASEAN and China cooperate on sustainable development, there will be opportunities to jointly identify and develop international standards in emerging technologies that support sustainability and the digital economy. Within ASEAN, we have agreed to harmonise national standards with international standards as a means of facilitating economic integration. These include harmonizing to international standards for IT security management system and financial messaging. There are also ongoing efforts to harmonise standards in emerging areas such as smart cities, smart manufacturing and renewable energy.
8. In Singapore, we are developing standards to support Singapore's shift to a low carbon future and sustainable food production. In the past year, we have developed standards for clean and green urban farms for agriculture and aquaculture, and floating solar photovoltaic power plants. We have also adopted smart manufacturing standards to support Industry 4.0 adoption across industries. These standards provide the framework for Singapore to build sustainable and resilient industries.

Conclusion

9. International standards and standards cooperation strengthen ASEAN and China's commitment to sustainable development.

10. The leaders and experts present at the Forum today will have a lot to discuss and share about how we can enhance cooperation with one another. I certainly look forward to being engaged in the discussions.
11. I wish all of you a productive time at today's Forum. Thank you.