

U.S - China rivalry in Korea-ASEAN strategic cooperation: What next?*

(1) How does China-US strategic cooperation affects Korea-ASEAN relations? If so why, if not why not?

- ✓ U.S.-China relations have developed steadily since President Nixon's groundbreaking visit to China over forty years ago, and are generally stable today.
- ✓ While China is actively promoting its Belt and Road Initiative, the United States, together with its allies and partners has put forward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy.
- ✓ Interplay of China-US strategic relations will have impact to wider regional security complex, and there is concern the correlation of forces and the two might fall into Thucydides trap.
- ✓ China-US rivalry is a fact of historical trajectory—but Korea-ASEAN interest should go beyond the tyranny geopolitics of US-China rivalry.
- ✓ Framework of strategic cooperation between Korea-ASEAN needs to be put within the extended view of partnership that ASEAN- Korea partnership will develops dynamically in many fronts.

(2) Is US-China strategic competition a push factor or pull factor for Korea ASEAN strategic cooperation?

- ✓ The need to expand of view –that framework for strategic cooperation between Korea-ASEAN needs to be put within more independent approach that based on our heart and mind that serve as basic for genuine partnership.
- ✓ Both the United States and China are asking countries in the region to make a strategic choice between the two competing conceptions, making it difficult for partner countries to live in both worlds.

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- ✓ Korea –ASEAN strategic cooperation shows its most neutrality of relations –and luckily that Korea – Southeast Asia relations has been enjoying very positive development to include our historical fact of no enmity.
- ✓ Korea-Asean strategic cooperation also boosted with the growing modern culture that bonding the relationship.

(3) How should Korea and ASEAN respond to is the strategic environment of increasing U-S China rivalry?

- ✓ The need of rational assessment to understand the nature of increasing of US – China competition.
- ✓ US-China are “asking” countries in the region to make a strategic choice between the two competing conceptions (BRI v FOIPS), making it difficult for partner countries to live in both worlds.
- ✓ Korea and ASEAN needs to push harder to reduce/defuse potential conflict between US and China –promote more dialogue that contribute to the construction of regional security and sustainable peace for the region.
- ✓ Any engagement to the project of enemization and operations of rivalry/enmity between the US-China will only contribute to making greater risk of conflict.

(4) What can Korea and ASEAN do together, bilaterally minilaterally, or collectively, to cope with the risks, uncertainties, and constrains streaming US-China strategy competition?

- ✓ The need commitment to and uphold value of dialogue and peace.
- ✓ More autonomous from the hegemonic rivalry between China-US.
- ✓ ASEAN-Korea both to continue develops of cooperative security in building regional security architecture.
- ✓ Commitment and strengthening of the ASEAN TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation) as the only existing regional wide treaty for peacebuilding that reiterate the important of *no-first use of force* in resolving dispute –and to develop tradition of dialogue though layers of channels / multi-track diplomatic approach.