

THAILAND

Thailand as an ASEAN-China Coordinator Country on the South China Sea Disputes

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Member States, acting as the country coordinators, shall take turns to take overall responsibility in coordinating and promoting the interests of ASEAN in its relations with the relevant Dialogue Partners, Regional and International Organizations and Institutions.

Article 42 of the ASEAN Charter

1. Introduction

ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations began in July 1991 when China expressed keen interest to cooperate with the ASEAN for mutual benefit while attending the opening session of the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (“AMM”) in Kuala Lumpur.¹ China was accorded full Dialogue Partner status at the 29th AMM in July 1996 in Jakarta.

Subsequently, in October 2003, after signing the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity² at the 7th

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¹ See ASEAN-CHINA Dialogue Relations, *available at* <http://www.asean.org/news/item/asean-china-dialogue-relations> (last visited on Oct. 21, 2014).

² ASEAN, Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, *available at* <http://www.asean.org/news/item/external-relations-china-joint-declaration-of-the-heads-of-stategovernment-of-the-association-of-southeast-asian-nations-and-the-people-s-republic-of-china-on-strategic-partnership-for-peace-and-prosperity-bali-indonesia-8-october-2003> (last visited on Oct. 21, 2014).