

Thailand and China to further transportation linkage to facilitate tourism and trade between the two countries

Gen. Surayud Chulanont, Prime Minister of Thailand, led the high-ranking delegation from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Commerce, Minister of Sciences and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to pay an official visit to China between 28-29 May 2007.

This visit to China was his first visit of the outside ASEAN members' country. The Prime Minister of Thailand and his delegation were warmly welcomed by the Chinese counterparts. The Prime Minister of Thailand had fruitful bilateral meetings with Chinese leaders such as President Hu Jintao and Mr. Wen Jia Bao, Chinese Prime Minister. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers exchanged views on several issues such as bilateral cooperation especially transportation and defence, the current situation in the region as well as discussed details of the Joint Action Plan and Cooperation of the year 2007-2011 aiming to improve an educational standard of both countries. Both nations also agreed to collaborate in developing transportation link between China-Lao PDR and Thailand and constructing a bridge over the Mekong River which would facilitate tourism and trade between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of China and Thailand also witnessed signing agreements of the Joint Action Plan on Thailand-China Strategic Cooperation and Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education. These two agreements would be tools to enhance cooperation between the two nations.

In addition, the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs agreed to strengthen relationship at the people-to-people level by opening the Thai-Chinese Cultural Centre in Thailand. This centre would become an active mechanism to promote cultural cooperation between Thailand and China.
