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FOREIGN MINISTER EXPOUNDS CHINA'S VIEWS ON ENERGY SECURITY, ASEAN COMMUNITY

Text of report by reporters Xiong Ping, Huang Jianming, and Gao Hanqing by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Kuala Lumpur, 27 July: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing attended a luncheon party of the foreign ministers of ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on 27 July to expound China's position on energy security, the building of the ASEAN Community, and other issues.

Talking about energy security, Li Zhaoxing said: China attaches great importance to the issue of energy security and is a constructive force in safeguarding and strengthening world energy security. China adheres to an energy strategy of giving priority to economy, basing ourselves on our country, optimizing the structure, protecting the environment, and strengthening cooperation and is ready to strengthen cooperation with all energy producing and consuming countries under the principle of equality, reciprocity, mutual benefit, and win-win results, jointly promote the stability of world energy supplies, and safeguard global energy security. Establishing a new energy security concept of mutually beneficial cooperation, diversified development, and coordinated guarantee and jointly safeguarding the stability and overall security of global energy supplies is in the common interests of all parties.

With regard to the building of the ASEAN Community, Li Zhaoxing said: The ASEAN integration and the building of the ASEAN Community are conducive to enhancing the level of integration within ASEAN and consolidating the core position of ASEAN in regional cooperation. China supports the process of ASEAN integration and the building of the ASEAN Community and is ready to take an active part in the relevant cooperation, coordinate closely with ASEAN, and support each other to achieve common prosperity.

After the luncheon party, Li Zhaoxing attended a joint press conference of the foreign ministers of ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners.

On the same day, Li Zhaoxing met respectively with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, and New Zealand's Foreign Minister Winston Peters.

When meeting with the Japanese foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing said: Promoting the improvement and development of Sino-Japanese relations and pushing forward bilateral

exchanges and cooperation in various fields is the common objective of China and Japan. Under the current international and regional situation, the importance of Sino-Japanese relations has gone far beyond the spectrum of bilateral relations, and the two countries are facing many common challenges and problems in safeguarding regional peace, stability, and development. China wants to work together with Japan to make unremitting efforts to break the political impasse in Sino-Japanese relations. As said: Developing future-oriented Japan-China friendly relations in the spirit of the three political documents is a mutual understanding of the two countries. It is very important for both parties to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, culture, youth, political parties, congress, and security. Both parties also should expand common interests in areas of environmental protection, energy, and Northeast Asia cooperation. Japan will strictly adhere to its commitment about the Taiwan issue in the Japan-China Joint Statement and does not support "Taiwan independence."

Li Zhaoxing and Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo expressed satisfaction with the fact that Sino-Singaporean relations have maintained a momentum of good development and hoped that both parties will strengthen cooperation in various fields to promote new progress in cooperation in developing China's western region.

BOTH Li Zhaoxing and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer held that the exchange of visits between the prime ministers of the two countries this year have achieved important results and forcefully promoted bilateral relations of cooperation in various fields. Both parties should vigorously implement the results of the visit, continue to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, and constantly expand cooperation in energy resources so that Sino-Australian exchanges and cooperation in various fields can reach a new high.

When meeting with New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters, Li Zhaoxing said: China looks upon the China-New Zealand relationship from a strategic height and hopes that the two countries will consolidate their political relations and expand economic and trade cooperation. China hopes that the Pacific island countries maintain peace and stability and achieve sustained economic and social development, and that China is ready to strengthen cooperation with New Zealand in the South Pacific region on the basis of mutual trust. Peters expressed his support for China to play a positive role in the South Pacific region and reaffirmed that the New Zealand government faithfully adheres to the one-China principle and supports the peaceful reunification of China.

That evening, Li Zhaoxing and the foreign ministers of various countries also collectively paid a call on Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

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