

# Discussion on Strengthening China-ASEAN Digital Economy Cooperation in the New Situation

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**Abstract:** With the rapid progress of science and technology and the development of globalization, digital economy cooperation has increasingly become an important trend in the economic development of countries. This paper analyzes the deep cooperation between China and ASEAN in the digital economy and explores the feasible path to carry out deep cooperation, aiming to provide certain reference significance for promoting the cooperation between the two sides and jointly promoting the regional economic development.

**Keywords:** China; ASEAN; Digital Economy; Cooperation

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## Introduction

With the rapid development of the global economy and continuous technological innovation, the digital economy has become a new engine of vigorous development for all countries. In this context, China and ASEAN, in the context of reaching digital economy cooperation, can promote the economic growth and transformation of both sides, improve industrial competitiveness, promote the digital transformation of the two regions, and innovate business models, and in order to be able to strengthen the basis of cooperation between the two sides, it is necessary to jointly formulate a series of strategies for the sustainable development of digital economy cooperation between the two sides.

## 1. Significance of Strengthening China-ASEAN Digital Economy Cooperation

Strengthening digital economy cooperation between China and ASEAN countries is of great significance and has broad prospects. As the world's second largest economy and an important trading partner of ASEAN countries, China has huge market potential and development advantages. Meanwhile, ASEAN countries, as important partners of China, have rich human resources and market demand. By strengthening cooperation in the digital economy, the two sides can jointly explore the digital market and enhance economic development. Second, China and ASEAN countries are actively promoting the construction of a free trade zone. By sharing digital technologies, promoting digital trade and digital payments and other cooperation, they can further reduce trade barriers, enhance trade efficiency and accelerate the process of regional economic integration<sup>[1]</sup>. In addition, by strengthening cooperation, the two sides can jointly explore the application of digital technologies and innovative models, promote industrial upgrading and economic transformation, and jointly promote the development of a green digital economy to promote the efficient use of resources and environmental protection.

## 2. Paths to Strengthen China-ASEAN Digital Economy Cooperation

### 2.1 Enhanced policy coordination for the digital economy

The two sides should actively strengthen cooperation in policy coordination for the digital economy, and jointly study and formulate strategies and policies for the development of the digital economy that meet the interests of both sides, so as to avoid duplication and waste of resources. In the process of policy coordination, the two sides can conduct in-depth discussions on policies on taxation, finance, technology, market and other aspects of the digital economy, establish unified standards and norms, and promote the healthy development of the digital economy<sup>[2]</sup>. In addition, the two sides should also actively establish a digital economy policy coordination mechanism to exchange and consult on policies and planning for the digital economy through regular meetings on digital economy policy coordination, etc., so as to solve problems and contradictions in the field of the digital economy in a timely manner and promote the stable development of the digital economy.

At the same time, the two sides can also promote the improvement of laws and regulations related to the digital economy by strengthening legislative coordination in the field of digital economy. In this process, the two sides can set up a specialized working group to conduct in-depth research on laws and regulations in the field of digital economy, take into account the development trend of the global digital economy and the national conditions of their own countries, study the legal framework and normative system in the field of digital economy, conduct in-depth discussions on key legal issues, and formulate laws and regulations in line with the interests of the two sides. At the same time, the two sides should also actively absorb the experience of other countries and regions in digital economy legislation, and commit themselves to promoting the improvement of the rules of international law, so as to provide a more stable and just environment under the rule of law for the development of the global digital economy.

## **2.2 Deepening cooperation in the field of digital technology**

Deepening cooperation in the field of digital technology is one of the important elements of cooperation between the two sides, through which the two sides can jointly promote the research and development and application of digital technology, enhance information sharing and address challenges, and promote the rapid development of the digital economy and mutual benefit and win-win situation<sup>[3]</sup>. Specifically, the two sides can take the following measures:

First, strengthening cooperation in research and development of digital technologies. The two sides can conduct in-depth cooperation on core technologies and key issues in the field of digital economy, jointly promote the research and development and application of digital technologies, and improve the core competitiveness of the digital economy. At the same time, the two sides can also conduct joint research on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, 5G, etc., and explore the application of new technologies and business models in the development of the digital economy.

Second, strengthening cooperation in the application of digital technology. The two sides can cooperate on specific application scenarios of digital technology, such as intelligent manufacturing, smart cities, digital healthcare, etc., and jointly promote the application and development of digital technology through technical exchanges and experience sharing. At the same time, the two sides can also conduct research on specific problems in the process of digital transformation, propose solutions and promote the smooth progress of digital transformation.

## **2.3 Talent training for the digital economy should be strengthened**

The cultivation of digital economy talents is an important foundation for the development of digital economy cooperation. It plays an important role in promoting the development of the digital economy and improving the level of cooperation, and with the continuous development and in-depth application of the digital economy, the cultivation of digital economy talents will become more important and urgent. Therefore, the two sides can establish a digital economy talent training program and training system, provide specialized training courses and training resources, and provide continuous talent support for the development of the digital economy. At the same time, the two sides can also provide training on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and 5G to improve the quality and technical level of talents in the digital economy. Establish a platform and mechanism for the exchange of talents in the digital economy, carry out exchanges and mutual visits of talents, strengthen the interaction and cooperation of talents, and promote the sharing of experiences and ideas in the development of the digital economy. At the same time, the two sides can also conduct exchanges and cooperation on talent policies, and jointly promote talent policy innovation and reform in the field of digital economy. In addition, the two sides jointly build a digital economy talent pool, integrate the talent resources needed for the development of the digital economy of both sides, and improve the efficiency of talent utilization and service quality. At the same time, the two sides can also cooperate on the operation and management of the talent pool, and jointly promote the healthy development of the digital economy talent pool. The two sides can improve the competitiveness and development potential of the digital economy through cooperation in talent cultivation.

## **2.4 Strengthening cooperation in building digital economy infrastructure and information security**

In order to strengthen China-ASEAN connectivity and interconnectivity, the two sides should jointly plan, invest and build infra-

structure, and both sides should jointly formulate plans and programs for the construction of communication networks, data centers, cloud computing platforms and other infrastructures necessary for the development of the digital economy, and jointly invest in the construction of projects. In addition, in addition to infrastructure construction, the two sides also need to promote technological innovation and industrial upgrading in artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, blockchain, etc., so as to reduce the operating costs of infrastructure, improve the efficiency of cooperation and exchange between the two sides, enhance market competitiveness, and jointly promote the development of the digital economy in their regions. We will work together to build a digital economy ecosystem in the fields of e-commerce, Internet finance, smart cities, etc., to promote the development of the ecosystem of the digital economy, and to improve the efficiency and market competitiveness of the digital economy.

There is also a need to strengthen international cooperation on information security. The digital economy is a globalized economy, and cybersecurity threats are also an important factor affecting the development of cooperation between the two sides. Therefore, the two sides need to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in the field of information security and jointly address cybersecurity threats and challenges. This can be done by signing relevant agreements to clarify the rights and obligations of the two sides in the field of information security and provide legal protection for the two sides to carry out cooperation in information security; and by establishing an information-sharing mechanism, including notification of information security vulnerabilities, risk assessment and early warning. By sharing information security information and risks in a timely manner, the two sides can jointly respond to cybersecurity threats and improve their information security defense capabilities; carry out technical cooperation including cryptographic algorithms, data encryption, network isolation, etc., to strengthen information security cooperation between the two sides, and jointly defend against risks such as cyber-attacks and data leakage, so as to lay a solid foundation for the two sides' cooperation and development of the digital economy.

## Conclusion

In summary, in the digital economy cooperation between China and ASEAN, it is necessary to carry out in-depth cooperation in terms of policy, technology, talent cultivation, and infrastructure and information security, in order to adapt to the changing forms of the international market and realize the common development of the two economies. By strengthening cooperation, the rapid and innovative development of digital economy can be promoted, the economic development level and national competitiveness of both sides can be enhanced, and the goal of mutual benefit and win-win can be realized.

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