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# Thailand and Building 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road

Dr. Liu Wenzheng

Faculty of International Relations /Overseas Chinese Institute, HQU

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# I Introduction

When Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October of 2013, he raised the initiative of jointly building the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road , which have attracted close attention from all over the world.

The Initiative will enable China to further expand and deepen its opening-up, and to strengthen its mutually beneficial cooperation with countries in ASEAN

The Initiative will create an open, inclusive and balanced regional economic cooperation architecture that benefits all.

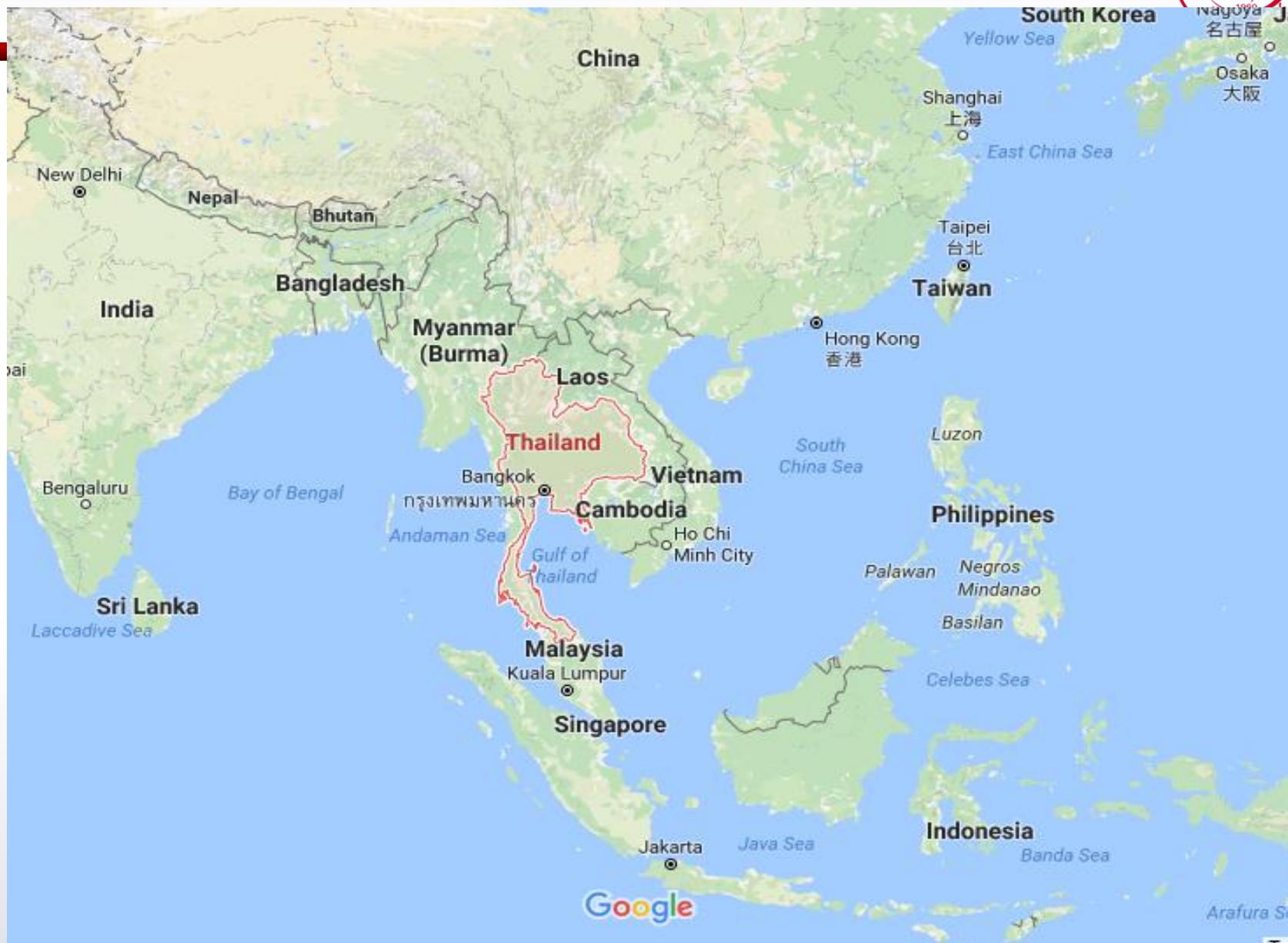
## **II Thailand is one of the most important countries along Maritime Silk Road**



**1. Thailand's Advantageous Geographical Location**

**2. The will of Thailand taking part in the Construction of the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road.**

**3. Sino-Thailand cooperation could bring strong demonstration effect**





### III. Good foundation for the construction of the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road between two countries and special advantages of Thailand

#### 1. Long-term stable political relationship between China and Thailand

In 2001 , Ministry of National Defense of china and thailand established mechanisms for defense and security consultation and dialogue.

in 2012,Both contries establish a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation

in 2013 ,Two governments sign< Development vision plan of Sino-Thailand relations >



## 2. Rapid Development of Economic relations.

Overview of China-Thailand bilateral trade (2011-2015) (Unit: US \$ 100m)

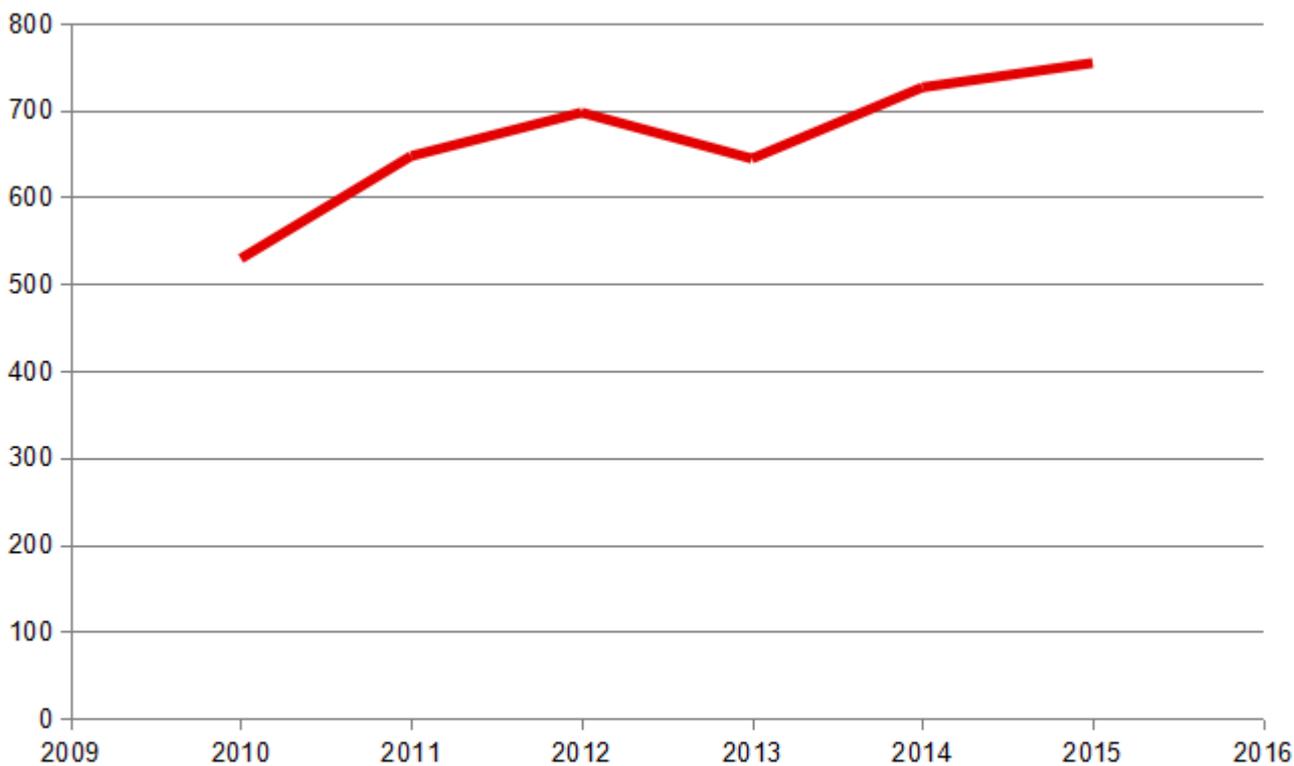
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Value of bilateral trade	647.4	697.5	712.6	726.7	754.6
(proportion of Thai trade)	(14.2%)	(14.6%)	(15.1%)	(16.0%)	(18.3%)
Thai exports to China	390.4	385.5	385.2	383.7	371.7
(proportion of Thai exports)	(17.2%)	(16.9%)	(17.1%)	(17.0%)	(17.6%)
Thai imports from China	257.0	312	327.4	343	382.9
(proportion of Thai imports)	(11.2%)	(12.5%)	(13.2%)	(15.1%)	(19.0%)

Source: People's Republic of China and Thailand bilateral trade database, <http://yzs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/t/201602/20160201252448.shtml>.

# The Development Trend of Chinese-Thai Trade



图1 中泰贸易额变化趋势 (单位: 亿美元)





### **3.High-level cultural and personnel exchanges and the similar culture of both countries**

In 2012, China surpassed Malaysia as Thailand's largest tourist source country and played an important role in Thai' s development of tourism and economy.

In 2015, the number of Chinese tourists coming to Thailand reached up to 7.935 million, an increase of 71.8% over 2014.

The driving force of Sino-Thai friendly relationship had mainly be based on the similarity of culture and value like peaceful, tolerant, merciful and gentle natures of both



## 4. Special advantages of Thailand

- 1) Higher level of economic development
- 2) Flexible Traditions of diplomacy
- 3) Being more tolerant society
- 4) Friendly forces of ethnic chinese in Thailand

# IV The contents of Construction of the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road between China and Thailand.



## 1. Policy coordination

China and Thailand should promote intergovernmental cooperation, build a multi-level intergovernmental macro policy exchange and communication mechanism, expand shared interests, enhance mutual political trust, and reach new cooperation consensus. Two sides should fully coordinate economic development strategies and policies, work out plans and measures for regional cooperation, negotiate to solve cooperation-related issues, and jointly provide policy support for the implementation of practical cooperation and large-scale projects.



## 2. Facilities connectivity

Facilities connectivity is a priority area for implementing the Initiative. On the basis of respecting each other's sovereignty and security concerns, China and Thailand should improve the connectivity of their infrastructure construction plans and technical standard systems, jointly push forward the construction of international trunk passageways, and form an infrastructure network connecting all sub-regions in Asia step by step.

Key areas : Railway construction\port cooperation\energy infrastructure



### 3. Unimpeded trade (贸易畅通)

strive to improve investment and trade facilitation, and remove investment and trade barriers for the creation of a sound business environment, expand trading areas, improve trade structure, explore new growth areas of trade, and promote trade balance.



## 4. Financial integration ( **资金融通** )

expand the scope and scale of bilateral currency swap and settlement; strengthen cross-border payment arrangements and financial regulation cooperation



## 5. People-to-people bond ( 民心相通 )

China and Thailand should make **personnel exchanges** more convenient, Promote extensive cultural and academic exchanges, personnel exchanges and cooperation, media cooperation, youth and women exchanges and volunteer services, send more students to each other's countries, and promote cooperation in jointly running schools, so as to win public support for deepening bilateral and multilateral cooperation.



## V. Challenges

Although Chinese-Thai cooperation has a bright future, it still faces some challenges.

as follows :

1. Political upheaval; Policy changes
2. Cultural conflict
3. Asymmetry of communication of information
4. Threat of terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism.
5. Intervention of outside powers



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Thanks!