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AVI COMMENTARY

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Assessing the Outcomes of the 20th Party Congress of the Communist Party of China

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I am delighted to partake in this important webinar to discuss a very important topic: the Outcomes of the 20th Party Congress of the Communist Party of China. I am just an outside observer, but I would like to share my view on China from the outside-in perspective.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the Communist Party of China (CPC) on the successful conclusion of the 20th Party Congress, which will provide new momentum to building China into a great modern socialist country.

I firmly believe that under the visionary and wise leadership of H.E. Xi Jinping, who has just been re-elected as the General Secretary of the party, together with other newly elected leaders and members, the CPC will achieve greater success and realise the policies and targets set by the 20th Party Congress.

Our panellists have eloquently discussed the outcomes of the Party Congress. I share their views and insights. I would like to join the conversation by stressing that China is on the right track to realising the Chinese dream. Leadership and governance are the key factors in achieving the vision.

I share the view that people-centred national development and international cooperation are extremely significant for China and the international community. As long as we put people's interests and aspirations at the front and centre of our national development strategy and international relations, we will sustain peace and prosperity.

President Xi Jinping's vision to realise the second centenary goal to transform China into a 'great modern socialist society in all aspects' can be achieved if national unity, innovative leadership and governance, and international integration remain strong and resilient.

Moreover, China's vision of the 'Community of Shared Future of Mankind' will contribute to building an open and inclusive multilateral international system. As a small state, Cambodia has been advocating for multilateralism and a rules-based international order. Cambodia and China will continue to work closely on these fronts.

China has played a crucial role in regional integration and poverty reduction. The Belt and Road Initiative, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, China's Global Developing Initiative, and China's Global Security

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Initiative are complementary to and compatible with ASEAN's Community Building and regional connectivity efforts. Cambodia strongly supports China's regional and international initiatives because we believe that the purposes and principles of China's initiatives align with those of Cambodia and ASEAN.

Witnessing the successful conclusion of the 20th Party Congress of the CPC, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen** sent a personal letter to congratulate H.E. Xi Jinping on being reelected as the General Secretary of the party and reiterate his strong commitment to continue working closely with the Chinese leader to further enhance the friendship between the two parties and to take the Cambodia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation to a new height. **H.E. Hun Manet** also sent a congratulatory message on that special occasion, stating that under the outstanding leadership of the CPC, China has scored remarkable achievements and made significant contributions to safeguarding world peace and stability and enhancing global development and prosperity.

Cambodia and China will continue to promote the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation while delivering more concrete outcomes for the interest of the people of the two countries. For instance, Cambodia-China FTA is vital to further enhancing bilateral economic cooperation. As of the first seven months of 2022, the trade volume between Cambodia and China reached USD 6.9 billion.

Besides economic relations, the two nations have also agreed to foster cultural and people-topeople connections, environmental cooperation, and cooperation in the green economy, technology, and social innovation.

To conclude, I firmly believe that China will continue to play a vital role in strengthening multilateralism and promoting global peace and development under the 'Community of Shared Future' framework. Furthermore, as we have learned from the 20th Party Congress, despite the growing challenges regionally and globally, China has expressed its firm commitment to upholding the foreign policy of peace and adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence with other countries.

The views expressed are the author's own and do not reflect the views of the Asian Vision Institute.