



PHILIPPINES - CHINA RELATIONS (2010-2021): CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract. The Philippines and China have a long-standing relationship in history. Through many ups and downs, this relationship continues to grow and gain important achievements. The year 2010 marked the rise of China when it surpassed Japan to become the second economy in the world, after the US. This has attracted more attention from countries in the region, seeking opportunities from China to develop. Moreover, in order to realize the strategic ambition of a great power in the 21st century, China must set strong goals, in which the economy is the driving force for all its development activities. And the Philippines, a neighboring country with many features that align with the interests China is seeking politically, economically and diplomatically, has become an important place in China's rise. In this article, the author focuses on clarifying the current situation of Philippines-China relations in the period 2010-2021 in the fields of politics - diplomacy, economy, security and defense, and on several other fields such as culture, Education and Tourism. Besides, the author also analyzes and offers some prospects for cooperation between the two countries in the coming time.

Keyword. Philippines, China, Cooperation, Diplomacy, Economy, International relations, security and defense.

Introduction

The Philippines and China have a long-standing relationship in history. Through many ups and downs, this relationship continues to grow and gain important achievements. The presence of China's influence can be seen in all economic, cultural, social, military activities, all development aid projects and so on. Hundreds of Chinese companies have invested billions of dollars into the Philippines, including projects in energy, mining industry, agriculture, etc. Moreover, due to epidemics and natural disasters, The Philippines aims to bolster its position by leaning somewhat on a major nation, with China being the undeniable choice. On the other

hand, with close relations with China, the Philippines will receive China's support in the international forum. Besides, the Philippines is one of the developing countries, with a limited infrastructure, a modest basic economy, a growing industry, but facing problems of capital shortage. If the Philippines develops a relationship with China, the Philippines will receive huge investments and aid from this country in order to develop science and technology and promote economic and trade development. Obviously, those huge benefits have contributed a great deal to socio-economic development in the Philippines. In China's strategy, the Philippines is still an important catalyst and guide for China to penetrate deeper into Southeast Asia. On the other hand, in order to promote the implementation of goals and policies to develop the country and regain its national position after the crisis in the late twentieth century, the Philippines needs the active support of other countries, including China. Therefore, despite many difficulties, the relationship between the two countries will continue to develop and achieve achievements in the coming time. Currently, the Philippines and China are both Vietnam's leading partners in all fields. Understanding the Philippines - China relationship is an interesting and necessary issue because it helps us to see the status of this relationship, contributing to the study of the two countries' history to identify the great effects of the policy adjustment of the Philippines - a member of ASEAN. In addition, the relationship between these two countries has had an impact on East Asia, creating opportunities and challenges for Vietnam. Despite the differences, studying the relationship between the Philippines and China will lead to scientific comments and assessments, thereby lessons can be drawn to use in policy formulation and implementation, including Vietnam's foreign relations with other countries in general, as well as with China and the Philippines in particular.

1. The situation of relations between Philippines and China (2010- 2021)

1.1 In the field of politics - diplomacy

In the initial phase of President Benigno Aquino's tenure, the Philippines-China relationship remained relatively cordial. Right after President B. Aquino was elected as the President of the Philippines (May 2010), the Chinese leader sent a congratulatory telegram, expressing his high importance to the development of friendly neighborly relations with the Philippines. In August 2011, President Benigno Aquino paid an official visit to China with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations in the fields of economy and trade. The visit (from August 30 to September 3) took place in the context of relatively tense relations between the two countries over the South China Sea dispute, which began in May 2011. On August 31, President B. Aquino met and held talks with President Hu Jintao for the first time. However, at the talks, the two sides rarely mentioned the South China Sea issue but focused on discussing

cooperation measures in the economic field. While China wants to use an economic strategy to ease tensions, Manila also wants to improve relations with Beijing due to economic dependence, especially trade and investment. President B. Aquino declared during his visit that Philippine-China relations will not be affected by disputes in the South China Sea, asserting his desire to "resolve disputes through peaceful dialogues, and continue to maintain peace, security and stability in the region, creating favorable conditions for economic development.

The Philippines has marked a drastic change in how to adapt to the increasing influence of China during the period of President Rodrigo Duterte in the direction of Manila getting closer and closer to China in political-diplomatic relations in order to seek China's support as well as increasing bilateral economic ties. Ever since Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's "ice-breaking" trip to China in October 2016, he also declared a separation from the United States. This event marked a new turning point in Manila's relationship with China and Washington. The growing relationship with China is mainly in the economic sphere, and the United States remains a key security partner of the Philippines.

President Duterte's performance in relations with China and the US shows that this country is implementing a balanced foreign policy between these two powers in the direction of increasing economic growth with China and continuing the alliance relationship with the US. In other words, the Philippines is implementing a more balanced and independent foreign policy. According to the Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines dated October 21, 2016, which emphasized, "the two sides are committed to based on recognized international principles, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, strengthen cooperation between the coast guard departments of the two countries, in response to humanitarianism, environmental issues and maritime emergencies such as human safety issues, assets at sea and protect the marine environment" (Xinhua News, 2016, p1). At the same time, "the two sides strengthen trust, well abide by the "Memorandum of Understanding on China-Philippines defense cooperation, increase humanitarian aid, reduce natural disasters, maintain regional exchanges and cooperation" (Xinhua News, 2016). Most recently, the Philippine President attended the Second Belt and Road Cooperation Summit in Beijing, China on April 25-27, 2019. Within the framework of this forum, Philippine President Duterte had a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 25, 2019, both of which emphasized the importance of the Philippines-China friendship. According to China's official media, Mr. Duterte in his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping said: "I came to China for peace and development. China is a long-term reliable good friend. The Philippine side will stick to the independent foreign policy of self-reliance. I would like to join the President: Xi Jinping to eliminate anxiety, firmly believe in trust, and make friendly cooperation always become the

mainstream in the Philippines-China relations. The Philippine side promotes confidence in the joint construction of one belt and one road", wishing to take advantage of the good opportunities that "one belt one road" brings to realize national development goals, wishes to properly handle the issue at South China sea, without affecting the development of relations between the two countries" (Xinhua News, p1, 2019).

1.2 In the economic field

Regarding trade and commercial cooperation, the relationship between the Philippines and China in the period 2010-2021 has made great progress in terms of scale and nature compared to the previous period. The key point of this development is that both countries find common ground and their own benefits in the context of globalization, integration and development of the world.

Table 1: Import and export situation between the Philippines and China (2001-2017)

Year	Export	Import	Total turnover commerce	Balance of trade
2001	792,757	953,110	1,745,867	-160,353
2002	1,355,825	1,251,727	2,607,552	104,098
2003	2,144,647	1,797,486	3,942,133	347,161
2004	2,653,036	2,659,375	5,312,411	-6,339
2005	4,076,996	2,972,595	7,049,591	1,104,401
2006	4,627,660	3,647,354	8,275,014	980,306
2007	5,749,864	4,001,235	9,751,099	1,748,629
2008	5,466,881	4,245,553	9,712,434	1,221,328
2009	2,933,923	3,807,418	6,741,341	-873,495
2010	5,724,467	4,627,559	10,352,026	1,096,908
2011	6,237,326	6,085,075	12,322,401	152,251
2012	6,169,285	6,680,352	12,849,637	-511,067
2013	7,025,215	8,072,328	15,097,543	-1,047,113
2014	8,467,435	9,869,762	18,337,197	-1,402,327

2015	6,174,784	11,470,735	17,645,519	-5,295,951
2016	6,372,524	15,564,900	21,937,424	-9,192,376
2017	8,017,132	17,463,603	25,480,735	-9,446,471

Source: *Philippines Statistical Yearbook (PSY) (2005) and Philippines Statistical Yearbook (PSY) (2011), Philippines Statistical Yearbook (PSY) (2019)*

Since President Benigno Aquino III took office, visits to China have increased in frequency, aimed at fostering stable, long-term, and sustainable development in Philippines-China cooperation relations. A Joint Action Plan on Strategic Cooperation between China and the Philippines signed on October 29, 2009 is considered a testament to this good development (China, 2021). Since 2010, two-way trade turnover has continuously increased rapidly, even though both the Philippines and China were affected by the global economic crisis, causing trade relations between the two sides to decrease significantly. Overcoming these difficulties, in 2010, bilateral trade turnover reached 27.7 billion USD, up 35% compared to 2009 and China became the third largest trading partner of the Philippines (Wang, 2021).

With President Duterte's "pivot" policy towards China, the two countries economic relations have been really promoted, and economic cooperation agreements between the two sides have been continuously signed. During the 28th Conference of the China-Philippines Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Cooperation (JCETC), the two sides discussed many issues on economic cooperation, trade and investment. In addition, the two countries also discussed the 6-year Development Program on Economic and Trade Cooperation. This is considered an overall cooperation framework for economic relations between the two countries in the period 2017-2022 (China, 2020).

Specifically, during the initial three years of President Duterte's administration (2016-2018), the number of cooperation agreements forged during high-level visits between the Philippines and China far exceeded the tally of agreements formally signed between the two nations during the six years of President Aquino III's rule. This data does not include 25 cooperation agreements between the two countries in 2019 with a total value of nearly 15 billion USD (ASEAN, 2017).

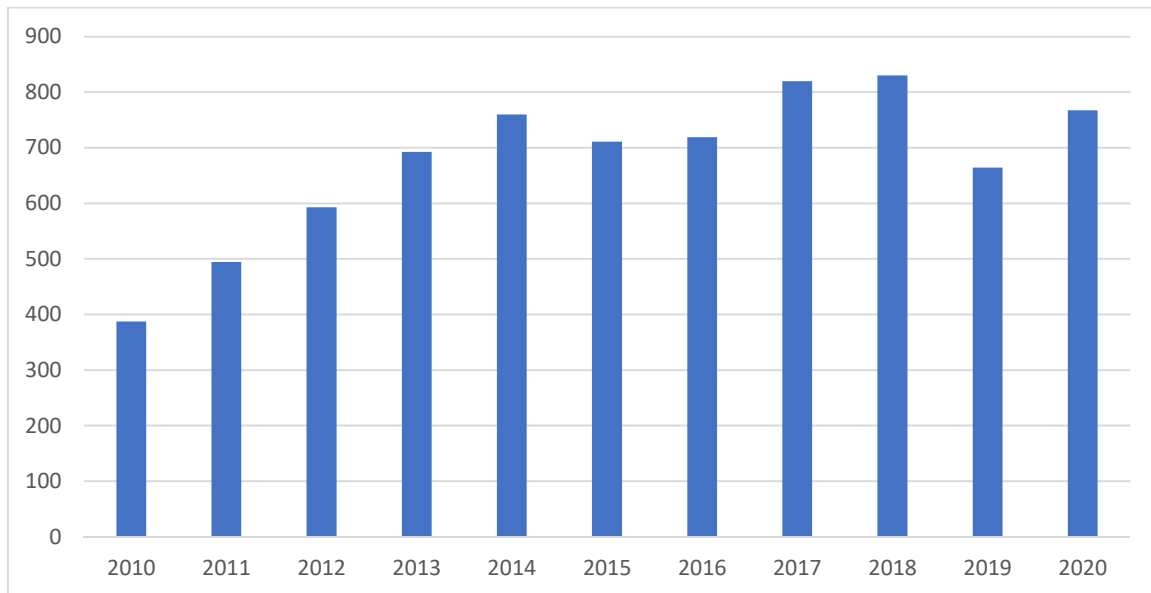
China became the Philippines' top trading partner in 2016 with a total trade worth \$21.937 billion, accounting for 15.5% of the Philippines' total trade in the same year. Exports from China reached \$5.372 billion, while payments for imported goods were worth \$15.565 billion, resulting in a \$9.192 billion trade deficit.

Regarding investment relations, the Philippines, an archipelagic country is facing financial and economic difficulties, and people's living standards are still backward. In the context of globalization, in order to improve its economic competitiveness, ability to respond to natural disasters and also fight against Islamic extremist groups and terrorists at home and abroad, the Philippines has constantly used different diplomatic tools and policies to attract foreign support, therefore, at the turn of the twenty-first century, the Philippines has constantly opened its doors and welcomed investors, including investors from China.

In 2008, China's direct investment in the Philippines was US\$33.69 million. At the end of 2008, Chinese direct investment in the Philippines. China's investment in the Philippines is mainly related to agriculture, mining, textiles, electromechanical processing and other fields. Regarding project contracts, labor service cooperation and design consulting contracts, Chinese companies signed 61 new contracts in the Philippines in 2008, with a contract value of US\$394.87 million, in that technical contract value is 361 million USD. In 2008, the revenue was US\$398 million, of which the turnover of technical contracts was US\$395 million (Yuan,2010).

Figure 1. Total FDI from China to the Philippines period 2010-2020

Unit: million USD



Although the relationship between the Philippines and China under President Aquino was not as good as that of his predecessor, Arroyo, with China's "Going out" policy, the

Philippines became a very good partner. Between 2009 and 2015, Chinese FDI inflows into the Philippines nearly doubled, from US\$387.34 million in 2010 to US\$759.94 million in 2014. This large investment contributed to the recovery of the Philippine economy between 2011 and 2015 with GDP growth of 3.86% in 2011 and 6.35% in 2015 respectively (Chuong, 2016).

Establishing the financing mechanism for this strategy, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has helped the Philippines attract investment capital from China. In 2018, China ranked first in foreign investment in the Philippines, amounting to \$819.6 million, up 2,072% from \$718.93 million in 2017. This growth is led by businesses and companies from sectors such as information and communication technology, food production, real estate and electricity. In 2019, China continued to show strong interest and ranked as the second largest source of investment after Singapore, with US\$830.02 million, accounting for 32% of total foreign investment in the Philippines. The biggest project is to develop a third telecommunications provider, a joint venture with China Telecom. This investment is attracting related projects in the telecommunications, infrastructure and services sectors. Other notable Chinese investors in the Philippines include: C&U Group Ltd., New Hope Liuhe, Azure Gaming (Hongkong) Ltd., Suzhou Boamax Technologies Group Co., Ltd. and JTK Technology (Suzhou) Co., Ltd. These are corporations that promise huge resources to invest in the Philippines in the next period.

1.3 In the field of security - defense

Under President Arroyo, despite territorial disputes, the Philippines and China signed a Joint Declaration on a Framework for Bilateral Cooperation in the 21st Century on May 16, 2000. In this agreement, both sides acknowledge "the power of long-standing friendship, history and geographical proximity to advance the fundamental interests of the two peoples (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2000). The Philippines and China also expressed hope that the agreement would maintain and strengthen the annual meeting mechanism between senior officials and the foreign ministries of the two sides to consult on bilateral and regional issues (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2000). In pursuit of these aspirations, Manila and Beijing also expressed their interest to broaden the scope and deepen their cooperation in the fields of defense and security. The Philippines-China Joint Declaration on the Bilateral Cooperation Framework in the 21st Century is the only document signed by the two countries with a provision on defense cooperation.

With the signing of this Joint Declaration, both countries have created a written basis to strengthen each other's visits through exchanges of all levels between defense and military officials. In October 2000, Philippine Chief of Army Staff Angelo Reyes visited China. In April 2002, Defence Minister Angelo Reyes visited China. In June the same year, Commander of the

Philippine Air Force Benjamin P. Defensor visited China and the Philippine naval fleet visited China for the first time. In September, Chi Haotian, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission, State Councilor cum Defence Minister, visited the Philippines (ASEAN,2019). So, when Ms. Arroyo was re-elected President in May 2004, the first country she visited was China from September 1-3, 2004 at the invitation of President Hu Jintao. During this visit, both leaders had serious discussions on strengthening defense ties by establishing a framework for defense cooperation. Also in September 2004, then AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya visited China and witnessed the Military Exercise "Iron Fist 2004 (Xinhua News,2022). He was very impressed by the modern military equipment of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) and they expressed their desire to learn lessons from the policy of military of China.

China and the Philippines increasingly increase comprehensive cooperation with each other, in addition to the economic, the security has also been strongly promoted. Besides the ongoing efforts by the Philippines and China to enhance maritime security cooperation in the region, the recent conflict event in southern Philippines can be viewed as an "opportunity" for both countries to further bolster their security cooperation. The attack by a militant group affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) in Marawi city, southern Philippines on May 23, 2017 was seen by the Chinese side as a good opportunity to increase cooperation in the field of defense - security with the Philippines and at least both countries have the same religious problem - that is the separatist tendency of the Muslim forces. On May 23, 2017, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang affirmed that China strongly supports the anti-terrorism activities of the Philippine government. He stressed that terrorism is a common enemy of mankind and that China shares and supports the anti-terrorism efforts of the Philippine government. Furthermore, China has shown full support for Duterte's war on drugs and counter-terrorism campaign. One of the signed bilateral agreements (Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation), China has provided the Philippines with more than 14 million USD for anti-drug and law enforcement projects (Aaron, 2017).

At the same time, the Chinese side also declared its readiness to be with the Philippines in the fight against Islamic extremists loyal to the self-proclaimed Islamic State. In 2017, China provided about \$300 million in military assistance and disaster assistance to the Philippines, which marked the beginning of a relationship that Duterte heralded as the herald of a new era. "In June 2017, China also provided 3,000 assault rifles and 100 shotguns to the Philippines. On October 5, 2017, China provided 3,000 assault rifles to the Philippines to show off. "Friendly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, this weapon is worth about \$3.3 million and will be assigned to the Philippine National Police (PNP) (Dai Doan Ket, 2017). In addition, the two coast guard forces of China and the Philippines will cooperate in law enforcement in the East Sea. According to the China Coast Guard, from October 9-11, 2018, the two countries' coast

guard held the second Joint Committee meeting in Guangzhou, China, in which the two sides signed a “Memorandum of Understanding by the China Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard on the establishment of a Joint Commission on Maritime Cooperation of the Two Scenes”. Prior to that, in February 2017, the two sides also established the China-Philippines Joint Commission on Maritime Cooperation, with a view to practical cooperation in areas such as attacking transnational crimes related to illegal transportation of goods and services, drug license, marine rescue, environmental protection quick response (Duowei News, 2018). However, in the field of security, the Philippines remains suspicious and wary of China and continues its military alliance with the US. The Philippine military has a different view from Mr. Duterte's attitude towards China. Especially in light of the recent scene where the two countries continue to have controversies related to the South China Sea issue, such as Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in his response to the media also revealed that in August 2018 the The Chinese military attempted to drive away Philippine navy aircraft after they flew over disputed areas in the South China Sea and had a dispute with China. The Philippines and China's involvement in sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, as well as China's increasingly powerful military presence in the South China Sea, also make the Philippines worry about security risks.

1.4 In the other fields of cooperation

In the field of culture, on the basis of the "Joint Declaration between China and the Philippines on the framework of bilateral cooperation in the twenty-first century" signed in 2000, bilateral relations between the two countries have gradually moved into long-term and stable cooperation. After the high-level agreement during the visit to China, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (September 2004), the two countries stepped up the strategic partnership, enhanced cooperation in all aspects, in which emphasis was placed on cooperation in the field of culture. With the aim of enhancing cultural understanding between the two countries, the Philippine and Chinese governments have organized many high-level visits and during these times there have been many cooperation documents in the field of culture and society signed. This is one of the important foundations for promoting the Philippines-China bilateral relationship to achieve positive results in the first decade of the twenty-first century.

During the official visit to China by President Benigno Aquino III from August 30 to September 3, 2011, the two sides signed 09 cooperation agreements in many fields such as economy, aid, investment, physical education, tourism, information, and culture. Accordingly, cultural programs such as film screenings, art exhibitions, music performances and food festivals are held regularly. Also within the framework of cultural cooperation between the two countries, in 2013, the Philippine Consulate in Shanghai organized the program "Taste of the

Philippines", with activities to promote intangible cultural heritage values. As food, traditional music and folk dance come to China (Andrea, 2014). With the desire to further strengthen cooperation in the field of television to meet the needs of cultural exchange and information exchange between the peoples of the two countries, China Radio International and the State Radio Administration Philippines co-produced program "Wow China", local radio channel Radyo Filipinas since mid-2018 (Jason, 2022). The Chinese side has launched the China Drama program on the People's Television Network (PTV4) of the Philippines, Chinese entertainment channels such as ABS-CBN channel and Global Media Arts channel. (GMA) is also broadcast in the Philippines (Joyce, 2022). These communication channels have contributed to strengthening the traditional friendship, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the Philippines and China.

In the field of education, universities and high schools are the leading institutions in promoting educational cooperation between the two countries. The schools have exchanged students and students from primary school to graduate students to learn from each other, and at the same time organize visiting classes by leading scholars in the field. Along with that, the two countries work together to compile curricula, especially business administration and public policy, as well as foreign language training. Anhui University of Economics, Beijing Trade Union University, and Beijing Foreign Studies University have experience in cooperating with the Philippines in these fields. In 2018, Ateneo de Davao University signed a contract with Chinese University - Xiamen City to teach Chinese language and Chinese culture. In 2020, the Philippines-China Educational Research Institute was established at Pan pacific University to advance educational research at all levels in China and the Philippines. Chinese students coming to the Philippines mainly study majors such as Computer Science, Medicine, and Law (Panpacificu, 2022).

Student exchange between the two countries is also one of the achievements in terms of education and training cooperation between the Philippines and China. According to statistics, from 1978 to 2015, the Chinese side provided 198 scholarships to Filipino students. In 2014, more than 200 students of the Philippine National University of Education (PNU) and the University of the Philippines received many grants from the Embassy's educational program; Besides, a number of other students have been sent to China and other provinces to receive intensive training in their specialties (Oyce, 2022).

In 2015, the total number of Filipino international students studying in China was 3343. During the period from January 1 to October 2018, there were 106 more Filipino international students coming to China to study. At the same time, in the Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines on November 21, 2018 also

stated that, from 2019 to 2021, China will provide 50 scholarships each year to students. Philippines (Joint Statement,2022). Also in 2019, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China provided the Chinese Government Scholarship to 80 Filipino students. Scholarships are available for majors such as International Relations, Corporate Management, Clinical Medicine, Engineering Management and Chinese Language for undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. These scholarships provide free tuition, free accommodation, living expenses and health insurance while studying at Peking University, Tsinghua University, Xiamen University, Jinan University, University Fujian Pedagogy and many other prestigious universities in China (Chinese Embassy,2022).

In the field of tourism, for both the Philippines and China, tourism is identified as a "spike" economic sector - a "smokeless" industry of the country, contributing much to the economic development of the country. these two countries. In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, the Philippines-China bilateral cooperation in tourism has achieved certain results for both countries.

Tourism between China and the Philippines has grown rapidly since Mr. Durtener's policy of being closer to the country. On October 20, 2016, Philippine Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo and China National Tourism Administration Director General Li Jinzao signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on tourism cooperation in Beijing (Rappler, 2022). Accordingly, the cooperation contents were exchanged, agreed and put into long-term cooperation content, in order to promote tourism cooperation to attract more tourists from the two countries to each other. Also in the spirit of tourism cooperation between the two countries, the Philippine Department of Tourism has received several contracts with a number of Philippine performing arts programs at two main offices in China, one in Beijing and the other in China. Shanghai.

According to data released by the Department of Tourism (DOT, Departement of Tourims), China is one of the largest tourist markets of the Philippines. Despite the maritime dispute with the Philippines, Chinese arrivals to the country peaked at 490,841 in 2015 - 24% higher than in 2014 and also the third largest market after South Korea and the United States. After two years of efforts since President Rodrigo Duterte took office in 2016, China-Philippines relations have made positive changes and created good momentum. China is currently the Philippines' largest trading partner, largest export market, largest source of imports, and second largest source of tourists (Li, Ramses, 2022) According to the Philippine Department of Tourism, Tourism revenue totaled \$9.31 billion in 2019, up 20.81% from \$7.71 billion in 2018. Based on data from the Planning Office Tourism Development, Research and Information Management, the top customer market is South Korea with the highest spending on tourism with about

\$2,614,685,263, followed by China with \$2,330,491,557 and the United States with 1,208,907,514 USD (Joyce, 2022). Tourism Minister Bernadette Romulo-Puyat also said that the continuously increasing numbers show the fruit of strong collaborative efforts by government, industry and civil society in realizing the goals of the country. The National Tourism Development Program 2016-1022 (NTDP) master plan for the country's inclusive and sustainable tourism program is designed to promote the livelihoods of marginalized stakeholders and spread benefits to the countryside" (Xinhua News, 2022) Accordingly, the number of tourists from the Philippines to China is increasing day by day. According to statistics released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in 2013 there were only 996 thousand arrivals, but by 2018 it had increased to 1.205 million people.

Table 2. Number of Chinese tourists to the Philippines from 2008 to 2021

(Unit: thousand people)

Years	Number
2008	163,689
2009	155,019
2010	187,446
2011	243,137
2012	250,883
2013	426,352
2014	394,951
2015	490,841
2016	675,663
2017	968,447
2018	1,257,962
2019	1,743,309
2020	170,432

Source: Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT)

According to Philippine Ambassador to China Jose Romana, the number of tourists and businessmen applying for visas to enter the Philippines increased by a record 200% and affirmed the "golden days of the Philippine tourism industry. has returned." Mr. Jose Romana also added that during times of strained China-Philippines relations, Chinese people traveled to Southeast Asia but did not come to the Philippines.

2. Prospects for Philippines and China Relations

In the view of Chinese leaders, the Philippines is an important factor in China's strategy to expand its influence in Southeast Asia. China views the Philippines as a foothold in the South China Sea and restrains the US's increasing presence in Southeast Asia. Many experts believe that China has been trying to do everything to build and strongly promote the "backyard" area - an area that is influenced by politics and economy - the Philippines is a link. important for China to increase its influence and contain the region. If it does not take hold of the Philippines in time, it will fall into the "oasis" of other countries, especially the US, which is constantly watching the region and constantly influencing this island nation. Obviously, politically, China's strengthening of cooperation with the Philippines is aimed at influencing influence in the Philippines, thereby expanding its influence in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines is considered a potential market that can provide a valuable resource for China's opening and modernization, so China has increased investment in the country. This is for profit. Moreover, the Philippines is also an important premise for China to implement its strategy to penetrate and dominate the Southeast Asian market with the expansion of investment in almost all fields: transportation, textiles, oil and gas, and minerals. products, agriculture, real estate, energy, commodity trading. Besides, China also gives the Philippines a huge amount of aid, with the goal of preparing a base to help corporations. China's expansion of oil and mineral exploitation areas, this can be seen as the "goodwill" of the Chinese government and enterprises for the Philippines not to impose strict conditions, which has contributed to creating sympathy of the Philippine leaders. It can be seen that the strengthening of economic strategy will facilitate the increase of political influence, the goals that China sets in Southeast Asia will be partly realized through the Philippines and China will use all means to bring the Philippines in particular and Southeast Asia in general into its sphere of influence, but the way to achieve this depends on many factors, especially China's power will be placed in the area of influence. position when compared with the rest of the great powers.

Meanwhile, developing relations with China, the Philippines has been receiving a lot of benefits in all aspects. China's influential presence can be seen in all economic, cultural, social, military activities, all development aid projects... Hundreds of Chinese companies have invested billions of dollars. US dollars into the Philippines, including projects in energy, mining

industry, agriculture... Moreover, in the context of many difficulties due to epidemics and natural disasters, the Philippines wants more or less to rely on a big country to strengthen its position and China is the choice not to be missed. On the other hand, with close relations with China, the Philippines will receive China's support in the international forum. Besides, the Philippines is one of the developing countries, with a limited infrastructure, a modest basic economy, a growing industry, but facing problems of capital shortage and decline. If developing a relationship with China, the Philippines will receive huge investments and aid from this country, have conditions for scientific and technological development, and promote economic and trade development. Obviously, those huge benefits have contributed a great deal to socio-economic development in the Philippines. It can be seen that in China's strategy, the Philippines is still an important catalyst and guide for China to penetrate deeper into Southeast Asia. In the opposite direction, in order to promote the implementation of goals and policies to develop the country and regain the country's position after the crisis in the late twentieth century, the Philippines needs active support of major countries, including China. Therefore, despite many difficulties, economic relations between the two countries will continue to develop and achieve achievements in the coming time.

In the field of culture, education, and tourism, it can be said that the process of cultural-educational cooperation between the Philippines and China in the first decades of the 21st century has achieved many great achievements in many years. In general and especially for culture-education. The cooperation process has had a positive effect on the relationship of the two countries, helping to strengthen the relationship and creating a premise for harmonious cooperation and mutual support in other fields. Although there are still some negative points affecting both countries, especially in the South China Sea issue, they are not significant and can be completely improved. In the early decades of the 21st century, the Governments of the two countries have made every effort to create favorable conditions for the two peoples to have the opportunity to approach and interact with each other's cultures. The people of the two countries also have a lot in common in both culture and society, and the two sides have also achieved more when cooperating in this field. The most obvious proof is through cultural exchange activities, arts, sports, tourism, food, charity in the Philippines as well as in China. At the same time, many Memorandums of Understanding have also been signed to cooperate to further promote mutual cooperation. Third, in 2009, the revenue from tourism was 2.235 billion USD in 2018 Philippine tourism marked a new milestone of 8,260,913 arrivals, an increase of 15.24% compared to the previous year 7,168,467 turns this number reaches the target of 8.2 million in the National Tourism Development Plan 2017-2022. China is the second largest source of visitors with 1,743,309 arrivals in 2019, an increase of 38.58% compared to the number of visitors to 2018. In 2019, China is the only market to reach a record of one million to NAIA, the

main gateway to the Nation. Moreover, similar to the Korean market, Boracay's reopening has attracted many Chinese tourists when the number of visitors from China to Kalibo spiked by 155.64% (Tourism Department, 2022). At the same time, the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) said that Chinese tourists spent a total of 2.33 billion USD while visiting the Philippines in 2019. DOT data shows a total of 1.74 million visitors. Chinese tourists visited the Philippines in 2019, an increase of 38.58% compared to 2018.

Conclusion

The adaptability of the foreign policies of Presidents Aquino and Rodrigo Duterte, as well as the adjustment of concessions made to China in the South China Sea issue, and the balance between the two countries, determined China-Philippine relations in the period between 2010 and 2021. Between 2010 and 2021, there will be ups and downs in the relationship between the Philippines and China in a number of areas, including the resolution of the South China Sea dispute and the experience of "cooperation and conflict. The relationship between the two countries from 2001 to 2021 symbolizes the relationship between the emerging major powers and the smaller neighbors that have pursued the policy of balancing the relations between the great powers since the world's beginning in the 21st century. Calculating strategic interests, both China and the Philippines attach great importance to bilateral relations and set specific political priorities for each other. In particular, the Philippines has played a particularly important role in China's Strong Rising Country strategy, helping to realize China's ambitions to rival the United States as the world's largest superpower. On the other hand, China has always been at the center of the Philippines' foreign policy and an important source of investment and technology to help the Philippines implement its development strategies and policies. In general, the relationship between the Philippines and China for the period 2010-2021 has achieved many important achievements in the fields of political diplomacy, economy, defense and security, culture, education and tourism.

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