

# RCEP THINK TANK NETWORK



## NEWSLETTER

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### **Think Tank Initiative for "Jointly Promoting Connectivity of China - ASEAN Marine Economy"**

Dec 29, 2024

On December 29, 2024, at the RCEP Youth Dialogue on Marine Economy, themed "Promoting Connectivity of Regional Marine Economy," experts from regional think tanks concluded that advancing connectivity for marine economy is a key step towards achieving regional blue economy integration and promoting the establishment of blue economy partnerships. In light of this, the attending think tank representatives launch the following initiative:

#### **1. Jointly Promote Marine Infrastructure Connectivity with a Focus on Ports**

China and ASEAN countries should jointly invest in upgrading and expanding existing port capacities and facilities, focusing on addressing gaps in regional coastal marine infrastructure. This can include the establishment of port industry network led by enterprises, creating a cooperation network based on China - ASEAN coastal port cities, and promoting the alignment and standardization of service standards and operational processes.

#### **2. Jointly Construct a Large Marine Tourism Market with a Focus on Cruises**

China and ASEAN should jointly integrate marine tourism resources, design regional cruise routes, develop cruise tourism products with island destinations as the main focus, create signature routes like the "South China Sea Cruise Tour." Facilitate tourist visa processes across countries, establish an island tourism industry network, and align industry standards, product standards, and management standards.

### **3. Jointly Promote Connectivity in Rules and Standards of Marine Economy**

China and ASEAN should establish a mechanism to align rules and standards in areas such as marine transportation, marine environmental protection, marine crisis rescue, marine scientific research, and technological innovation, to promote mutual recognition of standards in China - ASEAN marine sectors.

### **4. Jointly Build the Cultural Foundation for Marine Economy Connectivity**

China and ASEAN should collaborate to host marine cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and other marine cultural exchange and tourism activities, build a regional cultural exchange platform with participation from both governments and the public, and promote the shared prosperity of marine culture.

The think tank representatives here agree and advocate for: looking to the future, actively playing the role of think tanks, collaborating to establish platforms for industry-academia-research exchanges, jointly conducting research projects and trend analyses on marine industries, and striving to advance China - ASEAN marine economy connectivity, making positive contributions to the integration of the blue economy.