

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE BILATERAL MEETING WITH
CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

[Great Hall of the People | 25 April 2019]

Thank you President Xi Jinping for his personal invitation to the Second Belt and Road Forum.

The forum provides another opportunity to renew and reaffirm our valued relations based on mutual trust, respect, and friendship and must continue to grow strength and meaning in the coming years.

I would like to greet China on its 70th founding anniversary. As China celebrate the significant milestone, the Philippines congratulates China on its economic achievements.

The Philippine-China must continue to work together to explore new areas of cooperation and partnership.

We look forward to a productive discussion on matters of mutual interest and concern.

We keep to listen to His Excellency's thoughts on progress, achieved in further strengthening bilateral relations in the recent development in our region.

President Xi's visit to Manila last November was a watershed moment in the Philippine-China ties.

The decision to elevate bilateral ties to a comprehensive, strategic cooperation affirms the Philippines and China's strong desire to further deepen and broaden this engagement.

We must *[unclear]* up implementation of the agreements during His Excellency's visit. We envision *[unclear]* high-quality and good impact projects.

The sooner they are completed, the sooner people on the ground will feel the benefits of Philippine-China relations.

The attendance of over 35 leaders and heads of international organizations in the Second Belt and Road Forum demonstrate trust and confidence in China's Belt and Road...

[media were asked to leave the room]

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