

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**OPENING REMARKS OF
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
AND
CHINESE PREMIER LI KEQIANG
DURING THEIR BILATERAL MEETING**

[Delivered at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China | 30 August 2019]

PREMIER LI KEQIANG: Mr. President, it gives me a great pleasure to meet you again. Welcome to China for another visit. China and the Philippines...

Mr. President, you did give me a great pleasure to meet you here in China, and welcome to China for another visit. Mr. President, it gives me a great pleasure to meet you again, and welcome to China for another visit.

The Philippines is China's [unclear] neighbor and an important cooperation partner in Southeast Asia. But our friendship has a time-honored tradition.

Since you took office as the President of the Philippines three years ago, the bilateral relations has started to turn around and continue to enjoy steady progress and sound development.

Together, we have cemented traditional friendship between our two countries on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit.

We will continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship and together we will achieve win-win results and maintain security and stability in our region and peace in the world.

I would like to have a discussion with you, Mr. President, on issues of shared interest. Now, I will give you the floor, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, what brought me to the shores of China [inaudible] because I wanted to take up, first of all, being the coordinator country of ASEAN-China, I have been the recipient of so many requests regarding the progress of the Code of Conduct that China is

preparing for at least hearing the side of what would happen during the operation of the conduct of --- the Code of Conduct.

Most of them are ASEAN countries. The biggest urgency really comes from the Western world.

And I would like to tell you now, in front of the media and all, that the passing of --- or the passage of the Code of Conduct by China and everyone else is the least concern of America. I believe... I want to... *[ushered out]*

PREMIER LI KEQIANG: ... *[ushered in again]* to achieve consensus on the COC. And it is our hope that during the Philippines' tenure as the country coordinator of China-ASEAN relations, we will conclude COC consultations so as to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: That is my dream, Your Excellency. *[ushered out]*

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