

## **TDAP's Participation in China ASEAN Expo 27-30 November 2020**

TDAP participated in China ASEAN Expo held in Nanning China from 27-30 November 2020. Government of China designed Pakistan as Special Partner Country in the event and provided space for country pavilion and display of product. 14 companies from various export sectors of Pakistan participated in the event despite global pandemic which shows interest of Pakistani companies in the Chinese market.

In recorded message, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that Pakistan has deep-rooted cultural and economic links with China-ASEAN region and the present Government is deeply committed to further strengthening and diversifying these ties by exploring the feasibility of a China-ASEAN Trade Triangle that would propel three-way cooperation in trade, investment, culture and tourism.

The President's speech was released together with speeches of China ASEAN leaders, including President Xi Jinping of China, Presidents of Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines and Prime Ministers of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

In his speech, President Alvi commended the Government of China for effectively overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic and restoring trade and economic activity as testified by the holding of CAEXPO and other trade exhibitions.

China, he said, has emerged as economic hub and a strong exponent of free trade and multilateralism as shown by its signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which is the world's largest trade agreement to-date. Pakistan has multifaceted economic cooperation with China, including a Free Trade Agreement, which entered its expanded phase II early this year, and the transformative China Pakistan Economic Corridor which has brought great economic benefits to Pakistan and enhanced connectivity in the region. With completion of infrastructure and energy projects, CPEC has now entered a new phase of greater emphasis on strengthening Pakistan's industry, agriculture, and socioeconomic sectors.

The President also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening trade and economic cooperation with ASEAN states. Pakistan is pursuing this objective through its sectoral dialogue partnership with ASEAN and membership of ASEAN Regional Forum. Pakistan is now exploring the feasibility of concluding a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN.

The President highlighted the economic reforms of the Government and the resulting macroeconomic stability and the conducive environment for business and foreign investment. He encouraged investors from China and ASEAN to avail the emerging opportunities of making profitable investments in the Special Economic Zones of Pakistan, which are subject to special supportive policies and attractive tariff and tax concessions for foreign investors.

TDAP is include China ASEAN expo to its exhibition calendar and shall participate in 2021 edition with full vigor.