

Vision and Actions on Jointly Promoting Cooperation of Certification and Accreditation in Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road

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Over 2000 years ago, diligent and courageous people of Eurasia explored and opened up the Silk Road that linked the major civilizations of Asia, Europe and Africa, and formed the Silk Road Spirit – “peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit”, which greatly contributed to the trade and economic prosperity of the countries along the Silk Road.

For thousands of years the Silk Road Spirit has been handed down from generation to generation and constantly enhanced the interaction and trust among the countries along the Silk Road. Certification and accreditation, as the generally used tool of quality management and trade facilitation, plays a more and more important role in the global trade and the sustainable economic development of all nations. Adhering to the opening up strategy and following the international rules, China has built a certification and accreditation system with its own characteristics and participated in international cooperation and mutual recognition in all rounds.

The certification and accreditation sector of China flourished under the support of the Chinese government and with the joint efforts

of relevant parties. Certification and accreditation have become the quality infrastructure supporting China's sustainable development, the bridge of close communication, mutual trust and joint development between China and other parts of the world. Compliance with the international rules, respect of the interests of all parties, and promotion of the good practice of certification and accreditation with other countries are regarded by China as the experience from the past as well as the vision of the future.

In March 2015, the Chinese government authorized the publication of "*Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st -Century Maritime Silk Road*", which raised the initiative of cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road. The initiative clearly states that certification and accreditation are among the key cooperation areas, manifesting the importance of certification and accreditation and the common need for mutual benefit and win-win situation. The initiative is our guide for further cooperation among the countries along the Belt and Road in the certification and accreditation area.

Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China has drafted and published *the Vision and Actions on Jointly Promoting Cooperation of Certification and Accreditation in Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st -Century Maritime Silk Road* to promote cooperation of certification and accreditation among the countries along the Belt and Road to a higher level and a broader

scope.

I . Framework

Respecting both international rules and national interests, adhering to the principle of equality and mutual benefit, countries along the Belt and Road need to promote cooperation and mutual recognition of certification and accreditation in pace with the development of the Belt and Road through equal consultation, mutual learning, joint efforts and benefit sharing. We should work together to increase the transparency of technical measures to trade, promote innovative development of certification and accreditation systems, improve the interconnectivity of infrastructures, elevate the level of free trade and contribute to the high-quality and sustainable economic development of the region along the Belt and Road.

II . Principles

Open cooperation. The cooperation welcomes participation from all government authorities, conformity assessment bodies and their clients, the public, and international and regional organizations, thus becoming more open, more inclusive and more reciprocal.

Mutual respect and trust. The cooperation will respect the differences of standards and regulations in the certification and accreditation area of the countries along the Belt and Road, and their independent choices and diversified needs. The cooperation seeks to increase mutual trust through communication and negotiation.

Mutual learning. The cooperation will provide the participating

countries opportunities to learn from one another of the achievements and management experience in the certification and accreditation area and accomplish common development through this process.

Mutual benefit. The cooperation accommodates the interests of all parties involved, and pursues the cooperation roadmap and recognition arrangements that maximize convergence of interests, for the purpose of benefiting industries and peoples of the countries along the Belt and Road.

III. Cooperation Priorities

Policy and technical exchange

The participating countries should enhance communication among their competent authorities on certification and accreditation policies and regulations and strengthen negotiation and coordination in related international affairs so as to increase mutual understanding and trust. We should consider the compatibility with the other countries when setting up our own policies and systems to avoid unnecessary and unreasonable barriers. We should also encourage the conformity assessment bodies from all the participating countries to engage in the technical exchanges and expand good practices of certification and accreditation jointly. China proposes to establish an information exchange mechanism covering all areas of certification and accreditation to improve transparency of technical measures to trade and achieve resource sharing along the Belt and Road.

China will continuously improve its transparency of conformity

assessment policies and help the international society to fully and timely understand China's certification and accreditation policies and progress through WTO notification and other multilateral or bilateral cooperation mechanisms. China is also willing to work with all the parties concerned to establish an information sharing and rapid notification platform in the certification and accreditation area to share information of certificates, conformity assessment bodies, personnel and market surveillance.

Mutual recognition

The participating countries should accelerate the process of bilateral and multilateral recognition of certificates and test reports. We should seek solutions to achieve equivalence and consistency while respecting the existing differences of certification systems of different countries. We should build mutual trust by conducting studies of national certification and accreditation systems, standards comparison and joint proficiency testing, and thus develop mutual recognition of accreditation and personnel certification. Confronted by climate change, untraditional safety threats and other common concerns, we should promote mutual recognition of certification in renewable energies, low carbon, cross-border on-line e-commerce in face of the rapid developing trend in these areas. We should also work together to develop common or equivalent standards and procedures for certification in agreed areas to facilitate production capacity cooperation and infrastructure interconnection. Through these efforts,

we will ultimately achieve the goal of “one standard, one certificate, accepted everywhere along the Belt and Road”.

China will utilize the existing bilateral and multilateral mutual recognition mechanisms, and adopt further measures to expand the scope of mutual recognition in personnel certification, factory inspection and food hygiene registration. China is also willing to start negotiations with relevant parties to reach new bilateral and multilateral mutual recognition results.

Capability Improvement

The countries along the Belt and Road, stimulated by our development needs, should promote deeper integration of certification and accreditation with industries, and improve the capacity of certification and accreditation to serve the economic and trade development. We should cope with the challenge of product safety together by further cooperation in certification and accreditation related to the supply chain to guarantee safety of commodities traded among us without compromising facilitation ; we should face the evolution of industry together by enhancing cooperation in standardization and technical development related to certification and accreditation, and accelerating the upgrading of standards and technical regulations; we should also improve the interconnectivity of infrastructures together by strengthening mutual assistance of infrastructure in the certification and accreditation area, encouraging the accreditation organizations to provide international service, and jointly building and sharing quality

infrastructure.

China will provide the countries along the Belt and Road with more technical training and personnel exchange opportunities in the certification and accreditation area, and with assistance in conformity assessment capacity building in its power. China also welcomes the other countries to play a more active role in enhancing conformity assessment capability of China.

Market opening.

The participating countries should jointly foster and develop inspection, testing and certificating market on the basis of mutual opening and mutual benefit, cultivate an open, transparent and fair market environment, encourage testing and inspection bodies to carry out market integration and regional cooperation and provide the target clients with localized service, thus bringing the role of certification, accreditation, inspection and testing into full play to promote trade.

China will further expand the openness of the domestic certification, testing and inspection market, welcome foreign investment in these fields, and further facilitate the establishment of foreign invested bodies. China will also exploit the certification, testing and inspection market together with the other countries and provide local enterprises with more convenient and higher quality conformity assessment service.

IV. Cooperation Mechanism

We should improve multilateral cooperation. We should give full

play to the role of the existing multilateral recognition systems, promote communication on certification and accreditation among the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations , advocate more active participation in multilateral cooperation and recognition activities to express legitimate interests and to coordinate positions and actions of different parties. China proposes to organize a series of certification and accreditation seminars with the countries along the Belt and Road to advance mutual trust and common development.

We should improve bilateral cooperation mechanisms as well. We should take full advantage of the existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms and establish more channels in wider areas and on more levels to keep the cooperation in pace with the development of bilateral trade. China is willing to enhance the existing cooperation with the relevant countries, implement the existing cooperation arrangements and initiate new cooperation programs.

We should enhance cooperation on the sectoral level and regional level. We should fully utilize the initiative of conformity assessment bodies, encourage them to engage in both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and support their mutual recognition arrangements. We should also encourage regional governments to take part in bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the overall cooperation framework and give full play to the geographic advantages to promote regional cooperation.

Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's

Republic of China is willing to inherit and pass on the the Silk Road spirit together with the countries along the Belt and Road and the other relevant parties, ready to promote pragmatic cooperation in the field of certification and accreditation for mutual trust and mutual recognition, and committed to the common prosperity of the countries, industries and peoples along the Belt and Road.