# China and Myanmar deepen 'Paukphaw' ties with strategic projects and swift disaster aid



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Myanmar leader Min Aung Hlaing have marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between their nations, celebrating an enduring bond defined by mutual trust and cooperation. In a recent exchange of congratulatory messages, Xi described the "Paukphaw" friendship—meaning siblings from the same womb—as both resilient and deepening. This sentiment was echoed by U Thant Kyaw, chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, who highlighted the lasting partnership established between the two countries since Myanmar was one of the first to recognise the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Over the decades, this bilateral relationship has evolved significantly, encompassing cooperation across a variety of fields, including politics, economy, trade, investment, and education. The establishment of the "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership" in 2011 marked a new phase in their discussions, as both countries sought to navigate evolving global dynamics. Most recently, during discussions in May on the sidelines of the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War, the leaders reiterated their commitment to enhancing ties, with Myanmar expressing a desire to serve as a trustworthy neighbour to China.

Mutual support during challenges is a hallmark of this relationship. A poignant example occurred following a devastating 7.9-magnitude earthquake that struck near Mandalay in March. Within eighteen hours, Chinese rescue teams had arrived in Myanmar to provide critical relief, a swift response that underscored both the spirit of "Paukphaw" and a commitment to collaborative disaster management. During these critical moments, the essence of their relationship was displayed through shared responsibilities in rescue efforts and the provision of vital supplies.

In the face of a changing global landscape marked by increasing volatility and uncertainty, both Myanmar and China are committed to upholding international norms and fostering stability. Thant Kyaw noted the steady emergence of a multipolar world order, emphasising that both nations are working in concert to maintain peace through the principles of peaceful coexistence. He articulated a shared understanding that the peaceful rise of China as a global power plays a constructive role in enhancing regional security and mutual prosperity.

Myanmar's involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) represents a significant opportunity to address pressing infrastructure needs. The collaboration has already yielded major projects, including the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which encompasses vital infrastructures like the Kyaukphyu deep-sea port and the Mandalay-Muse railway project. Such initiatives not only promise to stimulate economic growth but also to attract new investments into Myanmar.

Additionally, both countries are collaborating closely in matters of regional security, particularly through the Lancang-Mekong cooperation framework aimed at combating transnational crimes. Initiatives to tackle issues like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime are reflective of their ongoing commitment to ensuring regional stability and security. Thant Kyaw emphasised the importance of a zero-tolerance approach to criminal syndicates, spotlighting the need for continued cooperation in border control and joint operations.

Amidst global economic turbulence, particularly influenced by the rise of protectionist policies, Myanmar sees a future shaped by bilateral and multilateral partnerships. The recent ASEAN-GCC-China Summit has sought to reinforce cooperation within the Global South, aiming to bridge the gap exacerbated by such tariffs. According to Thant Kyaw, these collaborative efforts pave the way for resilient solutions that enhance economic integration while safeguarding the interests of all involved.

As the relationship between Myanmar and China continues to flourish, it remains clear that their "Paukphaw" friendship will serve as a foundation for facing shared challenges and capitalising on mutual opportunities in a rapidly evolving world.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml), [[4]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml), [[2]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml), [[5]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml)
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* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml), [[6]](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1335673.shtml> - This article discusses the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar, highlighting the enduring 'Paukphaw' (fraternal) friendship. It features an interview with U Thant Kyaw, chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, who emphasizes the deepening cooperation across various fields, including politics, economy, trade, investment, and education. The piece also covers the mutual support during a 7.9-magnitude earthquake in Myanmar, where Chinese rescue teams arrived within 18 hours, reflecting the strong bilateral ties.
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