

**Welcoming Remarks by  
H.E. Le Luong Minh  
Secretary-General of ASEAN,  
at the Best of China Performing Arts -  
Special Celebration of 2014 ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year  
Balai Kartini, Jakarta, 18 August 2014**

*Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my great honour to welcome you again to the Best of Performing Arts series.

We are gathered this evening, here in Jakarta, the host city of the ASEAN Secretariat, for a special event with China joining us to showcase the richness and diversity of the performing arts, expressing the intertwined interactions between ASEAN and China.

The designation of 2014 as an ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year by the Leaders of ASEAN and China was aimed at providing a platform for further promoting mutual understanding, cultivating the long-lasting friendship between the peoples of ASEAN and China, contributing to the strengthening of the ASEAN-China partnership. The show tonight, the Tai-Ji Grand Stage Show, presented by the famous China Feat Art

Troupe, together with the other shows to be performed on 19 and 22 August, are among the many activities to be implemented year-round across ASEAN and China this year to celebrate ASEAN-China cultural exchanges.

The Best of Performing Arts series, held regularly in Jakarta since 2008, constitute exciting and creative activities to promote ASEAN and its rich and outward-looking relations with the international community through arts and culture and to allow our peoples to understand, appreciate and enjoy the diverse cultures and promote closer partnerships between ASEAN and our partners.

China's participation adds to the significance and success of this Best of Performing Arts series in bringing the peoples of ASEAN closer to the other peoples of the world.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Culture of China, the Permanent Mission of China to ASEAN, the ASEAN-China Centre, the China Feat Art Troupe and the artists for their contributions to making this event possible.

I thank you all for your presence and wish you an enjoyable evening!