

# China-ASEAN relation amid the coronavirus crisis

## Overview

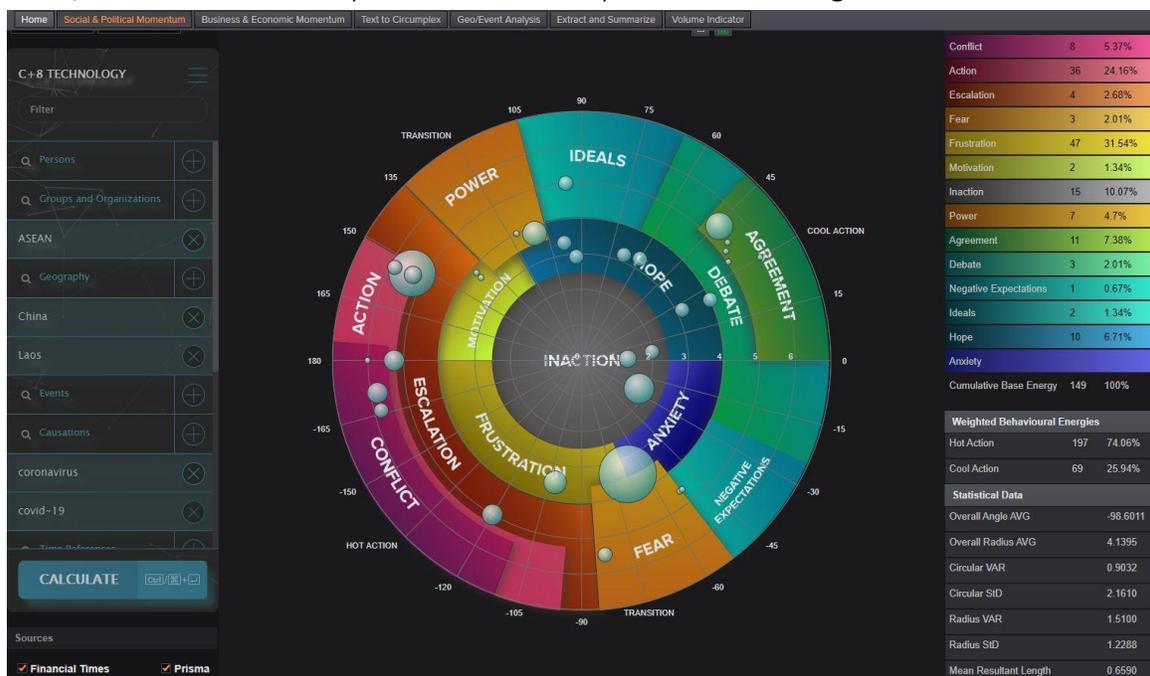
On February 20, 2020, the foreign ministers of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and China met in Laos to discuss the health, social, and economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis and the appropriate measures to tackle them.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the animosity caused by the maritime dispute in the South China Sea between China and Southeast Asian countries, the spread of the novel coronavirus has brought adversaries together in a common fight against it. For example, Malaysia donated 18 million medical gloves to Wuhan, a local producer from the Philippines donated 3 million face masks, Singapore’s government provided \$1 million in seed money and also medicine, medical supplies, and diagnostic test kits, while a subsidiary of Indonesian Sinar Mars Group donated \$14.4 million.<sup>2</sup>

The humanitarian response made the 11 countries to agree to step up cooperation in the medical field and to share information regarding best medical practices in case of emergency.

## Analysis

The Social Energy diagram below shows the feelings and behaviors reflected in the news media towards the China-ASEAN meeting in Laos. The time frame selected for analysis is February 19 – 21, 2020, to cover both the day before and the day after the meeting.



Social Energy Circumplex, query terms: ASEAN, China, Laos, coronavirus, covid-19, meeting, impact, cooperation;  
Time span: February 19 - 21, 2020

<sup>1</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2020/03/china-asean-band-together-in-the-fight-against-coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem

The social energies regarding this meeting are condensed in the Active Environment hemisphere labeled Hot Action, where energies mostly take shape as action, whereas on the Reactive Environment labeled Cool Action, they tend more towards debate and discussion. Both Frustration and Action characterize a large part of the discourse regarding the meeting, meaning that the feelings present in the news media regarding our query are primarily those of impatience, tension, and hindrance, followed by the birth of behaviors resulting from these feelings. Action is the layer where tension is acted upon and frustrations blow up, whether in the form of protests, reprisals, or harsh measures.

The next most active energies are Inaction, Agreement, and Hope. Inaction measures language that indicates apathy and uncertainty. The closer a data point is to the center of the Inaction circle, the more it is characterized by social inertia. Agreement and Hope are both on the Cool Action hemispheres. They contain language that is future-oriented and cooperative, focused on finding solutions and acting upon them.

**Supporting Data**
Move to Research Basket

[Chinese state councilor meets ASEAN secretary-general on coronavirus fight](#)  
2/19/2020 8:30:00 PM

Vientiane, Feb 20 (IANS) Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met ASEAN Secretary-General, Philippine and Singaporean foreign ministers here on Wednesday night to discuss the joint combat against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.

During his meeting with ASEAN...

[To cope with global challenges with multilateralism, cooperation](#)  
2/20/2020 12:19:00 AM

The sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia is a reminder for the world that we are living in a time when traditional security intertwines with non-traditional security and when regional and global issues interconvert. The human beings are seeing increasing interdependence and their de...

[Chinese foreign minister meets ASEAN sec-gen, Philippine, Singapore FMs on coronavirus fight](#)  
2/20/2020 7:39:00 AM

VIENTIANE/Laos, Feb. 20 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met ASEAN Secretary-General, Philippine and Singaporean foreign ministers here on Wednesday night to discuss the joint combat against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.

During his meeting...

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*Supporting data on the Social Energy Circumplex, query terms: ASEAN, China, Laos, coronavirus, covid-19, meeting, impact, cooperation;*

*Time span: February 19 - 21, 2020*