China’s inroads in SE Asia with vaccine diplomacy

Recently, China has announced additional aid to SE Asia. The initiative is aimed at increasing its influence in the region and has prompted its neighbours to reassess their position, as global public good. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has provided its vaccines to several countries in the region. The Chinese vaccines have not faced the same challenges as other vaccines, such as the AstraZeneca vaccine, and have been widely adopted. China’s vaccine diplomacy aims to advance its regional agendas, particularly on sensitive issues such as its claim on South China Sea.

The pandemic provided a window of opportunity for China to exert its international influence and leadership. China was able to enhance its vaccine diplomacy, and Asean’s divisions were used to its advantage. China’s vaccine diplomacy efforts have been aimed at securing the region’s support and enhancing its political influence in the region. The Southeast Asian region is a key area for China’s vaccine diplomacy efforts. China’s vaccine diplomacy in SE Asia has been particularly effective, as the region is underdeveloped and the Chinese vaccines have been widely accepted.

Southeast Asian countries have already seen its gains from vaccine diplomacy. China’s vaccine diplomacy in SE Asia aims to boost its maritime ambitions, and Asean is acting as one of its launch bases. Lastly, the reason for China’s aggression in vaccine diplomacy in the Asean region is to advance its OBOR project. China along with Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Laos, who have made similar purchases and were first in line to receive medical and material assistance provided by China. The Southeast Asian countries are divided and China seeks to strengthen these divisions and enhance its influence in the region.

The increased Covid assistance from China to the Southeast Asian region included urgent implementation of the China-Asean Public Health Co-operation Initiative, expanding the support provided to Asean Medical Emergency and Medical Materials Reserve Centre to the region. The increased assistance is expected to help China’s vaccine diplomacy and its regional agenda.

China has also provided Covid vaccines to countries in the region. These include Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The increased Covid assistance from China to the Southeast Asian region included urgent implementation of the China-Asean Public Health Co-operation Initiative, expanding the support provided to Asean Medical Emergency and Medical Materials Reserve Centre to the region. The increased assistance is expected to help China’s vaccine diplomacy and its regional agenda.

China has provided free vaccines to more than 69 countries and commercially exported them to 28 countries. China’s vaccine diplomacy in SE Asia aims to advance its regional agendas, particularly on sensitive issues such as its claim on South China Sea. China’s vaccine diplomacy in SE Asia is expected to help China’s vaccine diplomacy and its regional agenda.