



澜沧江-湄公河环境合作中心
Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center



NEWSLETTER

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Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week 2020: Lancang-Mekong Environmental Roundtable Video Meeting Held Successfully

On March 26, 2020, Lancang-Mekong Environmental Roundtable Video meeting was held successfully during the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week. The meeting was organized by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of Ministry of Ecology and Environment / Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC). Partners from international organizations are invited to attend the meeting.

LMEC representatives introduced the progress made in 2019 and the environmental cooperation arrangements for 2020 under the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative. In particular, they shared the basic ideas and suggested the directions of cooperation for building a high-quality Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Green Economic Development Belt in the future. At the meeting, partner representatives also carried out discussions on topics such as ecosystem health and safety, environmental emergency management and its applications, climate change, marine (microplastic)plastic waste management, green finance, and circular economy in the current international and domestic contexts.

The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week has been successfully held for two sessions since 2018, fully demonstrating the unique charm and rich results of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation. Affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, the activities originally planned by the LMEC will be postponed, but emails, online video meetings and other forms will be used to facilitate smooth exchanges and sound coordination, bolster cooperation confidence, and ensure the steady progress of cooperation projects.



Consolidate the Lancang-Mekong consensus and
strengthen environmental cooperation



Some Expert Opinions

Representative from the World Wildlife Fund: Affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and the dry season, the lower Mekong countries face common challenges on non-traditional security issues such as public health, food security and climate change. Connected by the same river, Lancang-Mekong countries should scope opportunities for cooperation amid the pandemic. In the future, dialogue and cooperation can be strengthened through capacity building, joint research, and technology exchange.

Representative from Oxfam: Global poverty has long been a concern of Oxfam, which is closely related to issues such as public health, climate change, and gender equality. The current pandemic has brought many challenges to global development, as well as many new issues worth exploring. Through the combination of environmental protection and poverty alleviation, Oxfam will carry out further research on environmental and social responsibility, climate change adaptation, and community poverty reduction in the process of overseas investment and assistance by Chinese-funded enterprises.

Representative from the Stockholm Environment Institute: He focused on whether the COVID-19 pandemic can prompt the international community to reflect on the deficiencies of traditional economic development models and then to embark on a high-quality development path that economic growth is compatible with environmental protection. From the current point of view, most countries' policy makers stay in the short-term thinking framework of emergency response and disaster relief, and think less about the relationship between economic growth and environmental protection from a long-term perspective. But impacts of the pandemic on global environmental cooperation need further assessment.

Representative of The Asia Foundation: As a non-profit international development agency, The Asia Foundation is also very concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on environmental stability and regional collaboration. In the next step, the agency will pay attention to the role of big data technology in environmental emergency management, and hope to further improve the capabilities of Lancang-Mekong countries in environmental emergency management.

Representative of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF): He shared UNICEF's practices to actively support China's response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of the outbreak, including material donation, public information, capacity building, and research support. As the outbreak evolves into pandemic worldwide, UNICEF also shared China's experience in fighting COVID-19 with other developing countries, and provided support in areas such as clean water and distance education. In the future, UNICEF hopes to cooperate with LMEC on climate change, waste plastic management, and environmental emergency response.

Representative from the Wildlife Conservation Society: The global economy is facing a new round of adjustment amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Enterprises are generally under greater pressure of funding and survival in special times, and find it difficult to bear the cost of environmental governance. As a result, they may be less willing to participate in environmental cooperation. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a green credit model to support the green development of enterprises, and to explore a development path that economic growth is compatible with environmental protection. The Wildlife Conservation Society has accumulated some successful experiences in the project implementation in Cambodia, and hopes to share these experiences with partners in the future.

Representative from Conservation International: The COVID-19 outbreak reminds us once again of the importance of environmental health and ecological security. Environmental health should be added in the project assessment, and biodiversity, public health, disaster reduction and relief should be considered as a whole. In particular, the Lancang-Mekong Basin is one of the hotspots of global biodiversity. China should take the initiative to play a demonstration effect, and take effective actions on issues such as climate change and biodiversity protection, thus contributing to regional ecological health and security.

Representative of the Allen MacArthur Foundation: He introduced the foundation's major efforts in recent years to accelerate the promotion of circular economy worldwide. The circular economy is an ever-developing framework. For example, increasing the recycling of plastics can effectively bring together the organizations of various value chains to explore innovative business models and fundamentally solve the problem of plastic pollution. Therefore, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the capacity of circular development should be enhanced in a collaborative manner to catalyze the innovation of various stakeholders. It is one of the important ways to turn the crisis of pandemic into an opportunity of cooperation.

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About LMEC: Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) is an initiative proposed by Chinese Premier LI Keqiang at the 1st Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting and was established on November of 2017.