



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

# Newsletter

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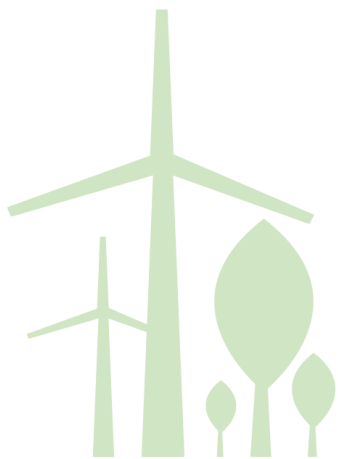
August 3 2020

## Roundtable Dialogue on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Green Economic Development Belt: Biodiversity and Sustainable Infrastructure Parallel Session 1: Constructing Lancang-Mekong Low-carbon Industrial Parks: Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Successfully Held

On July 30, 2020, the Parallel Session 1 on Constructing Lancang-Mekong Low-carbon Industrial Parks: Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Development of the Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity and Sustainable Infrastructure for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Green Economic Development Belt was held online. The meeting was sponsored by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), supported by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation China Secretariat, and co-organized by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center / Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center and the Yunnan Department of Ecology and Environment. Representatives from MEE and its affiliated institutions, embassies of Mekong countries in China,

environmental departments and industrial sectors of Mekong countries, related international organizations, research institutes and enterprises attended the session.

At the session, representatives discussed topics such as renewable energy for low-carbon park development, progress and prospects on addressing climate change, climate security and Lancang-Mekong sustainable development governance, and sustainable financial initiative promoting low-carbon development. Delegates of Lancang-Mekong countries shared their experiences in low-carbon industrial park and climate change, and talked about future work direction.



Highlights of the expert views are as follows:



Ms. MIAO Hong, Director of Belt and Road Department of World Resources Institute, said that China has great potential for renewable energy investment in the Belt and Road countries and green investment will quickly become an important boost to regional low-carbon development in the near future. In view of the bottlenecks encountered in the development of overseas industrial parks, she suggested that Chinese-funded enterprises can promote renewable energy investment in the Belt and Road countries through the research of relevant policy frameworks and the demonstration of renewable energy projects in overseas industrial parks.



Dr. San Win, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection Department of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar, introduced Myanmar's current policy system and legal system on climate change. Myanmar, as one of the countries most affected by climate change, needs to forge cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to address climate change. He indicated that Myanmar has signed multiple international cooperation project agreements and will fully draw on international advanced experience and maximize low-carbon development opportunities.



Mr. Vanhone Phonnasane, representative of the Climate Change Management Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Laos, categorized the underestimation of the expected impacts of climate change in terms of information technology into the key challenges in Laos, noting the weak resilience of such a highly affected country. He mentioned that in the future, Laos will fully utilize international cooperation funds and work with international partners to enhance its domestic and regional capacity to address climate change.



Dr. YU Hongyuan, Professor of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, pointed out that there is still a big gap in energy development between Lancang-Mekong countries and developed countries at present, and the raise of governance efficiency in energy, food and water is needed by means of collaborative governance, and at the same time, to pay close attention to mutual cooperation between different fields for maximum coordination.



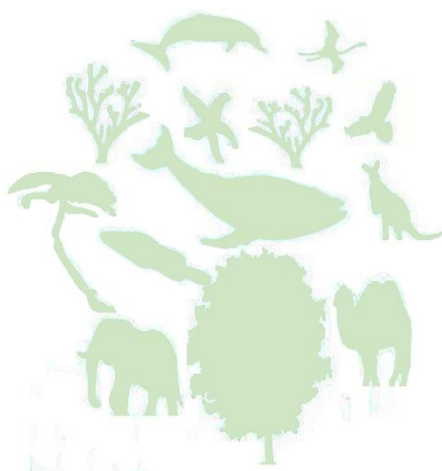
Mr. CHEN Yaxiang, Associate Researcher of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center, highlighted that under the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Mechanism, the Lancang-Mekong countries have reaped significant results in climate change cooperation through various forms such as policy dialogue, capacity building, joint research, and demonstration. He envisaged the future direction of Lancang-Mekong cooperation in climate change, including local climate wellbeing projects, multi-country and multi-park low-carbon industrial cooperation, and climate-resilient infrastructure cooperation.



Mr. HU Kehua, Director of Office for Social Responsibility of China National Textile & Apparel Council, conveyed that sustainable industrial parks, which take into account environmental, economic and social benefits, can provide effective public facilities and infrastructure platforms to improve resource utilization efficiency and jointly combat environmental pollution, he explained. China's overseas industrial parks can draw on the successful experience of the transformation and upgrading of domestic industrial parks, and give further improvement to environment management system, he added.



Oxfam project manager Mr. Kevin MAY, summarized that China's investment in the Lancang-Mekong region is crucial, with both opportunities and challenges ahead. The banking sector and various other sectors can provide financial support for the development of low-carbon industrial parks in the Lancang-Mekong region. The Lancang-Mekong countries should pay more attention to the impact of climate change on poor women, and work together to address climate change and promote sustainable development.



Mr. John McGinley, Managing Partner of Mekong Strategic Partners, shared the case that Cambodia's banking sector affects environmental and social sustainability. The Cambodian Sustainable Finance Program, launched by the Mekong Strategic Partners and the Wildlife Conservation Society, aims to improve financing capacity by designing capacity-building activities for banking practitioners, providing toolkit and related training to help banks make lending decisions that take into account environmental impacts.

Contact Us

**Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center  
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center**

Address: No. 5 Houyingfang Hutong,  
Xicheng District, Beijing  
100035, P.R. China  
Tel: +86-010-82268277/8221  
Fax: +86-010-82200579  
Email: tang.huaqing@fecomee.org.cn  
li.xia@fecomee.org.cn  
Web: <http://www.mepfeco.org.cn>  
WeChat ID: lancang-mekongec



**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