



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

Newsletter

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Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Green, Low-carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure Opinion of Experts: Opening Remarks

On April 21, 2022, the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Green, Low-carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure was held by Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC)/Foreign Environmental Cooperation center (FECO), Ministry of Ecology and Environment, under the guidance of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) in Beijing in the form of hybrid meeting. Nearly 300 representatives from MEE and provincial ecological and environmental departments, climate and environment departments of Mekong countries, UN agencies in China, relevant international organizations, research institutions and the private sector attended the meeting.

LI Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of LMEC/FECO, MEE; ZHOU Jun, Director of the International Cooperation Department, MEE; Dr. San Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar; CHEN Zhihua, Director of the Department of Climate Change, MEE; Dr. HENG Chan Thoeum, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Council for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; GENG Cong, Representative of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation China Secretariat, attended the meeting and delivered opening remarks.



LI Yonghong Deputy Director-General of LMEC/FECO, MEE

Since its inauguration in 2017, LMEC has been a significant platform for Lancang-Mekong countries to engage in environmental exchange and cooperation. With the joint efforts of the six LMC member countries and the support from regional partners, LMEC coordinated the development of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)* and implemented the flagship program of “Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative”, generating fruitful outcomes.

The year 2022 marks the 5th anniversary of the inauguration of LMEC and the closure of the first phase of *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy*. LMEC will promote the development of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework* for the next phase, which will identify the priority areas for cooperation and framework of action for the following five years based on the reality and needs of member countries to facilitate more extensive cooperation and the realization of the United Nations 2030 SDGs in the region.



ZHOU Jun Director of the International Cooperation Department, MEE

In 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative, calling for the international community to pay attention to the most pressing challenges faced by developing countries and identify climate change and green development as priority areas for cooperation to pursue more robust, greener and more balanced global development. In June 2021, foreign ministers of the six LMC member countries jointly issued *Joint Statement on Enhancing Sustainable Development Cooperation of the Lancang-Mekong Countries*, which proposed the joint development of the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green and Sustainable Infrastructure, fully demonstrating the common will of the six countries in enhancing sustainable development cooperation and laying the groundwork for more extensive Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation.

In the future, with the help of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center, we are willing to work closely together with LMC countries to further enhance cooperation, share experience and good practices in areas including biodiversity conservation, addressing climate change, and environmental quality improvement, and pool wisdom and resources for sustainable development in the region and the building of a Lancang-Mekong community of shared future, featuring green development and harmonious co-existence of human and nature.

Dr. San Oo
Deputy Director General of the Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar



In Lancang-Mekong region, we continue to witness the increasingly destructive impacts of climate change. Extreme weather events are posing huge challenges for economic growth and people's livelihood. Lancang-Mekong countries, being committed to jointly addressing climate change, have been engaged in cooperation to realize sustainable development goals, achieving meaningful progress.

Compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, Lancang-Mekong region is facing much of challenges that affect all societies. Investing in sustainable infrastructure is a major solution to addressing these challenges. For example, environmental-friendly infrastructure could effectively solve problems in social development, public health, and economic recovery, and climate-resilient infrastructure enables a country to more effectively adapt to climate change and supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement and SDGs.



CHEN Zhihua
Director of the Department of Climate Change, MEE

China has been unwaveringly promoting efforts to address climate change and has proposed the goal of having CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060. Through developing implementation plans for carbon peaking in key areas and industries and proposing a series of supporting measures, we are able to build a "1+N" policy system for achieving carbon peaking and carbon neutrality. Meanwhile, we are actively promoting South-South cooperation on climate change. China has signed cooperation documents with Myanmar, the Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, and other Mekong countries to provide goods for addressing climate change, jointly build low-carbon demonstration zones, and develop the Knowledge Hub for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change.

It is hoped that we could continue to cooperate with Mekong countries to promote the coordination and sharing between the two cooperation mechanisms: South-South cooperation on climate change and Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. It is also hoped that through jointly building the Knowledge Hub for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, we could enhance policy coordination and experience sharing, promote the alignment of sustainable development plans, and learn from each other in the process of addressing climate change to achieve win-win outcomes and realize joint development.

Dr. HENG Chan Thoeun Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia



The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to combating climate change and accelerating the transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon sustainable mode of development. Cambodia adopted and ratified the *Paris Agreement* and submitted the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2020-2030 to present our commitments and needs for the next decade, in order to realize our vision of a low carbon and resilient society.

Based on a comprehensive analysis and modeling of all relevant economic sectors, Cambodia developed and issued *Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN)*, which outlines priority mitigation actions for each sector to achieve the country's goal of a carbon-neutral economy in 2050 through continued efforts to address the forest sustainability and land use, decarbonize the power sector and pursue higher energy efficiency, as well as promote low-carbon agriculture, industrial processes, and waste management.



GENG Cong Representative of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation China Secretariat

This year marks the 6th anniversary of establishing the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) framework. In the past six years, with the joint efforts of member countries, LMC has become the most dynamic and promising sub-regional cooperation mechanism. The fruitful cooperation results continue to provide new momentum for the sustainable development of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.

This Roundtable is a concrete move to implement the spirit of the LMC Leaders' Meeting and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, accelerate the implementation of the "Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative", and jointly build the LMC Economic Development Belt. In the context of fighting Covid-19, it is also a powerful measure for the six countries to strengthen unity and focus on development. China will continue to promote ecological and environmental protection in the Lancang-Mekong region and support cooperation in ecological conservation and addressing climate change through the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund.

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About LMEC: Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation (LMEC), established in 2017 in Beijing, China, aims to boost the capacity of environmental governance of each country and achieve regional sustainable development through the promotion of environmental cooperation among the Lancang-Mekong Countries.