



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 was Successfully Held

On April 21, 2022, the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Green, Low-carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure was held in Beijing in the form of hybrid meeting. This roundtable dialogue was guided by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), hosted by the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC)/the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of MEE, supported by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), and co-organized by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Oxfam, The Asia Foundation, and Conservation International. Nearly 300 representatives from the MEE and provincial ecological and environmental departments, the climate and environment departments of Mekong countries, the United Nations agencies in China, relevant international organizations, research institutions, and the private sector attended the meeting.



LI Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of the LMEC/FECO; ZHOU Jun, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of MEE; CHEN Zhihua, Director of the Department of Climate Change of MEE; GENG Cong, Representative of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation China Secretariat; San Oo, Deputy Director-General of Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar; and HENG Chan Thoeum, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Council for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia attended the meeting and delivered opening remarks. LI Yao, Chief Investment Officer for East Asia and Pacific Chief Investment Officer of International Finance Corporation; FANG Li, Chief Representative of WRI Beijing Office; and LI Xia, Director of LMEC/FECO, respectively gave keynote speeches on global and regional perspectives on climate-resilient infrastructure development, global climate governance for carbon neutrality, and knowledge sharing on low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure facilitating sustainable development in Lancang-Mekong region.



In his remarks, LI Yonghong stated that infrastructure is an important sector to promote global development initiatives. The Lancang-Mekong countries face the same uncertainties caused by climate change, and it is urgent to further strengthen regional sustainable infrastructure cooperation. This dialogue is committed to promoting policy exchange and experience sharing of low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure among the countries, which is of great significance for enriching the knowledge products of green, low-carbon, and sustainable development and strengthening the construction of the green Lancang-Mekong Economic Development Belt.



Zhou Jun said that this year marked the fifth anniversary of the establishment/inauguration of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center. With the joint efforts of the six Lancang-Mekong countries and partners, through the implementation of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and the flagship program of the "Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative", fruitful cooperation results have been achieved through carrying out the policy dialogue, capacity building, joint research, and demonstration cooperation. China is willing to join hands with the Mekong countries to share ideas and experience in biodiversity conservation, addressing climate change, and environmental quality enhancement to jointly promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Chen Zhihua said that China had signed cooperation documents with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and other countries and effectively helped the Mekong countries improve their ability to address climate change by providing goods/materials for addressing climate change, jointly building low-carbon demonstration zones, and building the Knowledge Hub for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change. We expect that in the future, through the joint construction of the Knowledge Hub for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, we could strengthen policy communication and experience sharing on climate change in the region and achieve joint development.



Geng Cong expressed that the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation has developed into 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 Basin. This roundtable is a concrete move to implement the spirit of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting , and to jointly build the LMC Economic Development Belt. It is also an effective measure for the six countries to strengthen unity and focus on development in the context of fighting COVID-19. We hope that through this roundtable, the six countries will be able to share good experiences and practices and strengthen capacity building at the national and regional levels.



San Oo articulated that the Lancang-Mekong countries have advocated joint efforts to tackle climate change and are committed to achieving sustainable development goals. Green, low-carbon, and sustainable infrastructure is a critical way to achieve the multiple objectives of regional economic prosperity, environmental protection, and human development. It is expected that this roundtable dialogue will provide good experience for the sustainable development and climate-resilient infrastructure of the Lancang-Mekong countries and effectively promote regional dialogue and exchanges.



HENG Chan Thoeun introduced that Cambodia has developed the *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. It is hoped that this strategy could be aligned with the new *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework* to strengthen regional cooperation on jointly addressing climate change and contribute Cambodia's effort in multilateral climate change cooperation.

绿色澜湄计划: 绿色低碳与可持续基础设施圆桌对话
Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Green, Low Carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure

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In his speech, Li Yao said that International Finance Corporation (IFC) had been committed to promoting the development of climate-resilient infrastructure in developing countries and regions. Lancang-Mekong countries are developing countries, and investment in and construction of low-carbon infrastructures, such as low-carbon energy, green transportation, new digital infrastructure, and resilient cities, are significant to promoting their resilient growth.



Fang Li stated that the Lancang-Mekong countries had been actively promoting low-carbon development and put forward their own NDCs in recent years; however, they were still relatively independent in climate governance actions, making it difficult to form synergy. The Lancang-Mekong countries should strengthen cooperation at the regional and global levels, introduce more resources to support regional low-carbon development by developing a cooperation strategy to jointly address climate change, and efficiently promote the effectiveness of global climate governance.



Li Xia stated that strengthening sustainable infrastructure construction is significant to improving regional climate resilience and achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure is committed to boosting regional cooperation in sustainable infrastructure, sharing knowledge on addressing climate change, and gathering innovative momentum for sustainable development in the region.

The meeting focused on three major topics: Low Carbon Infrastructure Promotes Regional and Global Climate Governance, Ecological Infrastructure Supports Community Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region, and Young Entrepreneurs Dialogues on Climate Resilient Infrastructure Innovation in the Lancang-Mekong Region, and discussed the opportunities and challenges faced by the LMC countries in their construction of sustainable infrastructure. The purpose of this meeting is to implement the Joint Statement on Enhancing Sustainable Development Cooperation of the Lancang-Mekong Countries and the “Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative”, jointly promote the knowledge sharing on low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin, and promote the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The participants unanimously expressed their hope to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the field of green, low-carbon, and sustainable infrastructure construction in the Lancang-Mekong region; to pragmatically promote cooperation in environmental projects; to facilitate the construction of the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation network; to consolidate regional green development consensus; to enhance the participation and extensiveness of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation.



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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.