



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

Newsletter

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Expert Views at the Lancang-Mekong Symposium on Low-Carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation

On February 24, 2022, Lancang-Mekong Symposium on Low-Carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation was held by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) / the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) in the form of hybrid meeting. Representatives from UNEP, UNICEF, China Foreign Affairs University, and other related international organizations and research institutions attended the symposium. The Symposium discussed the result evaluation of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)*, priority areas of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027)*, and key areas of the Lancang-Mekong Initiative on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure, as well as the development of the Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure. Below is a summary of the expert views.

WANG Qian
UNEP



UNEP is an advocator for the appropriate utilization of resources and the sustainable development of the global environment. Through the development and promotion of *The International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure*, UNEP aims to promote the widespread use of sustainable infrastructure planning tools and guide international financial institutions to support and assist the sustainable development of infrastructure worldwide. UNEP would like to enhance sustainable infrastructure cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong Region, promote the integration of national, regional, and global resources, organize capacity building in climate governance and low-carbon city development, help the Lancang-Mekong countries to better cope with climate change risks, and explore pathways to carbon neutrality in the region.

ZHANG Yan

UNICEF



Climate change exacerbates global poverty and inequality, threatening the livelihood and health of vulnerable groups. Focusing on protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children, UNICEF has been committed to improving the livelihood of vulnerable groups in a sustainable way and creating a clean and sound living environment. UNICEF is now working with LMEC to build the Climate Innovation Network, which will organize training programs for communities in climate adaptation and livelihood enhancement to help women and children improve their climate resilience and reduce the impact of natural disasters and extreme weather events on vulnerable groups.



GUO Yanjun

China Foreign Affairs University

Safe drinking water, sufficient food, safe shelter and sound living environment are key elements for securing public health. They are easily affected by climate change, posing direct or indirect threats to human health. China Foreign Affairs University is actively promoting building a “health Shield” for the China-ASEAN region and establishing the China-ASEAN Health Partnership. Securing public health in the context of climate change is a priority task for the building of climate-adaptive communities. Hence, there is much room for cooperation between China Foreign Affairs University and The Center in terms of health governance, climate change, and poverty reduction in Lancang-Mekong countries.

In terms of regional cooperation, it is recommended that The Center enhance the interaction between the Lancang-Mekong and Greater Mekong Subregion cooperation mechanisms to form synergy for the region's sustainable development. *The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030* identified climate change as a shared challenge for the region and the improvement of environmental sustainability and climate resilience as a priority task. Therefore, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation needs to interact and coordinate with GMS cooperation to effectively promote climate resilience and the development of sustainable infrastructure in the region.

HAN Guoyi

Stockholm Environment Institute

Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027) will guide Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation in the next phase. As for identifying priority areas and actions for cooperation, it is recommended that special attention be paid to issues such as regional climate transition and sustainable infrastructure on a scientific basis. Recently, the concern about the global marine plastic issues has been increasing. The Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) also discussed the development of a global treaty on plastics. Therefore, it is recommended that plastics management be included as an area for Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation in the next stage.





ZHOU Yiqi & DING Xue GIZ

Sustainable infrastructure is at the heart of low-carbon sustainable development and is of great significance to implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure facilitates information sharing and acquisition for multiple stakeholders through sharing sustainable infrastructure cases in the region and developing a systematic knowledge-sharing platform. In recent years, the Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development of GIZ has been promoting trilateral cooperation among China, Germany, and third-party countries and extending China's South-South cooperation experience to other developing countries through trilateral cooperation projects, such as Kenya's low-carbon tea value chain and sustainable management of Zambia nature reserves. The Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development expects to explore new patterns for trilateral cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong region to share the experience of China with the Mekong countries and contribute to the green and low-carbon development of Lancang-Mekong countries with Chinese solutions and wisdom.

LIU Zhe World Resources Institute

While developing the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027), LMEC is suggested to integrate the concern in international environmental negotiations into regional cooperation plans based on natural and social sciences to promote China's leading role in South-South cooperation. It is also recommended to conduct policy analysis on climate-resilient infrastructure and analyze successful business models for the development of climate-resilient infrastructure to help other developing countries more effectively mobilize limited financial resources to promote the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. Considering the lack of policies, theories, and successful practices in addressing climate change, such as carbon pricing in the Mekong countries, it is recommended that capacity building and knowledge sharing be enhanced to better inform climate policy-making in the region.



SONG Jing World Resources Institute

Businesses are the most active subjects in regional cooperation and economic development. It is recommended that The Center promote the engagement of businesses in Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, give full play to the role of businesses in regional environmental governance, and expand the scope and influence of the main body of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. While promoting climate resilience and the development of sustainable infrastructure in the region, it is also important to propose incentive measures to encourage businesses to take the climate and environmental actions and fulfill their corporate social responsibility in environmental protection.

LI Nan

World Wide Fund for Nature



While organizing the implementation progress assessment of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)* and the drafting of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027)*, alignment with the United Nations 2030 SDGs and the CBD 2030 Biodiversity Conservation Goals shall be fully considered with corresponding assessment framework and index system be developed. It is also important to promote the engagement of multiple stakeholders to pool wisdom on regional climate governance and biodiversity conservation and expand the influence of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation.



SUN Yiting

Conservation International

In terms of regional cooperation, it is recommended that The Center further identify the key areas and priority levels of cooperation within the existing cooperation framework, which facilitates resource and project match-making among partners. In terms of project cooperation, Conservation International and The Center are conducting joint research on sustainable coffee practices in the context of climate change to facilitate the green, low-carbon and sustainable development of agriculture in the region and explore good practices for ecological improvement and climate change adaptation in communities.

May Kawing

Oxfam

The implementation progress assessment of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)* could reveal the achievement of strategic goals and the effectiveness of different programs while laying the groundwork for future Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. Oxfam also attaches great importance to project assessment and evaluation in its daily operation. Therefore, Oxfam is willing to share experience and good practices with The Center in this regard. It is expected that the final assessment results could provide guidance for Oxfam to better engage in environmental cooperation projects in the Lancang-Mekong region.



HUANG Zhen

The Asia Foundation



Businesses play an important role in regional cooperation. In the Lancang-Mekong region, massive investment from Chinese companies is flowing to infrastructure construction, supporting regional economic growth and prosperity. Therefore, giving full play to the role of businesses is essential for promoting green and low-carbon development in the Lancang-Mekong region. When conducting climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure cooperation, LMEC is suggested to encourage the engagement of chamber of commerce of related industries and the enterprises to unleash the potential of businesses in the market and incorporate specific measures for supporting regional sustainable development into *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027)* to provide applicable guidance for the private sector on green investment in infrastructure in Mekong countries.



KANG Aili

Wildlife Conservation Society

It is recommended that clear goals, priority areas and targets, actions, and measurable index be identified in *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027)* to provide more applicable and scientific guidance for Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation and improve the efficiency and precision of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. Moreover, one should consider actions from businesses in promoting climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure construction in the Lancang-Mekong region to encourage enterprises' engagement in environmental governance and diversified forms of environmental cooperation in the region.

TIAN Lei

Partnerships for Community Development

Adhering to the principles of equality and mutual respect, Partnerships for Community Development (PCD) is committed to building a global network for sustainable lifestyles and exploring sustainable ways of life. We hope to encourage community residents to engage in biodiversity conservation and environmental governance through organizing community activities on biodiversity conservation, eco-friendly agriculture, nature education, environmental protection, and pollution prevention and control. Climate change and the wellbeing of communities are the priority areas for both Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation and PCD. It is hoped that we could jointly conduct community demonstration programs under the theme of climate change adaptation to pool wisdom from communities for addressing climate change and improving climate awareness in the region.





ZHANG Junzuo InFIT Programme

It has become a global consensus that the environment and trade are closely related. InFIT is committed to integrating responsible forest resource management into China's overseas investment and international trade. Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center has shared goals in promoting sustainable supply chain management for agriculture and fair trade in the context of climate change. InFIT is willing to jointly conduct policy study on regional climate and sustainable trade with LMEC to analyze possibilities for North-South cooperation on climate and sustainable trade, explore effective pathways to promote sustainable trade, and promote the development of regional sustainable trade policies.

LI Xia Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE/ Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center



Guiding by *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)*, LMEC has promoted regional cooperation in climate change and low-carbon development and coordinated eco-system and environment management with sustainable infrastructure. LMEC has also been promoting the development of the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure to facilitate the sharing of good practices and knowledge products in the region and create new momentum for inclusive growth in the region. To promote new progress in the next five years, LMEC will solicit opinions from all sides in developing the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework (2023-2027)*. We will emphasize the inclusiveness and scientific nature of the cooperation strategy and discuss the inclusion of issues of common concern, including the development of sustainable infrastructure, community-based climate change adaptation, and environmental and climate risks for women and children. In the future, LMEC will focus on promoting the implementation of environmental policies in the region through implementing demonstration projects, and developing "Global Development Initiative" knowledge products through Knowledge Hub for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change and Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure to facilitate sustainable development in the region.

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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.