



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

Newsletter

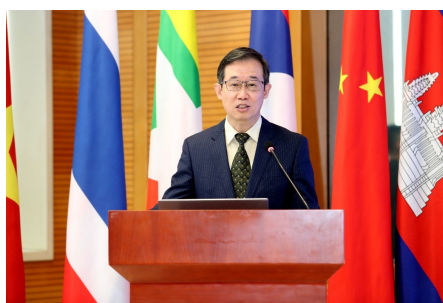
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Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Knowledge Sharing of Green, Low Carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure Held in Beijing

2023 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week---Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Roundtable Dialogue on Knowledge Sharing of Green, Low Carbon and Sustainable Infrastructure was held in Beijing in the form of a hybrid meeting on 25 April, 2023. The Roundtable was held by Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center / Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE, co-sponsored by the Department of Ecology and Environment of Yunnan Province and the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province and supported by UNICEF, WWF, World Resources Institute, Oxfam, InFIT and The Asia Foundation. Representatives from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, local departments of ecology and environment, departments of environment and climate of Mekong countries, United Nations agencies in China, related international organizations, research institutes and businesses attended the meeting.

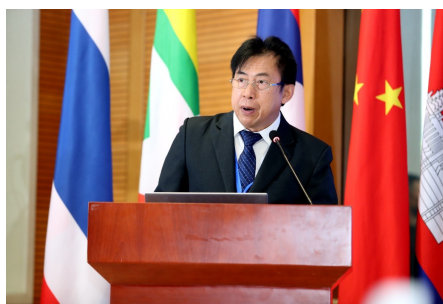
Dr. Sun Xuefeng, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE); Dr. Souksamone Pathammavong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Planning and Finance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR; Mr. Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar; and Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) / Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE, attended the meeting and delivered opening remarks.



Sun Xuefeng pointed out that Lancang-Mekong countries have been in close cooperation in the areas of ecology, environment and climate change, making contributions to promoting green recovery and transition in the region and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the future, under the guidance of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027, we will further gather consensus for Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation to form synergy for development, promote regional cooperation in climate and environmental governance in line with the green development strategies of related countries, and carry out flagship projects to promote green, low-carbon and sustainable development in the region.



Li Yonghong said that the year 2023 marks the start of the second phase of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy. With the joint efforts of all sides, we have reached an agreement on the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027 after rounds of negotiations. It is believed that in the following five years, under the guidance of the Framework, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation will generate more fruitful outcomes in climate change and low-carbon development, the development of green value chain, ecosystem management and other priority areas, which would promote green and low-carbon infrastructure construction in the Lancang-Mekong region and bring shared benefits and common prosperity.



Souksamone Phthammavong pointed out that the Lao PDR is committed to realizing green and sustainable development in the period of 2020 to 2025 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 in line with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, in order to build a green, clean and beautiful Lao PDR. He said that he is glad to see that Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center is making efforts to promote knowledge sharing of low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure. It is expected that we could work together to turn plans into actions and establish a closer partnership for sustainable development under the framework of Lancang-Mekong cooperation to address regional environmental and climate challenges and improve the livelihood of communities and the wellbeing of the people.



Aung Kyaw Moe pointed out that Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027 is substantial and ambitious. It has laid the groundwork for our cooperation in the next phase. It is expected that the Framework could bring more opportunities and resources for cooperation to enable us to develop more capacity building and demonstration projects and facilitate the realization of national sustainable development strategies and action plans through knowledge sharing of low-carbon and sustainable development, so as to jointly promote the resilient development of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.

Mr. Tu Ruihe, Head of the UNEP China Office; Ms. Sae-Ryo Kim, Senior Advisor of Public Partnerships Section of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Mr. Tang Dingding, Former Chair of the Compliance Review Panel of Asian Development Bank; and Mr. Liu Chang, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province, delivered keynote remarks.



Tu Ruihe pointed out that after 50 years of development, global environmental governance is still faced with some major challenges. First, the existing governance system needs to be more effective. Second, most developing countries don't have the economic and technological resources needed to fully engage in global environmental governance. The Roundtable, focusing on knowledge sharing and cooperation, is of great significance to promoting regional sustainable development.

Sae-Ryo Kim stressed that Children are especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Therefore, we need to adopt climate-resilient development policies, increase financing for climate change adaptation for children, and give priority to improving social services for children. UNICEF is looking forward to working together with the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center and other partners to incorporate the rights of children into regional climate actions and develop more solutions for climate adaptation capacity building for the region.

Tang Dingding shared the paths for facilitating the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure with climate finance in the Lancang-Mekong Region and proposed five recommendations for enhancing Lancang-Mekong cooperation on addressing climate change: 1) promoting Lancang-Mekong knowledge sharing and cooperation on climate adaptation; 2) developing an integrated plan for Lancang-Mekong cooperation on climate resilience; 3) designing and implementing climate-resilient infrastructure demonstration projects; 4) pushing ahead with the building of an investment platform for green and low-carbon transition in the Lancang-Mekong region; 5) encouraging multilateral organizations to actively engage in future environmental and climate cooperation plans.

Liu Chang introduced that through the conservation and restoration of nature and ecosystems, Qinghai was able to constantly improve the water retention capacity of the Sanjiangyuan (Three-River-Source) area, providing 60 billion cubic meters of high-quality fresh water for 18 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in the lower reaches, as well as five Mekong countries. Qinghai Province is willing to further engage in Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, promote inter-governmental and people-to-people exchanges, share experience in biodiversity conservation, address climate change and environmental quality improvement, and promote green and sustainable development of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.



Three panel meetings were held during the Roundtable Dialogue, including Synergies between Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Energy Transition, Green Value Chain Partnership: Sustainable Trade and Climate Finance for Typical Products in Lancang-Mekong Countries, and Climate Innovation Network: Climate Adaptation Actions and Community Practice Sharing in Lancang-Mekong Countries. Representatives attending the meetings expressed the shared expectation to enhance regional knowledge sharing and cooperation, pool resources for regional green development, jointly promote Lancang-Mekong knowledge sharing of low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure, push ahead with the construction of the “Lancang-Mekong demonstration pilot zone for the implementation of the GDI”, and realize the 2030 SDGs through the implementation of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027*.

Contact Us

**Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry
of Environment and Ecology, China**
Address: No. 5 Houyingfang Hutong,
Xicheng District, Beijing
100035, P.R. China
Tel: +86-10-82268242/8221
Fax: +86-10-82200579
Email: qian.zhaohui@fecomcee.org.cn
li.xia@fecomcee.org.cn
Web: <http://en.lmec.org.cn/>
WeChat ID: lancang-mekongcec



About LMCC: Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMCC), 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.