



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

Newsletter

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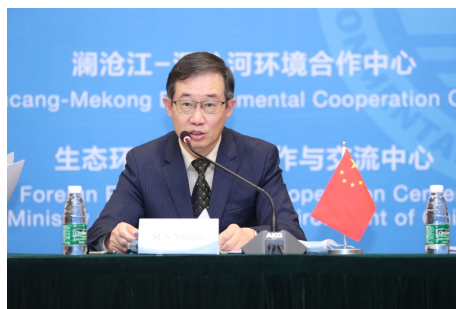
April 25 2023

The 2023 Working Group Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation and the First Steering Committee Meeting of Implementation Assessment of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022) is Successfully Held

On April 25, 2023 The 2023 Meeting of the Working Group Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation and the First Meeting of the Evaluation Steering Committee Meeting of Implementation Assessment of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022) was held in Beijing. The meeting was hosted by the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC)/Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam.



Representatives from Lancang-Mekong countries, also members of the Steering Committee, reviewed the history and rich results of the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, as well as the assessment method and plan. The Steering Committee also held a joint discussion with the Expert Committee.



Dr. Sun Xuefeng, chairman of the Steering Committee and deputy director-general of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, recognizes LMEC's role in enhancing the connectivity between the Lancang-Mekong River and the world through policy dialogue, capacity building, joint research and demonstration projects under the framework of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022). The Center also works to integrate global environmental governance issues with regional focus issues, build a dynamic platform for regional exchanges on ecology, environment, climate change and cooperation, and diversify sustainable development knowledge products in the region. At present, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation has entered a new stage. We expect to reap more fruitful results in the next five years by summarizing and evaluating the achievements and good practices of the past five years.



Li Yonghong, deputy director-general of LMEC, regards the evaluation work as an innovative and challenging task that requires a comprehensive assessment of the overall objectives of regional cooperation, priority issues for cooperation and participation of countries to adopt reliable evaluation methods so as to reap practical and effective results. Therefore, the Center supports the broad participation of stakeholders, regular exchanges of progress and experiences, and enhanced information communication in the evaluation process, while adopting internationally recognized methods to enhance the scientific validity of evaluation results.



Mr. Tang Dingding, leader of the Expert Committee, former chair of the Compliance Review Panel and director of the Executive Board of the Asian Development Bank, suggested in the joint discussion session that the collaboration among regional stakeholders should be strengthened in the process of assessment in order to inject new vitality into the sustainable development of the region. On the one hand, multi-stakeholders, particularly direct beneficiaries of the first phase of the strategy and vulnerable groups in the region should be invited to participate in interviews and case evaluations in order to understand the actual effectiveness of the strategy; on the other hand, we should explore ways to boost the participation of multiple sectors (including finance) in the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation to promote low-carbon resilient growth and green development in the region.



The participants expressed their strong support for the assessment of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022), to enhance the effectiveness of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation by summarizing the experience in implementation, identifying the results and impacts of the cooperation, and building Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation into a model of regional cooperation with joint efforts to advance the regional sustainable development agenda.

At the meeting, representatives from LMEC introduced the assessment work plan and progress of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022). The assessment report is to be completed and officially released by the end of 2023.

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@fecomee.org.cn
li.xia@fecomee.org.cn
Web: <http://en.lmec.org.cn/>
WeChat ID: lancang-mekongcec



About LMEC: Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (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.