



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 Opening Remarks & Keynote Speech Expert Views

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. Here is a summary of the opening remarks and keynote speeches.



Dr. Sun Xuefeng
Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation,
Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), China

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.

Dr. Souksamone Pathammavong
Deputy Director-General, Department of Planning and Finance,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR



We are 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. We are 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.



Mr. Aung Kyaw Moe
Deputy Director-General, Department of Environmental
Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Conservation, Myanmar

Faced with the dual challenge of economic development and environmental conservation, Lancang-Mekong countries share the same goal of realizing regional sustainable development. 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. Li Yonghong
Deputy Director-General,
Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center



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.



Mr. Tu Ruihe
Head of the UNEP China Office

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. Environmental cooperation between China and the Mekong countries is in the interest of both sides. The development of green, low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure brings huge opportunities for all countries in the region. The sharing of knowledge and practices could contribute to the Asia-Pacific development.

Ms. Sae-Ryo Kim
Senior Advisor of Public Partnerships Section,
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



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, so as to protect the most vulnerable group of people from the impact of climate disasters and develop more solutions for climate adaptation capacity building for the region.



Mr. Tang Dingding
Former Chair of the Compliance
Review Panel, Asian Development Bank

Currently, mitigation finance still dominates over 90% of total climate finance. While total climate finance reached USD 630 billion in 2019/2020, only 7% flowed to adaptation, far below the scale necessary to respond to existing and future climate change. Therefore, Lancang-Mekong cooperation on addressing climate change could prioritize efforts in the following five aspects: 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.

Mr. Liu Chang
Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs
Office of Qinghai Province



Qinghai Province has been committed to leading global ecological progress. 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. As home to the headwaters of the Lancang River, 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, addressing climate change and environmental quality improvement, and promote green and sustainable development of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.



Ms. Li Minghui
Research Fellow of International Economics
and Finance Institute, Ministry of Finance, China

As developing countries, Lancang-Mekong countries need to effectively address challenges from three aspects. First, Lancang-Mekong countries need to coordinate green transition and green development and adopt an integrated approach to achieve synergy between green development and economic growth as well as job creation and poverty alleviation. Second, the relation between energy security and green transition needs to be handled properly. Lancang-Mekong countries need to make full use of their own energy endowments, promote the green transition of energy in a planned manner and develop new energy while maintaining a secure and reliable energy supply, so as to prevent energy crisis and energy poverty. Third, Lancang-Mekong countries need to follow market rules, enhance market integration, and make full use of limited capital for maximum financial, economic and social benefits.

Dr. Li Xia
Director and Professor of Lancang-Mekong
Environmental Cooperation Center



Under the guidance of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022), with the development of flagship programs under the “Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative” as the priority, Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) has carried out a series of policy dialogue, capacity building, joint research and demonstration projects to provide solutions for realizing the 2030 SDGs. Currently, the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative has entered into its second phase. We will continue to promote the implementation of the “Global Development Initiative”, carry out “small and beautiful” demonstration projects, promote regional cooperation in priority areas and establish an open and shared Lancang-Mekong knowledge hub for green, low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure.

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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.