



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

# Newsletter

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## Climate Innovation Network: Climate Adaptation Actions and Community Practice Sharing in Lancang-Mekong Countries Expert Views

On April 26, 2023, Climate Innovation Network: Climate Adaptation Actions and Community Practice Sharing in Lancang-Mekong Countries was successfully held at UNICEF China as one of the 2023 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Week series of events. The conference was organized by the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) / the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China under the support of UNICEF and Oxfam. The following are the excerpts of the observations from the panelists.



**Sae-Ryo Kim**  
Senior Advisor, UNICEF Public Partnerships Section

The climate crisis is a global change crisis and a child rights crisis that directly reduces children’s access to health care, nutrition and clean water services. It also threatens the survival, health and development of children. The crisis calls for necessary measures taken by multiple parties to protect vulnerable groups such as children from the impacts of climate change and safeguard their rights. UNICEF is committed to safeguarding children’s rights, with a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable groups and a framework for actions established to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience. UNICEF China and the LMEC have established the Climate Innovation Network to encourage young people to innovate on climate action, enhance their capacity to respond to climate change, nurture new forces in climate change governance, and collaborate to discover novel approaches for climate change adaptation.



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

The Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) and UNICEF have worked closely together and reached a consensus on making joint efforts to address climate change. The universal risks of climate change require Lancang-Mekong Countries to join forces and bring in multiple stakeholders, including UN agencies and community members, to explore innovative solutions to address the challenges of climate change, safeguard the climate rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children, and call on everyone to take practical actions so that the Lancang-Mekong region can contribute its wisdom to addressing global climate change.



**Nicholas Rees**  
**Programme Manager, UNICEF EAPRO**

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The Lancang-Mekong River is the lifeblood of the Lancang-Mekong region. It nourishes millions of its inhabitants. As global warming becomes more pronounced, and the East Asia Pacific region is the most vulnerable to climate shocks. It is imperative that all parties pay attention to the potential climate risks of children and youth in the region, strengthen regional and cross-regional discussions and exchanges, establish a collaborative mechanism for climate risk assessment and climate adaptation for children, develop policies to protect children’s rights, and enhance women’s and children’s capacity for climate adaptation in the region.



**Lonkham Atsanavong**  
**Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR**

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Laos has been implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1995 with a series of strategies and action measures in place to address climate change. At the strategic level, climate change and disaster risk management have been incorporated into the national development plan while climate adaptation actions have been carried out at all levels of government departments. In terms of implementation, nature-based solutions are widely used to enhance the resilience of cities, while information analysis and management systems are used to enhance environmental resilience and localized measures are taken to improve emergency response capabilities.



**NALIN PHON**  
**Vice Chief, Office of Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia**

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Wetlands provide habitat for both mankind and aquatic organisms and possess high-value ecosystem services such as flood regulation. However, wetlands are susceptible to climate change impacts, which denotes their high climate vulnerability. Against this backdrop, Cambodia has carried out a great amount of work in addressing the climate change vulnerability of wetlands in the Mekong Delta. The Cambodian government has proposed wetland adaptation and conservation measures, delineated core conservation areas, and carried out pilot demonstration projects that adopt pilot water management initiatives based on water canals to restore and protect wetland ecosystems and build climate-resilient and ecologically sustainable development patterns.



**Wang Jie**  
**Director, Environment and Ecology Bureau of**  
**Pu'er City, Yunnan Province, China**

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Yunnan Province attaches great importance to climate change awareness and education for children and youth. According to the requirements of the 14th Five-Year Plan of Yunnan Province, the government has made proactive efforts in building a community for ecological education under cooperation among schools, families and society. The government encourages the integration of climate change education and subject teaching, so that climate change can be incorporated into teaching materials and classrooms. Green thematic education is also carried out in and outside of schools to raise awareness of environmental protection and climate change prevention among children and youth. With an integrated model of energy conservation and environmental protection, green schools are established to promote the recycling of resources.



**Wang Zhifeng**  
**Researcher, Guangxi Zhuang**  
**Autonomous Region Climate Change**  
**Response Center**

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It is imperative to carry out campaigns on climate change adaptation for youth. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has put in place a policy system in this regard, with a children's development plan released in 2021 which provides clear and specific initiatives for children's health and environmental protection. Guangxi has also carried out pilot demonstration work in two national pilot cities. By creating green schools, promoting low-carbon concepts and celebrating low-carbon days, the government has boosted the interests of youth in green and low-carbon development as well as climate change. In addition, Guangxi has rolled out extensive interactive communication activities for all people, enhancing climate change literacy as well as climate risk awareness for all people through network resources. In the future, it will further establish and improve climate risk assessment standards and build a specification system for climate adaptation to prepare Guangxi for climate change responses.



**Huang Yun**  
**Consultant, Asian Development Bank**

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The Asian Development Bank (ADB) focuses on the development of countries in the region with special support for vulnerable groups such as children and women. It has formed a mature system. In project implementation, ADB helps enhance capacity building for vulnerable groups, provides them with special grants, and improves individuals' capacity for risk response through knowledge training. In addition, ADB supports countries in the region to improve green transport infrastructure and foster awareness of green travel among children. In the future, ADB will further strengthen vocational education to improve young people's survival skills so as to help them better adapt to the climate transition.



**Wang Zekai**  
**Chairman, Youthink Center**

Youthink Center was founded by young people and is dedicated to serving young individuals by encouraging youth participation in various initiatives. In terms of communication and public awareness, Youthink encourages young people to take the initiative to participate in various communication activities, promote low-carbon and green ideas through various new media communication tools, and facilitate the efficient implementation of national strategies. In the future, we hope to strengthen top-level design and policy guidance in attracting sustainable financial support from various parties, encourage youth participation, and inspire young people to serve the country and the people.



**Hongmey Chhay**  
**Member of Youth Empowerment in  
Climate Action Platform (YECAP)**

Climate change is a global issue that requires the participation of many international organizations. The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) organizes online seminars to spread the basic knowledge of climate change, motivate organizations to develop their own action plans, build networks to address climate change, and create a platform to share information on climate change. The platform guides young people to establish the concept of harmony between people and the land, encourages and supports them to take action to address climate change and sets up a virtuous cycle of “publicity-engagement-publicity” with the extensive use of social media to showcase and publicize the results of their actions.



**Narumon ORIS**  
**Environmentalist, Foreign Affairs Division,  
Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of  
Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand**

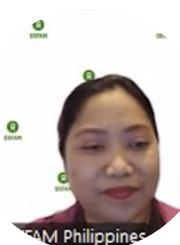
As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, Thailand has developed a long-term strategy for greenhouse gas emission reduction at the national level to achieve the goal of “carbon neutrality” by 2065. It has also promulgated a gender-responsive policy bill to ensure the participation of women and children in climate change actions. In the field of education, Thailand is actively promoting climate change education in the classroom to expand students’ knowledge of climate change. We have, through various events, provided a platform for communication to ensure the broad participation of youth in action. In the future, we will listen more to the needs of young people and invite them to participate in policy formulation, so that they can assume their share of responsibility for environmental protection and ensure the steady growth of the country’s green economy.



**Mao Wei**  
**Deputy Director, Climate Change Division of  
the Department of Ecology and Environment  
of Hainan Province, China**

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China has issued the National Strategy on Climate Adaptation 2035. Against this backdrop, Hainan Province is also preparing an action plan for climate change adaptation in line with its own development. In addition, Hainan Province aims to convert the coastal ecosystems and build new and efficient farming solutions with a new model of “fish farming in multi-storied plants”, so as to enhance climate change adaptation for coastal residents while reducing pollution and carbon emissions. Hainan Province will also strengthen research on blue carbon resources and climate change impacts and develop special programs so as to give full play to its ecological advantages and unite all parties to actively respond to global climate change.



**Lean Anadon-Payud**  
**Climate Resilience Manager, Oxfam Philippines**

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Philippines is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters. It ranks first on the Global Climate Risk Index, with approximately 27.6 million people vulnerable to natural disasters, including mainly women and other vulnerable groups. Oxfam takes women’s empowerment, energy transition and community activities as the three focuses in its climate adaptation initiatives. It also aims to strengthen communication links with local partners. Besides, Oxfam provides nature-based solutions, encourages women to lead climate risk mitigation and climate adaptation projects, and focuses on youth participation in an effort to build a fair and equitable social system.



**Huang Zhen**  
**Program Manager, The Asia Foundation**

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Climate change will increase the frequency and exacerbate the devastation of natural disasters, posing a huge challenge to disaster mitigation and prevention. The Asia Foundation has long been committed to emergency management as well as disaster prevention and preparedness, working closely with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center to strengthen community training on emergency management with international experience and professional tools. In addition, the Asia Foundation has combined its previous program experience with existing women’s entrepreneurship programs to increase women’s program leadership and foster women’s development in the fields of environment and climate through innovative ways and novel ideas so that they can better adapt to climate change and mitigate the impact of climate disasters.



## Wang Xinchao Chief of Environment Programme Department, China Association for NGO Cooperation

China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) works with international and domestic partners to promote climate-resilient agriculture. Through training on professional skills as well as disaster prevention and mitigation and the introduction of excellent varieties, farmers' farming incomes increased. Pilot demonstrations on climate-resilient farming have been established in Shandong Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, with a women participation rate of over 50%. In addition, CANGO is actively involved in building a private climate action network, organizing international exchange activities, and launching the China NGO Initiative on Climate Adaptation to jointly address global climate change challenges.

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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.