



Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation: Progress and Outlook

Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center

December 7th, 2021

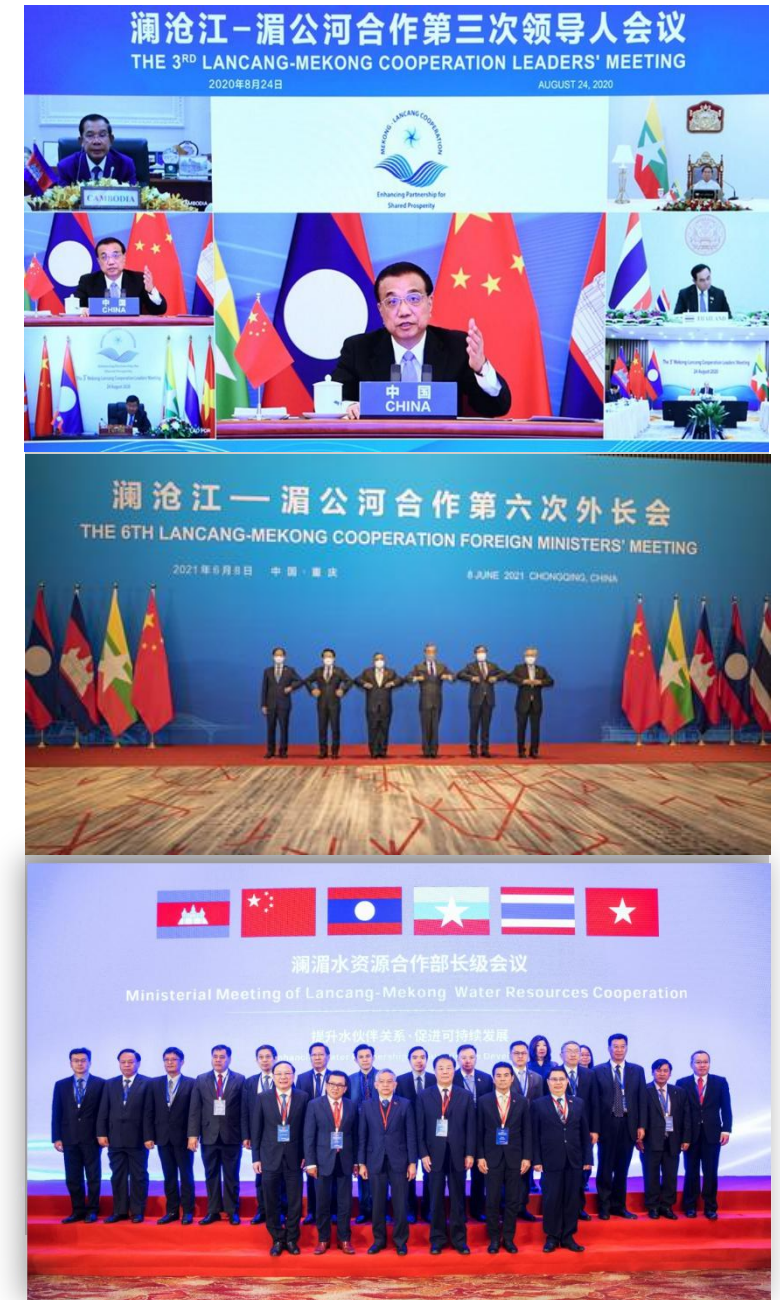




Part I: Progress since the 1st Forum

I. High-level political and policy leadership

- Since the 1st Forum was held on November 2018, water resources cooperation under the LMC/MLC developed vigorously with the concerted efforts of the six member countries, following the decisions and consensus of the six member countries, especially those reached at:
 - the 3rd Leaders' Meeting on Aug 24th, 2020;
 - the 4th FMs' Meeting on Dec 17th, 2018, the 5th FMs' Meeting on Feb 20th, 2020 and the 6th FMs' Meeting on Jun 8th, 2021;
 - the 1st Ministerial Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation on Dec 17th, 2019;
 - and the JWG meetings on Apr 2-3, Jun 4-5, Aug 10th, Oct 29-30, 2019, May 21st, Sep 24th, 2020, Sep 14th, 2021.
- Those meetings provided strong political and policy leadership for water resources cooperation under the LMC/MLC, especially on information sharing and transboundary cooperation, flood and drought management, livelihood improvement, capacity building and joint studies.



Vientiane Declaration

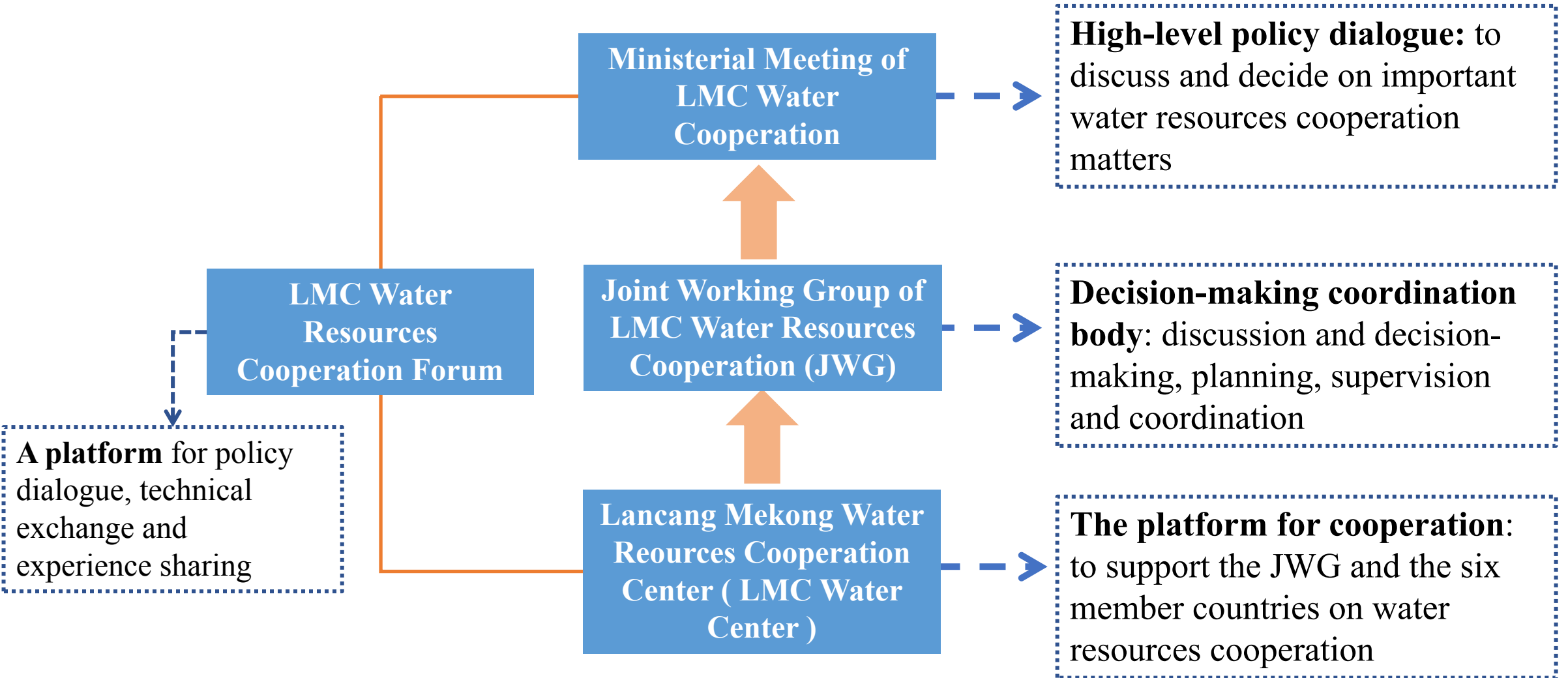
Further strengthen cooperation on sustainable management and utilization of water resources:

- Convene **Ministerial Meetings** of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation regularly and fully harness **LMC Water Resources Cooperation Joint Working Group** as the coordination mechanism of decision making for this area, and the **Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center** as the supporting platform.
- Promote the implementation of *Five-Year Action Plan on Lancang- Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2018-2022)*;
- Conducting **policy dialogues, sharing of data, information and experiences** in the implementation of transboundary water resources management, enhancing **technical cooperation and exchanges**, carrying out **joint researches and analysis** related to Lancang-Mekong water resources, **public participation** in the exchange of views, and promoting **capacity building** in water management and enhancing pragmatic cooperation in such areas as climate change adaptation, dam safety, drinking water safety, flood and drought disaster management.
- Support establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation **Information Sharing Platform**.

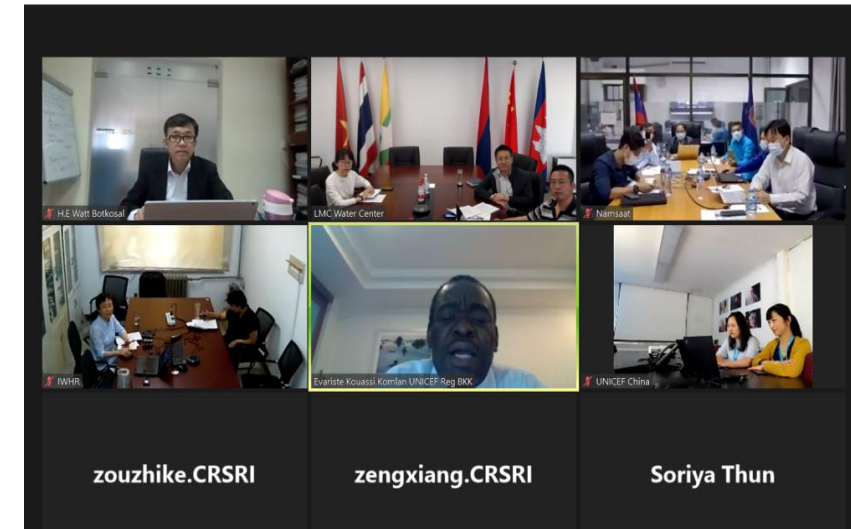
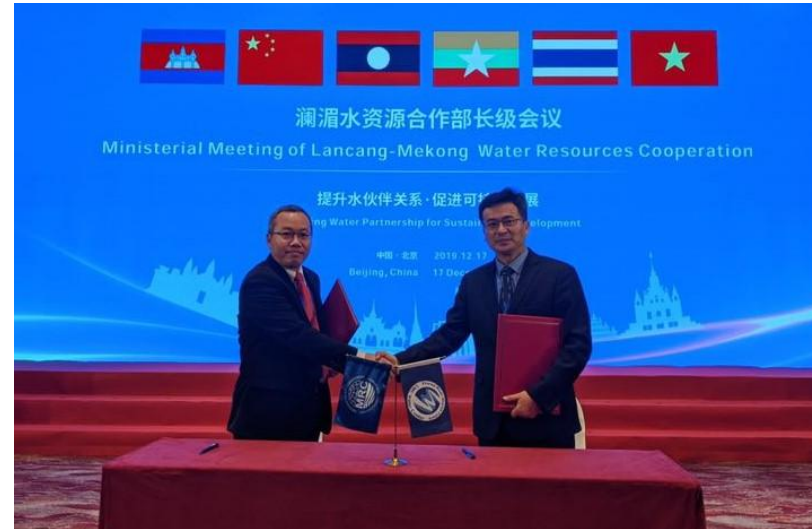


----- Vientiane Declaration
of the Third Lancang-Mekong
Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting

II. Institutional development



- Member countries provided **substantial support** to the LMC Water Center for its institutional development and capacity building.



- Lao PDR and Viet Nam each sent **2 experts** working in the Center on a short-term basis.
- The Center signed the **MOU** with **MRCS** for synergies in regional water resources cooperation.
- **Partnership** is developing with organizations of six member countries, enterprises, civil society organizations (CSOs), regional and international institutions.

III. Information Sharing

- **Decision of the Leaders of the six member countries**

➤ *Support establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation **Information Sharing Platform**.*

——*Section 2.6, Vientiane Declaration of the 3rd LMC Leaders' Meeting, Aug 24, 2020*

- **Consensus of the Water Ministers of the six member countries**

➤ *We will continue to take joint actions to implement the decisions made by our leaders, through policy dialogue, **information sharing**, experience exchange, capacity building, and partnership development.*

——*Para 10 , Joint Statement of the 1st Ministerial Meeting, Dec 17, 2019*

➤ *Strengthen and expand cooperation on data and information sharing among member countries towards **comprehensive LMC data and information sharing in the field of water resources**.*

——*Para 12, Joint Statement of the 1st Ministerial Meeting, Dec 17, 2019*

Letter of Intent on the Establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform (signed by the JWG on Sept 24, 2020)

Letter of Intent on the Establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform

Pursuant to the Vientiane Declaration of the Third Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting of 24th August 2020 supporting the establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform (hereinafter referred to as 'the Platform'), We, the Joint Working Group on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (JWG), hereby have the intention to establish Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform:

1. Principles

The development, operation and maintenance of the Platform will be governed by the following principles:

- Inclusive and comprehensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.
- Respect for laws and regulations of each member country and mutually recognized international laws and norms, which already signed and ratified by the member countries, in particular with regard to the national defense or security, commercial-in-confidence and copy rights protection.
- Member countries will provide data, information, knowledge, experiences, and technologies that are needed for the development, operation of the Platform, in an equitable, efficient, reciprocal, timely and cost effective manner.
- Member countries will maintain their data and information systems enabling availability and continuity of the data and information sharing

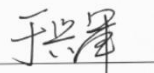
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Member countries will review data and information to be provided to the Platform and ensure their compliance with the formats and quality requirements agreed by the member countries, coordinate and solve copy right issues that may occur.


6. Validity


This Letter of Intent will come into effect on the date of signing and will continue to be in effect during the Establishment of the Platform.

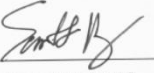
Signed in six copies on 24th September, 2020 in English language.



Head of Chinese JWG


Head of Cambodian JWG


Head of Lao JWG


Head of Myanmar JWG


Head of Thai JWG


Head of Vietnamese JWG

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Letter of Intent on the Establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform (signed by the JWG on Sept 24, 2020)

● Highlights:

➤ Jointly developed by member countries:



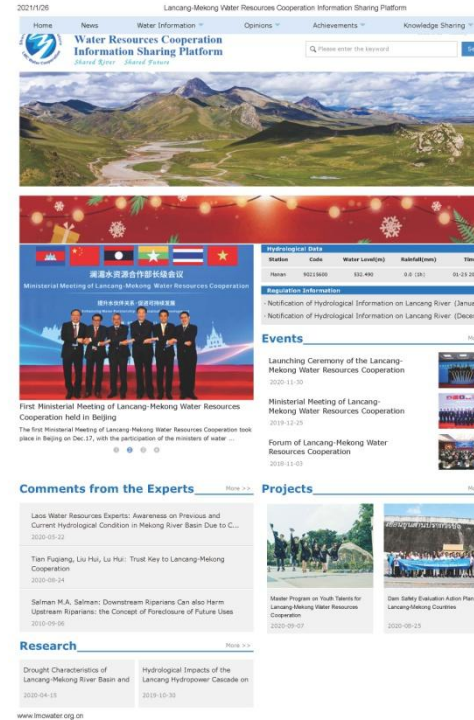
- ✓ Member countries will ***provide data, information, knowledge, experiences, and technologies*** that are needed for the development, operation of the Platform, in an equitable, efficient, reciprocal, timely and cost effective manner (Principles).
- ✓ Member countries will ***contribute to the development, operation and maintenance*** of the Platform in the forms of funding, human resources and technologies (Implementation Arrangements).

➤ Cooperate with MRC and other partners:



- ✓ Complement and ***develop in close collaboration with MRC*** (Principles);
- ✓ The Implementing Team, consisting of ***officials and experts of all member countries and representatives of the LMC Water Center*** in close collaboration with ***Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCs) and other international partners***, will provide technical support to the establishment of the Platform (Implementation Arrangements).

Website of Information Sharing Platform (<http://www.lmcwater.org.cn/>)



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- The Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform **Website** was launched on November 30th, 2020.
- The Website aims to advance the **sharing of data, information and knowledge**, while providing experience and reference for the six member countries to jointly build the Platform.

Other Progress on Information Sharing

- China provides to the other five member countries and MRCS **year-round hydrological information** of the Lancang river starting from Nov 1st, 2020, after providing flood season information to MRCS since 2002.
- In case of **significant change to the operation** of the Jinghong Hydropower Station, JWG China informs other JWGs in a timely manner.
- The JWG is considering and discussing about **a mechanism of data and information sharing on floods, droughts and emergency water-related situation.**

IV. Capacity building and technical exchanges

- **The LMC workshop on Integrated Planning and Management of River Basins** was held in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China from January 8 to 13, 2020, attended by over 100 participants from the six member countries, MRCS and other international organizations including the World Bank, GWP, IWMI and AWC.
- **Study tour by diplomats of the six member countries** to the dams in the Lancang River (Nuozhangdu and Jinghong) was carried out in April, 2021.
- About 30 scholarship provided to the Mekong countries each year for master courses hosted by the Hohai University of China.



V. Pragmatic Projects

- ▶ Since 2017, Chinese government provided around **RMB 200 million** for the implementation of **36** water-related projects, including **18** projects approved in 2020, in the six member countries focusing on water resources management, water infrastructure development, flood and drought management, dam safety management, information system.
- ▶ The JWG agreed on the project proposals on **dam safety management, rural water supply, irrigation, information sharing** as priorities for the Work Plan in the coming years.



MOU between LMC Water Center and MRCS

Seizing opportunities for further cooperation, the Parties decide to cooperate in areas of *experience sharing, data and information exchange, monitoring, joint assessment and joint research and study, knowledge management and associated capacity building* relating to water and related resources development and management so as to jointly promote sustainable social and economic development of the Lancang-Mekong countries.

in all relevant fields. The People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are the MRC Dialogue Partners. The MRC has adopted core river basin management functions, including data and information sharing, monitoring, forecasting, and assessment; basin planning; water utilization Procedures implementation; and promoting dialogue, partnership and cooperation. The MRCS renders technical and administrative services to the Council and Joint Committee, and is under the supervision of the Joint Committee.

The Parties recognize that water constitutes critical natural resources and valuable assets on which peoples of the riparian countries rely for existence, especially in the context of global warming and climate change. The LMC and MRC both are dedicated to contributing to livelihood improvement and sustainable socio-economic development through sustainable management and utilization of water resources in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.

The Parties are pleased to observe that cooperation and integration at the regional level are gaining momentum, among which the LMC and MRC have conducted fruitful exchanges, joint research and collaboration on sustainable water resources development and management.

Seizing opportunities for further cooperation, the Parties decide to cooperate in areas of experience sharing, data and information exchange, monitoring, joint assessment and joint research and study, knowledge management and associated capacity building relating to water and related resources development and management so as to jointly promote sustainable social and economic development of the Lancang-Mekong countries.

The Parties will further discuss and develop specific work plans and joint activities for synergy in regional water resources cooperation.

The Parties will report on the progress of joint activities to the JWG on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation and the MRC Joint Committee respectively on an annual basis or upon request. The JWG and the JC approved this MOU.

The Parties decide to designate the responsible contacts for the activities under this MOU as follows:

- LMC Water Center: Director for Communication & External Relations, Beijing, the People's Republic of China

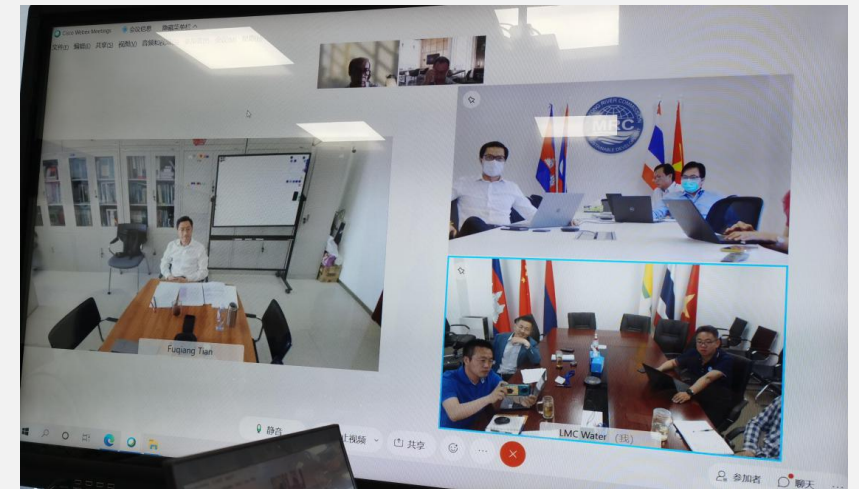
Joint Study on the changing Pattern of Hydrological Conditions of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin and Adaption Strategies

● Objectives:

- to provide a **better understanding of the changing patterns of hydrological conditions** in the Lancang-Mekong river basin for the riparian countries to enable them to address basin-wide flood and drought risks exacerbated by climate change and **present recommendations for coordinated action** at river basin and country levels in both **the short term and long term**.

● Scope:

- Component 1: Historical changes of the river flow patterns and the causes;
- Component 2: Trends of the changing patterns on the runoff under climate change;
- Component 3: Adaptation strategies under changing hydrological conditions.





Part II. Outlook



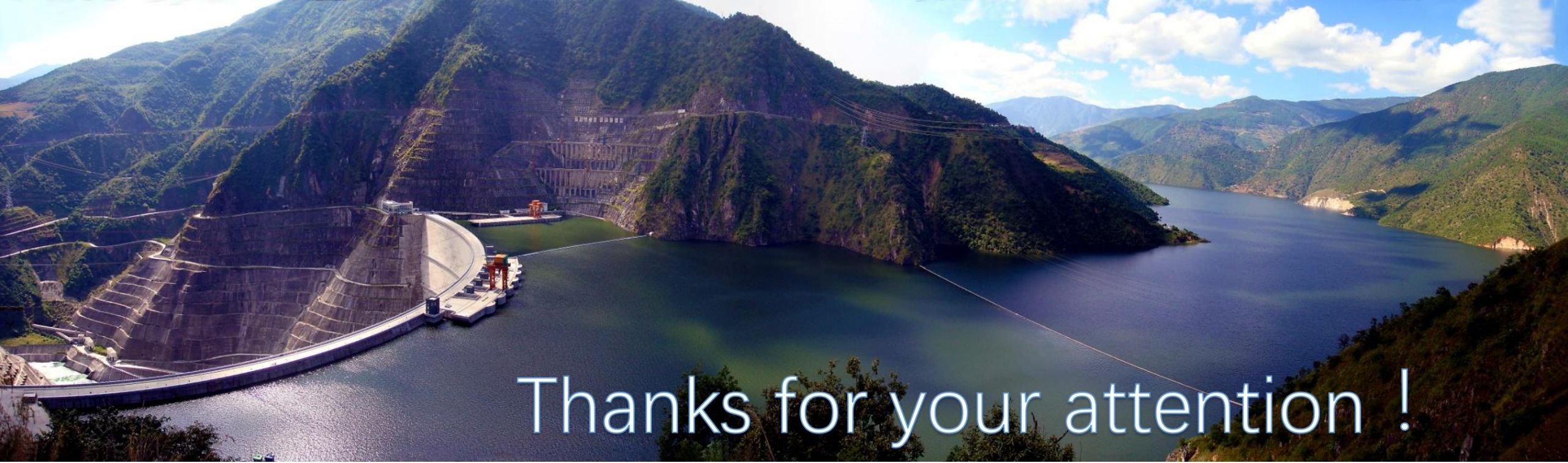
Approach of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation

Suggestions for future cooperation

- Preparing the next Five-year Action Plan in consultation with stakeholders, public and partners.
- Advancing the establishment of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Information Sharing Platform.
- Enhancing pragmatic cooperation in such areas as climate change adaptation, dam safety, drinking water safety, flood and drought disaster management, exploring the opportunities to develop relevant guidelines or programs on these areas.
- Ensuring quality results from the Joint Study on the Changing Pattern of Hydrological Conditions of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin and Adaption Strategies in cooperation with the six member countries and MRCS.

Suggestions for future cooperation

- Mobilizing more resources to undertake training and exchange for the youth in the six member countries.
- Expanding cooperation with existing and potential partners and collaboration with other cooperative mechanisms, including MRC, ACMECS, ASEAN and Belt and Road Initiative.
- Promoting exchanges with transboundary river basins in other parts of the world.
- Supporting further institutional development of the LMC Water Center to enable it fully play the role as the cooperation platform.
- Exploring opportunities of coordination and synergies with other LMC areas such as agriculture, forestry, water-related tourism, water environment protection, sanitation and health, poverty reduction.



Thanks for your attention !

Email: LM@LMwater.org.cn;

Tel: +8610 68781079/68781035

Fax: +8610 68781021

Add: No.3 South Yuyuantan Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100038, China

