



# **Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation**

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**September 10, 2023**

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## I. Background

# 1. Background

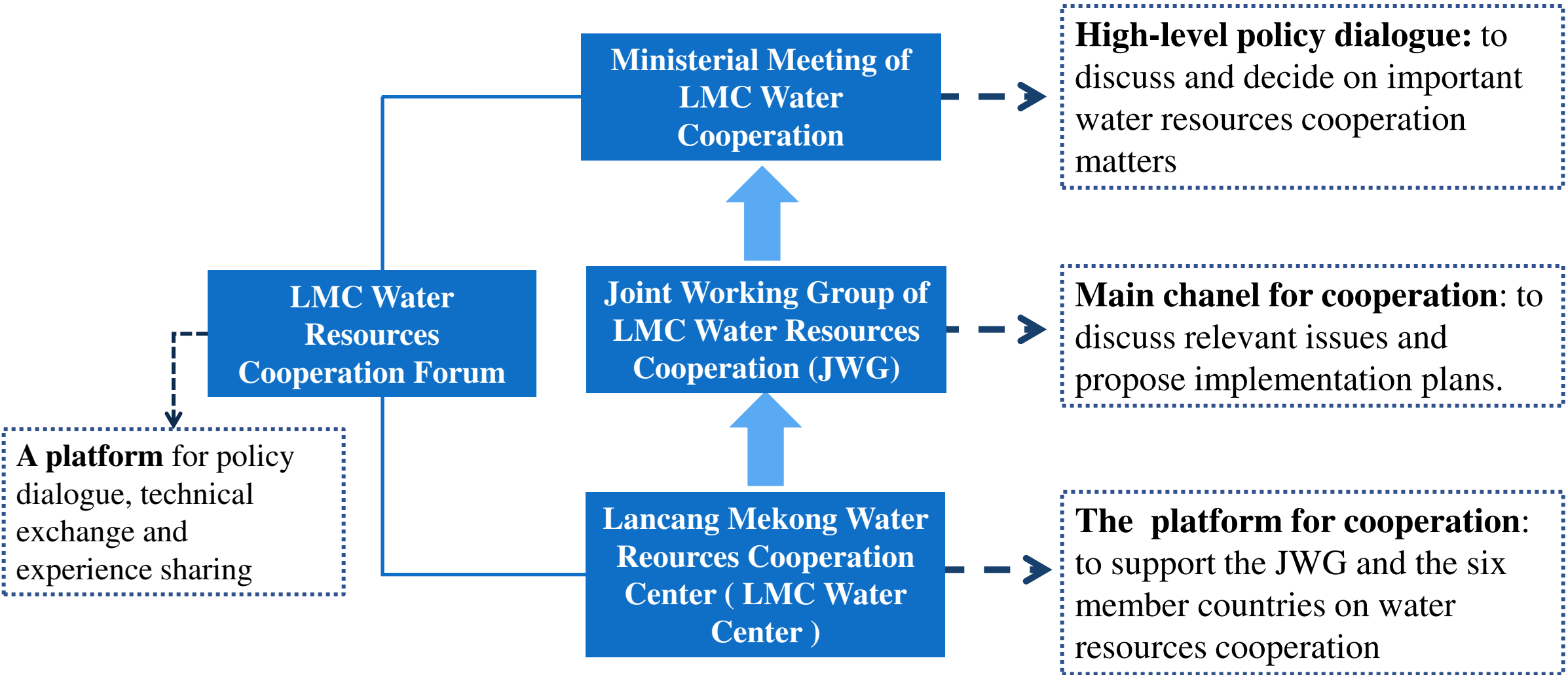
- On 23 March 2016, the **1<sup>st</sup> LMC Leaders' Meeting** was held in Sanya, China with **Sanya Declaration** issued, marking the establishment of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC).
- On February 2018, the **2<sup>nd</sup> LMC Leaders' Meeting** was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with **Phnom Penh Declaration** issued, which calls for strengthening cooperation on sustainable management and utilization of water resources.
- On August 2020, the **3<sup>rd</sup> LMC Leaders' Meeting** was held online with **Vientiane Declaration** issued, which calls for further strengthen cooperation on sustainable management and utilization of water resources.





## II. Progress of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation

# 1. Institutional Development



# 1. Institutional Development

## ◆ High-level policy leadership



1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting in Beijing, 2019



1<sup>st</sup> Cooperation Forum in Yunnan, 2018

The water ministers attach great importance LM water cooperation, provide high-level policy leadership to the top-level design of our cooperation.

Key cooperation directions identified including:

- information sharing and cross-border cooperation,
- flood and drought disaster management,
- improvement of people's livelihood,
- capacity building and joint research.

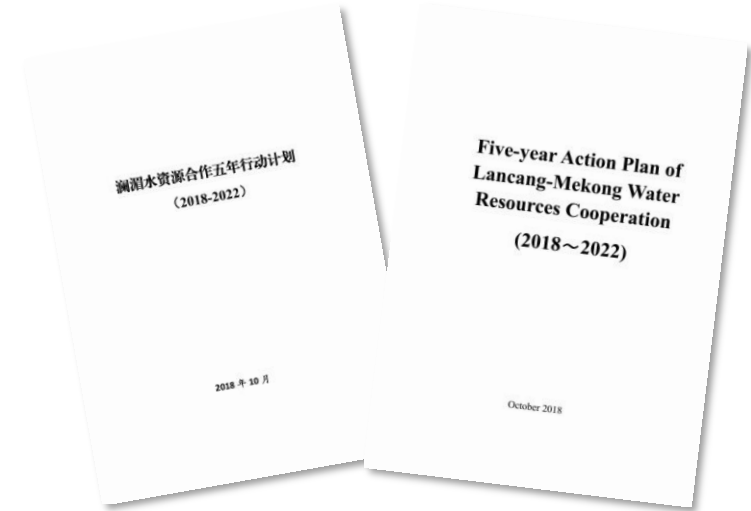


2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperation Forum online, 2021

# 1. Institutional Development

## ◆ *Five-Year Action Plan*

- *The Five-Year Action Plan on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2018-2022)* jointly formulated and implemented by the six member countries
- Completing the *Evaluation on the Implementation of the Five-year Action Plan on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2018-2022)*
- *The Five-Year Action Plan on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2023-2027)* being formulated.



**Five-Year Action Plan**



**Evaluation on the Implementation of the Five-year Action Plan 2018-2022**



# 1. Institutional Development

## ◆ *The JWG on Water Resources Cooperation*

- The Joint Working Group on Water Resources Cooperation (JWG) set-up as a **decision-making coordination body**.
  - 3 annual meetings and 14 special meetings were held,
    - endorsement of **Concept Paper of JWG**,
    - consultation on the **Five-Year Action Plan on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2018-2022)**,
    - preparing **annual work plans**,
    - **response to drought in 2019**,
    - proposed **list of cooperation projects**,
    - consultation on the **establishment of Information Sharing Platform**.



3<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting of JWG on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation in 2019



# 1. Institutional Development

## ◆ *The Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center*

The Center established in China in June 2017 by six member countries in accordance with the Sanya Declaration of the 1<sup>st</sup> LMC Leaders' Meeting

Aiming at building up a comprehensive platform for strengthening water resources cooperation among riparian countries.

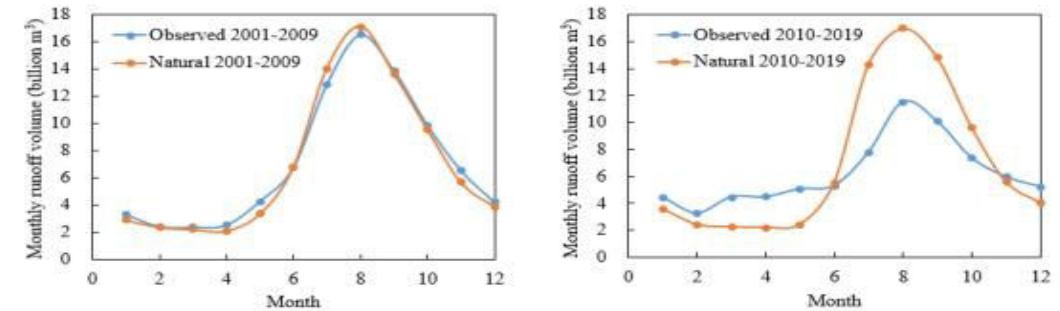
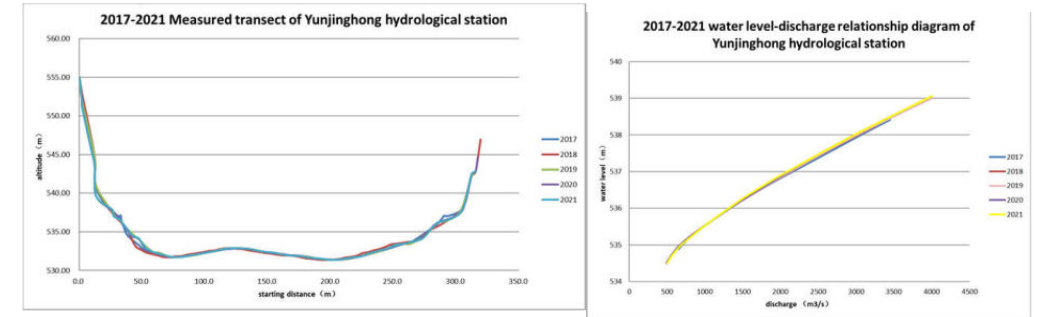
### **Functions:**

- ✓ *technical exchanges;*
- ✓ *capacity building;*
- ✓ *drought and flood management;*
- ✓ *data and information sharing;*
- ✓ *joint research and analysis.*



## 2. Information Sharing

- The Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR) provided to **MRC** hydrological information of the Lancang River in the flood season for consecutive **21 years**. The MOU was renewed in 2019.
- MWR provides **the other LMC member countries and the MRC** with **year-round** hydrological information of Yunjinghong and Man'an hydrological stations on the Lancang River, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November **2020**.
- In case of **significant change** to the operation of the Jinghong Hydropower Station, JWG China informed other JWGs in a timely manner.



Yunjinghong Hydrological Station

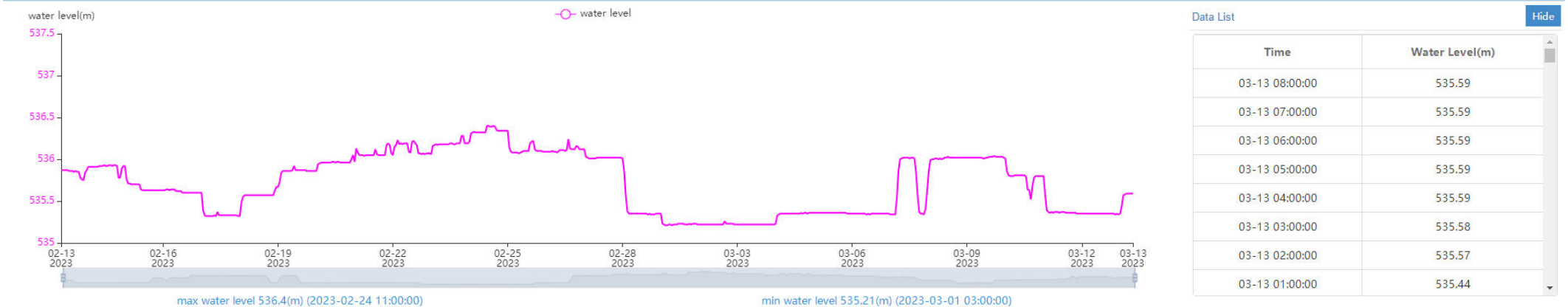
## 2. Information Sharing

<https://www.lmcwater.org.cn>

The website of the Information Sharing Platform was launched on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



Yunjinghong Water level hydrograph (2023-02-13 08:00:00-2023-03-13 08:00:00)



Hydrological information of Yunjinghong and Man'an were released on the information platform everyday.

### 3. Capacity Building & Technical Exchange

Over the past seven years, within the framework of the LMC water cooperation, more than 1,000 officials, experts and scholars involved in the activities.

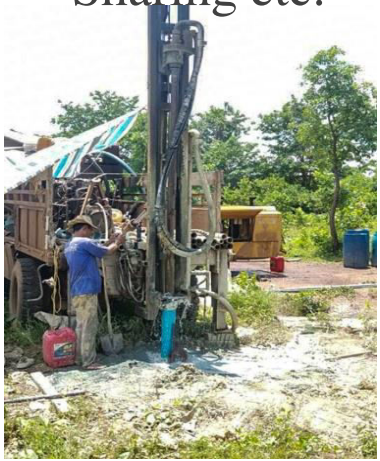
The Senior Water Talents programme for LMC Water Cooperation implemented by Hohai University in collaboration with the LMC Water Center since 2017

162 scholars in total from the five Mekong countries awarded master degree of water related subjects.



## 4. Pragmatic Projects

- Since 2017, Chinese government provided around RMB 270 million for the implementation of around 50 water-related projects in the six member countries focusing on Water Resources Management, Water Supply, Water Infrastructure Development, Flood and Drought Management, Dam Safety, Information Sharing etc.



## 5. Collaboration with MRC

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 February 2023, Dr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, CEO of the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, visited the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center and the Water Forecasting and Center of the Changjiang Water Resources Commission



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:

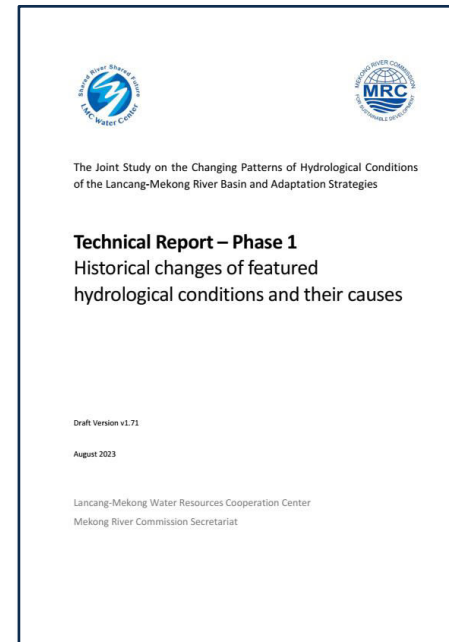
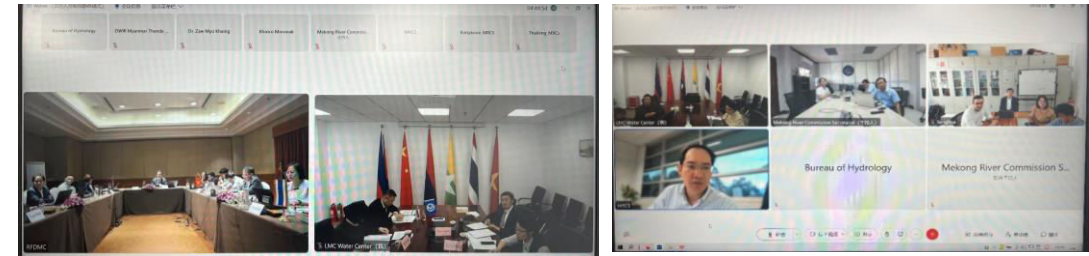
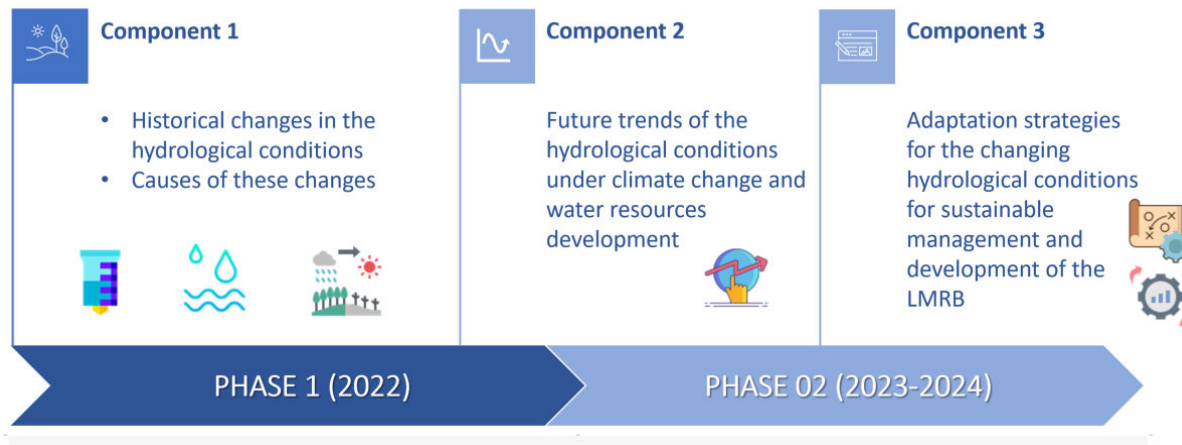
- LMC Water Center: Director for Communication & External Relations, Beijing, the People's Republic of China

## 5. Collaboration with MRC

### ◆ *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 to enable addressing 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**.





## 6. Public Participation and Advocacy

- Public activities such as the Lancang-Mekong Week in the past seven years,
- Activities such as "Experiencing the Lancang-Mekong River" exchange and joint news gathering activities by Chinese and foreign media,
- Step up cooperation in international communication



# 6. Public Participation and Advocacy

## ◆ China-ASEAN Dam Safety Popularization Contest : 2021, 2023

Focusing on dam safety, it has **publicized and popularized dam scientific knowledge**, especially on dams, spreading scientific ideas and advocating scientific methods.

- Improve explanation level and enhance communication skills;
- Enhance the public scientific literacy and promote advanced achievements;
- Establish an Exchange Platform.



Item	Unit	Value
Phongsavanh Bank	USD	10,000,000,000
Phongsavanh Bank	USD	10,000,000,000
Phongsavanh Bank	USD	10,000,000,000
Phongsavanh Bank	USD	10,000,000,000
Phongsavanh Bank	USD	10,000,000,000

## 6. Public Participation and Advocacy

### ◆ A Picture Book: Hello, Dam

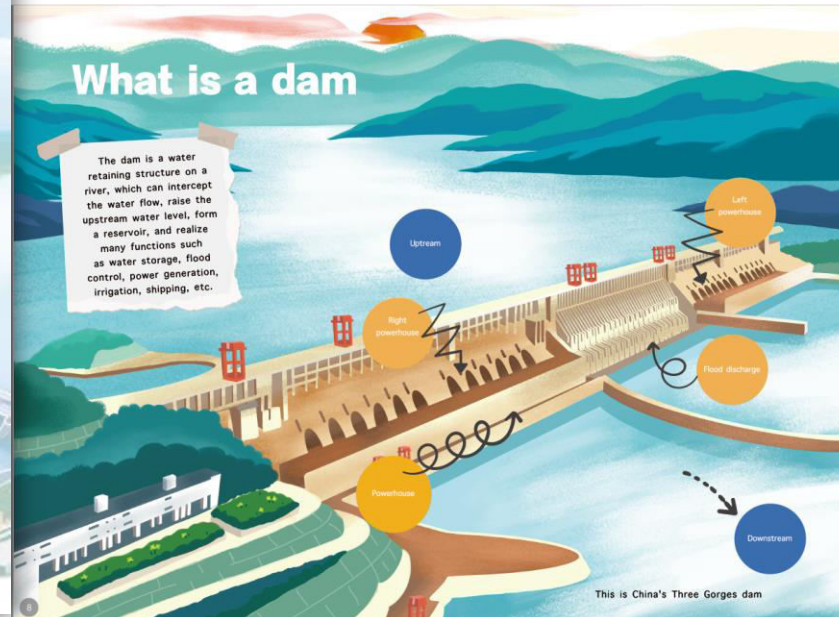
- Recognize the dam, dam history, dam types
- Dam's function, dam's growing up, dam's greatest
- Developments: digital twins, innovation, laws and regulations, etc



Hydropower Spirit



Dam spirit



## 6. Public Participation and Advocacy



**Science Handbook in Cambodian,  
Laos, and Thai Languages**



**Community Survey**



**Public Participation**



### III. Next step and Outlook

## Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation

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graph BT; CV([Common Visions]) --> LM[LM Cooperation]; CC([Common Challenges]) --> LM;
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### Common Visions

- **Sustainable social and economic development**
- **Sustainable water resources utilization**
- **The demand of water resources and energy**

### Common Challenges

- **Frequent flood and drought disasters**
- **Degradation of water ecosystem**
- **Intensifying of water pollution**
- **The lagging of water infrastructure**

## ① **Improving the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Framework**

Host the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Ministerial Meeting and the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum at fixed period.

Entrust the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Joint Working Group to take the lead in overall coordination, organization and implementation.

## ② **Strengthening Policy Coordination of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation**

Jointly formulate the Five-Year Action Plan for Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation (2023-2027), focusing on promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation, flood and drought disaster management, hydrological data information sharing and monitoring, technical standards and norms docking, and water-related infrastructure construction, joint research.

**③ Make plans for the joint projects to push towards the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Continue to promote the project to prosper the region and benefit the riparian people so as to make the most of limited resources.

**④ Support the development of the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center**

Encourage the six member countries to provide more support in terms of personnel, technology, and budget as well as available resources

Strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center and the MRC Secretariat.



**⑤ Deepen water resources management cooperation at the Lancang-Mekong River Basin level, strengthen regional water resources cooperation synergy, and achieve future sustainability and shared benefits**

Strengthen communication and coordination to ensure transparent, consistent, and timely sharing of hydrological data, work closely with the MRCS, jointly promote the construction of the information sharing platform.

Promote joint research on changes in hydrological conditions and adaptation strategies in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.

Comprehensively consider the national conditions of the countries, coordinate the relationship between the upstream and downstream, the left and right banks, and the main and tributary streams, and take into account social and economic development and ecological environmental protection to achieve green and sustainable development of the basin.

**⑥ Strengthen the overall coordinated operation of the infrastructure in the upper and lower Lancang-Mekong countries to minimize the effect on the environment.**

Make full use of the the top-level design, comprehensively consider the urgent needs of people's livelihood infrastructure in the Basin and the requirements of ecological and environmental protection, plan and implement a batch of water conservancy and people's livelihood infrastructure.

**⑦ Strengthen public participation and advocacy in the water sector**

Further increase public participation in relevant joint projects and actions in the LM water cooperation, promote water culture exchanges among countries, disseminate water knowledge among young people, and jointly enhance the public's scientific understanding of water resource challenges.

**⑧ Strengthen water resources management capacity building**

Strengthen the exchange and mutual learning of best practices around the sustainable and efficient development, management and utilization of water resources. Continue to carry out exchange training and study tour activities.

*Shared River, Shared Future*

**Thank you.**

