

The 4th Lancang-Mekong Business Forum 2022
“Promoting Agribusiness and Investment in Processed Food Sector”
November 9-11, 2022, Vientiane & Boten, Lao PDR

Welcome Remark by Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn
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Greetings

H.E. Dr. Manothong Vongsay, Vice Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR,
Government and business representatives from the Lancang-Mekong countries,
attending online and online,
Colleagues and friends, good morning

Welcome

At the outset, allow me to extend my heart-felt warm welcome to all of you to the 4th Lancang-Mekong Business Forum 2022 in Vientiane this morning. We are fortunate to have over 80 stakeholders registered on site and with more than 50 participants joining online.

Background

As a background, LMBF is an initiative supported by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, co-organized between Mekong Institute and National Ministries of Trade and Investment of LM countries (namely Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), and in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand.

Through the Forum, the participants will be able to gain information about the current trade and investment trends and prepare themselves for growing opportunities in the region. The Forum also provides an enabling platform for cooperation among the stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The website of the forum - www.lancangmekongforum.com, also draws interests among the participants as it allows users to search for the Forum materials and other information. Registered members can also use the website as a platform for sharing and exchanging information for business expansion.

LMBF started its first Forum in Bangkok in 2018, the 2nd in HCMC in 2019, 3rd in Phnom Penh in March 2022.

LMBF-4

We are at the 4th Business Forum, which is held under the theme “Promoting Agribusiness and Investment in Processed Food Sector”. The Forum will also include business matching, product exhibition and a structured-learning visit to Boten special economic zone.

As the theme suggests, this Forum intends to provide a platform for sharing innovations, good practices, challenges, new development trends and opportunities in the agro-food processing industry of Lao PDR and other LM countries.

After almost 3 years of COVID-19 pandemic, we are now in the recovery mode. It is therefore timely for us to update ourselves on the needs and opportunities to accelerating post COVID-19 recovery and transition towards sustainable and resilient economy. In Lao PDR, the operationalization of China-Lao railway is an example of advancing the Lao “Land locked to land links” policy. These developments will offer new opportunities for freer flow of goods and people. The same holds true for the agro-food processing industry.

To improve productivity and promote investment in the agro-food processing industry will contribute to income generation in and competitiveness of the sector. MI is pleased to be working with various partners to promote greater economic cooperation and integration to support sustainable socioeconomic development and support for people's livelihoods in Lao PDR and the other Lancang-Mekong countries,”

Acknowledgement

To make this Forum possible, I wish to extend my gratitude to the support by the LM Cooperation Special Fund. To the Thai Ministry of Commerce for your coordination support throughout this project. To the local host and co-organizer, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR. Particularly H.E. Dr. Manothong Vongsay, Vice Minister for graciously honoring and speaking at this Forum.

Thank you

I wish the Forum a success and thank you all for your participation. Thank you.