

Address by Counsellor Liao Junyun at the Sixth Lancang-Mekong Business Forum

Distinguished Executive Director Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn,

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Good morning!

I am delighted that at the beginning of 2024, I could have the opportunity to join you all at the opening ceremony of the sixth Lancang-Mekong Business Forum. Together, we contribute ideas and suggestions to promote business cooperation among the six nations. On behalf of the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, I extend sincere gratitude to friends from the six countries for their strong and enduring support for Lancang-Mekong cooperation.

Lancang-Mekong cooperation serves as a platform for the countries in the region to facilitate their extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. Over the past seven years, leveraging the geographical proximity, cultural affinity, and economic complementarity among the six nations, this cooperation has injected robust momentum into regional development, and prioritized development

and people's well-being. Recently, we successfully held the fourth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, where the leaders highly commended the fruitful outcomes achieved under this new type of regional cooperation mechanism. They unanimously acknowledged the shared opportunities and challenges, the construction of the Lancang-Mekong Economic Development Belt, the establishment of a community of a shared future, and the significant role played in enhancing the well-being of people in the region, maintaining regional peace and development, and promoting regional economic integration.

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation consistently upholds the principles of openness and inclusiveness, coordinating development with regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Mekong Institute, to collectively contribute to regional development. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund actively supports the Mekong Institute to organize the Lancang-Mekong Business Forum. Since 2018, the forum has provided a platform for promoting economic and trade cooperation, policy exchange, and sharing experiences among the six nations, becoming a vibrant practice in serving the socio-economic development of the Lancang-Mekong region.

Agriculture and related industries are closely tied to the livelihoods of the six countries and are among the priority areas of Lancang-Mekong cooperation. At the fourth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, the leaders unanimously

supported green and sustainable development in agriculture, aiming to enhance the competitiveness of agricultural products in the six nations. The theme of this forum, "Promoting Investment and Trade in Agricultural Products and Food Processing Industries in Lancang-Mekong Countries," aligns with the future direction of Lancang-Mekong cooperation and the needs of the six nations. I hope that we can strengthen communication, foster cooperation, and jointly promote the development of agricultural trade, adding impetus to regional prosperity.

Colleagues,

Currently, China is advancing modernization with high-quality development and opening up at a high level. At the same time, China advocates for a world characterized by equal and orderly multipolarization and an inclusive economic globalization that benefits all. We are steadfast in promoting the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, utilizing a global governance framework built upon extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, with the aim of achieving mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, and common prosperity. We will continue to adhere to the diplomatic principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness in our neighboring relations. We stand by our neighbors, promoting goodwill and friendship, and, in collaboration with the countries of the Lancang-Mekong region and friends from all sides, we are committed to jointly addressing challenges. We will continuously

deepen cooperation and contribute to regional prosperity.

In conclusion, I wish the sixth Lancang-Mekong Business Forum a complete success! May you all have a fruitful journey!

Thank you!