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LANCANG-MEKONG
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SPECIAL FUND
P. R. CHINA

The 6th Lancang-Mekong Business Forum 2024
“Promoting Agribusiness and Investment in Processed Food Sector”
10-11 January 2024, Beijing, PRC

Welcome Remark

By Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Executive Director, Mekong Institute

Greetings

Mr. **Liao Junyun**, Counselor, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.R. China;
Mr. **Jing Chunhai**, Counsel (DDG Level), Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, P.R. China;
Dr. **Zhang Lubiao**, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P.R. China;
Ms. **Nalintib Homvisetvongsa**, Minister (Commercial), The Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Beijing;
Government and business representatives from the LM countries;
Development partners;
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good morning

Welcome

At the outset, allow me to extend my warm welcome to all of you to the 6th and the final Lancang-Mekong Business Forum 2024 in Beijing this morning. It has been an exciting experience and journey for MI and partners in the promotion of agribusiness and investment in the processed food sector in the LM region. We are fortunate to have over 180 stakeholders and participants attending the Forum today.

Background

The Agri-food sector in the LM region plays a multi-dimensional role in national development and regional cooperation, namely food security, livelihoods of farmers and rural communities, economic and trade, green growth, and low carbon development

The sector is also well recognized in the LMC Plan of Action 2023-2024 announced by the leaders on 25 December 2023 under the theme of a Closer Community of Shared Future of Peace and Prosperity.

We all have a role to play in turning the potential of the agri-food sector into reality through promoting agribusiness and investment in the LM subregion.

Against this background, LMBF is an initiative formulated with the support by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, co-organized between Mekong Institute and National Ministries of Trade and Investment of LM countries 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, innovation, and best practices so that they can 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 interest 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, in HCMC in 2019, in Phnom Penh in 2022, in Vientiane and Nanning in 2023, and finally in Beijing today.

Under the theme “Promoting Agribusiness and Investment in Processed Food Sector”, this Forum will include a seminar, business matching, a product exhibition, and a structured learning visit to agriculture technology parks in Beijing.

Acknowledgment

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 co-organizers, CABC and FECC, MARA. And particularly, Mr. Liao Junyun, Counselor, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PR China 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.