Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting
Participant Handbook
CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting

Organizers:
Department of Hydraulic Engineering, Tsinghua University
Center for Global Competence Development at Tsinghua University

Co-sponsor:
Center for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University
Global Water Partnership China
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Welcome Letters

Delegations:

Hello, everyone! Welcome to Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting. The Lancang-Mekong area is one of the regions with the greatest development potential in Asia and beyond. Linked by mountains and rivers, the six Here, we hope that all delegations will be guided by the spirit of unity and friendship to reach agreement and contribute to win-win cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong area.

Since the LMC mechanism launched in 2016, the six LMC countries have jointly promoted the economic and social development of the Sub-regional countries, enhanced the wellbeing of their people, narrowed the development gap among regional countries and supported ASEAN Community building as well as promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing South-South cooperation.

However, the six countries do not always reach cross-basin cooperation on issues of economic interest. In the past few decades, upstream countries have built dams to change the seasonality of streams in downstream countries, affecting their economic performance. Rapid economic development and population growth in the Lancang-Mekong area make equitable and efficient use of water resources essential for all stakeholders. Therefore, the six coastal countries should reach consensus on hydropower development and damming plan, water and riverine ecosystems and agriculture and rice production. We sincerely invite you
to participate in the meeting to have in-depth discussions on the cooperation to be reached.

Finally, the Presidency wishes all delegates to actively promote the process of the meeting, contribute wisdom to the birth of the DECLARATION and contribute to the development of the Lancang-Mekong region.

Presidency of Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting

June 18, 2022
Background

1. Brief Introduction

The Lancang-Mekong area is one of the regions with the greatest development potential in Asia and beyond. Lancang and Mekong differ in name, but refer to the same river—an important river running across China and the Indo-China Peninsula. Originating from China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the river has its source in Yushu of Qinghai Province. It is called Lancang River in China, while in its downstream after flowing out of Yunnan Province, it is called the Mekong River, running across Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, measuring 4,880 kilometers in length, covering an area of 795,000 square kilometers, and feeding altogether 326 million people. The five Mekong River countries are home to 230 million people and boast a combined GDP over US$600 billion and an average annual growth rate of nearly 7%. Linked by mountains and rivers, the six LMC countries feature cultural similarities, and enjoy profound traditional good neighborliness and friendship and share closely inter-connected security and development interests.

2. Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

In 2012, Thailand proposed the initiative of sustainable development of the Lancang-Mekong Sub-region, which got positive response from the Chinese side. At the 17th China-ASEAN Summit held in November 2014, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang proposed the establishment of the
Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Framework, which was warmly welcomed by the five Mekong River countries. On 23 March 2016, the First LMC Leaders' Meeting was successfully held in Sanya of China's Hainan Province, which brought together Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Vice President of Myanmar Sai Mauk Kham, and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh. The meeting, with "Shared river, Shared future" as its theme, released the Sanya Declaration of the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting --For a Community of Shared Future of Peace and Prosperity Among Lancang-Mekong Countries, and officially launched the LMC mechanism.

The meeting confirmed the "3+5" mechanism of cooperation, referring to the three cooperation pillars -- political and security issues, economic and sustainable development, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges -- and the five key priority areas of connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction. LMC is characterized by pragmatism, high efficiency, focus on concrete projects. Since its launch in March 2016, the mechanism has achieved fast progress, demonstrating LMC speed and LMC efficiency. It has developed a Lancang-Mekong cooperation culture of equality, sincerity, mutual assistance, and affinity.

LMC aims at bolstering the economic and social development of the Sub-regional countries, enhancing the wellbeing of their people,
narrowing the development gap among regional countries and supporting ASEAN Community building as well as promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing South-South cooperation. LMC will be conducted within a framework featuring leaders' guidance, all-round cooperation and broad participation, and follow a government-guided, multiple-participation and project-oriented model, aimed at building a community of shared future of peace and prosperity among Lancang-Mekong Countries and establishing the LMC as an example of a new form of international relations featuring win-win cooperation.
Challenges of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

Cooperation in transboundary river basins can make water resources systems more efficient and benefit riparian stakeholders. However, in a basin with upstream and downstream stakeholders that have different interests, noncooperative outcomes have often been observed.

The transboundary Lancang–Mekong River basin has experienced dynamics of cooperation over the past several decades, which is a common emergent response in transboundary coupled human–water systems. Downstream countries rely on the Mekong River for fisheries, agriculture, navigation and ecological services, while upstream countries have been constructing dams to generate hydropower. The dam construction and operation in upstream countries have changed the seasonality of streamflow in downstream countries, affecting their economic benefits.

Rapid economic development and population growth in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin makes it imperative for water resources to be used fairly and efficiently among all stakeholders. Lancang-Mekong river not only brings physical connection and opportunities to the six countries along the river, but also brings great challenges. In this model conference, one of the most important points is “Water Resources Cooperation”.

1. Hydropower Development and Damming Plan

Increasing energy demand and pursuit of economic growth in the
LMRB have led to extensive hydropower development in the Lancang-Mekong River and its tributaries. China has built six hydropower dams on the mainstream of the Lancang River since 1992. The two largest dams are Xiaowan (14.56 km$^3$ of total storage, completed in 2010) and Nuozhadu (22.4 km$^3$ of total storage, completed in 2014). In recent years, tributary dams have developed rapidly. In Thailand, powerful state and private companies are driving hydropower development in Laos to control the benefits of these projects. The government of Laos has committed to supplying 9000 MW to Thailand and 3000 MW to Vietnam by 2025. Another important hydropower area is the so-called “3S” (i.e., Sesan, Srepok, and Sekong) river basins, where nine dams are currently operated and 11 dams are under construction with a total installed capacity of 3643 MW (60% of a potential 6400 MW) (Mekong River Commission (MRC), 2009). Within the next 20 years, 18 dams are planned for construction on the mainstream of the Mekong River (8 in China, 9 in Laos, and 1 in Cambodia). As for the whole Mekong basin, more dams will be built by 2025, with a water storage capacity of 55 km$^3$.

2. Water and Riverine Ecosystems

The Lancang-Mekong River Basin (LMRB) is one of the world’s 35 biodiversity hotspots. As the second most biodiverse river in the world, the LMRB provides habitat for 877 fish species; however, fish production and species richness are now threatened by rapid dam construction on both the mainstem and tributaries. Sustaining natural ecosystems requires
the full range of natural flow variation from low-flows to floods. However, the natural flow regime has been altered by reservoir operation to meet various human demands. The operation of reservoirs may destroy the systems and change the flood pulse regime, which is the key driver of the ecological productivity of the Mekong River.

Two important ecological entities are closely related to the flow regimes of the river and are located toward the downstream of the LMRB. First, the Tonle Sap, located in Cambodia, is rich in aquatic resources and contains more than 300 species of freshwater fish. The water level fluctuates extremely between the wet season (June to October) and dry season (November to May). Second, the Mekong Delta, covering an area of about 55,000 km² (44,000 km² in Vietnam and 11,000 km² in Cambodia), is sensitive to tidal and seawater intrusion. As dam construction has accelerated in the LMRB, trade-offs between dam benefits and their undesirable ecological impacts have been increasingly scrutinized.

3. Agriculture and Rice Production

   Agriculture is the primary economic sector of countries in the Lower Mekong Basin; the area under irrigation has gradually expanded in all four MRC countries from approximately 3.1 million ha in 1995 to over 4 million ha in 2013 (MRC 2019). Irrigation is the largest consumptive water user in the basin, requiring approximately 80%–90% of the water extracted. The average annual agricultural water demand in the Lower Mekong Basin is 32.3, 13.5, 14.7, and 139.1 km³ in Thailand, Laos,
Cambodia, and Vietnam, respectively (MRC 2018). The main irrigated crop is rice, yielding a high annual output value of approximately $7.7 billion. It is cultivated on over 50% of agricultural land in the LMRB. The irrigated harvest area of rice varies from 0.5 million ha in Laos to 4.6 million ha in Vietnam.

Drought and floods can greatly affect agriculture. To achieve regional cooperation, upstream countries usually work to change flow regulations of their reservoirs to satisfy the demands of the downstream countries. One example of this was the emergency water release from China in 2016 to alleviate the effects of a severe drought in the lower Mekong basin. This change in hydropower dam regulations in upstream countries can be regarded as an example of a cooperative response.

4. Negotiation Theme

Water resources cooperation is only one aspect of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation. Centering around on water resources, the Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting will conduct four negotiations. The negotiation topics are as follows:
### Session 1  Dam Construction and Disaster Prevention

- Basin Planning: dam construction, dam safety, hydropower development, water supply security, hydrological information share…
- Energy connectivity: electricity trade, infrastructure construction, job creation, transportation facility, road/rail linkages…
- Water-related risk: floods and droughts, climate change…

### Session 2  Agriculture and Ecology

- Agriculture: irrigation water supply, food safety, grain trade, agricultural science and technology, rural development, poverty eradication……
- River Ecology: ecosystem of river, water quality, fisheries, seawater intrusion……
- Green and sustainable development: environmental policy, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, urban environmental governance…

### Session 3  Economic and Cultural Cooperation

- Economic: trade, investment, digital economy, artificial intelligence, development of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor…
- Non-traditional security issues: illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, cyber crimes, human trafficking, smuggling, trafficking of firearms and ammunition…
- Public health: address the challenges posed by COVID-19
- Education, intellectual, tourism cooperation, culture, arts…

### 5. Delegation

There are a total of six delegations, namely: China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam. Each delegation consists of 5 to 8
members and a leader.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.19</td>
<td>16:30~18:00</td>
<td>Training: About LMC &amp; Rules &amp; procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.20~21</td>
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<td>Workshop (Participation by delegation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.21</td>
<td>before 23:59</td>
<td>Hand in position paper</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>One piece of position paper each delegation</td>
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<td>9:00~10:00</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>Opening Remarks (10min)</td>
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<td>Guest speech (10min)</td>
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<td>Rules introduction (10min)</td>
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<td>Opening Statements (30min)</td>
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<td>6.21</td>
<td>10:15~11:45</td>
<td>Negotiation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>Dam Construction and Disaster Prevention</td>
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<td>6.22</td>
<td>13:30~14:00</td>
<td>Expert Report</td>
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<td>Theme: Softness in the Law of International Watercourses: The (E)merging Normativities of China's Lancang-Mekong Cooperation</td>
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<td>Reported by: David J. Devlaeminck</td>
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<td>14:00~15:30</td>
<td>Negotiation</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
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<td>Agriculture and Ecology</td>
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<td>15:30~16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>16:00~17:30</td>
<td>Negotiation</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
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<td>Economic and Cultural Cooperation</td>
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<td>6.23</td>
<td>9:00~9:40</td>
<td>Expert Report</td>
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<td>Theme: Towards Sustainable Lancang-Mekong Water Governance: Progress and Prospects</td>
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<td>Reported by: Guo Yanjun</td>
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<td>9:50~10:30</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<td>Draft, revise and vote to approve the declaration</td>
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<td>10:40~11:20</td>
<td>Closing</td>
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<td>Conclusion (8min)</td>
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<td>Issue the Declaration (7min)</td>
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<td>Ceremony</td>
<td>Comment by guests (15min)</td>
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<td>462-158-412</td>
<td>Awarding Ceremony (10min)</td>
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Remarks: Online use of Tencent Meeting
Guidance for delegates

The role of this document is to simulate negotiations on how to use the information contained in the guidance file, which only represents the recommendations of the Secretariat, without any official and professional nature.

Step 1: Understand the topics discussed

When participating in the negotiation, first you need to make clear that which topics you are going to negotiate, and then to collect the basic situations about these topics. This is because in real international negotiations, the negotiators of each topic are relevant professionals. In the model negotiation here, since everyone is a novice, it is necessary to understand the related issues in a short time. The process of understanding the negotiating issues is a process answering questions. The questions that need to be answered include:

1. What is the topic? What is the purpose of this issue?
2. What are the principles on this topic and what important resolutions have been reached on this topic in the past?
3. What is the current situations of the global governance system on this topic?
4. Is this a more technical or political issue?

Step 2: Understand the position of the country you represent

In a real negotiation, delegates communicate with the leaders, the
head of delegation or government officials to determine their negotiating positions and positions on specific issues, demanding and bottom lines. However, here, you can only speculate by understanding the consistent position of the represented countries on such issues, so as to judge their own positions on the issues under negotiation. So, the most effective way to understand the position of the country you represent is to consult the relevant literature or website (e.g. http://www.lmcchina.org/).

**Step 3: How to read/analyze the text**

When you get the text, the first thing you should do is to pay attention to the type, nature and theme of the document—which can help you get the most fundamental information about the text. Next, you should read the full text, understand what this text is talking about, what content is involved, to have an overall grasp of the text. Then, focus on every block, think about points that might cause disputes and debates, and what is the position of the country you represent in the face of this point of contention. It is important to reflect on what positions other interest groups are in this place to rehearse possible contests in the negotiations.

**Step 4: How to design negotiation ideas**

After understanding all the potential competitive points, we will begin to set up negotiation ideas. Negotiation ideas include the strategy and tactics of negotiation. Strategy mainly refers to which interest groups to unite with, where to make appropriate concessions, where not to give in and other strategic issues. Tactics, on the other hand, mainly refer to
how to express your point of view clearly, reasonably and convincingly. What we need to pay attention is that: some views can be expressed directly, such as "Agriculture is very important to our country, we want to better irrigate the crops, we hope upstream countries can share the hydrological data" and so on. Such reasons can be told truthfully. However, there are another series of reasons, such as the fear that excessive communication of information will affect national sovereignty, the fear that, in the absence of a mechanism, upstream countries may cut off the water, such issues should not speak directly at the meeting, but should instead use other reasons, such as "we think this is more efficient so that it can better reflect the interests of downstream countries". This is not a rule, but a norm.

**Step 5: How to make communications**

Whether in the Model Conference or the real Conference, it is very important to communicate with other delegates, especially with the delegates in the same group and the chair of your group. When communicating within groups, you should accurately express your own position to facilitate the group to reach a unified position. But be careful to make a cross-group negotiation and also be careful not to easily reach an agreement across blocs, but you can negotiate privately across blocs of procedure.
Position Paper Guide

Position Papers are the published work of a delegation outlining country-specific information related to the topic area at hand and an official position and plan toward resolving the problem. Each country will need to submit one piece of Position Paper of the subtopic. I hope the position paper is roughly 600 words in length because the delegation's head must read it during the opening ceremony, and the reading duration should not exceed five minutes.

1. Guidelines

Position papers for all committees should:

(1) be one page in length, single spaced
(2) have one-inch margins
(3) use size 12 Times New Roman font
(4) be in black print only
(5) have the Country Name, School Name, and Delegate Name(s) headings in the upper left corner of the page
(6) appear untitled
(7) include citations (not considered to be part of the one page paper length) Citations may be done in any style (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.), as long as they are consistent throughout the paper.

2. Outline

Part I: Briefly explain the topic's important terms and briefly describe the context and circumstance;
Part II: Introduce the issues and challenges your nation is facing in this regard;

Part III: Introduce the steps your nation, other nations, and international organizations have done to address the situation;

Part IV: Introduce future strategies and defenses of your nation, other nations, and international organizations;

Part V: The nation you are representing expects and suggests to other nations, to itself, and to the nation.

3. Content

With regards to content, delegates have considerable freedom. Most Position Papers are organized in a fashion similar to that outlined below:

Part 1: Background of the topic with relation to the Member State (i.e. what is the Member State's outlook on or history with the problem)

Part 2: Official position of the Member State (i.e. what has the Member State done in the past with regards to this problem, both domestically and internationally)

Part 3: Solutions to the problem that are amenable to the Member State

The document's precise substance must cover the nation's long-standing collaboration in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin, its stance on the three discussion subjects, and the objectives it intends to realize through these talks.
4. Stylistic Suggestions

As a stylistic suggestion, refer to what your country hopes to achieve and not you, the delegate.

For instance:

"The people of Vietnam would like to see..." or "China believes..."

would be appropriate instead of: "I want..." "we feel..."

5. Tips for Research

For more information on related activities, please visit the following websites to learn:

https://doc.mbalib.com/view/921a573fbe37d44c9937387cca1139ba.html


For more news about this event, please visit the following website:

http://www.lmcchina.org/

Stage I  Familiarize Yourself With Your Country

The best place to find general information regarding the country is the CIA World Factbook. Free access to the World Factbook can be found at

https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

Once you are familiar with your country, read the handbook to begin your research. These guides will provide a basic presentation of the central problems. Of course, the solution remains up to you and your fellow delegates to decide.

Stage II  Formulate a Country Position
The position paper is an important way of clarifying the position of your country in a clear and concise manner so as to make it understandable and widely accessible to the various Member States. Therefore, the position paper requires:

(1) Have a definitive stand.

(2) Do a thorough research of the issue.

(3) Be prepared to defend your position and provide evidence for your counterarguments.

(4) Your conviction should be reflected in your thesis statement.
Rules of Procedure

1. General Rules

Article 1: This Rules of Procedure (hereafter referred to as “the/this Rule”) is the sole governing rule applying to the Model Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Conference (“Conference”). Delegates participating in the Conference are deemed to have read and understood all the Articles in this Rule before the Conference.

A conflict of interpretation shall be resolved via

(1) Interpretation of the Rule by the presiding Chair in different sessions;

(2) Interpretation of the Rule by the presidency within the scope of the latest edition of the Rule in case of an escalation of the conflict.

Article 2: Regarding the effectiveness and order of the Conference, the responsibility of Presidency and Secretariat are as follows:

Presidency: In the Conference, the Presidency will declare the opening and closure of each session meanwhile, accord the right to speak, announce proposals, rules on procedural points, and ensure and enforce the observance of these rules;

Secretariat: In the Conference, the members of secretariat will respectively take the job as rapporteurs, host and host assistant.

Article 3: Each country will be represented by 5~8 delegates sharing one vote. Representatives of accredited observers will have the same rights as those of full members, except that they may not vote on any
substantive issues (More details can be seen in Operational Rules Article 2).

**Article 4:** In this conference, the working language is English and Chinese, which should be applied to all the procedures and their outputs. Bonus points are given to delegations who speak in English. The first speech at each meeting must be in English.

**Article 5:** Roll Call

(1) After entering the venue, delegates should sit and remain quiet at their respective seats. Delegates attending online should turn off their microphones and turn on their cameras. Countries’ names will be called in alphabetical sequence to take attendance once the Chair has officially called the conference into session. When called, delegates should hold the placard high and shout "Present" (online delegates should turn on microphones). At the end of the roll call, the Chair will announce the number of countries/delegates present, and whether it meets the quorum.

(2) Representatives who do not attend the meeting shall submit a paper application for leave to the secretariat 24 hours before the meeting begins.

2. Procedural Rules

**Article 1:** Opening Plenary: Opening Plenary is the first session in the official agenda of Conference, in which each country is required to set forth their general position in each topic and state their expectation to the whole conference. After the presidency declares to open the session, the Rapporteur will take a round of Roll Call. The formal opening of the
session will come into force under the circumstance of a two-third majority attendance. A speakers list shall be built by the Rapporteur, in which the parties are sorted by initials. Each speaker has five minutes (300 seconds) of speaking time. The Chair will tap the gavel when there is one fifth of time (60 seconds) remaining.

**Article 2: Negotiation:** Negotiation is set to prepare for reaching an agreement. It is a focused meeting, in which a detailed topic will be allotted according to the agenda. In each session, a formal consultation and a huddle will run in order. Under the arrangement, the negotiation will be conducted as follows:

(1) State your position, and each country speaks for 3 minutes for each issue of concern. The Chair will tap the gavel when there is 30 seconds remaining.

(2) Each guest is invited to make suggestions for one or two delegations.

(3) Consultation: Representatives of countries are free to speak for no more than three minutes at a time. Each representative shall raise your hand before speaking and may speak with the consent of the Chairman. Online students should raise their hands in the Tencent meeting before speaking, and can speak with the consent of the host assistant. Delegates should not remain deadlocked on a certain issue for too long. In such cases, the host may interrupt the discussion and delegates may apply for huddle. Three ways to enter a huddle are the following:

a. After two rounds of speeches by each representative, the
discussion automatically enters into huddle.

b. At the 50 minutes of the meeting, the caucus announced that it is time for huddle.

(4) Huddle: A huddle is a free discussion time for delegates, which can be raised during the Consultation. In a huddle,

a. The delegates have free discussion which is related to the topic of this session;

b. The issue can be discussed privately between countries.

c. Consultation for 15~25 minutes (determined by the remaining time of this round of negotiation), adjourn temporarily, stop the consultation and question.

d. Leaders of delegations are required to send the number of Tensent meeting for internal discussions to the presidency 24 hours in advance.

(5) Representatives speak for 2 minutes after free discussion. The Chair will tap the gavel when there is 30 seconds remaining.

(6) Invite each guest to summarize.

**Article 3:** PPT can be used during every speech.

**Article 4:** Summary: After the declaration is read, the Secretariat will ask if there are any objections to a particular text, at which point delegates may and speak. delegations could raise objections, and then other representatives could express their views on the issue. If the discussion can't solve the problem, put the problem on unresolved list.

3. Operational Rules

**Article 1:** Order of presentation, Rules of the Meeting and Points of
Personal Privilege:

(1) Order of presentation: The order of each presentation will be determined by drawing lots. With the consent of the representatives of both countries, the order of speakers may be exchanged and explained to the Secretariat one hour before the commencement of each round of negotiations.

(2) Rules of the Meeting: Before the meeting begins, delegates may challenge the rules formulated by the presidium, and the presidium will respond.

(3) Point of personal privilege: Delegates can apply to the presidium for temporary leave if they feel unwell during the negotiations.

**Article 2:** Decisions on matters of substance shall be taken by all delegations.
4. Award Rules

Five best delegates and one best delegation will be selected in this negotiation. The specific rules for the award are as follows:

**Article 1:**

Rules of the best delegate: Guests nominate individuals who have left a deep impression on you. Each person should nominate 0~2 delegates. The Presidium will select five outstanding individual delegates according to their nominations and the number of speeches they have made.

**Article 2:**

Rules of the best delegation: According to the declaration of the closing ceremony, each national delegation scored for the interests of their country, 0 ~ 10 points. The Presidency will award prizes to the delegation with the highest average score.
# Delegation

## Cambodia

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Zhang Hang</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Ding Sijie</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Liu Yishuo</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Low Tze Chien</td>
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## China

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Organizing Committee

Conference Presidium:

Hu Shiruo 18810275818  
Hu Guoxiao 18810757001  
Hu Xilin  17709802288  
Sun Mingze  18810027019

Conference Secretariat: