

**THE NINTH SOUTHWEST FORUM AND
THE SECOND LANCANG-MEKONG
COOPERATION THINK TANK FORUM**

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Executive Summary

1. Since the 2009 global financial crisis, many Asian countries have come to realise that regional cooperation and mechanisms are needed to rectify problems in their domestic economic system.
2. With the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China becomes not only the largest trading partner, but also one of the major infrastructure investors in Southeast Asian countries such as Laos, Malaysia and Myanmar.
3. Besides mutual direct economic activities, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation was officially launched in 2016 to promote high-level exchanges, dialogue and cooperation, and disaster-related cooperation.
4. With closer China-ASEAN relations, the Ninth Southwest Forum and the Second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Think Tank Forum were recently held at the Dali University, with the theme of the Community of Shared Future for China-ASEAN and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.
5. The forum panel on “A Community of Shared Future for Mankind and A Community of Shared Future for China-ASEAN” shared views on US-China relations, community of shared future and BRI, China-ASEAN relations and China’s BRI projects in specific ASEAN countries.
6. The panel on “New Types of International Relations and New Types of Neighbouring Relations” discussed China’s neighbouring relations in general, under specific issues, with particular countries, and personal working experience in ASEAN countries in the changing international political economy.
7. The topics on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation included the mechanism, regulation and role of China as a public goods provider, and specific issues were discussed under the panel of “Lancang-Mekong Cooperation from Nurturing Period to Growth Period”.

8. For the panel on “Economic Corridor and Lancang-Mekong Development Corridor”, economic collaboration was considered essential to the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation for enhancing close relations between member countries in terms of economic size and social development.
9. In sum, the forum highlighted first, the changing geopolitics of the Asia-Pacific region and China’s closer relations with its neighbours, and second the challenge and cooperation mechanism of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, especially on natural resource management and disaster prevention.