



Thai foreign policy towards Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

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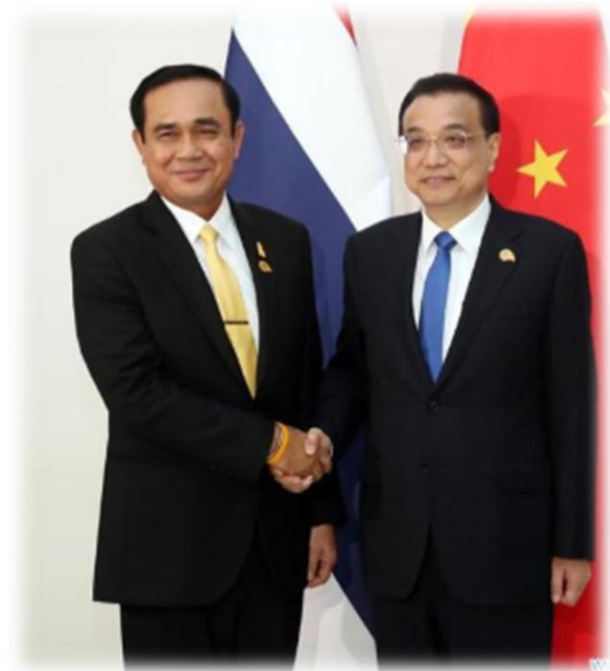
BACKGROUND

- ✦ **In 2012**, Thailand proposed the initiative of sustainable development of Lancang-Mekong Sub-region, which got positive response from Chinese side.
- ✦ **In 2014**, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang proposed establishment of LMC Framework.
- ✦ **In 2016**, the First LMC Leaders' Meeting was successfully held in Sanya of China's Hainan Province.



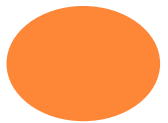
OBJECTIVES

- 1. To study the importance of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation
- 2. To study the role and Thai foreign policy towards Lancang-Mekong Cooperation



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Natural Economic Territories (NETs)
- Cooperation Theory
- Interdependence Approach



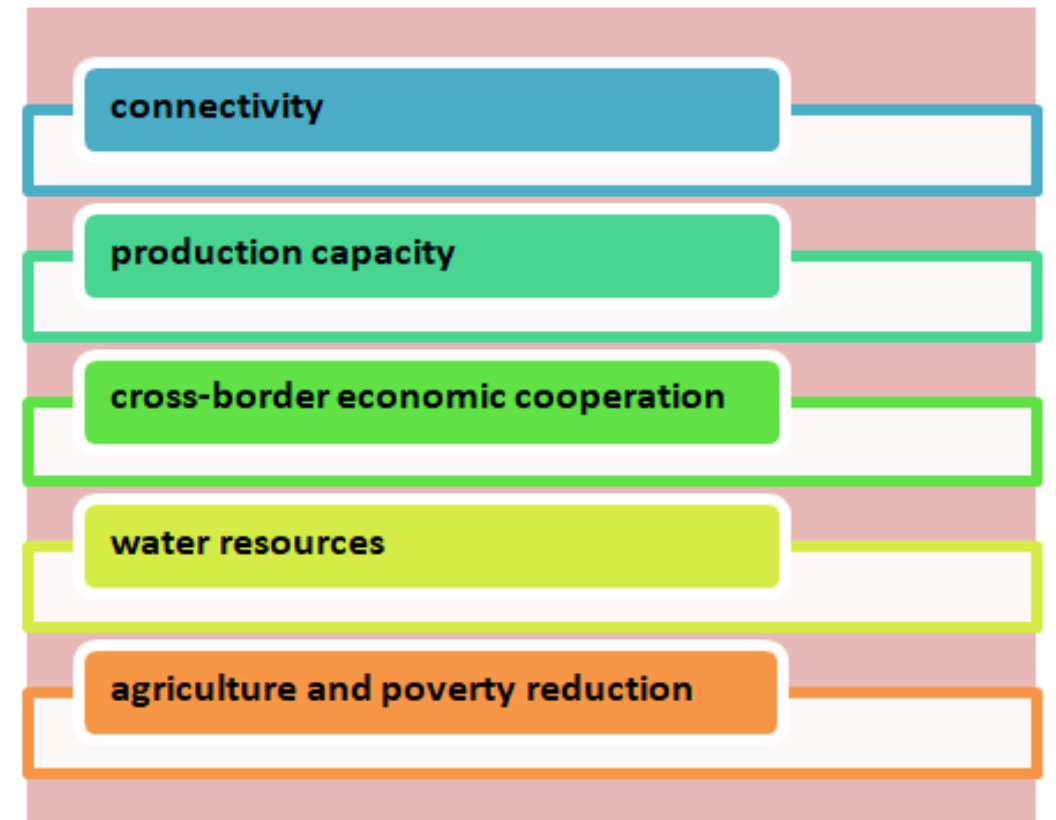
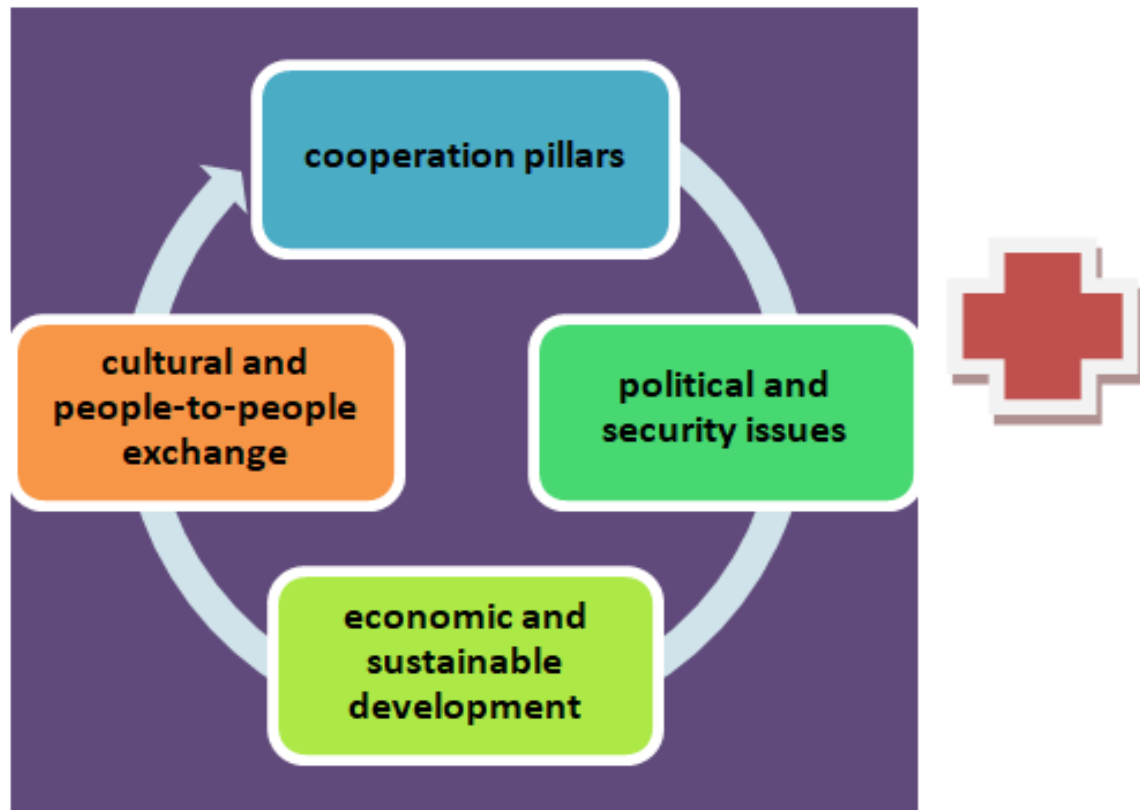
THE IMPORTANCE OF LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION

- LMC plays an important role which leads to exchanges and shares between member countries.



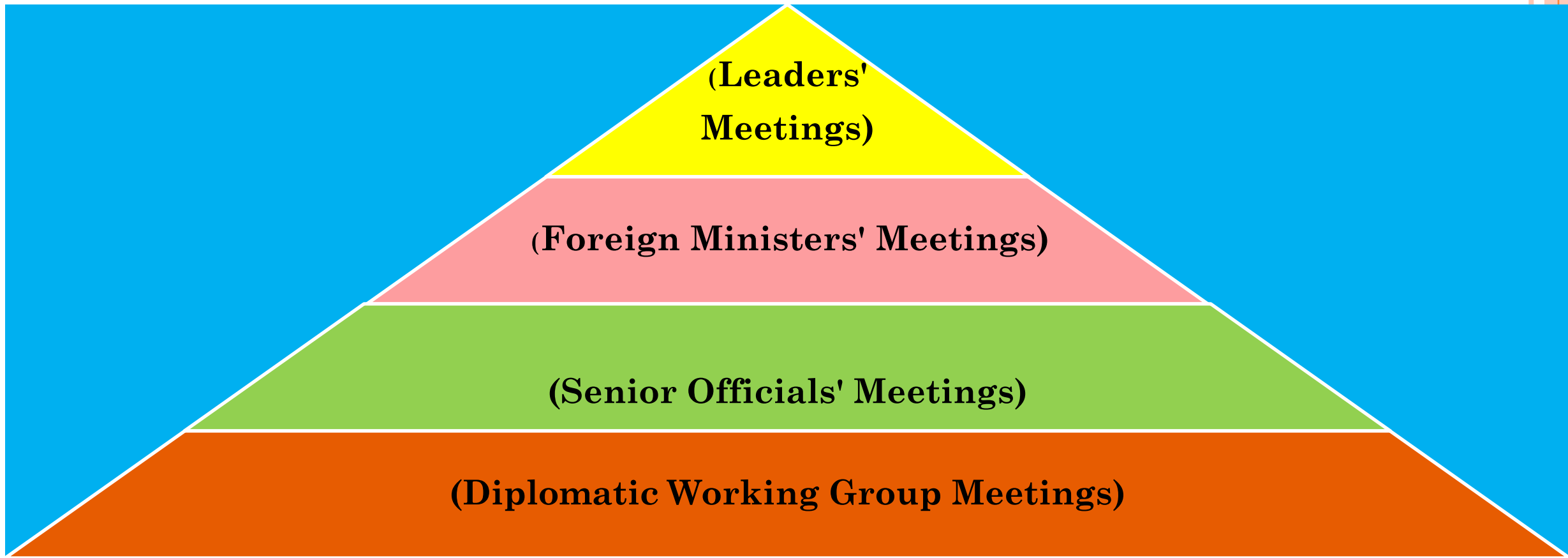
3+5 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

- Three cooperation pillars
- Five key priority areas



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

- LMC has put in place a multi-faceted and wide-ranging cooperation framework including



LEADERS' MEETING

LMC has held altogether two leaders' meeting, including



The First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting was held on 23 March 2016 in Sanya, Hainan.

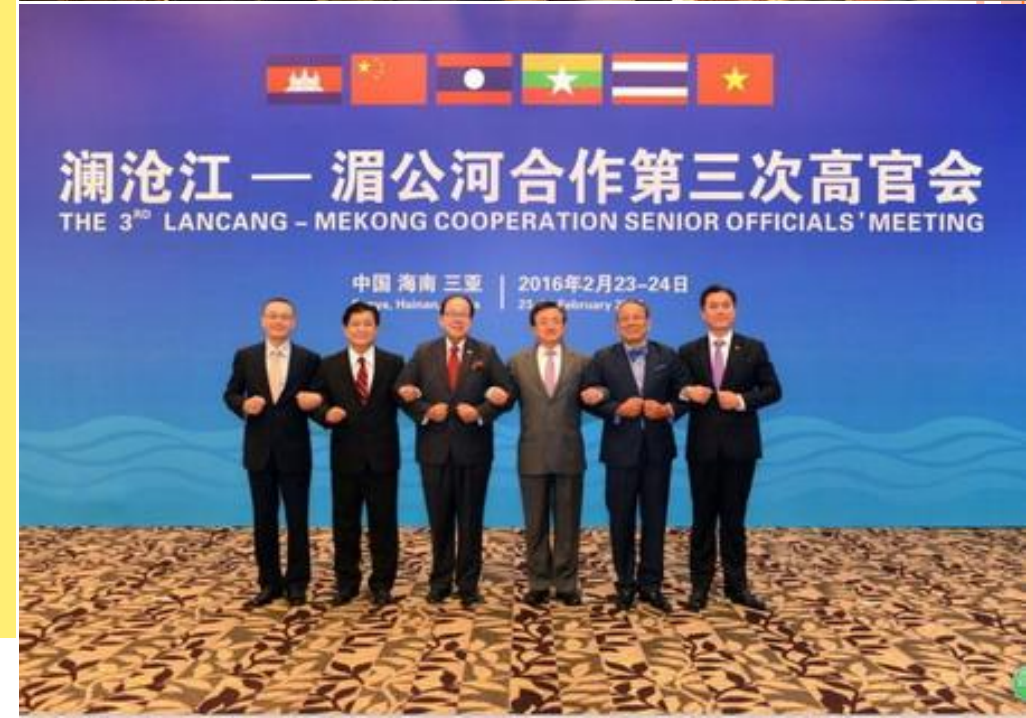
The second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting was held on 10 January 2018 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Meeting

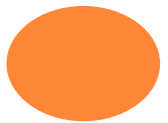
Four foreign ministers' meetings

Five senior officials' meetings

Six diplomatic working group meetings



THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION



DEVELOPMENT OF THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

- The Cold War ended, international situation has undergone major changes, affecting adjustment of Thai foreign policy.
- Thailand's foreign policy aims to strengthen economic cooperation with neighboring countries in 2 main strategies,
 - To create economic partnerships between Thailand and neighboring countries in ways to reduce development gaps
 - To create investment base strategies to increase competitiveness in the region.

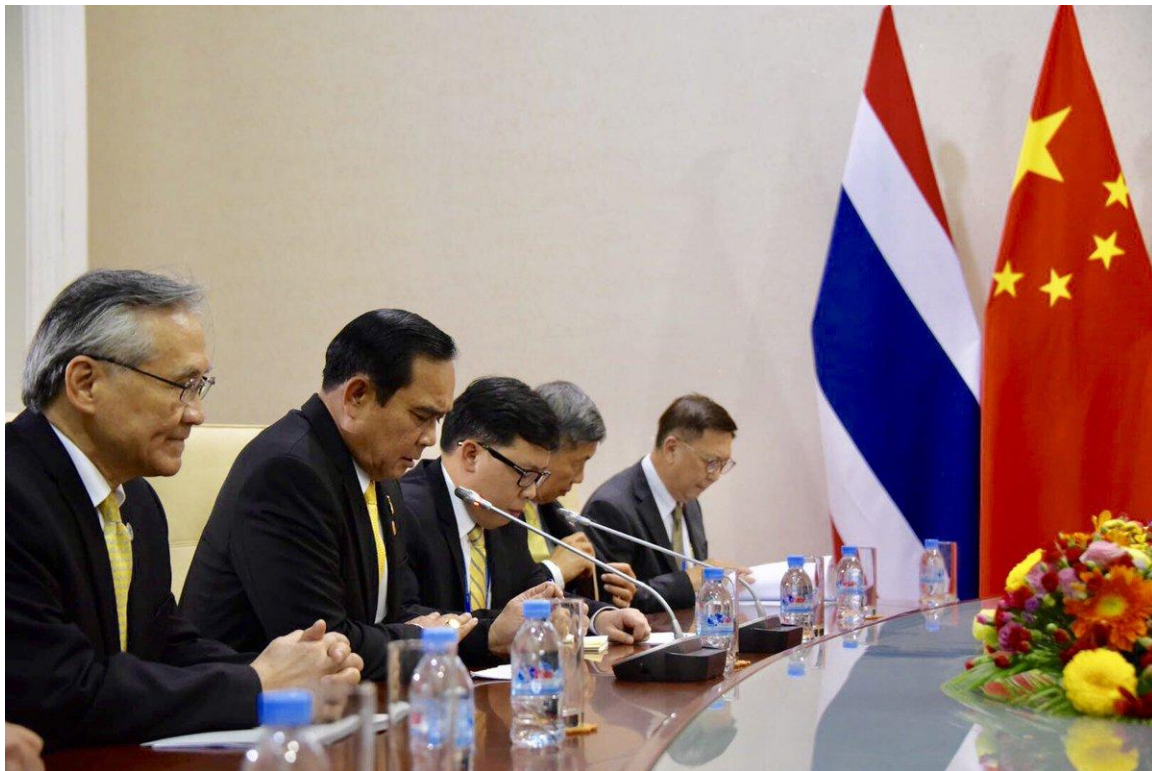


THAI FOREIGN POLICY OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT

- Government of General Prayut ChanOcha focuses on regional and sub-regional cooperation and strengthening relations with foreign countries and promoting the role of Thailand in international arena.
 - expanding cooperation to promote regional and global securities
 - supporting enhancement of Thai competitiveness,
 - building confidence in the potential and economy of Thailand,
 - promoting trade and investment with foreign countries.
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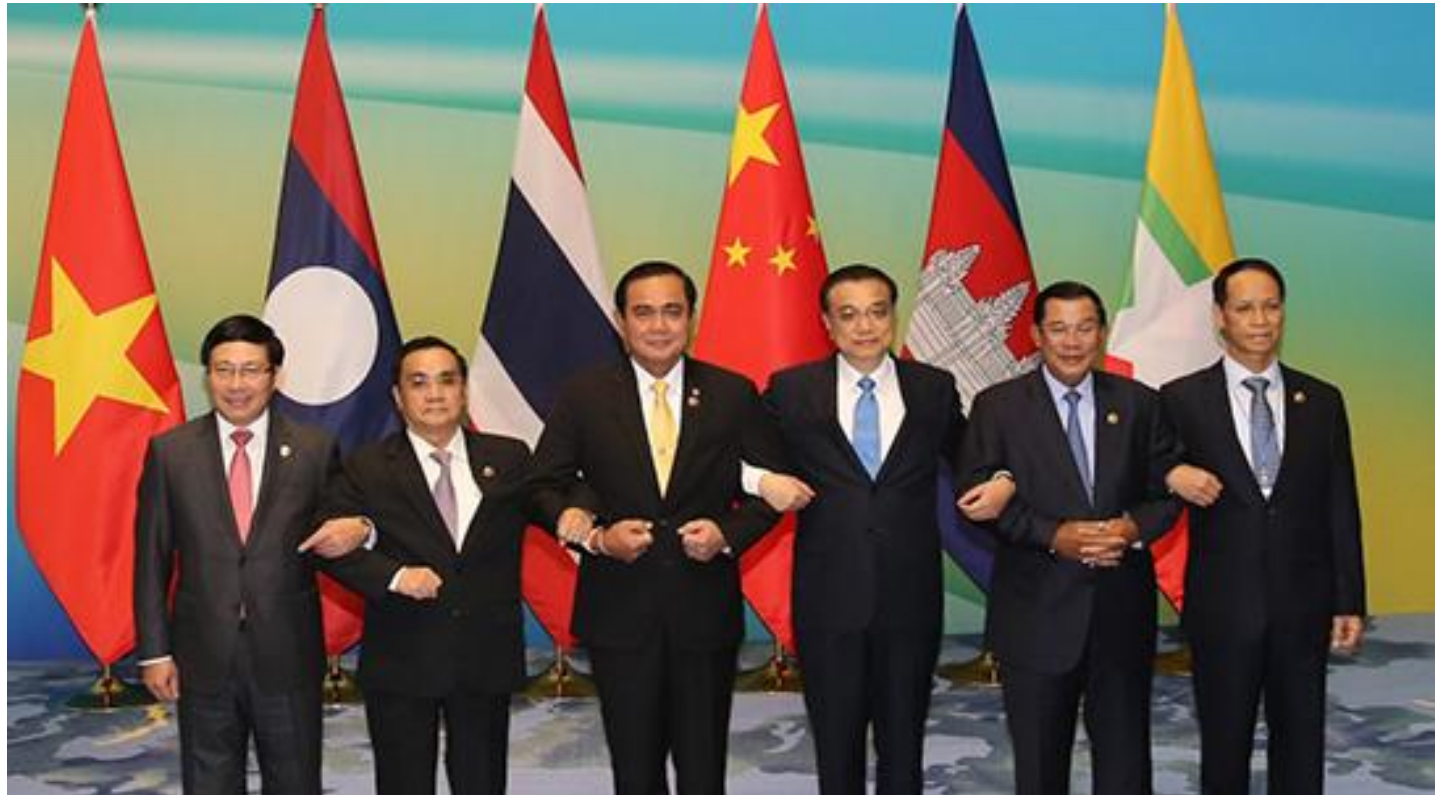
THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS LMC

- Thai foreign policy emphasize the importance of cooperation of Thailand in LMC



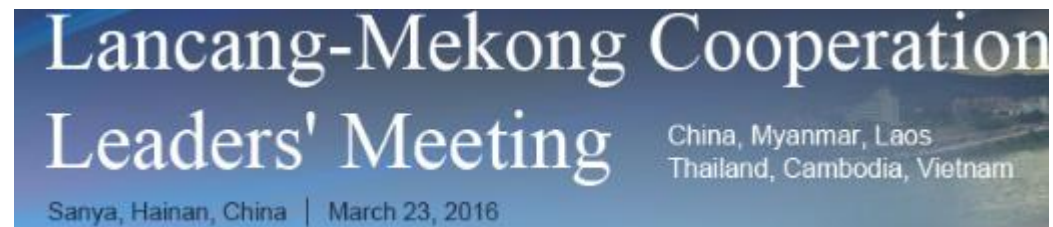
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION

○ 1) Attending Leaders 'Meeting



THE FIRST LANCANG-MEKONG LEADERS' MEETING

- Thailand's Prime Minister was given the role of Chairman together with China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang in 2016.
- Thailand's Prime Minister had played a leading role and expressed a vision for creative cooperation and used opportunity for collaborative management of sustainable water resources and proposed urgent projects in various areas, such as poverty reduction project.



THE SECOND LANCANG-MEKONG LEADERS' MEETING

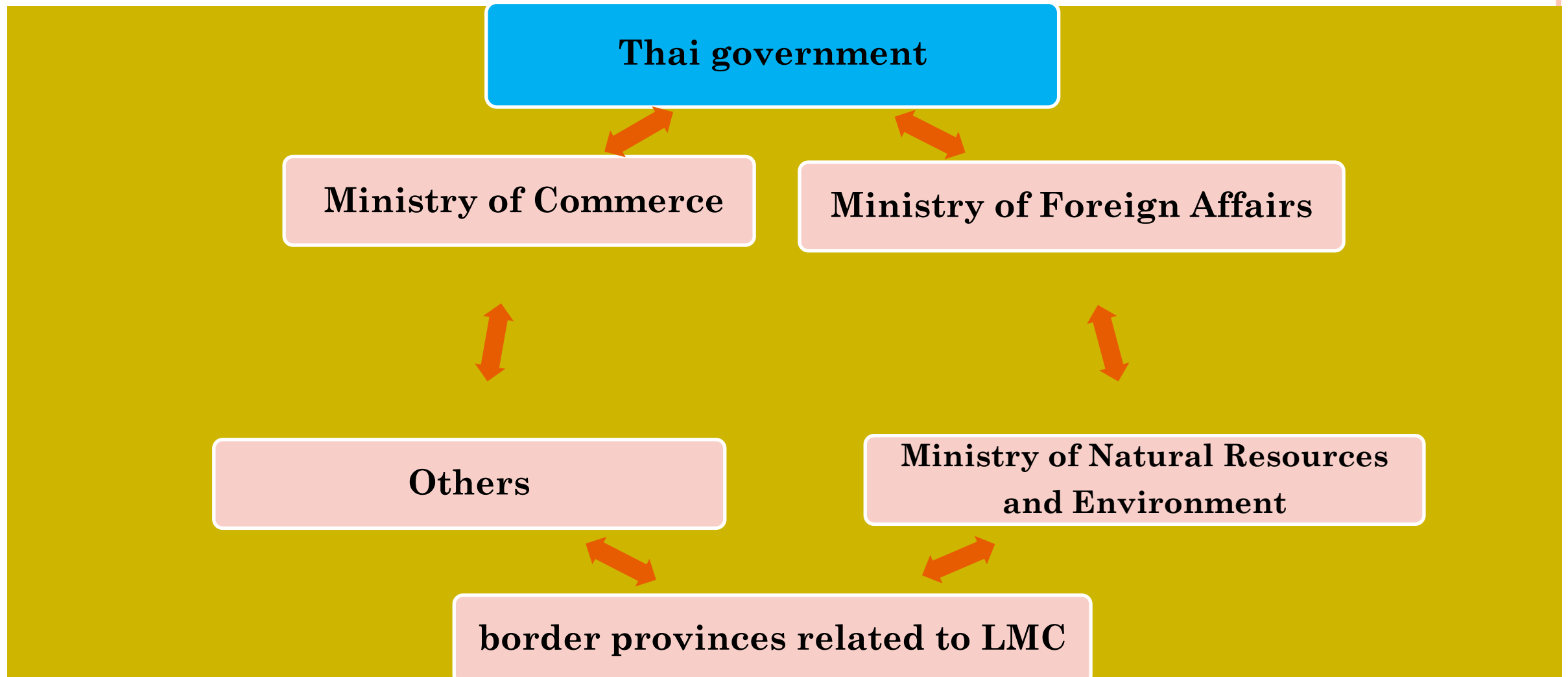
- Thailand's Prime Minister attended the second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting on 10 January 2018 in Cambodia.
- In this meeting, Prime Minister made proposals for the future direction of LMC by stressing that LMC can play an important role in modernizing the sub-region through innovation while becoming a center of excellence and sustainable development.



THAILAND'S AIMS

- (1) To push forward LMC to become a modern cooperation framework,
- (2) To synergize LMC with the Belt and Road Initiative for economic and development benefits in the sub-region,
- (3) To promote LMC to become an economic hub and sustainable development model through innovation and modern industries consistent with Thailand 4.0 and Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) development policies, and
- (4) To promote cooperation through LMC, especially on water resource management to bring about sustainable agriculture in the Mekong countries.

THE ROLE OF THAI GOVERNMENT IN LMC



○ **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- MFA is considered to be an important ministry which involves LMC Framework and coordinating with members.

○ **Ministry of Commerce**

- development of Thai cooperation with member countries under Lancang-Mekong Cooperation which develops various cooperation projects

○ **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**

○ **The role of border provinces related to LMC**



COOPERATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA UNDER LMC

- LMC is beneficial to strengthen cooperation between China and Thailand and is also an driving force for development of Thailand-China relations.
- This cooperation mechanism plays an important role in driving linkage of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) in Thailand and implementation of BRI.
- The operation under LMC is also attract Chinese businessmen to invest in Thailand and plays an important role in strengthening cooperation and exchanges between China and Thailand.

COOPERATION PROJECTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA UNDER LMC

- On April, 2018, Chinese Ambassador and Thai Ministry of Commerce signed an MOU on the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund projects



1) PROJECT ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-BORDER SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

- The project aims to promote special economic zones (SEZs) in the Lancang-Mekong countries and foster increased coordination among them.
- To boost trade and investment both from within and outside the sub-region by using special economic zone models and free trade zones such as Shanghai Pilot Trade Zone as a model.
- To establish a working group to jointly propose a strategic plan for the management and promoting of special economic zones.



2) PROJECT ON UPGRADING BORDER FACILITATION FOR TRADE AND LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT

- It aims to promote trades along border trade zones that link the Lancang-Mekong countries;
- To facilitate cross-border trade by increasing the capacity for commerce and reducing costs faced by traders;
- To enhance connectivity and improve competitiveness across international borders through improvements in infrastructure which is focused on facilitating cross-border trade and investment.



3) PROJECT ON LANCANG-MEKONG BUSINESS FORUM

- This initiative aims to facilitate business networking and boost the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises in the region through a series of business forums designed to:
- To establish business linkages, assist SMEs' integration in the regional and global value chains,
- To exchange information on technology and innovative products that will push forward industrial growth and promote investment through business collaboration with local SMEs in the Lancang-Mekong countries.

4) PROJECT ON RURAL E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT

- The project seeks to promote increased awareness of rural e-commerce development in the Lancang-Mekong countries by enhancing the understanding of the potentials of rural e-commerce development,
- To identify key intervention areas for e-commerce development in each country in the region,
- To explore online business prospects through various e-commerce opportunities,
- To develop a mechanism for promoting rural e-commerce.

- On October 11, 2018, Chinese Ambassador and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand signed the MOU on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund Projects in Bangkok.

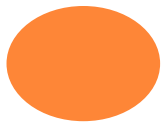


THAILAND AND CHINA UNDER LMC

- LMC reflects common aspiration of China and neighboring countries to promote connectivity and speed up integrated development.
- Thailand also has a good cooperation with China under LMC, so that Thailand is the center of Lancang-Mekong sub-region and ASEAN region and also attracts Chinese businessmen to invest in Thailand, along with encouraging Thailand 4.0 Policy and driving the linkage of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). 

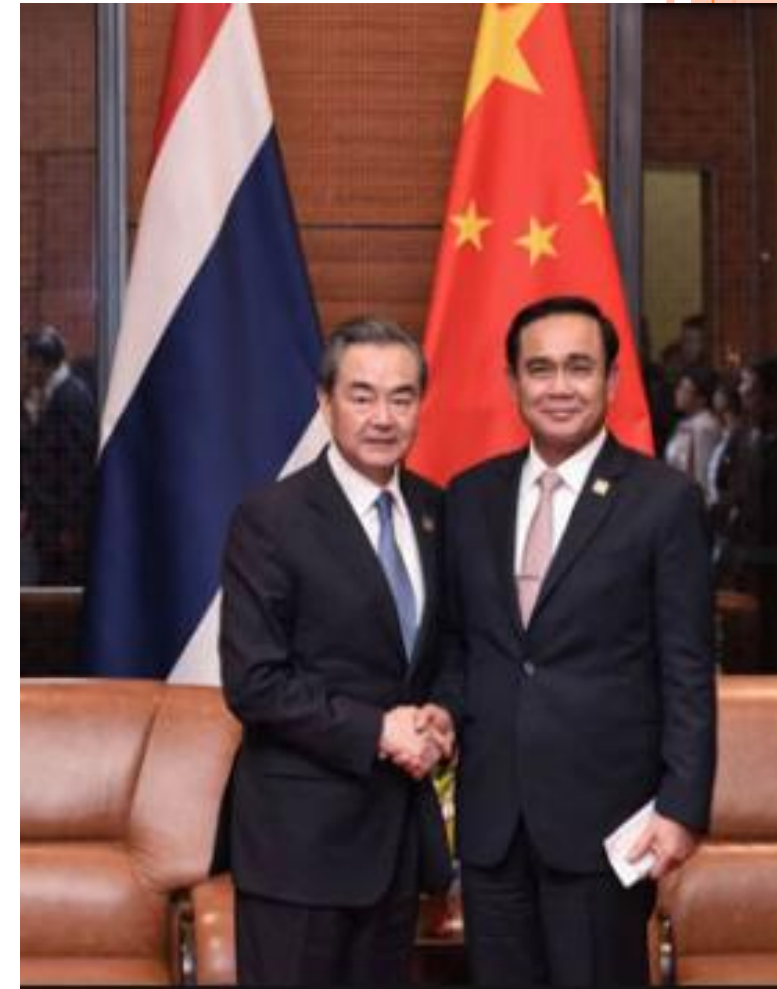
THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THAILAND

Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor



THE ROLE OF A LEADER COUNTRY

- The creation of a good image of Thailand as an initiator and development partner.
- Thailand is considered to be a country that has initiated the establishment of Lancang-Mekong cooperation.
- Thailand is also important in acting as initiator of various development projects.

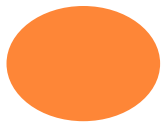


THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATION

- 1) Thailand can be pushed to be a hub for transportation and logistics in Mekong region and ASEAN.
- 2) International trade and investment opportunities can be expanded which will elevate Thailand to be a potential production and investment base.
- 3) Comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between Thailand and member countries of LMC will be promoted.



LINKING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THAILAND

- 1) To take advantage of the strength of the location of Thailand to become a sub-regional center, pushing the policy of economic integration and connectivity.
 - 2) To increase the role of Thailand by promoting the creative role of Thailand in various cooperation frameworks and supporting sustainable development goals.
 - 3) To support the development plan of the Thai government, namely Thailand 4.0 policy and Eastern Economic Corridor
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CHALLENGES OF THAILAND

- 1) Thailand should play a role and participate in the development of cooperation with member countries in handling some conflicts.
- 2) Promoting the participation of border provinces that are located in cooperation areas to create understanding and push for participation in area development.
- 3) LMC is a newly established cooperation that still needs driving power in various areas.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THAI FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION

- 1) Promoting roles and cooperation of government agencies
 - 2) Pushing the role of border provinces that are located near Mekong River
 - 3) Pushing the role of state-owned enterprises sector
 - 4) Pushing the role of Thai private sector
 - 5) Increasing bilateral cooperation with China
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- 6) Promoting research institutes and think-tanks
- 7) Pushing and linking Eastern Economic Corridor Strategy
- 8) Promoting people-to-people exchange
- 9) Promoting multilateral cooperation mechanisms
- 10) Reinforcing Thailand to be a leader in the CLMV countries



Thank you

谢谢

