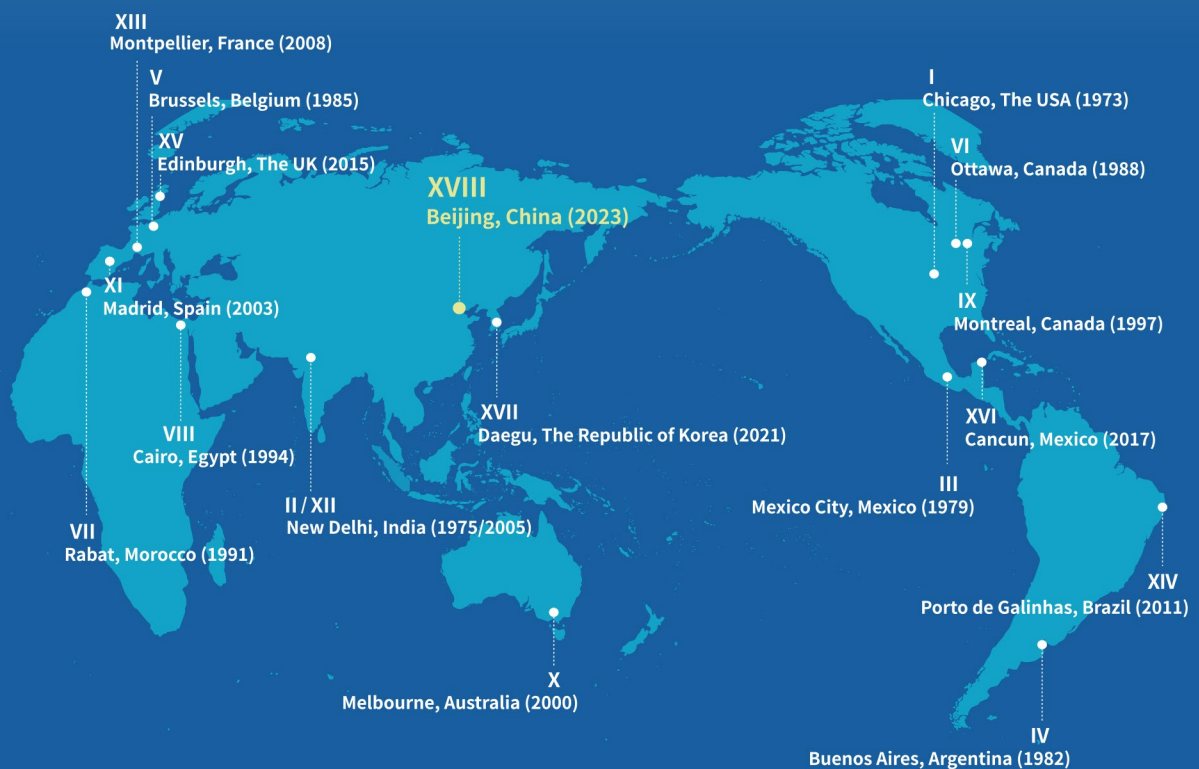


It's NOW

The World Water Congress showcases a profound and diverse event

The International Water Resources Association's (IWRA) World Water Congress stands as one of the world's esteemed and influential academic water events. Held every two to three years since 1973, this event has become a melting pot of innovation and insights, enabling stakeholders to contribute to the advancement of water science and policy on a global scale. The 18th World Water Congress will be the first IWRA World Water Congress event to be hosted in China, representing the first major international water-related global gathering since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.





Upcoming - A Glimpse into the highlights

Welcome to the 18th World Water Congress



Li Guoying

Minister of Water Resources Ministry of People's Republic of China

It gives me great honor that the XVIII World Water Congress will be held in Beijing. On behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, the co-host of the Congress, I wish to extend a sincere welcome to leading experts, researchers, decision-makers, and professionals from all over the world to participate in the Congress, exchanging experiences and sharing achievements regarding a wide range of topics related to water.

Li Yuanyuan

President of the International Water Resources Association

IWRA is an international and professional network of multi-disciplinary, multi-sectorial experts on water resources. We will continue to build on and expand other vehicles in keeping with the needs and possibilities of the future, including online conferences, master classes, webinars, policy briefs, and task forces, as well as collaboration with key partners. Most importantly, we will continue to promote the World Water Congress as a key activity.



Renée Martin-Nagle Shi Qiushi

Co-chairs of the scientific committee of the congress

We hope to build a diverse, multidisciplinary, and multi-sectoral Congress that will provide opportunities to present cutting-edge research and program applications, gain new knowledge, engage in productive discussions, meet high-level personalities, network, and much more.



Highlights

Sept. 11th

- Title: Opening Ceremony
- Time: 9:00-11:00
- Room: Main Venue
- Title: Water-Economy (Agriculture, Industry, City...)-Ecology Nexus Under Changing Environment
- Time: 11:30-13:00
- Room: Main Venue Session
- Session No.: HLP 1

Sept. 12th

- Title: Water management practice in China and global water governance
- Time: 14:00-17:00
- Room: Main Venue
- Title: Resilient water infrastructures and global water security
- Time: 09:00-10:30
- Room: Main Venue
- Session No.: HLP 2

Sept. 13th

- Title: Water resources management and best practices
- Time: 09:00-10:30
- Room: Main Venue
- Session No.: HLP 3
- Title: World Water Envoys special session and workshop
- Time: 11:00—12:30
- Room: 15

Sept. 14th

- Title: Water ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Time: 09:00-10:30
- Room: Main Venue
- Session No.: HLP 4

Sept. 15th

- Title: Closing ceremony
- Time: 10:00—12:30
- Room: Main Venue



Programme Overview

Exhibitions

Title: China water governance achievements

Date: Sept. 11th -15th

Time: 9:00-17:30

Floor: B1

Title: " Harmonious Coexistence of Human and Water "

Water Eco-culture Photography

Date: Sept. 11th -14th

Time: All day long

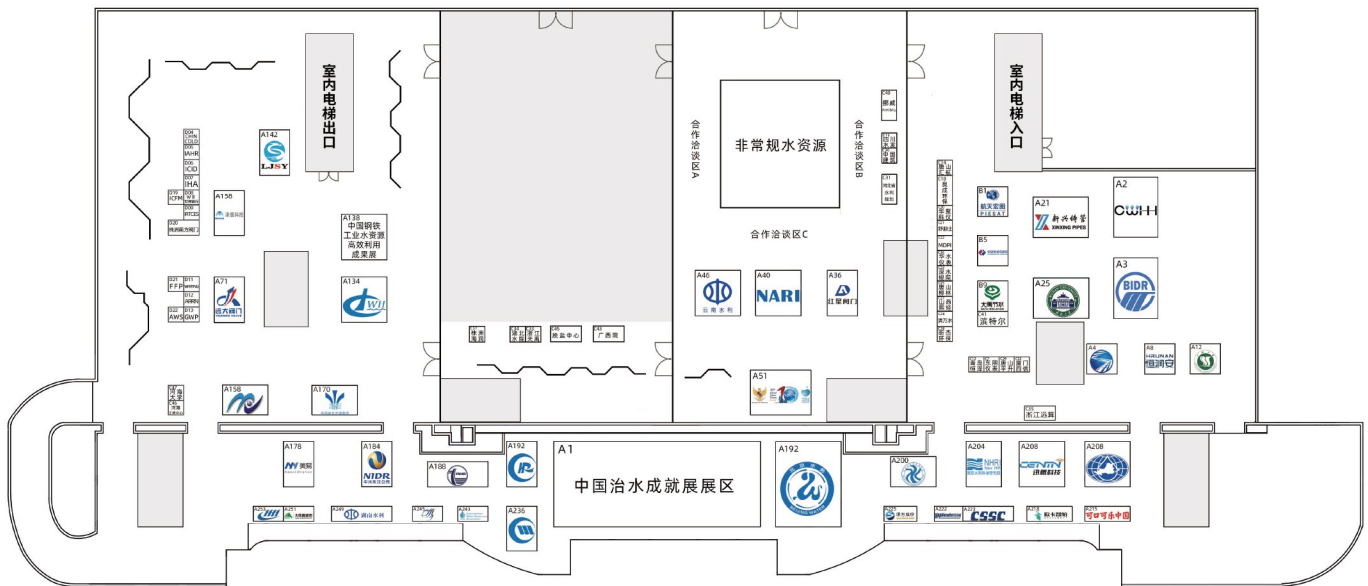
Floor: Second floor corridor

Title: James E. Nickum personal photography: water, lights, and shades

Date: Sept. 11th -15th

Time: All day long

Floor: Second floor corridor



Exhibition Layout

The Beginning

Preparations for the Congress commence



Efficient Preparations for XVIII World Water Congress: A Tale of Success

In the lead-up to the XVIII World Water Congress, the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China (MWR) have diligently orchestrated a series of preparatory milestones. As of January 2022, their concerted efforts have placed the event on a fast track to success.

Crucially, the groundwork for the Congress was laid with the establishment of an extensive preparatory system, comprising key committees such as Congress Organizing Committee (COC), and National Organizing Committee (NOC), the International Scientific Committee (ISC). This strategic move fostered a cohesive partnership among these entities, propelling preparations into high gear.

A testament to this collaborative spirit was the hosting of more than 100 preparatory meetings, which saw active participation from over 100 departments and a dedicated workforce exceeding 1,000 individuals. The newly formed Scientific Committee, inaugurated in February 2022, conducted a remarkable fifteen work conferences, demonstrating remarkable resilience amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Scientific Committee admirably executed a series of pivotal tasks throughout August 2023. This included the selection of the congress theme and sub-themes, the crafting of a comprehensive work plan, the development of an engaging event website, the artistic design of display panels, finalization of the agenda, and meticulous confirmation of participant details.

The Congress Organizing Committee, presided over by Vice Minister Wang Daoxi, held numerous constructive meetings with the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, the event's organizer. These deliberations have centered around vital aspects critical to the success of the congress.

The Executive Office of the International Water Resources Association, actively engaged in the preparatory process, conducted various online meetings with co-organizers. A site visit in May 2023 provided insights into the conference venue and participant accommodations. Additionally, discussions were held with the Executive Committee of the Conference and the conference secretariat.

The National Organizing Committee, under the capable leadership of Jin Hai, Director General of International Cooperation and Science and Technology at the Ministry of Water Resources, has methodically overseen the coordination of diverse departments and bolstered communication among co-organizers.

Throughout the preparatory phase, the congress secretariat showcased commendable efficiency by swiftly accomplishing assigned tasks. These included the drafting of a plethora of relevant documents, adept management and upkeep of the official website, meticulous oversight of the various agendas, and constructive collaborations with numerous universities. Topics like volunteer recruitment and the selection of regular session hosts were also diligently addressed.

In hindsight, the coordinated efforts of IWRA and the MWR, in conjunction with their dedicated committees and secretariat, ushered in a period of efficient preparations for the XVIII World Water Congress. Amid challenges, their meticulous planning and unwavering commitment have culminated in a resounding success, setting the stage for a truly impactful event.



Setting the Theme, and Building a Bridge Between Scientific Research and Practice

Centering around the theme of the XVIII World Water Congress, "Water and Everything: Harmonious Coexistence between Humanity and Nature", the Scientific Committee of the Congress, composed of 54 highly specialized, representative and active members from all over the world, proposed six sub-themes and 44 topics.



The Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China (MWR) held a press conference



On September 6, 2023, the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China convened a press conference focused on the "XVIII World Water Congress." The conference featured key figures who provided insights into the event's significance and the challenges facing water management.



Liu Weiping, Vice Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, led the conference and shared essential information about the congress. He emphasized China's willingness to share its water management concepts, achievements, and experiences with a global audience. Weiping extended an invitation to participants from around the world to gather in Beijing for discussions on water affairs, sharing of water resource management experiences, and showcasing water technology achievements.

Yang Derui, Director General of Water Resources Management, highlighted the primary challenge facing China in water conservancy: ensuring reasonable water demand for economic and social development while maintaining a healthy ecological environment within the constraints of limited water resources. He outlined three key measures to address these challenges: strengthening the rigid constraints on water resources, implementing strict management measures, and accelerating the restoration of the ecological environment in rivers and lakes.



Shen Fengsheng, President of the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design underscored the significant importance of the congress. He highlighted its dual objectives: creating an international platform for water resource exchange and cooperation and offering China's experiences in global water governance.

Li Yuanyuan, President of the International Water Resources Association, explained the congress's theme: "Water for All: harmony between humans and nature." Yuanyuan emphasized that water-related issues stem from insufficient consideration of the capacity of water resources, water ecology, and the environment during human societal development. To address these challenges, the congress aims to explore sustainable coexistence between humanity and nature.



Jin Hai, emphasized China's commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its significant progress in achieving water-related goals. He affirmed China's dedication to international cooperation in water conservancy, guided by a holistic water management concept centered on conservation, spatial balance, systematic governance, and dual efforts.

A Distinguished Gathering with a Wide Audience

More than 40 special guests, including the President of the World Water Council, Chief Economist of the World Bank, academicians of Chinese Academy of Sciences, academicians of Chinese Academy of Engineering, have been invited to deliver keynote speeches on different sub-themes and topics and exchange ideas.

600 international representatives from relevant government departments, research and academic institutions, universities, enterprises, and international organizations involved in water will come to China to attend the congress. In China, nearly 700 people including representatives from various river basin management agencies of the Ministry of Water Resources, China South to North Water Diversion Group Co., Ltd., China Three Gorges Group Co., Ltd., local government officials, relevant research institutions, and personnel from universities and colleges attend are expected to attend the event.



Highly Focused by Media and Released by Authorities

The Congress will be live streamed on its official website, featuring a combination of visual and written content. This comprehensive coverage will extend to the opening ceremony, closing ceremony, four plenary sessions, and the dedicated China session, all of which will be extensively recorded for later access.

Key moments, including significant foreign affairs engagements with leaders and speeches delivered by distinguished guests, will be gradually published on the official website and official social media accounts, allowing for broader dissemination of these important highlights.

The event will also witness the active participation of numerous media outlets, including People's Daily (both domestic and international editions), China Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China News Service, Guangming Daily, and Water Conservancy News. These outlets will conduct interviews and provide comprehensive coverage to ensure the widest possible audience.



Mobilization: A Unified Effort for the Congress

Reflecting on the preparations leading up to the XVIII World Water Congress, the Congress Secretariat, stationed at the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design of the Ministry of Water Resources, implemented a comprehensive strategy. Comprising six distinct working groups—Integrated, Technical, Foreign Affairs, Publicity, Financial, and Support—the Secretariat played a pivotal role in ensuring the event's smooth execution.

As the congress neared its commencement, meticulous preparations were underway. The General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design took significant steps to restructure the organization responsible for these preparations. Under the guidance of President Shen Fengsheng, a specialized conference preparation team emerged, divided into three subgroups:

1. The Major Events Support Group: This group played a critical role in coordinating and executing key events, including the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum, opening and closing ceremonies, VIP banquets, receptions, official banquets, and other notable activities. Their responsibilities encompassed agenda planning and ensuring adequate staffing.
2. The Congress Venue Support Group: Focused on organizing and mobilizing efforts leading up to the four types of meetings, this subgroup expertly handled tasks such as preparing ministers' speeches, keynote presentations, overseeing speeches, managing activities, and addressing post-conference responsibilities.
3. The Logistics Support Group: This dedicated team provided logistical support throughout the conference, ensuring the seamless operation and efficient execution of various tasks and services required for the event's success.

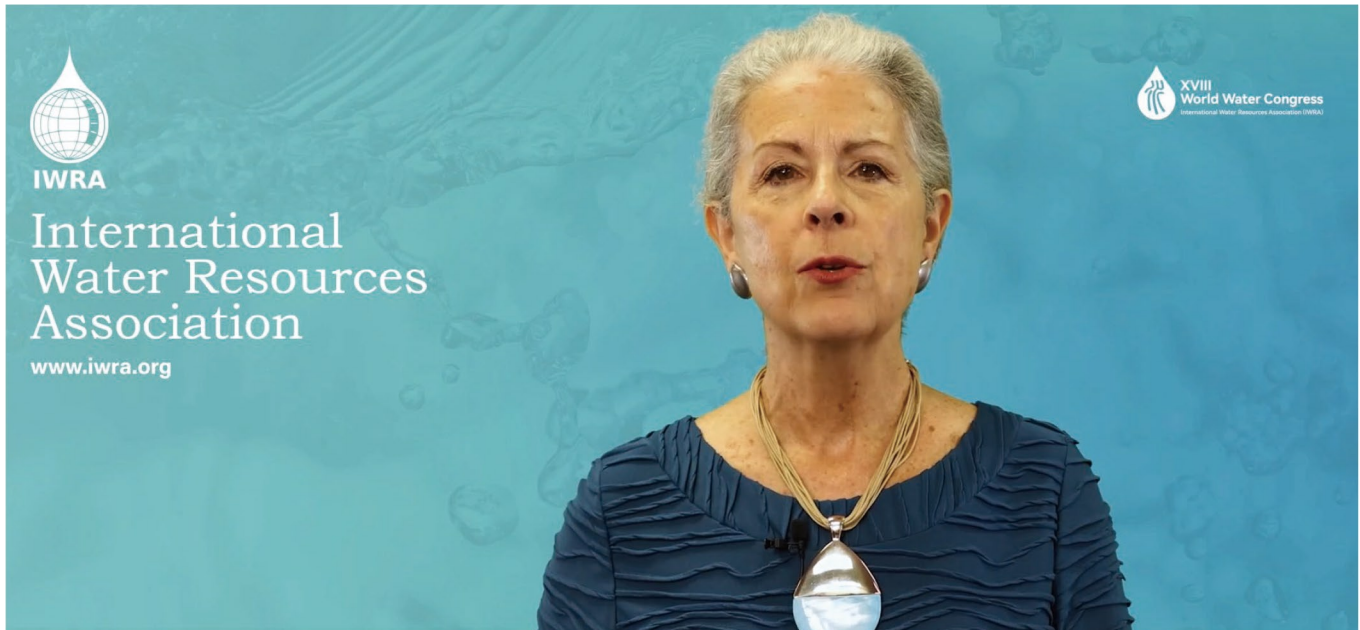


Paving the Path Forward: Crafting a Strategic Development Direction bridging the past and future

The International Water Resources Association held its Executive Board meeting and strategic workshop today. Chair by President Li Yuanyuan, members of the board as well as the executive office discussed the evolving global landscape in water management, trends in water science development, and the current state of affairs within the International Water Resources Association. Additionally, the meeting engaged in thorough research and discussions concerning the organization's existing vision, mission objectives, and value principles. As a result of the session, a forward-looking strategic framework for the future development of the International Water Resources Association was formulated. Esteemed experts and scholars convened, fostering intellectual synergy, and contributing their wisdom. This intellectual gathering holds immense value in advancing the development of the International Water Resources Association.



Interview Series – Renée Martin-Nagle on the Significance of the XVIII World Water Congress



Renée Martin-Nagle who holds the positions of Treasurer at the International Water Resources Association and Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the XVIII World Water Congress, reflects on the importance of this significant milestone. She emphasizes the global reach and significance of IWRA's World Water Congresses, which have been hosted on every continent since the first congress in 1973. This year's collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources holds particular importance.

As threats to essential biodiversity continue to increase in complexity and scale, the theme of the congress, "Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature," takes on critical significance. The timing of the event, occurring halfway between the UN water conference in New York in March and the World Water Forum in Bali in May, positions it as a pivotal moment in the journey to safeguarding vital water resources.

Martin-Nagle outlines several intended outcomes for this gathering of global stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, social organizations, think tanks, and water professionals.

First and foremost, the congress aims to raise awareness of the critical nature of water resources, the threats to water quality and quantity, and the multifaceted challenges in ensuring access to adequate water for all. The extensive program, featuring regular sessions, posters, special sessions, and side events, is designed to create an enabling environment for sharing insights and solutions. It serves as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants.

Furthermore, the congress aligns with IWRA's commitment to the water action agenda, with a focus on making research and scientific knowledge more accessible to practitioners, policymakers, and the wider public. Martin-Nagle extends an invitation for all voices to be heard and for active participation in the XVIII World Water Congress.

In conclusion, Renée Martin-Nagle's insights underscore the global importance of this congress and its potential to drive awareness, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge in the pursuit of sustainable water management and harmony between humans and nature.

Interview Series – Meet Callum Eric Clench, Executive Director, IWRA
Exploring the Role of IWRA and Expectations for the World Water Congress in China



The International Water Resources Association (IWRA), an organization with a history spanning more than five decades, has played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between water science and water policy. In an interview with Callum Clench, the Executive Director of IWRA, we gained valuable insights into the association's function and expectations for the upcoming World Water Congress, hosted in China.

The Function of IWRA

According to Clench, IWRA serves as a platform where experts in water governance converge. While engineering certainly has its place, the primary focus lies in understanding how to govern this invaluable resource. Water touches every aspect of life, and ensuring it doesn't get overlooked requires dedicated attention to governance and integrated water resource management. This encompasses various facets of society, the economy, and, importantly, the environment.

Impressions of China

Clench's long-standing connection with China allowed him to witness the transformation of Beijing over the past 25 years. The city has not only grown but has become cleaner and greener, with evident improvements in water management. Large-scale engineering projects, such as canal and river revitalization, have contributed to the city's beauty and quality of life. He also expressed curiosity about China's eco-villages and its transition to electric vehicles, which have contributed to quieter and cleaner urban environments. These efforts reflect China's commitment to environmental quality, not only for its citizens but for the global community.

In conclusion, Callum Clench's interview highlights the vital role of IWRA in water governance and its anticipation of the World Water Congress in China as a platform for global collaboration and knowledge exchange. Moreover, his observations underscore China's impressive strides in environmental sustainability, reflecting a commitment to improving the quality of life for its citizens and the world at large.



Jointly participate in the grand meeting and cooperate to build a win-win platform

Deepening cooperation, the 84th Board Meeting of World Water Council

On September 9, the 84th Board meeting of the World Water Council was held in Beijing. Li Guoying, the Minister of Water Resources of P.R. China and Loïc Fauchon, the President of World Water Council attended the opening ceremony and addressed speeches.

Li Guoying pointed out that World Water Council is one of the most important water-related non-governmental organizations in the world, and has made important contributions to promoting water exchanges and cooperation among countries around the world and promoting the realization of the water-related goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministry of Water Resources of P.R. China has established a long-term friendly cooperative relationship with World Water Council. The development of water conservancy in China in one hand has been receiving strong support from World Water Council, and China also contributes wisdom and strength to global water governance in the other hand.

In his speech, Loïc Fauchon said that China is one of the most important partner countries of World Water Council. With the support and encouragement of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, Chinese members have carried out rich exchanges and cooperation activities, and Chinese experts have deeply participated in various activities and institutions of the World Water Council, making positive contributions to the development. In future, World Water Council is willing to further strengthen cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources of China and jointly make greater contributions to accelerating the realization of the water-related goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Focusing on the long-term, the third Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum opens

The third Lancang Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum opened today. During the meeting, Tian Xuebin, Vice Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Delegates of Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam also delivered speeches. Li Ge delivered a progress report.

Six countries along the Lancang Mekong River rely on this river, and have advantaged conditions to go forward hand in hand and deepen cooperation. The related departments of the six countries actively implementing the consensus of leaders, strengthening policy dialogue and technical exchanges, accelerating the process of river basin information sharing, improving the ability to respond to flood control and drought resistance response ability, making contributions to ensure people's livelihood, promoting the cooperation of water resources in the Lancang Mekong River into the "fast lane", and enhancing the well-being of citizens in all countries.

All parties expressed that they will further strengthen policy dialogue, technological exchanges, and project cooperation, and work together to contribute wisdom and strength to the sustainable development of regional economy and society.

