

Xishuangbanna Initiative

In July 2026, city representatives from China, Myanmar, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries, gather in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China, for the 2026 Global Mayors Dialogue. Centered on the theme “Rainforest & Home: Coexist, Co-creat, Share”, we conduct in-depth exchanges and discussions on such topics as “The Path to Coexistence Between Ecological Conservation and Urban Development”, “The Co-creat Approach to Characteristic Industries and Urban Vitality”, and “Building Inclusive and Harmonious Cities for All”. Having reached extensive consensus, we jointly issue the following initiative:

I. Safeguard Rainforests and Rivers to Advance Ecological Coexistence. We recognize that rainforests and rivers serve as the vital bond for sustainable regional development. We advocate respecting nature and conserving biodiversity, balancing urban development with ecological redlines, and strengthening coordinated protection of transboundary river basins and rare species. We stand ready to explore pathways for realizing the value of ecological products, develop green and low-carbon industries, and jointly consolidate the regional ecological security barrier.

II. Deepen Industrial Connectivity to Boost Co-creat Development. Drawing on distinctive resources including agriculture and forestry, cultural tourism, intangible cultural heritage and trade, we commit to establishing multilateral industrial cooperation platforms and exchanging experience in integrated agriculture, cultural tourism and youth innovation and entrepreneurship. We will actively facilitate cross-border trade and investment facilitation, foster sustainable industries that enrich local people, and forge a new regional economic landscape featuring complementary strengths and interconnected prosperity.

III. Advance Equity and Inclusiveness to Deliver Shared Development Outcomes. We adhere to a people-centered approach, advancing equal access to balanced public services covering

education, healthcare, culture and other sectors. We will preserve and pass down intangible cultural heritage, innovate governance models for the integration of diverse ethnic groups and migrant populations, and build warm and harmonious urban and rural communities shared by residents and visitors alike, ensuring the fruits of urban development are fairly accessible to all people.

IV. Improve Exchange Mechanisms to Achieve Win-Win Cooperation. We pledge to jointly uphold and leverage multilateral exchange platforms such as the 2026 Global Mayors Dialogue. We encourage cities to actively develop sister-city relations on a voluntary and mutually beneficial basis, and carry out regular mutual visits and experience sharing in urban governance, professional talent development and other fields. We support extensive participation from media, think tanks and civil society organizations of all countries, and jointly build a multi-tiered, inclusive communication and collaboration network. Through mutual learning and exchange, we will deepen mutual understanding and trust, realize experience sharing and people-to-people bonds.

We will abide by this initiative to continuously deepen the good-neighborly friendship among cities along the Lancang-Mekong River basin as well as cities in South and Southeast Asia. We will work hand in hand to build a regional urban development community featuring sound ecology, thriving industries, inclusive livelihoods and connected hearts.