

The Competition Rules of the 10th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development

The theme of the 10th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development is “Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialization, and Technological Innovation”.

I. The Preliminary

In the preliminary round, undergraduate students from partner universities shall form initial teams of 2–5 members within their respective universities. Each initial team shall, taking into consideration the competition theme, the specific circumstances of governance and development in the Lancang-Mekong region, as well as domestic conditions of their own country, submit an innovative project addressing practical issues in the region's governance and development before the submission deadline.

The preliminary round adopts a “Six-Country Zone” model, with independent rounds organized in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Core universities in each respective region are responsible for hosting the preliminary rounds and determining the teams that advance to the finals. The scoring methodology and final results for project evaluation in each competition zone shall be determined by the core universities. The attached scoring guidelines and grading benchmarks are provided for reference only. Should a core university be unable to host the round, the Competition Organizing Committee will evaluate the projects from that region. Additionally, an “International Organization Track” will be established, with the Mekong Institute assigned to review projects under this track.

The total number of teams advancing to the finals is expected to be approximately 30.

II. The Finals

The Finals will be held in Wuhan, China in July, 2026 and will be divided into two rounds.

In the first round, contestants will compete as part of their Initial Teams, participating in the “Project Roadshow” and “Project Presentation” sessions. Two awards will be determined during this round: the “Most Valuable Question” and the “Most Creative Team.”

In the second round, the Competition Organizing Committee will randomly divide all contestants into Transnational Teams of 6-9 members each and assign each team with a Project from the Preliminary. Each team should further refine and improve the assigned Project, transforming it into a Transnational Project, and present it in the “Transnational

Project Presentation” session. In the second round, two prizes will be awarded: “Best Transnational Team” and “Best Project for Incubation.”

2.1 First Round

2.1.1 Project Roadshow

In this session, Initial Teams may present the core strengths and innovations of their Projects through diverse formats, including but not limited to poster exhibitions, simulated demonstrations and detailed explanations. The Competition Organizing Committee strongly encourages teams to use multimedia materials (e.g. videos, prototypes, visual models, minimum viable products, etc.) and cultural elements (e.g. ethnic costumes, traditional dances, local cuisine, etc.) to enrich their roadshow, enhance audience engagement and create an immersive experience.

2.1.2 Project Presentation

After the Project Roadshow, each Initial Team will present its Project through a PPT presentation. Each team should present their project and answer questions from the judges in a limited time.

In the first round of the Finals, the winners of two awards: “Most Valuable Question” and “Most Creative Team” will be determined based on both the Project Roadshow and Project Presentation sessions.

2.2 Second Round

2.2.1 Formation of Transnational Teams

The Formation of Transnational Teams will take place after the first round of the Finals. In order to promote mutual exchanges and learning among contestants from different countries, the Competition Organizing Committee will randomly divide all contestants into Transnational Teams of 6-9 members each and assign each team with a high-scoring Project from the Preliminary. Members of the Transnational Team will work together in the remaining of the Finals to refine and improve the assigned Project, incubating it into a more comprehensive Transnational Project.

2.2.2 Field Trip

During the Field Trip, contestants will visit a number of locations with local characteristics selected by the Competition Organizing Committee based on the theme of the Finals. The Field Trip is designed to provide valuable opportunities for the contestants to broaden their horizons, engage in mutual learning, and test their theoretical knowledge through practical experience.

2.2.3 Lancang-Mekong Café

In the Lancang-Mekong Café session, judges and entrepreneurship mentors will remain stationed while Transnational Teams rotate between them. Each team will have the

opportunity to engage with a different expert every 15-20 minutes, discussing ideas for optimizing their Transnational Projects under the guidance of each expert. This process continues until every team has interacted with all the experts.

2.2.4 Lancang-Mekong Youth Declaration

The Lancang-Mekong Youth Declaration is a youth-led action declaration dedicated to promoting governance and sustainable development within the Lancang-Mekong region. Its aim is to foster consensus, amplify the voices, and encourage collective action of the youth from the six countries. Prior to the Finals, aligning with the theme of the competition, the Competition Organizing Committee will gather extensive input from contestants to draft an initial declaration. During the Finals, contestants will engage in in-depth discussions of the draft within their Transnational Teams. The International Organizing Committee and the International Expert Committee will consolidate these discussions into a refined version of the Lancang-Mekong Youth Declaration. This document will be presented by representatives from the six countries at the closing ceremony, and, where appropriate, may also be submitted to higher-level institutions for consideration.

2.2.5 Free Discussion

Free Discussion provides Transnational Teams with an opportunity to collaborate and enhance the Project assigned to them. In this session, team members can brainstorm, share ideas, and refine their Project to ensure it is well-prepared for the upcoming Transnational Project Presentation.

2.2.6 Transnational Project Presentation

In this session, each transnational team will present their finalized Transnational Project through a PPT-based presentation. The teams should present their projects and answer questions from the judges in a limited time.

During the second round, judges will evaluate the teams based on the quality of their Transnational Project Presentations and their overall performance across all second-round activities. Votes will determine the winners of two awards: "Best Project for Incubation" and "Best Transnational Team," with the results announced at the closing ceremony.

*This document is provided solely for reference during the Preliminary and is subject to change. The final right of interpretation rests with the organizer.