



WELCOME PACK



July 27 - 28, 2023



Kunming Kai Wah Plaza Hotel
Kunming City, Yunnan Province, P. R. China



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Welcome to Mekong Forum 2023!

Dear participants,

We are delighted to have you join us for the Mekong Forum 2023! In this welcome pack, you will find essential information and resources to help ensure your smooth and productive experience throughout the forum. We have carefully curated this pack to provide you with the logistical details to make the most of your time with us.

We look forward to your active participation and contributions as we work together toward shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

Best regards,
Mekong Forum 2023 Organizing Team

About the forum

Mekong Institute (MI) annually holds its flagship event, the Mekong Forum, to gather and engage stakeholders. This year, the Mekong Forum has as its theme “Driving Transformative Change in the GMS.” The forum will shine a spotlight on the GMS, showcasing its transformative potential in driving sustainable economic growth and reclaiming its position as a growth center.

This year, the forum will take center stage in Kunming Kai Wah Plaza Hotel, Kunming City, Yunnan Province, People’s Republic of (P. R.) China, on July 27, 2023.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Schedule Highlights

02

Before Travelling

- Forum Expenses
- Visa Application
- Epidemic Prevention and Control Measures
- Venue
- Accommodation
- What to Bring

06

Upon Arrival

- Transportation Options
 - Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG) to the venue
 - KMG to your preferred hotel
- Banking and Currency Exchange

07

During Your Stay

- Internet Wi-Fi and Connectivity
- Contact Information
- Medical Facilities



Schedule Highlights



July 2023



THURSDAY

27

AM

Registration
Plenary Session

PM

Breakout Sessions
Reception Dinner and
Networking

FRIDAY

28

Mekong Forum Study Tour
(Optional)

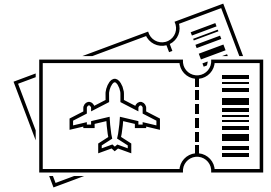
- Kunming Railway Vocation and Technical College (KRVTC)
- Kunming International Flora Auction Trading Center (KIFA)



[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for the detailed forum agenda.



Before travelling



Forum Expenses

Please be advised that MI will not shoulder any costs related to visa processing, flights, transportation, and accommodation for participants. It is expected that participants source their own funding to cover these expenses.

- **Visa Processing.** Participants are solely responsible for arranging and covering the costs associated with obtaining their respective visas to attend the Mekong Forum.
- **Flights.** All participants are responsible for booking and covering the costs of their own round-trip airfare to the venue of the Mekong Forum. It is advisable to make flight arrangements in a timely manner to secure the best possible rates and ensure smooth travel logistics.
- **Accommodation.** While we can provide recommendations and assistance with finding suitable accommodation options near the event venue, the expenses related to accommodation during the Mekong Forum are the sole responsibility of the participants.

Meals and snacks will be provided to participants within the program of activities. Please refer to the program agenda for the designated meal and snack breaks.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in sourcing the necessary funding to cover visa processing, flights, transportation, and accommodation costs.

Visa Application

For those who need to get a visa to travel to P. R. China, access this link <https://bit.ly/Chinesevisa> to know more about the specific instructions regarding the application process from the China Consular Service Network.

The specific requirements and procedures may vary depending on your location and nationality. It's essential to consult the official website of the Chinese embassy or consulate in your country for the up-to-date and accurate information.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to the organizing team.

Epidemic Prevention and Control Measures

Pre-departure COVID-19 test. COVID-19 PCR test or self-test using an Antigen Rapid Test (ART) home testing kit is required within 48 hours before boarding China-bound flights. Passengers are required to travel to China with negative test results.

Health Declaration to China Customs.

Passengers are required to declare negative test results to China Customs by filling out the Health Declaration Form on the WeChat mini-program of China Customs at <https://htdecl.chinaport.gov.cn>, or via the China Customs mobile application. Scan the QR code to download the application.



"China Customs" APP
(Android)



"China Customs" APP
(IOS)

About the Venue

The forum will be held in **Kunming Kai Wah Plaza Hotel** 



No 157 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China

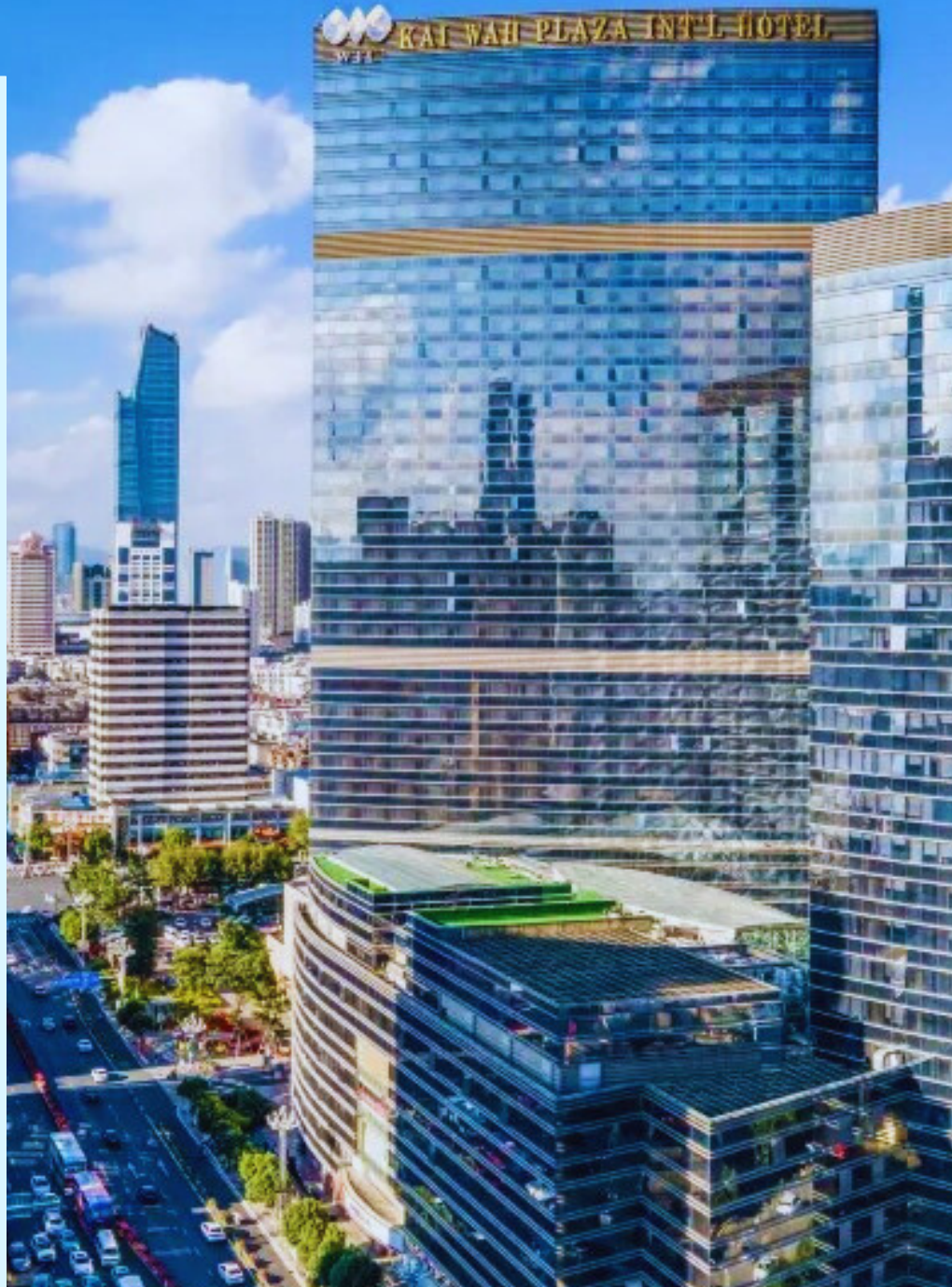


+86 (0871) 63562828 to 88218



reservations@kaiwahpalaza.com

Scan the QR code and follow the hotel official Wechat account:



AIRPORTS



Kunming Changshui International Airport
22km / 30 mins drive

PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Kunming Railway Station
790 m



Elan Kunming East Railway Station
1.6 km

CONVENIENCE STORE



Onsite

CASH WITHDRAWAL



ATM Onsite

How to travel to Kunming City, Yunnan Province, P. R. China from abroad

Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG) is the main airport serving the city, and it has connections to various international destinations. The airport is 22.4km or approximately 30 minutes drive to the venue.

We recommend using online travel platforms or consulting with travel agents to find available flights to Kunming.



Participants coming from Vientiane, Lao PDR may take the train going to Kunming City via the China – Laos Railway.

Please visit this link for more information:

<http://chinatrain12306.com/travel/kunming-vientiane-train.htm>

About Kunming City

champameuanglao.com

Kunming City, also known as the "City of Eternal Spring," is the capital and largest city of Yunnan Province in P. R. China. It is located in the southwestern part of the country and is known for its pleasant climate, natural beauty, and rich cultural heritage.

Time Zone

Kunming City operates on China Standard Time (CST), which is UTC+8.

Weather Conditions

The city experiences relatively warm temperatures and abundant sunshine. Summers are generally mild and rainy, with temperatures averaging around 20-25°C (68-77°F). Winters are cool and dry, with temperatures ranging from 8-15°C (46-59°F). It is advisable to carry a light jacket or sweater, especially during the evenings.

In July, it would most likely be in the midst of summer in Kunming. During this season, the weather is usually warm and occasionally rainy, with average temperatures ranging from 20-25°C (68-77°F).



Key Attractions and Landmarks

- **The Stone Forest:** Located about 90 kilometers east of Kunming, the Stone Forest is a unique geological formation featuring limestone pillars resembling a forest. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tourist destination.
- **Dian Lake:** Dian Lake, also known as Lake Kunming, is the largest freshwater lake in Yunnan Province.
- **Yuantong Temple:** This ancient Buddhist temple, dating back to the Tang Dynasty, is one of the grandest and most important temples in Kunming. It features traditional architecture, beautiful gardens, and tranquil surroundings.
- **Green Lake Park:** Located in the city center, Green Lake Park is a picturesque park known for its stunning views, walking trails, and diverse bird population.
- **Western Hills and Dragon Gate:** Situated on the western outskirts of Kunming, the Western Hills offer beautiful natural scenery, including lush forests, gorges, and stunning views of the city.

Transportation

Kunming has a well-developed transportation system that includes various options for getting around the city:

Metro: Kunming has a growing metro system with multiple lines that cover major areas of the city.

Buses: The city has an extensive bus network that is affordable and convenient for traveling within the city and its surrounding areas.

Taxis: Taxis are readily available in Kunming. Make sure to use licensed taxis and insist on using the meter.

Didi (ride-hailing service): Didi is a popular ride-hailing service in China. It operates in Kunming and provides a convenient way to book private rides.

Bicycle sharing: Kunming has a bicycle-sharing program, allowing visitors to rent bicycles for short trips within the city.



Accommodation

Participants may consider booking accommodation at Kunming Kaiwah Plaza Hotel, the event venue, under a corporate rate. This special rate has been arranged exclusively for participants of the forum.

To make a reservation, reach out to the hotel directly through their email at 51468170@qq.com. Inform the hotel that you are attending the Mekong Forum 2023 and request the corporate rate that has been pre-arranged for participants, which is 550 RMB/night/room.

Please note that availability at the preferred hotel and the corporate rate is subject to their policies and room availability. It is advisable to make your reservations in advance to secure the best possible rates and ensure availability.

While we have negotiated the corporate rate at Kunming Kaiwah Plaza Hotel, you are free to explore alternative accommodation options that best suit your preferences and budget.

We've prepared a list of hotels near the venue:

1 Jinjiang Hotel

Book here: <https://bit.ly/3rglMGf>
Distance from the venue: 189 m

2 Kunming Jinhua International Hotel (Railway Station)

Book here: <https://bit.ly/3pGP7Jl>
Distance from the venue: 249 m

3 Lavande Hote

Book here: <https://bit.ly/3POO04W>
Distance from the venue: 577 m

4 Wonder Land Hotel (Kunming Railway Station)

Book here: <https://bit.ly/3JTYuwb>
Distance from the venue: 393 m

5 Atour Hotel Joy City (Kunming Railway Station)

Book here: <https://bit.ly/3DbCWaK>
Distance from the venue: 291 m

What to Bring



Here are recommendations on essential items to bring with you during your travel:

Clothing



Dress in comfortable business or business-casual attire suitable for the forum. Consider the weather and dress in layers to adjust to varying temperatures.

If you'll join the study tour on the 28th, casual attire that allows you to move comfortably is recommended. Choose comfortable shoes suitable for walking and standing for extended periods.

Business cards



Bring business cards to exchange contact information with fellow participants, speakers, and exhibitors. This will facilitate networking and future communication.

Laptop or tablet



If you prefer to take digital notes or need to work during the forum, bring your laptop or tablet along with the necessary chargers and accessories.

Power adapter



If you are traveling from a different country with different plug standards, carry power adapters or converters to ensure your electronic devices can be charged. P.R. China operates on a 220V supply voltage and 50Hz frequency and uses three main plug types A, C, and I.

Refillable water bottle



We encourage participants to bring their own reusable water bottles. It will also be extra useful if you are joining the study tour.

Upon Arrival



Transportation

Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG) to the venue

View directions from Kunming Changshui International Airport to Kai Wah Plaza International Hotel in [Google Maps](#).

Kunming Kaiwah Plaza Hotel offers fee-based airport transfer upon request.

KMG to your preferred hotel

Check with your hotel accommodation if they offer airport transfers.

Public transport - Road

Buses: There are several buses connecting the airport to various places in Kunming. For example, bus 919A1 takes you to the main railway station while 919B runs between the airport to Xiao Ximen, the commercial district in Kunming.

Taxi: Taxis are abundant outside level B1, exit 3. The journey to Xiao Ximen business district takes about 40 minutes. On average, a taxi ride from the airport to hotels in the city center may cost around 100-150 CNY, depending on the traffic conditions and the exact location of your hotel.

Public transport - Rail

Subway line 6 connects the airport and city center. The airport subway station is located on level B2.

It's recommended to have the hotel's address and contact information readily available in the local language to show to taxi drivers or ask for directions if needed.

Currency and Banking

Currency

Chinese Yuan

Conversion based on average UN rate

USD 1 = CNY 7.216

We recommend checking the actual rate online.

Foreign currency

There are no specific limits on the amount of foreign currency that travelers can bring into China. However, if the amount exceeds the equivalent of US \$5,000, or its equivalent in other currencies, it must be declared upon entry.

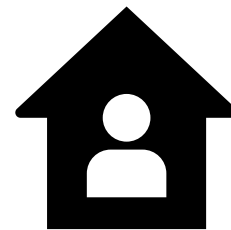
Where to exchange money at the Kunming airport

A currency exchange desk is available on level 2F by the duty-free shops in the international departure hall.

ATM

There are five ATMs available in the arrivals hall (level B1) and departures hall (levels 1F and 3F).

During your Stay



Internet Wi-Fi and Connectivity

The event venue offers free wifi. Check with the concierge or any hotel staff for the credentials.

When outside the venue, you may use public Wi-Fi networks. Many public places such as cafes, restaurants, shopping malls, and hotels offer free Wi-Fi access to their customers. Look for signs or ask the staff for Wi-Fi details and passwords.

Be aware of potential internet limitations. In P. R.China, certain foreign websites and online platforms may be restricted or experience slower speeds due to the Great Firewall of P. R. China. This can affect access to popular social media platforms, search engines, and international news websites.

Medical Facilities

- [Kunming United Family Hospital](#)
 - Address: No. 16, Songyuan Road, Guandu District, Kunming
- [Yunnan Fuwai Cardiovascular Hospital](#) (Affiliated with Peking Union Medical College Hospital)
 - Address: No. 291, Qingnian Road, Kunming
- [Yunnan International Travel Healthcare Center](#) (Yunnan Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau Hospital)
 - Address: No. 101, Beijing Road, Kunming
- [Kunming Municipal Hospital of TCM for Expatriates](#)
 - Address: No. 519, Kunzhou Road, Kunming

Contact Information

Event Organizers

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Local emergency contact numbers

Police:

110

The emergency number for reporting crimes, accidents, or seeking police assistance.

Medical Emergency/Ambulance:

120

Dial this number in case of medical emergencies to request an ambulance or seek immediate medical assistance.

Fire Department:

119

Use this emergency number to report fires, request firefighting services, or seek help in case of fire-related incidents.