



Kunming Strives for Greater Opening up to Southeast and South Asia

Staff Reporter

Gao Jinsong, secretary of the CPC Kunming Municipal Committee, required good performance of foreign affairs at the plenary session of the Foreign Affairs Leading Group under the CPC Kunming Municipal Committee held days ago. More efforts shall be made to turn Kunming into a strategic gateway, bridge and cooperative platform for Yunnan's opening up, substantially promote its role as a hub city in China's opening up to Southeast and South Asia and accelerate the building of an opening-up framework featuring closer integration with the rest of China, more links with surrounding regions and firmer compliance with international practice.

following 5 requirements concerning foreign affairs. The first one is to accelerate the building of an opening-up framework featuring closer integration with the rest of China, more links with surrounding regions and firmer compliance with international practice; the second one is to give full play to Kunming's advantages of location, culture and economy and work closely with the Central Government to implement critical national programs, such as gateway project, China-ASEAN community of common destiny, upgraded version of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, China-ASEAN cooperation under the 2+7 cooperation framework, BCIM economic corridor



Passengers are waiting for flights in Kunming Changshui Int'l Airport.
Photo by Li Qiuming

project, Pan-Asian railways initiative and China-South Asia Expo; the third one is, based on the China-South Asia Expo and Kunming Fair, to advance the construction of Kunming Com-

prehensive Bonded Zone and international regional financial center to serve as a platform for international economic and trade cooperation. Therefore, governments at various levels

should proactively provide quality service for enterprises and projects and help them "go global" and grow bigger and stronger; the fourth one is to make governmental visits to foreign

countries and regions more fruitful; and the fifth one is to solve problems and difficulties in performing foreign affairs without delay, so as to provide strong support for foreign affairs.

Further Reading:

Kunming and Thai Consulate General Call for Stronger Partnership

Gao Jinsong, secretary of the CPC Kunming Municipal Committee, recently met with Suchart Liengsaengthong, Thai consul general to Kunming.

Secretary Gao told Suchart, Kunming and Chiang Mai are sister cities, complementing each other especially in terms of tourist and cultural resources. Kunming has laid a sound foundation for exchanges and cooperation with Thailand. And it will further deepen exchanges and cooperation with Thailand in economy, trade, science, technology, culture, tourism and education, etc. In detail, it shall support such activities as exhibition of pictures and

writings on Kunming-Bangkok Highway, co-host Thai Festivals and set up a one-stop service center to provide quality service for foreign investors in Kunming, including Thai entrepreneurs.

Suchart responded Thai side would work with Chinese counterparts to host a series of activities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and China, including exhibition of pictures and writings on Kunming-Bangkok Highway, so as to improve mutual understanding, deepen friendship and promote cooperation for common prosperity.

Lao Leaders Visit Yunnan-based Substitutional Plantation Enterprise

By Yang Hongchuan

Lao President Choumaly Sayasone and Deputy Prime Minister Som-savat Lengsavad visited Phongsaly in the northern Laos days ago. During the visit, Lao leaders made a special inspection of Changshengda Coffee Company, a Yunnan-based substitutional plantation enterprise specializing in coffee plantation and baking in Laos.

Lao leaders were especially interested in the project of "180,000-mu coffee plantation", and inquired about its progress and R&D of products. President Choumaly said to the

company owner, "The Laos needs such entrepreneurs as you for its development. The substitutional plantation project involves 6 counties in Phongsaly, with a large size and strong influence." He also promised to give the enterprise effective support to implement its project.

It is said that the project of "180,000-mu coffee plantation" has been implemented smoothly. The project has offered jobs to nearly 30,000 locals at 126 villages, and also financed the construction of 100-km local roads.

Asian Mainstream Media Visit Yunnan

By Yang Hongchuan



Journalists are visiting Yunnan Daily Press Group.
Photo by Yu Jiangning

Journalists from 20 mainstream media in 11 Asian countries paid a special 2-day visit to Kunming on December 22, 2014, after attending the Seventh 10+3 Media Cooperation Forum held in Beijing.

During their 2-day stay in Kunming, the delegation of Asian mainstream media visited the Administration of Central Yunnan Industrial Cluster Development

Zone and the Creative Cultural Park of Yunnan Ziyun Qingniao Int'l Jewelry, and learned about planning and construction of industrial parks there. They were also invited to some local enterprises, such as Yunnan Baiyao Group and Kunming Hanhang Folk Handicrafts Co., Ltd. In the course of interviews, journalists found many interesting topics to conduct their dia-

logues, ranging from how Yunnan utilizes its location advantage to turn itself into a strategic pivot for promoting the "One Belt and One Road" program, to the possibility of realizing industrial cooperation via creative culture.

In the afternoon of December 22, the delegation went to Yunnan Daily Press Group and held talks. The leader of the Group briefed them on its development and latest progress in international exchanges and cooperation. Both sides had fruitful discussion over such topics as media integration and operation, promoting exchanges and cooperation among Asian countries and etc.

Zhaotong Puts Fossil Biota Site under Protection

By Shen Shixun



ancient elephant fossil
Photo by Shen Shixun

According to the Office of Taiping Subdistrict, Zhaoyang District, Zhaotong City, Zhaoyang site of fossil biota and its surrounding 20-mu land have been requisitioned by the government, in order to better protect the internationally renowned site of

fossil biota.

The fossil biota, situated in Shuitangba Community, Taiping Subdistrict, Zhaoyang District, is widely known as a typical fossil biota in the world. It was first found by local villagers when mining lignite. Archaeologists at

home and abroad, after on-the-spot investigation since 2009, prove that rare fossils of ancient elephants exist at this site. In mid-May 2010, Yunnan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology worked with a university from Pennsylvania, U.S.A., to unearth many valuable fossils, including species of herbivore, carnivore, waterfowl, rodent and fish, such as elephant, tapir, rhinoceros, deer and potamochoerus. In particular, fossil anthropoid is found at the site, which is extremely unusual in the world.

Yunnan's Rubber Price Continues to Dive

Xie Jianglan

Yunnan's rubber price continues to dive after the rubber tapping ended over 1 month ago. It is reported that the current price of Yunnan's first-class natural rubber is 14,200 yuan per ton, 10,000 yuan lower than that of the same period of last year and almost 30,000 lower compared with that of 2011, the highest in history.

It is said that many rubber planters are affected. Li Chaosheng, a planter in Yingjiang County of Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefec-

ture, told our reporters that some planters in his county has abandoned tapping because of the low price. "The cost is 13,000 yuan for growing and producing one ton of natural rubber. But when we sell it to rubber businessmen, the price is only 12,000 yuan," he said.

For the price drop, Mr. Lin from Yunnan State Farms Group explained it is because of the excessive production capacity. "Yunnan's rubber price began its first rise in 2001 when

it was only 6,000 yuan per ton. In 2007, it grew to 28,100 yuan per ton, the highest at that time. However, in 2009, the price suffered a sharp drop to 14,000 yuan. In 2011, it enjoyed another rise to 43,000 yuan a ton, the highest in over 60 years. It was in 2009 that more rubber trees were planted, which increased the production and finally led to today's dive." Mr. Lin said. Meanwhile, the leap of imported rubber also contributes to the drop.

African TCM Doctor Practices Medicine in Qujing

By Jiang Qiongho

It is really a big surprise for most patients when they open the door to find an African doctor sitting in the consultation room. Patients maybe begin to doubt his ability to practice traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and communicate with them. Now Dr. Diarra, a typical African with a black complexion and snow white teeth, is giving treatments to patients in Qujing City,

which arouses curiosity of many locals.

Every day, when reaching the consultation room, Dr. Diarra put on his white gown and began to receive patients. Many patients felt surprised to see him in the very beginning; however, Dr. Diarra was active in greeting patients in fluent Chinese, and then felt the pulse, inquired and prescribed. Moreover, he will give patients some ad-

vice on relaxing muscles and stimulating the blood circulation at home. Many of them are impressed by his ardor, carefulness and patience.

Actually this is the second time for Dr. Diarra to be in Qujing. He once visited there and held a lecture of TCM culture for doctors at Qujing TCM Hospital. According to Qujing TCM Hospital, Dr. Diarra shall pay regular



Dr. Diarra is taking the pulse of a patient.
Photo by Jiang Qiongho

visits to the Hospital and give treatment to patients in future.

Dr. Diarra is from Mali in West Africa. He received a master's degree at Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine in 1994 and later obtained a doctorate at Chengdu

University of TCM in 1997, which makes him the first foreigner to have a doctorate of TCM. His attainments and achievements in TCM have greatly encouraged many TCM practitioners and helped win more trust in TCM.

Tengchong, A Truly Beautiful Place

By Zhu Jinlei



Tourists flock into Heshun Township, Tengchong County.
Photo by Zhou Can

China Institute of City Competitiveness released The Ranking of Most Beautiful Counties in China 2014 days ago. Tengchong County is on the list and wins the title of "Jade Beauty". It surely

deserves this title, considering its long history and rich culture, amazing scenery and numerous hot springs. Every year tens of thousands of visitors come here to take a hot spring bath, enjoy good

scenery and experience local culture and customs.

Boasting an age-old history, Tengchong is home to "Tengyue culture" with multicultural features. Based on Confucianism, it has absorbed different cultures from the outside world, including central Chinese culture, Nanzhao culture, anti-Japanese war culture and ethnic culture in border areas, as well as foreign cultures, especially Southeast and South Asian culture and Western culture.

Tengchong has almost all types of hot springs found in

the world. A large number of hot springs stand here, including sulfur spring, carbonated spring, radon and fluorine spring, hydrogen sulfide spring, silicate spring and oxygen spring, etc. These hot springs contain various valuable elements good for health.

Every winter, Chen, a Beijinger, will leave chilly North China and spend his holiday in Tengchong County. "The weather here deceives me into thinking it is still spring, unless I see the yellow ginkgo leaves

scattering on the ground," he said at Yinxing Village in Tengchong.

Different from Chen, Zhao, from neighboring Sichuan Province, shows more interest in cultural resources in Tengchong. "Heshun Township, an unsophisticated and attractive place, has a long history and beautiful landscapes where water and mountains complement each other. I am shocked by Guoshang Memorial Cemetery and Memorial Hall of Anti-Japanese War in West Yunnan," he added.

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in Its Most Beautiful Season

By Mu Xiaowen

Due to a recent sharp drop in temperature, the scenic area of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in Lijiang saw its first big snowfall this winter. "Now its highest peak is covered by more snow, and the snow line also declines. However, since the snowfall didn't last long, the snow is melting fast and only a small part is left," a worker at the scenic area told our reporter.

Now walking in Lijiang proper, travelers can see the Snow Mountain looming up out of the mist. "Seeing Jade Dragon Snow Mountain after snow is also a lucky accident. This beautiful scenery really



Beautiful landscape shows itself after the snowfall.
Online Photo

intoxicates me," backpacker Li Li told our reporter.

In the scenic spot of Blue Moon Valley, snow can be still found in the woods near the Yueliang Lake. Snow and icicles are reflected in the crystal-clear lake, which seems that twinkling stars have fallen into the blue lake. Snow can be also found in Yunshanping (Spruce

Plateau), and the grasses beside the lake and roads are in new coats.

"Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, after snow stops, is extremely fabulous, and deserves a tour even though it is very cold," backpacker Xiaopeng said. For now, it is the best season for tourists to see snow in the Mountain.