



Short Films Tell Stories about Foreign Consuls General in Yunnan

By Li Yuechun



Bangladeshi Consul General Shahnaz Gazi (2nd from left) is delivering a speech during the gala.

Photo by Zou Yinzhi

"2015 Gala Night of Spring for Consuls General: I Have a Date with Yunnan" was held in Kunming a few days ago. 9 Consuls general and diplomats from Kunming and surrounding cities were invited to the night.

The gala night rose to a crescendo when 9 short films were screened to tell stories about consuls general and their families working and living in Yunnan. These sto-

ries reflected their wishes to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation with China, especially Yunnan.

Make Friends all over the World if You Speak Chinese tells a story about Malaysian Consul-General Nasri Rahman who invites a teacher from Yunnan Minzu University to teach the Chinese language to all officials and employees at Malaysian Consulate General in Kunming

every Tuesday. This film, from a special perspective, records some interesting episodes about Rahman when learning Chinese.

When Coffee Meets Pu'er Tea is a short film about Lao Consul-General Bounliep Houngvongsone in Kunming, who is a strong advocate of coffee plantation. But now Houngvongsone is not only fond of coffee, but also Pu'er tea. From Chinese tea culture

with Pu'er as its representative, he perceives Chinese values, obviously different from that in the Laos.

Cambodian Consul-General Sao Khoradin and his family live in Kunming. His son now attends school in China and has learned to speak Chinese. Even his whole family has completely acclimatized themselves to life in Yunnan. *Life in Kunming* is just a story about Khoradin and his family assimilating into Chinese life.

Bangladeshi Consul-General Shahnaz Gazi is the only female consul-general working in Kunming, who injects mildness into the circle of diplomacy dominated by the male. *The Blooming Water Lily in Spring City* tells her story. Gazi is a pretty and efficient diplomat, devoting herself to exchanges and cooperation between Bangladesh and Yunnan and showing concerns to women's life and work in Yunnan. She is convinced that women, both gentle and determined, can give fresh impetus

to social improvement.

Myanmar Consul-General U Aung Kyaw Oo and his wife love Yunnan, especially its delicious food. *The Paik-paw Friendship* tells a story about them who invite both Chinese and Myanmar friends to enjoy an authentic feast of Yunnan style. They are very familiar with the history and culture of Yunnan cuisine, as well as its nutritive value.

Thai Consul-General Suchart Liengsaengthong is a devout Buddhist, who manages to visit all famous temples and monks in Yunnan and has made great contribution to traditional cultural exchanges between China and Thailand. *Form a Tie on the Top of Cloud* is about Suchart's story to bolster Sino-Thai cultural and economic exchanges through Thai Festivals. It also explains his understanding of Buddhism.

Vietnamese Consul-General Nguyen Si Hong assumed office months ago. When recalling his way home in younger days, he always asso-

ciates it with the roads leading Guangxi to Vietnam. For now, he can take a shortcut to going back home, since the railway from Kunming to Hekou reopened in late 2014. *Road-the Access to Mountains and Seas* is a story about his travel along new Yunnan-Vietnam railways which was opened in late 2014. He believes that Vietnam and Yunnan can get closer and closer.

Moreover, *When Chinese Romance Encounters Indian Romance* tells a story about Indian Consul-General in Guangzhou K. Nagaraj Naidu to lead to organize the 2nd China-India Yoga Summit in Dali, Yunnan. *A Love Letter* is a story about a member of US Flying Tigers, who wrote a love letter to a Chinese nurse named Huang Huanxiao during the Anti-Japanese war; however, the letter does not reach Huang till the 21st Century. Cyrus Pyun, vice consul of US Consulate General in Chengdu, read this letter affectionately at the gala night.

Coix Seeds Expected to Be A New Hotspot of Investment in Yunnan

By Cao Jie

According to the Symposium on Coix Seeds Industrial Development in Yunnan held in Kunming a few days ago, coix seeds sector grew rapidly in Yunnan, thanks to the booming health care industry. Insiders thought the coix seed was expected to be a new hotspot of investment in Yunnan, following Moringa oleifera.

Known as medical food with noticeable beautifying effect, coix seeds are a traditional nutritious material both for food and medicine. It gets a reputation as the King

of Gramineae. As a major province of coix seed production, Yunnan boasts various climatic resources and provides an ideal environment for growing coix, especially valleys, mountainous areas and terraced areas whose altitudes range from 300 to 2,000 meters. Now coix are widely cultivated in Shizong, Guangan and Lianghe counties. It is reported that Gaoliang Township in Shizong annually exports over 3,000-ton quality coix seeds to Japan, Singapore and other countries and regions.

Xinhua's Silver Handicrafts

Liu Jianhua



Silversmiths are busy with their work.

Photo by Liu Jianhua

Xinhua Village, previously known as Shizhaizi, gets its name for a stone fort built by the troops of Shu led by its Prime Minister Zhuge Liang in the Three Kingdoms period (220-280). Situated at the foot of Fenghuang Mountain, 4 kilometers to the north of Heqing County, Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, the village is populated mainly by Bai people.

Early in the Nanzhao period (738-902), villagers at Xinhua started to specialize in processing silver handicrafts and household items, and now their tradition has lasted for more than 1,200 years. Historically, handicrafts made at Xinhua were

circulated along the ancient Tea-Horse Caravan Trail, and the title of Hechuan Master was born. Silversmiths from Xinhua Village make a living all over the world with their crafts, and they also improve their skills by learning other cultures they are exposed to during their travel. They also process and sell other silver ornaments, household items and handicrafts, which are popular among Tibetans.

Xinhua Village is now designated as a Chinese Folk Art Town and Chinese Folk Cultural Village by the Ministry of Culture of China, and silversmith Cun Fabiao is recognized as a folk art master by UNESCO.

Narrow Gauge Railway in Yunnan to Quit Market

By Li Yuechun

Most of senior generations in Yunnan have a deep affection for narrow gauge railways—Yunnan section of Yunnan-Vietnam railway of narrow gauge, the only one of its kind in China. This railway has spanned over 10 decades since 1910 and become a unique memory for Yunnan people for generations.

In December 2014, Mengzi-Hekou railway of standard gauge was open for passenger and freight transport, and it shall replace the whole function of Yunnan section of Yunnan-Vietnam railway that goes from Kunming, via Mengzi, to Hekou, a Chinese border county between China and Vietnam. This also means that over 100-year-old Yunnan-



A train is running on Yunnan-Vietnam Railway of narrow gauge.

Photo by Zhou Can

Vietnam railway of narrow gauge is going to quit the market very soon.

Narrow gauge measures 1,000 mm in width; however, most countries in the world use standard gauge

which is 1,435 mm. Some countries, like Japan, Vietnam and Myanmar, have narrow gauge railways. In China, most railroads are built in standard gauge, and for now only Yunnan has

narrow gauge railways.

It is recorded that Yunnan-Vietnam railways were built by French in 1910, stretching for 854 kilometers from Kunming to Hai Phong in Vietnam.

Cross-border Settlement of RMB Hits 12 Billion Yuan in Dehong

By Cui Wen

According to the 5th Plenary Session of the 6th Dehong Dai and Jingpo Prefectural Committee of the CPC held a few days ago, the cross-border settlement of Renminbi has hit 12 billion yuan in Dehong since the implementation of comprehensive financial reform in border areas. Now Dehong ranks first in Yunnan in terms of franchised individual exchange between local and foreign currencies, and it is also the first Chinese prefecture to be granted the right to make foreign exchange under current account.

Considering its advan-

tage of location that borders Myanmar to the north, west and south, Dehong is at the forefront to build Sino-Myanmar economic cooperation zones. Ruili National Key Pilot Zone for Development and Opening-up is situated in Dehong as well, and it provides a larger space and support of preferential policies for financial reform in Dehong. It is reported that Dehong has maintained a rapid growth in foreign trade in recent years, especially the trade in natural gas, mobile phones, motorcycles, jewelry and etc.

China's Largest Single Contract of Export to Myanmar Signed in Kunming

By Yang Shuyan

Guangxi Baise Yihao Nancabeiun Co., Ltd. and Guangxi Fumandi Agricultural Materials Group signed an export contract with Myanmar Border Trade Company in Kunming Consular Compound few days ago. According to the contract, China shall export commodities worth 57 billion yuan to Myanmar.

It is said that the contract is, by now, China's largest single contract of export to Myanmar in 2015. Following the contract, this year the Myanmar side shall import from China agricultural materials, fertilizers and agricultural utilities worth 100 million US dollars, agricultural machinery worth 300 million US dollars, textile raw materials and dyes worth 1.5 billion US dollars,

fabric and sewing machines worth 1.8 billion US dollars, textile machinery and spare parts worth 1.5 million US dollars, auto and motorcycle spare parts and maintenance products worth 100 million US dollars, daily necessities and garments worth 1 billion US dollars, IT products and parts worth 1 billion US dollars, fodder and additives worth 1 billion US dollars, construction and engineering machinery worth 1 billion US dollars, and fruit and vegetables worth 100 million US dollars. In total, these products are worth 9.4 billion US dollars. It is noteworthy that all those bills shall be settled by Renminbi, and the said products shall be exported to Myanmar via Ruili port in Dehong Dai and Jingpo Prefecture.

Convention & Exhibition Industry Sees A Rapid Growth in Kunming

By Yan Shuyan

The 11th China Expo Forum for International Cooperation (CEFCO) was held in Kunming during 15-17 January.

It is said that as a famous brand of convention and exhibition in China, CEFCO attracts over 600 professionals and businessmen at home and abroad every session. Insiders regard the holding of the 11th CEFCO as a sign that Kunming's convention and exhibition industry is ushering into a new age of rapid development.

In fact, Kunming has a complete range of industries, and they help bring in various exhibitions, workshops and product launching conferences concerned, so as to nourish the exhibition economy. Over 100 large-scale exhibiting events take place in Kunming regu-

larly, including China-South Asia Expo, China Kunming Import & Export Fair, China International Travel Mart, Kunming International Flower Exhibition, Kunming Pan-Asian International Agricultural Expo, China Yunnan International Pu'er Tea Expo, China Pan-Asian Stone Cultural Expo and China Pan-Asian International Auto Show.

The sector of convention and exhibition serves as a booster of economic and social development for Kunming, considering its role not only in earning direct incomes as rents and setup charges, but also in providing impetus to other dozens of sectors.

"Our hotel was opened one year ago, and we, in fact, don't contend for local market share.

By contrast, we have brought in many conferences from other provinces of China," said a manager at InterContinental Kunming. According to her, Kunming was an ideal place to hold meetings, thanks to its clean air, outstanding cultural environment and easy accessibility. She added, "Many big companies are willing to arrange their annual conferences in Kunming. For example, an annual meeting of a high-end auto brand company is attended by hundreds of participants. I think with its ever-improving quality of hospitality, Kunming will attract more and more upmarket clients." She also expressed that InterContinental Kunming was always jammed in high season. "Especially in the



A Bangladeshi businessman is posing for photo during the 2nd China-South Asia Expo.

Photo by Zhang Tong

summer and year end, we will accommodate several large companies at the same time," the manager told our reporter. "In future, it is expected that a growing number of companies will have their meetings in Kunming."

According to Zhu Bowei, general manager of Kunming

Scenic Int'l Travel Service Co., Ltd., from the year 2013, local governments have been bolstering the economy of convention and exhibition, and Scenic Travel established Yunnan Fengguang Youjing Convention & Exhibition Co., Ltd. in the same year. Zhu said, "It is proved that we have

done it right. The company sees a rapid growth in annual incomes. For instance, its income in 2014 is double that in the previous year. Considering many famous brands have already contracted with us to host large-scale commercial exhibiting events, we will have a tight schedule this year."