



“Reading Room” at Hekou Port praised by tourists

By Tan Binqiang

When the Vietnamese tourist Ruan Xihua was guided into the “Reading Room” at Hekou Port by a Chinese immigration control officer, he was greatly impressed by the leisurely atmosphere. Covering less than 40 square meters, the “Reading Room” at Hekou Port provides more than 1,200 new books and periodicals for tourists.

Hekou port is located at the China-Vietnam border. For the convenience of border residents and tourists, a “Reading Room” has been set up at the port. The books and periodicals in the Room cover border folk customs, cross-border tourism, foreign languages and immigration control information. Anyone coming to the joint inspection hall with immigration documents is welcome to read here. Since the beginning of this year, the “Reading Room” has received 3,123 visits.

Kunming exhibits celebrity portraits to remember the Anti-Japanese War

By Yang Jie

The other day, the Kunming Municipal Museum opened the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Anti-Japanese War - Longquan Memory - Cultural Celebrity Portraits Exhibition. A total of 125 cultural celebrity portraits by the well-known Chinese painter Li Chen are on exhibition for the first time in the country.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War. In order to highlight the historical position of Kunming as an important cultural city during the Anti-Japanese War, Kunming is going to organise a series of exhibitions. The Longquan Memory - Cultural Celebrity Portraits Exhibition, the first of the series, is themed on “Kunming, a City of Heroes”.

Kunming was the rear of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War. Seventy years ago, a large number of scholars came here with several hundred tons of valuable cultural objects and literature, turning Kunming into the then cultural centre of the country. The cultural wealth left by these scholars always brings back renewed memories in the passage of time.



Yunnan-Vietnam Railway began container transport

By Tan Binqiang

Several days ago, loaded with fertilizer, the 1208 international multi-model container train passed through the China-Vietnam

Bridge at Hekou port into Vietnam. Each of the 16 cars contained 27 tons of chemical fertilizer produced by Yunnan Yuntianhua Red Phosphorus Branch. It was the first time in 105 years

cargoes had been container-transported on the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway.

It is reported that, compared to the whole car transport, the international container multi-model transport features easier handling, greater safety, less environmental impact and convenient ferrying, thus promising a positive effect on the China-Vietnam border trade.

Kunming Airport to build a third runway

By Li Chenghan

In 2016, according to Yunnan Airport Group, to meet its increasing passenger throughput, Kunming International Airport is going to build a third runway next year.

Jiang Wenzhong, vice president of Yunnan Airport Group, said Kunming Airport has begun or is going to expand its aircraft stands, parking lots, runways and terminals. It is expected

that by early next year, another 40 aircraft stands will be completed at the Airport and a third runway will begin to be constructed in the same year.

Accordingly Kunming International Airport has introduced the Category II Instrument Landing System (ILS) - Australia NM700B Instrument Landing System, which has greatly improved the safety margin of the airport's flight standards and the flight normal rate.



An aircraft is taking off in Kunming Airport.

Photo by Huang Zhechun

The happy China-Nepal couple

By Zhang Wenge

I met Wu Yu and Yin Yin for the first time on the opening day of the 2nd China-South Asia Expo last year, and it was the Nepal Theme Day. I hurried into the hall, trying to interview someone, and realised that I hardly knew anybody.

Just then, a Chinese young woman approached me with a smile, “Do you need any help? My hubby is Nepalese. He has just led a tourist group to Kunming.”

She was Yin Yin and her husband Wu Yu came from Nepal. Wu Yu spoke good Mandarin, so the interview went on very well. He learnt

Mandarin when he was in Shandong. Later, he met the Chinese girl Yin Yin and they finally got married! They even started their own business - the China Home Travel Agency.

Through the interview, I became friends with them and have been keeping in touch with them by We-

Chat. In the past year, I followed them almost every day: their WeChat moments always show their love for each other or the Nepalese scenery and folk customs.

Wu Yu and Yin Yin are particularly attached to Yunnan, where they have made a name for themselves. During last year's

China-South Asia Expo, this China-Nepal combination became famous. They have attracted many Chinese tour groups ever since then, and their business is getting better with each passing day. This year, they will bring more people from Nepal to Yunnan to participate in the 3rd China-South Asia Expo.

China-South Asia Expo beckoning guests

By Chu Donghua

“Welcome to beautiful Yunnan for sightseeing and participating in the China-South Asia Expo!” Chen Hao, the governor of Yunnan Province said to foreign friends at the 3rd China-South Asia Expo promotion conference recently held in Beijing.

The tourism and service industry was an important topic at the 9th China-South Asia Business Forum held during last year's China-South Asia Expo. Mahesh Saharia, Chairman of Centre for Promotion of India-China Cooperation,



Photo by Zhou Can

A Chinese customer (second from left) was asking about the products displayed by an Indian businessman (first from left) during the 2nd China-South Asia Expo.

believed that it was right time for both countries to jointly develop tourism.

Yunnan boasts charming

natural landscapes and ethnic cultures. In 2014, Yunnan received 286 million tourists from both

home and abroad, a year-on-year increase of 16.7 percent. This year, Yunnan will strengthen market reg-

ulation, improve service quality and expand the tourism market. In particular, taking full advantage of the 72 hours visa-free transit policy for Kunming International Airport, Yunnan will promote the development of inbound tourism, cross-border tourism and duty-free tourist shopping.

Currently, in addition to its traditional tourist routes, the Kunming-Yuxi-Honghe tourist route is also becoming a market darling in Yunnan. When the China-South Asia Expo is held in June, the beautiful landscapes of Yunnan will embrace you with open arms.

Yunnan improving infrastructure to promote connectivity

By Li Jihong

In the past, as its infrastructure lag behind, Yunnan failed to fully exert its unique geographical advantage. According to Wang Xiliang, director of Yunnan Provincial Development and Reform Commission, the improvement of infrastructure to some extent determines the actual level of Yunnan's opening-up to South and Southeast Asia.

Therefore, considering the construction of road network, aviation network, energy network, water network and the Internet as fundamental support for its further development and opening-up, Yunnan is enhancing its connectivity with surrounding countries and is striving to build itself into a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia.

In terms of road, Yunnan is upgrading “seven inter-provincial and four inter-national highways” and accelerating the construction of “eight interprovincial and four international high speed rails”. It is reported that Yunnan's railway mileage is expected to reach 3,000 kilometres in 2015.

After years of development, Yunnan's aviation industry has grown from “big” to “strong”. Currently, Yunnan has 12 civil airports, representing a density of 0.3 airports per 10,000 square kilometres, 1.7 times the national average. In 2014, the Kunming-Paris direct air route was opened, which was the first intercontinental air route connecting Yunnan. This year, Yunnan expects to open at least one more intercontinental route.

Yunnan has been en-

hancing its ability to transmit power to east China and neighbouring countries. Last year alone, Yunnan transmitted 1.976 billion kilowatt-hours to Vietnam, 221 million kilowatt-hours to Laos and 37 million kilowatt-hours to Myanmar. Now, as the China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline project enters the final stage, an integrated energy network of power, gas, oil and coal is taking shape in the province.

As Yunnan's position in China's opening-up gets increasingly important, the panel of experts organized by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has given the go-ahead for the Kunming Regional International Communication Switching Centre to set up international Internet transit points.

7 foreign banks set up branches in Kunming

By Peng Xuan

Recently, Maybank opened its Kunming Branch and became the 7th foreign bank to set up a branch (office) in Yunnan, following Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Hang Seng Bank, Bank of East Asia, Krung Thai Bank and Kasikorn Bank.

Tan Sri Dato Megat Zaharuddin, Chairman of Maybank Group, said at the opening ceremony that the launch of Kunming Branch was a major step taken by Maybank, not only because of China's huge potential for development, but also because of Yunnan's favourable position as a gateway for China to open up further to South and Southeast Asia

Maybank was established in Malaysia in 1960 and has developed into the 4th largest bank in Southeast Asia. The newly inaugurated Maybank Kunming Branch will further promote the trade and investment between southwest China and ASEAN countries. Currently, Maybank Kunming Branch will mainly provide local enterprises and foreign-invested enterprises with a wide range of corporate banking services. It will focus on trade-related financial services, including short-term and long-term foreign currency loans, bill acceptance and discounting, letter of credit service and guarantee service, collection, foreign currency deposits and project financing.

Xinzi Chinese bookstores increasing overseas branches



Cambodian students were finding their favorite books at Xinzi Chinese bookstore in Phnom Penh. Photo by Yang Zheng

By Ma Junyan

Recently, the Xinzi Group Nanbai Bookstore was opened in Zunyi City, Guizhou Province, and this is the first outlet of its kind established by the Xinzi group in 2015.

While expanding its domestic presence, Xinzi Group has successively set

up seven Chinese bookstores in Phnom Penh of Cambodia, Vientiane of Laos, Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, Mandalay of Myanmar, Colombo of Sri Lanka, Kathmandu of Nepal and Chiang Mai of Thailand. By the end of 2015, Xinzi Group will bring the number of its Chinese bookstores to 10.