



NEWS

Ninglang Luguhu Airport expected to go into operation this year

By Cao Jie

At the recent approval of Civil Aviation Administration of China, the new airport by the Luguhu Lake in Ninglang is named "Ninglang Luguhu Airport".

The Ninglang Luguhu Airport, positioned as a domestic feeder airport, started construction on April 24, 2013. Its present phase is designed with a throughput of 450,000 passengers and 900 tons of cargoes and mails by 2020. Currently, the construction of

the new airport is in full swing and it is expected to go into operation by October 1, 2015.

The Luguhu Lake is located at the junction area of Yunnan and Sichuan Province. As one of the nine plateau lakes in Yunnan, it is famous for its first category water quality, beautiful natural scenery and colourful ethnic customs. By the lake live the Mosuo people, an ethnic group that still observes the matriarchal customs. Therefore, this area is also known as the "Oriental Kingdoms of Females".

Robot restaurant debuted in Kunming

By Miao Chao

A robot restaurant was recently opened in Kunming and has been attracting many customers. It is the first restaurant in the city to introduce robot waiters.

It is said that the robot waiters can deliver the dishes to their tables according to their seat numbers. According to the restaurant manager, the "heart" of each robot waiter is a computer circuit board consisting of sensors. Having received programmed commands, the robot equipped with the optical magnetic stripe induction technology can follow the track to accu-

rately deliver the menus and dishes to different tables according to the seat numbers. When it comes to a designated table, it will give preset voice messages and stop a few minutes for the customers to remove the dishes.

A robot waiter is priced at 39,000 yuan. It works more than ten hours a day and needs to be recharged on a daily basis, which only adds two yuan to the electricity bill, so the cost of keeping such a robot waiter is much lower than that of hiring a human waiter. At present, however, the robot can only deliver menus and dishes and cannot completely take the place of human waiters.



Photo by Chen Fei

The 12th Dongchuan Debris Flow International Off-road Racing kicked off on May 1 and lasted to May 6. In Dongchuan, a north-eastern district of Kunming, the debris flow has developed for more than 300 years, leaving 113 debris flow gullies. In 2004, Dongchuan began to introduce the Off-road Racing in an effort to turn ecological disadvantages into tourism resources. Nowadays, the Dongchuan Off-road Racing is referred to as one of "China's top three brand races" of its kind.

TRAVEL

A leisurely afternoon amidst Bisezhai's French-style buildings



A would-be couple are having their wedding photographs taken at Bisezhai. Photo by Zu Hongbing

By Zu Hongbing

When we arrived at the Bisezhai station along Yunnan-Vietnam railway, it was past six o'clock in the afternoon, and a red sun was setting in the west. Against the sunset glow, the yellow French-style buildings reflected an unusual lustre.

Yunnan-Vietnam railways were built by French in 1910, stretching for 854 kilometers from Kunming to Hai Phong in North Vietnam. Bisezhai station is located in the Mengzi section.

At the station, a would-be couple were having their wedding photographs taken. The photographer told us that besides locals from Mengzi and surrounding counties, some would-be couples from as far as Kunming also come to have their wedding photographs taken at Bisezhai, and the reason is that the well preserved French-style buildings here produce romantic wedding photographs.

In fact, the Bisezhai station was already listed as a national key cultural relic in 2013. Walking into Bisezhai, we saw the French-style buildings standing one by one. They

were somewhat run-down, but most of them were preserved. The wonderful explanation of our guide brought back the good old days of Bisezhai. At the platform, the water tower that used to feed the steam engines was still standing tall and upright and earnestly waiting for its customers. When we passed the hotel formerly run by the Greek businessmen Kalos brothers, the Western light music seemed to be constantly playing on the gramophone...

In those days, people came to Bisezhai from France, Britain, America, Germany and other provinces of China. In its hey days, Bisezhai assembled "gold diggers" from seven countries and 25 provinces of China. A lot of companies in the world set up offices in Bisezhai, the most famous of them being the Mobil Oil Firm, the Chase Company and the Asia Oil Firm.

On fair days, tens of thousands of people would fill the street of Bisezhai, and it was a really bustling scene. After so many years, from the abraded marks on the tracks, we could still imagine the bustling days when Bisezhai was a gathering place of wealth.

Yunnan teams up with Alibaba

By Chen Xiaobo

A strategic cooperation framework agreement was recently signed in Kunming between the Yunnan provincial government and Alibaba Group. Under the agreement, both parties will seek extensive

and in-depth cooperation in cloud computing, big data, cross-border e-commerce, e-commerce in rural areas, urban Internet services, Internet travel, Internet healthcare, intelligent logistics backbone network, e-business training and other areas,

so as to usher in an era of "Yunnan Internet+".

Alibaba, the largest Internet company of China, boasts world-class ideas and technologies in a wide range of Internet services, such as e-commerce, Internet financial services, cloud computing

and big data. Yunnan is in its infancy in e-commerce and Internet services. This means great potential and room for the cooperation between the two parties. Alibaba will help more young people in Yunnan to be engaged in the Internet trade.

CHINA-SOUTH ASIA EXPO

China-South Asia Expo expanding its "circle of friends"



China-South Asia Expo has provided a platform for businessmen to find their partners. Photo by Yang Zhen

By Wangjing

China-South Asia Expo has provided good opportunities for SAARC member countries to explore the Chinese market

Since its first session, the China-South Asia Expo has set up a bridge of opening and cooperation connecting China with South and Southeast Asia.

Liao Xianzhi of Chongqing Zhoujunji Hotpot Food Co., Ltd. has participated in the China-South Asia Expo for two consecutive years. To cater for the palates of the South Asian people, he specially brought curry hotpot condiments. To his surprise, the buyers of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India were very interested in the improved hotpot condiments. Following last year's Expo, these

buyers came to Chongqing for an investigation and finally placed orders for hotpot condiments worth over one million US dollars. In the process, Liao Xianzhi has made a group of South Asian friends, and they consider the friendship more precious than business.

Both Liao Xianzhi and his South Asian business partners have benefited from the cooperation platform of China-South Asia Expo. They feel that China-South Asia Expo is not just an investment invitation exhibition but a networking platform for business people as well. Through this platform, the Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have carried out a series of promotional activities in hope of seeking cooperation partners from South Asia.

China-South Asia Expo

has provided good opportunities for SAARC member countries to explore the Chinese market, according to Arjun Thapa, Secretary-General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). He said, China-South Asia Expo has shortened the distance between China and South Asia, and more importantly, forms a win-win platform for both sides to share business opportunities and seek cooperation.

More than two thousand years ago, the Silk Road linked Asia with Europe so that the East and West civilizations began to complement each other in exchanges. In order to extend the historical glory, this year's China-South Asia Expo will further connect China with South and Southeast Asia.

3rd Expo Executive Committee to reserve booked exhibition booths for Nepal

By Yang Hongchuan

With the 3rd China-South Asia Expo around the corner, Nepal has been hit by an 8.1-magnitude earthquake on April 25, resulting in heavy

casualties and property losses. Yunnan Bureau of International Expo Affairs has contacted the two Nepalese institutions in charge of organising exhibitors for the 3rd Expo, but no definite answers have been

received. Nevertheless, the 3rd Expo Executive Committee will reserve the 94 booths already booked by the Nepalese exhibitors, expecting them to participate in the China-South Asia Expo as scheduled.