



NEWS

## Kunming to apply for pilot FTZ

By Li Shaqing

As an important hub in Yunnan province facing South Asia and Southeast Asia, Kunming intends to apply for a border pilot free trade zone (FTZ).

At the seventh conference of Kunming municipal Party committee, a plan was put forward to build China (Kunming) Border Pilot Free Trade Zone in three to five years. The Zone will be a national demonstration area with convenient investment, free trade and standard legal system.

The construction plan of Kunming Comprehensive Bonded Area was also made clear at the conference.

Construction of the Kunming Comprehensive Bonded Area's B section will be finished next year, and it will start running after the national acceptance inspection.

In 2017, infrastructure construction of the industrial function supporting area of the bonded area will start.

In 2020, the proportion of the total foreign trade value of Kunming Bonded Area's A and B sections are expected to be 20 percent of all across the province. Also, the area aims to become a compound international bonded logistics facility.

On May 31, a publicity film on the image of Kunming was broadcasted at Time Square of New York.

So far, China has approved establishment of four free trade zones, each located at Shanghai, Tianjin, Fujian and Guangdong.

## Yunnan sees increasing exports to countries along Belt and Road

By Wang Ming

From January to May, despite the bleak international market, Yunnan has achieved a total import and export value of RMB 55.47 billion, of which 40.47 billion yuan is in exports, representing a 23.4 percent increase, higher than the national average by 22.6 percent.

According to customs statistics, Yunnan's import and export trade with 32 countries along the Maritime Silk Road amounted to RMB 33.15 billion from January to May this year, of which 24.56 billion yuan was in exports, up by 24.4 percent, and 8.99 billion yuan was in imports, down by 42.6 percent. In addition, Yunnan's import and export trade with 47 countries along the Silk Road on land amounted to RMB 7.1 billion yuan.



A Bangladeshi student is learning to play a Chinese musical instrument at the Confucius Institute in NSU.

Photo by Gu Bin

# Yunnan seeks more educational cooperation with S. Asia

By Li Shaqing

"The inauguration of the first India-China Yoga College in Yunnan University of Nationalities marks a major breakthrough in the educational cooperation and exchanges between Yunnan and South Asia. Taking full advantage of the platform of China-South Asia Expo, Yunnan will seek more educational cooperation with South Asian countries and hasten to build itself into an educational cooperation pivot of China with South Asia," said He Jinping, director of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education when receiving an

interview from reporters.

In recent years, according to He Jinping, Yunnan sought various ways to conduct cooperation and exchanges with South Asian countries and has achieved remarkable results. The number of students from South Asian countries has grown from 1,208 in 2013 to 1,759 in 2015, representing an increase of 45.6 percent; the Confucius Institute at University of Colombo has been jointly established by Honghe University, Beijing Foreign Studies University and University of Colombo; a cooperation intention has been reached concerning the establishment of a Confucius

Institute in the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and the dispatching of Chinese students to learn Sinhalese. In addition, 18 universities attended the 2009 Yunnan Education Exhibition and Forum in Kolkata and New Delhi; artistic delegations of university students put on a series of performances in Bangladesh and Nepal; the Yunnan Education Promotion was held in Sri Lanka.

"In the future we will make it our goal to build Yunnan into an educational cooperation pivot of China with South Asia," said He Jinping. Yunnan hopes to attract more foreign students by

encouraging companies to set up scholarships in colleges and universities and build Yunnan into an important destination for students from South Asian countries; it will continue to seek Hanban's support to help colleges and universities in Yunnan to set up more Confucius Institutes (Classrooms) in South and Southeast Asian countries in proportion to their population; it will encourage relevant departments and Confucius Institutes to jointly hold cultural activities; and it will vigorously cultivate talents of South and Southeast Asian languages to accelerate the internationalization of

education and enhance international exchanges.

He Jinping also wishes to establish an educational coordination mechanism and set up a BCIM education alliance. "By establishing a BCIM education alliance, we will be able to coordinate exchanges of students, conversion of credits, mutual recognition of degrees, academic exchanges, scientific cooperation and other educational affairs, so that the cross-border education can really benefit people in related countries and uplift Yunnan's internationalization of education to a new level," said He.

## S&SE Asian diplomats visited Yunnan scientific institutions

By Chen Xinlong

Recently, a group of South and Southeast Asian diplomats stationed in southwest China visited Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province. A total of 20 officials from the consulates of Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and seven other countries participated in the event and visited Yunnan Normal University, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Yunnan Innovative Biological Industry Incubator Management Co., Ltd. (Headquarters of China-ASEAN Innovation Centre), Yunnan Nantian Electronics Information Co.,

Ltd. and Yunnan Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd.

Recent years have witnessed the establishment of a series of scientific and technological cooperation mechanisms between Yunnan and South and Southeast Asian countries, such as the consultation mechanism between Yunnan Provincial Government and the Lao Ministry of Science and Technology and the China (Yunnan)-South Asia Agricultural Science and Technology Exchange and Cooperation Group, which have laid a solid foundation for further scientific and technological exchanges.

## Shangri-la Horse Race Festival held in lunar May



Equestrianism competition

Photo by You Xiangneng

By Wang Weina

In the past few days, the arrival of the annual Horse Race Festival has again turned Shangri-la into a paradise of passionate joy.

The Horse Race Festival is a traditional festival for people in Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan and it falls on May 5<sup>th</sup> of the Chinese lunar calendar. This year's celebrations mainly include an opening ceremony,

an equestrianism competition (horse racing, horsemanship and horse pacing), a traditional folk sports competition (crossbow shooting and archery) and a harness (horse supplies) exhibition. More than 100 competitors and 148 horses from Shangri-La City and Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture competed in a variety of events, such as horse racing, horse pacing, picking up the hada scarf and shooting on horseback.

## "We have a great time together"



Myanmar athletes are taking part in the running program in Kunming Haigeng Training Base.

Photo by Zhou Can

By Lou Ying

After the two-month training session in Kunming coming to an end, over 100 Myanmar athletes headed to Singapore in batches to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games.

The training of Myanmar athletes in China is an important part of the Chinese government's technical cooperation with Myanmar in the 28<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games. A total of 193 Myanmar coaches and athletes have trained in Kunming, includ-

ing those from the track and field team, men's basketball team, women's soccer team, archery team, snooker team, cycling team and five other teams.

In the two-month training, the Chinese and Myanmar athletes and coaches jointly composed an ode to the brotherhood between the two countries and the friendship among athletes. "Everything is good!" said every Myanmar athlete and coach when interviewed.

In fact, the hard training of Myanmar athletes also

inspired Yunnan coaches and athletes in the implementation of the technical cooperation project. "Myanmar athletes have absolutely greater professionalism and diligence," said Long Guixiang, deputy leader of Yunnan boxing team.

The night before leaving Kunming, some Myanmar athletes were too sad to eat, and others would not let go of the hands of staffs. Although the cooperation project was concluded, the friendship between China and Myanmar will last forever.

PEOPLE

## Kumar: an Indian China hand

As a China hand, Mr. Kumar can not only communicate in Chinese without a hitch but knows the Chinese culture and history as well. In the past twenty years, Kumar has visited many Chinese cities on business and has developed a deep understanding of the traditional Chinese culture.



By Lian Huiling

Speaking fluent Chinese, wearing an attentive look, this 53-year-old man with silver white curls is actually an Indian native.

As a China hand, Mr. Kumar can not only communicate in Chinese without a hitch, but know the Chinese culture and history very well. For him, China has become his second home.

Mr. Kumar began to learn Chinese quite by chance. "I took Chinese as an elective

course when I was a university student in India simply because other courses had no more vacancies." At that time, only four of his classmates took Chinese as an elective course. However, this Chinese course has helped achieve his career.

In 1988, Kumar came to Beijing Language and Culture University as one of the first Indian government-sponsored students. More fortunately, Kumar met his love in China. "A female Indian student was also

sent to China from another university, and she finally became my wife." Kumar's wife is now teaching at the University of Delhi. She also speaks Chinese and is an expert at the Indian and East Asia issues as well as the China-India relations.

In the past twenty years, Kumar has visited many Chinese cities on business and has developed a deep understanding of the traditional Chinese culture. He has been dedicated to introducing the Indian and Chi-

nese cultures to the world.

In his view, tourism can promote cross-regional, cross-border and cross-continental political identification, policy integration, facilities interconnectivity, economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and cultural fusion. "Having visited five countries along the Belt and Road recently, I am now considering opening up a Silk Road cultural tourist route," said Ghumar, with full confidence in the future of his business.