



ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD

Yunnan to construct five international highways in five years

BY Li Chenghan

According to the Yunnan Provincial Department of Transportation, Yunnan is actively constructing an “interconnected” transport system of “seven interprovincial highways and five international highways”, in a bid to serve the Belt and Road Initiative and build itself into a pivot of China’s opening up to South and Southeast Asia.

As is learnt, a total length of 4,090 kilometres will be constructed in Yunnan to connect the 12 planned highways. During the 12th Five-Year Plan period, approximately 2,000 kilometres of highways have been put into use. By the end of 2020, 6,000 kilometres of highways will have been constructed, the length of navigable waterways will have reached 5,000 kilometres, the network of “seven interprovincial highways and five international highways” will have come into being and the central Yunnan loop will have closed.

According to an official of Yunnan Provincial Department of Transportation, Yunnan is the only Chinese province connected to three Asian regions (East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia) and two oceans (Pacific and Indian Ocean), with access to China’s coastal areas via Guizhou and Guangxi in the east, the Central Plains via Sichuan and Chongqing in the north, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Singapore in the south and Myanmar, India and Bangladesh in the west. Also, it is the only Chinese province that can reach South

and Southeast Asia by land and can be easily integrated into three Silk Roads, namely the Ancient Silk Road in the north, the Maritime Silk Road in the south and the Southern Silk Road in the west.

So far, all the sections of Kunming-Chengdu Highway, Kunming-Guiyang Highway, Kunming-Baise Highway and Kunming-Hanoi Highway in Yunnan have been completed; the remaining sections of Kunming-Chongqing Highway, Kunming-Ruili-Kyaukpyu Highway, Kunming-Xingyi Highway, Kunming-Mohan Highway and Kunming-Zunyi Highway in Yunnan are all under construction; and the preliminary work for the remaining sections of Kunming-Ledo Highway and Kunming-Qingshuihe-Kyaukpyu Highway in Yunnan is in rapid progress.

The five international highways are Kunming-Mohan-Bangkok Highway, Kunming-Hekou-Hanoi Highway, Kunming-Ruili-Kyaukpyu Highway, Kunming-Tengchong-Ledo and Kunming-Qingshuihe-Kyaukpyu Highway, which connect Yunnan with South and Southeast Asia. The seven interprovincial highways are Kunming-Panzhuhua-Chengdu Highway, Kunming-Shuifu-Chongqing Highway, Kunming-Fuyuan-Guiyang Highway, Kunming-Puli-Zunyi Highway, Kunming-Luoping-Xingyi Highway, Kunming-Funing-Baise Highway and Dali-Deqin-Mangkang Highway, interconnected with the road network of its neighboring provinces.

China-Laos Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone Common General Plan signed

BY Xinhua

In the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Lao President Choummaly Sayasone, the China-Laos Mohan-Boten Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone Common General Plan (hereinafter referred to as “Common General Plan”) was signed by Gao Hucheng, Chinese Minister of Commerce, and Somsavat Lengsavad, Lao Deputy Prime Minister.

The signing of the Common General Plan is an important milestone in the economic and trade cooperation between China and Laos. Both sides have decided to establish the Mohan-Boten Cross-border Economic Cooperation Zone in Yunnan Province of China and Luang Namtha Province of Laos, in order to carry out the principles of “long-term stability, good-neighbourliness, mutual trust and comprehensive cooperation”, promote the

implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, consolidate and develop the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and enhance beneficial cooperation on the two sides. Following the establishment of the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Centre, this is the second cross-border economic cooperation zone between China and a neighbouring country and the first of its kind in Yunnan. It marks an important step for China and Laos to seek innovative cooperation patterns and accelerate opening up.

When it comes into effect, the Common General Plan will help to give full play to complementary advantages of both economies, facilitate trade, investment and personnel exchanges, promote bilateral industrial cooperation, speed up the development of border areas and benefit the peoples of both countries.

HEROES

15 US World War II veterans become honorary Kunming citizens



An US veteran visited Exhibition of Flying Tigers relics which was held in Kunming Museum.

Photo by Yang Zheng

BY Zhang Rui
Gao Zidong

A group of US veterans, mostly pilots of Flying Tigers, boarded nine Jeep Wranglers in front of Kunming Changshui Airport. “These off-road vehicles were born because of World War II, very commemorative,” said Annan, a member of Flying Tigers Club.

After attending the military parade on September 3, the 15 US World War II veterans were invited to Kunming to join another commemorative event sponsored by Yunnan Tea Group Co., Ltd. in honour of Chinese and US heroes that once fought in the War of Chinese People’s Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. They were mostly pilots of Flying Tigers. The youngest of them is 90 years old and the oldest, 97 years old. In the three-day commemorative event, they attended a tea party specially arranged for anti-fascist heroes, met with media and joined in the “Tower of Peace” celebration, in which more than one million people signed

their names to commemorate the 70th anniversary of victory over Japan.

“I was not yet 21 at that time,” said J Vinyard, “When I came to Yunnan, I was shocked. I saw buildings flattened by Japanese bombing, poverty-stricken people and large tracts of farmland everywhere. However, people were united, brave and friendly.”

In order to transport the much-needed military supplies into China, the United States and China jointly opened an air route between Assam in northeast India and Kunming in southeast China, the most dangerous air route in the world aviation history and military history. “Powerful storms cut off all radio communications and navigation signals. Strong winds blew twin-engine and four-engine transport aircrafts off their courses by over a hundred miles,” He continued. To make things worse, the Japanese fighters went to any length to stop the transport of military supplies. The aircrafts of Flying Tigers could be shot down

or crash into the mountain at any time, so this air route was also referred to as the “death route”.

When J Vinyard left Yunnan after the mission, he doubted if he would ever again set foot on this land. To his surprise, nearly 60 years after the war, he returned to Yunnan. In 2004, he came to Kunming and attended the First International Seminar on Sino-US Friendship in World War II at invitation. He said excitedly, “I am pleased that the Chinese people have not forgotten us.”

This time, he came to Kunming with his grandson.

“When grandpa told me about the history, I felt that I should have a look at the place where he had fought. I see everybody respects him, and I’m very proud,” said J Vinyard’s grandson, “I accompanied grandpa to the parade in Beijing, and then we were invited to Kunming. I can deeply feel the value of what grandfather did back then.”

“After so many years, we have come to Kunming for the

same reason. Seeing the comrades of the Flying Tigers, I feel as if I have got home,” said Huang Yuzhen, a veteran of the 407th Air Service Squadron. From 1944 to August 15, 1945, he served as a bomber gunner in Xi’an, Zhijiang, Chengdu, Laohekou, Wuhan and other air bases. He was born in Guangdong and settled in the United States with his parents when he was 11 years old. When he was 16, the war started and he decided to return to motherland. “I came, leaving behind the peaceful life in the United States. I came to China to fight. I must defend my motherland,” Huang Yuzhen recalled the old days decades ago.

In 2005, when celebrating the 60th anniversary of the victory of the World’s Anti-fascist War, the Kunming Municipal Government recognised 44 US Flying Tigers veterans as “Honorary Citizens of Kunming”. This time, 15 US veterans and the family members of two deceased veterans are awarded the title of “Honorary Citizen of Kunming”.

Students in quake-stricken Yunnan start semester in new schools



Students took first class of new semester in new classroom. Photo by Shen Shixun

BY Shen Xun
Xie Yi

At 9 am, September 1, like other Chinese schools, Longquan Middle School in Longtoushan Town, Ludian County, Northeast Yunnan, which was hit by an earthquake one year ago, began the new school year with a national flag raising ceremony. Over 2,000 teachers and students moved

from the makeshift structures to steel-structured buildings that have been newly built.

Li Shanyun, party chief of the town, said the new school covers more than 4.6 hectares. In addition to a teaching building, dining hall, and residential building, the new school also has a library, gymnasium and football field.

At the same time, national flag

raising ceremonies were also held in 22 other primary and secondary schools in Longtoushan Town, Huodehong Town, Shuimo Town and Xinjie Town of Ludian County. Having worked and studied in the makeshift structures for a year after their school was destroyed by the quake, the teachers and students of the earthquake-affected areas finally moved into new schools.

On August 3, 2014, an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 struck Ludian County, Zhaotong, Yunnan. A total of 130 schools in the county were damaged to varying degrees; 6,400 square meters of school buildings collapsed and 200,000 square meters of school buildings were dilapidated. In just one year, 23 makeshift schools have been replaced with new schools and the teachers and students begin their new school life.

Agricultural expo to highlight Yunnan e-commerce

BY Li Xiaoxu

The e-commerce trade of agricultural products will debut at the 2015 China-Kunming Pan-Asia International Agricultural Expo from Sept 19-24, in Kunming, Yunnan province.

More than 50 exhibition booths at the Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Center will be reserved for e-commerce enterprises. It’s the first time that the expo set up special zone for e-commerce trade.

According to the committee office, new arrangements will enable

customers to experience the convenience of e-commerce.

E-commerce traders from Yunnan and other provinces have registered for the expo, including Kunming Gongtianxia E-commerce Co. and Shenzhen Agricultural Products Co. from Guangdong province.

According to official statistics, there are around 50 e-commerce enterprises in Kunming city, and e-commerce sales volume was above 80 million yuan in 2014. The agricultural expo is expected to promote online sales and highland agriculture in Yunnan.

70th anniversary of victory over Japan celebrated in Yunnan

BY Qu Shuning

“Let the people living in peace and happiness today remember history, cherish the memory of martyrs, cherish peace and build a better future.” On September 4, a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War was held in Tengchong County, Yunnan.

During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, 380,000 Yunnan soldiers fought against aggressors in more than 20 major battles, and 100,000 of them gave their lives for the country. When the Pacific War broke out and converted Yunnan from the rear area into the forefront, 100,000 Chinese troops in Western Yunnan fought desperately and kept the enemy at bay on the west bank of the Nujiang River. The Japanese invaders found themselves fighting against people of all ethnic groups. When the war got to the stage of strategic counteroffensive, 160,000 Chinese troops achieved a major victory in western Yunnan and took the lead to drive Japanese invaders out of China.

In support of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, Yunnan people donated both money and materials regardless of their own difficulties. In order to break the blockade of the Japanese invaders, the people of all ethnic groups in Yunnan, despite the harsh and perilous natural environment, built the wartime lifelines of the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway, the Yunnan-Burma Road, the Hump Air Route and the China-India Road.