



ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD

Construction blueprint briefed for Mengla Pilot Zone

BY YAN JIAFEN

Recently, a press conference was held by Yunnan Province to brief about the establishment of Mengla (Mohan) Key Development and Opening-up Pilot Zone approved by the State Council. And the overall vision, functional orientation and preparation etc. of the construction of the pilot zone were also briefed.

On July 16, 2015, The State Council approved the establishment of Mengla (Mohan) Key Development and Opening-up Pilot Zone. At the beginning of August, an implementation plan for the construction of the pilot zone was issued and distributed by the National Development and Reform Commission. It was the second national key development and opening-up pilot zone (the first being the Ruili Pilot Zone) in Yunnan.

Mengla (Mohan) Key Development and Opening-Up Pilot Zone is located at the south end of Xishuanbanna Dai Au-

tonomous Prefecture. Connected to the land of Laos in the east, south and west and with Myanmar on the other side of Mekong River in the west, the pilot zone is an important front for cooperation between China and countries in Indo-China Peninsula.

According to its functional orientation, the pilot zone will be built into an important platform for the strategic cooperation between China and Laos, a comprehensive transportation hub connecting China and countries on the Indo-China Peninsula, an important economic growth pole and forefront of ecological progress in China's border areas, and a demonstration zone of an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood. The zone aims to build "two belts, two cores, and five areas" by focusing on institutional innovation.

The "two belts" are the Menglun-Mohan Thoroughfare Economic Belt and Jinghong-Guanlei Riverside Economic

Belt. The former (Menglun-Mohan), by taking advantage of the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway, will focus on the development of industries including land transportation, warehouse logistics, international trade, processing for imports and exports, and cultural tourism etc. Meanwhile, the latter, by taking advantage of the Lancang-Mekong River that connects China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam etc., will focus on the development of industries including international shipping, ship-building and cross-border tourism etc.

The "two cores" are the Mohan Economic Cooperation Zone development core and the Mengla Modern Service Nesting Zone development core. The first core takes advantage of Mohan Economic Cooperation Zone in order to expedite the planning and construction of China-Laos Mohan-Moding Economic Cooperation Zone. The second core, with Mengla Town as the center, focuses

on the development of modern services such as finance, logistics, information, healthcare, recreation and tourism, health and service for the elderly etc. so as to improve the integrated development of Mengla-Mohan and to build an international base for commercial services, a window for international cultural exchanges, and an international city of ecological recreation and tourism.

The "five areas" are the functional area of port economy, the functional area of processing for imports and exports, the functional area of cultural tourism, the functional area of featured agriculture, and the functional area of ecological shield. In the functional area of port economy, the development of industries such as the international transportation of both passengers and goods as well as the commercial logistics etc. will be speeded up, and an integrated international port and a logistics center will be built in the Greater Mekong Region. In the func-

tional area of processing for imports and exports, a processing base for import and export that integrates industries such as processing, commercial trade and logistics will be built. In the functional area of cultural tourism, industries such as ethnic culture, recreational vacation, ecological sightseeing, and Movie and TV media etc. will be developed. In the functional area of featured agriculture, the focus will be on the rapid development of the advantageous agricultural industries such as quality rice, rubber and tea etc.; and a tropical ecological agricultural demonstration base with significant features will be built. In the functional area of ecological shield, an ecological security shield will be built to protect biological diversity by strengthening the protection of the national natural conservation area in Mengla, Xishuanbanna and the cross-border conservation area jointly managed by China and Laos.

EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION

Overseas Chinese language teachers visit Yunnan

BY LUO RONGCHAN

Recently, an activity of "Overseas Candles Returning to Hometown in 2015—Agile Trip to Colorful Yunnan" was carried out in Yunnan. 20 directors, principals and teachers from overseas schools participated.

The 20 directors, principals and teachers who participated in the activity came from Chinese schools located in Mandalay and northern regions of Myanmar, and in Chiang Mai of Thailand. They had been working as educators of Chinese language and culture in local schools for a long time. They had taught overseas Chinese children and trained talents with high proficiency in Chinese language. During the activity, the 20 participants visited some places in Yunnan to investigate and exchange opinions. Meanwhile, the organizer arranged medical examinations and health guidance for them.

According to Cun Shoukang, an executive director of Yunhua Normal College in Mandalay which was established in September 2013. In the first term, they recruited 56 students. By September this year, the number of students had increased to 642 people. "After graduation, some students stayed to teach in the school. And a lot of students got a good job easily."

It was introduced that the activity of "Overseas Candles Returning Hometown" was an important part of the "Heat-Warming Project for Overseas Chinese Teachers" organized by the Chinese Language and Culture Education Foundation of China. This activity shows the concern and love of all sectors in China for overseas Chinese teachers and directors of Chinese schools. It is also an encouragement for the new generation of overseas Chinese to pursue careers in the education of Chinese language and culture.

Yunnan-Laos cooperation updated

BY WANG JING

Recently, the seventh meeting of the working team of the cooperation between Yunnan and the Northern Region (Laos) was held in Vang Vieng, Laos. A Memorandum was signed by both parties.

A topic regarding the construction of an economic cooperation zone was specially added for discussion. Over 200 representatives from both parties had a robust discussion on the further cooperation in 8 professional fields including transportation, communication, trade, finance, tourism, culture, and management of border ports etc. Consensus were reached on issues such as to further accelerate the construction of Mohan (China) – Moding (Laos) Economic Cooperation Zone; to deepen the industrial cooperation between both parties; to carry forward the construction of China-Laos Railway; to reinforce the bilateral cooperation on inspection and quarantine; to boost and carry out agricultural cooperation in "multiple channels, deep layers, and broad fields"; to propel the construction of the Golden Quadrangle Tourist Area in the Greater Mekong Subregion; to strengthen the enforcement cooperation in border crossings; to improve the communication jointly; and to enhance the communication and share of educational information between both parties etc. Both parties agreed to carry out pragmatic cooperation together in the future; to continue to strengthen the interface and cooperation in the fields of mutual connection and communication, economy and trade, education, science and technology, and culture etc.; to make further use of the Yunnan – Northern Regions of Laos System as a coordinator and a leader; and to push the Yunnan-Laos cooperation move forward rapidly.

BEAUTIES OF YUNNAN

Encounter with a beautiful autumn

BY HU SIMEI

Autumn is the most beautiful season in Yunnan. Wandering around in Yunnan with a camera, you will definitely be astonished by the land. Embellished with light or heavy colors, Yunnan is always a surprise. Only when the colors jump into your sight, will you realize that Yunnan is so beautiful in autumn.

Lugu Lake

From September to October every year, fields of Kelsang flowers bloom by the Lugu Lake at the junction of Yunnan and Sichuan Province. The blue sky, clear water and beautiful flowers blend into one harmonious scenery of the Lake. Kelsang flower is also called "flower of happiness". In this autumn, go look for a "flower of happiness" of your own by the Lugu Lake!

The Lugu Lake has long been known as a "pearl of plateau". Islands in different shapes stand in the lake gracefully, with verdant trees in picturesque green. If you are here, you will personally experience the primitive simplicity and tranquility.

Dongchuan

Dongchuan (the Red Land) is located in Kunming's northeast. In autumn and winter, some red soil fields are plowed for sowing, while some others are already covered with green seedlings of highland barley, wheat and other crops. When seen from afar, the fields are like color lumps painted in the sky, giving off magnificent and gorgeous tint. With the red soil, images of passionate colors are created. According to experts, this is the most overwhelming red land other than Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, with landscape even more magnificent than the red land in Brazil. Driving an SUV on the red highland, you will experience the pleasure not only from the speed, but also from the excitement and passion.

Bingzhongluo

Bingzhongluo, an ancient village with rustic and simple mores in Nuijiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, attracts many visitors. It is definitely a good choice to walk through Bingzhongluo in autumn and appreciate the beautiful scenery here.

The natural environment of Bingzhongluo is unique and magnificent. Because of the special geographical conditions, a miraculous scene of two sunrises and two sunsets in a day can be seen in the south of Bingzhongluo. In the morning of the Winter Solstice every year, the sun rises slowly from behind the Biluo Snow Mountains. After moving in a long and narrow space in the sky for less than two hours, the sun goes down behind the Gongdang Mountains that stands tall and upright in the southwest corner of Bingzhongluo. Half an hour later, the sun starts to shine again from behind the Gongdang Mountains as if to show its regret. After half an hour, it goes down behind the Gaoligong Mountains to finish the miraculous scene of two sunrises and two sunsets in a single day in Bingzhongluo.

Junzi Mountain

The Junzi Mountain in Shizong County is well known for its "flowers in spring, mushrooms in summer, leaves in autumn and clouds in winter". It is a special fun to visit the Junzi Mountain in autumn to enjoy the leaves and to pick wild fruits.

The Junzi Mountain, the highest mountain in Shizong, is covered with precious and rare trees and exotic grassland. The scenery here is eye-catching in all seasons. The vegetation is well protected. In addition, the mountain is the largest primitive ecological camp in the world. If you visit Junzi Mountain in autumn, you can take a walk on a winding path when the sun is going down into the horizon. With the afterglow dripping through leaves, you will encounter the most beautiful autumn scenery here.



Red soil fields in Dongchuan District, Kunming City Photo by Sun Xiaoyun

CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPETITION



Stunning drum-playing by African students wins cheers and applause from students and teachers from other regions during their visit to Yunnan Nationalities Village on October 23. The visit is an activity of the 8th "Chinese Bridge" language proficiency competition for secondary school students.

Photo by Chen Fei

DIPICING KUNMING-BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY

Kunming-Bangkok Expressway: a green golden belt

BY YOU DAO

I drove along the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway through verdant tropical rainforests. Under the clear blue sky, green leaves glittered like golden stars. I looked out through the window. There is a small river in the valley. The river water, clear and clean, flows slowly. The river is not deep. It must have been formed by mountain streams joining each other. There was a service area right there. Then I stopped for a rest. I walked to the river and scooped some water with hands to wash my face. It was chilly and piercing. I suddenly felt like as if I was enlightened.

Standing by the river, I could sense the cool lingering in the air. Looking into the distance, mountains cloaked in green dancing shadows were shining mysteriously in the sunlight. Time seemed to be frozen at the moment, creating an illusion of entering a dreamy green palace. I continued with the trip and soon arrived at the bank of Mekong River. In the sunset, the view of the river appeared to be different from different distances or different angles. On the water, freighters moved down the river while fast sampans

making their way upstream against the current. When a boat went by, the water was pushed into waves to both sides. The water upsurged like a piece of white jade embedded with many glittering gold plaques. I stayed in a humble hotel in Houayxay of Laos. When the silver moonlight shone through the window, a romantic sentiment suddenly came to me. I walked out of the room, found a special place to sit down. I looked up and the sky was full of stars. Moonlight shone on me, casting a long shadow on the ground. My heart suddenly became intangible. The night sky over cities was already replaced by colorful neon lights. Looking up at the starlit sky had become a memory that was long gone. But by the Mekong, I experienced the romance of shining stars again... Peacefully, I dreamed of a gathering with stars.

The next day, I drove through the Houayxay Bridge and entered Thailand. Mountains were in light and dark green while fields were brightly colored. All through the way, I felt like I became another person. I always believe that people are two-sided. In the cities, people put on masks in order to survive. When they

are back in nature, they get rid of the disguises. Only at this time, they realize the other personality in them. Perhaps driving along the Kunming-Bangkok Highway is a kind of retreat. It starts from Kunming and heads south until it reaches the sea, just like a green golden belt around the waist of the South of Colorful Clouds. It brings leisure to people, supports their thoughts and takes off the prosperity and sophistication of cities.

The other day, Yunnan Daily Press Group launched the "Depicting Kunming-Bangkok Expressway" Photography & Writing Contest. This story is for the Contest. If you have any experienced with the Expressway and are interested in the contest, please share your stories and photos with us at Kunmingbangkok@163.com.

