



ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD

Kunming-Bangkok Expressway offers business opportunities

BY DAI CHUAN

Recently, a team of over 20 business people from the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots travel to Kunming, Fumin, Jinghong, Mohan and other places in Yunnan to explore business opportunities arising from Kunming-Bangkok Expressway.

Taiwan business people have launched this investigation because they are optimistic about Yunnan's unduplicated advantages in implementing the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Zheng Lizhong, executive vice-president of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, said that the ultimate goal of this trip is to encourage Taiwan business people to participate in the "Belt and Road" initiative, and the industrial connection is a specific entry point.

"Given the global economic slowdown, Taiwan business people in Chinese Mainland are also faced with the need of transformation and upgrading. We found that the 'Belt and Road' initiative has brought new market opportunities!" a Taiwan businessman said.

"How should we perform transformation and upgrading? Should we transform from traditional industries to emerging industries, or move from coastal areas to inland areas? Business practices tell us: we should approach the market. The 'Belt and Road' initiative has opened our eyes," said Ding Kunhua, honorary president of the Association of Taiwan Investment

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Since the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2014, the interconnectivity infrastructure construction in the countries along the 'Belt and Road' is developing rapidly, bringing great opportunities for trade with and investment in South and Southeast Asian countries."

Chen Jiaxiong
Chairman of Kunming Unified Biotechnology Company

Enterprises on the Mainland and chairman of Tianjin Kaihua Real Estate Development Co., Ltd. According to Ding, Taiwan business people are turning their eyes from coastal areas to the "Belt and Road."

The China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, covering 11 countries, is the world's most populous free trade zone as well as the largest free trade community of developing countries. As China enhance its reform and opening-up, Yunnan is committed to becoming a pivot of the country's opening up to South and Southeast Asia while bridging between China and ASEAN.

So far, the Association of Taiwan Investment Enterprises on the Mainland has established ten industrial transformation

and upgrading bases in the Chinese Mainland. As the intent of this investigation, Taiwan business people expect to set up an industrial transformation and upgrading base in Yunnan so as to transfer the surplus productivity in the coastal areas so that they can look forward to approaching the ASEAN market.

Actually, in Yunnan, the Taiwan business people have gone so far along the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway as to put forward a business pattern in response to the "Belt and Road" initiative.

"Since the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2014, the interconnectivity infrastructure construction in the countries along the 'Belt and Road' is developing rapidly, bringing great opportunities for trade with and investment in South and Southeast Asian countries," said Chen Jiaxiong, executive vice-president of Kunming Taiwan Compatriots Enterprises Association and chairman of Kunming Unified Biotechnology Co., Ltd. Taiwan business people in Yunnan and Thailand have agreed on terms of cooperation. They are going to build a Kunming-Southeast Asia specialties trading area in Kunming, Thailand-China international trade city in the Chiang Khong Special Economic Zone, Thailand-China commodities wholesale city in Bangkok. Currently, the involved projects have entered the phase of investment invitation.

TOURISM



CITM 2015 held in Kunming

China International Travel Mart 2015(CITM 2015) was held in Kunming from November 13 to 15. It was attended by 1,000 exhibitors and buyers from 105 countries and regions. And 3,250 agreements were reached and signed. CITM is the largest professional travel mart in Asia. It has drawn the attention of people in the tourism industry worldwide. As an annual event, it was held in Shanghai and Kunming alternately.

Photo by Zhang Tong

IN THE NEWS

Kunming-New Delhi flight goes into operation

BY HU XIAORONG

Recently, the Jinan (Qingdao)-Kunming-New Delhi international passenger route went into operation, increasing the number of international routes flying from Yunnan to India to two.

Four flights are scheduled every week for this route. The Jinan-Kunming-Delhi flights SC8827/SC8828 fly on Mondays and Fridays; the Qingdao-Kunming-Delhi flights SC8829/SC8830 fly on Wednesdays and Sundays. They take off from Kunming at 11:30 and arrive in New Delhi 16:30; then they take off from New Delhi at 17:30 and arrive in Kunming at 22:00 (all Beijing Time). Each one-way flight covers a distance of about 2,870 kilometres and lasts about 5 hours. The carrier Shandong Airlines employs 167-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft for the route.

Yunnan inks 561m yuan deals at ATF

BY LI XIAOXU

Yunnan province's delegation inked deals worth 561 million yuan at the 13th China Agricultural Trade Fair (ATF) held in Fuzhou, capital city of Fujian province from Nov. 7 to 10.

The Yunnan delegation also achieved 5.16 million yuan in sales, three times last year's total. Yunnan's brand-name fruit exhibition area won the best organization award presented by the organization committee. Yunnan Hongbing Green Food Company also received a gold award for exhibition products.

At the end of the fair, the Yunnan delegation took possession of the fair's flag as host of the 14th China Agricultural Trade Fair in 2016.

Yunnan TCM products enters US market

BY ZHAO YUANGANG

"Weihe Xuesaitong", a medicine developed by Yunnan Weihe Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd. for promoting blood circulation, recently passed US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) examination and approval and has been accepted for clinical trials. This marks the official entry of the medicine into the US market.

"Weihe Xuesaitong" is an oral preparation of Panax Notoginseng Saponins (PNS). It is a purely natural herbal medicine prepared with advanced extraction and purification technologies from Panax notoginseng that are grown in the Wuliang Mountain, where it is free from pollution within a radius of 493 square kilometres. The product can effectively dredge and soften blood vessels and has an anti-thrombotic and anti-stroke effect for patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, hyperglycaemia and hypercholesterolemia. "Weihe Xuesaitong" is the only Chinese pharmaceutical product of its kind to pass the FDA review and access the US market.

AMBASSADORS

Bangladeshi Ambassador to China: China hopes to share prosperity with its neighbours

BY WANG ZHE

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Bangladesh. The other day, Bangladesh Ambassador Mr. M. Fazlul Karim accepted an exclusive interview with bbs.people.cn on China-Bangladesh relations. Speaking of the BCIM Economic Corridor and "Belt and Road" Initiative, Mr Karim believed the main contents of the two initiatives are highly consistent and he hoped that the "Belt and Road" initiative will help China and Bangladesh to jointly create the "Asian Century."

Mr. Karim said, China and Bangladesh have been linked with each other through the Southern Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road, and are historically and culturally interconnected and economically complementary. We have developed a deep friendship through non-governmental contacts. The BCIM Economic Corridor is of great significance for strengthening regional interconnectivity and generating new economic growth points, and its construction is in line with the fundamental interests of both countries. In December

2014, Bangladesh hosted the Second BCIM Economic Corridor Summit, during which the representatives from different countries held in-depth discussions on cooperation in a number of areas and identified a number of new areas of cooperation. "I believe the BCIM Economic Corridor will greatly promote the development of the four countries(Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar)," Mr. Karim was quoted as saying.

On how to connect the "Belt and Road" initiative with the "BCIM Economic Corridor", Mr. Karim said, the "Belt and Road" initiative focuses on regional interconnectivity, which is well interpreted by the "BCIM Economic Corridor". China hopes to share wealth, prosperity and innovation with neighbouring countries through the "Belt and Road" initiative. Bangladesh is also eager to learn from China's great economic development. He stressed that "In the era of global economic integration, we do not want to be isolated. Instead, we hope to create more opportunities for communication and cooperation so that this century will become a real 'Asian Century'." (people.com.cn)

Foreign ambassadors to China explores Ancient Tea-Horse Road

BY YUE RANRAN

The launching ceremony of "Cherished Memories— Foreign Ambassadors to China Exploring Ancient Tea-Horse Road" was recently held in Kunming. Ambassadors from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic and Vietnam participated in the event.

According to Wang Jun, director of Art Exhibition China, the Ancient Tea-Horse Road originated from the "tea-horse trade" in the Tang(618-907) and Song(906-1279) dynasties and underwent rapid development in the Ming(1368-1644) and Qing(1616—1911)

dynasties. It has been promoting business and trade along the way and has been acting as a thoroughfare of economic and cultural exchanges between China and Southeast Asian countries.

According to Malaysian Ambassador to China Datuk Zainuddin Yahya, it used to take six months of trekking for the caravans to reach the final destination by the Ancient Tea-Horse Road. It witnessed not only trade of tea, salt and sugar but also exchanges and communication of ideas, traditions, culture, literature, technology and personnel. After more than 1,000 years, the Ancient Tea-Horse Road is now revived with the "Belt and Road" initiative.

DEPICTING KUNMING-BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY

Falling in love with Luang Prabang



In the early morning of every day, monks go to fetch their alms in Luang Prabang.

BY CHEN YONGQIANG

Leaving Luang Prabang, I felt a pain in my heart. Then I knew I really had fallen in love with it.

Due to the one-hour difference between local time and Beijing time, I felt time went slowly in Laos. In the morning, I woke up naturally and made a cup of coffee and came to the cloister in slippers. Looking up at the towering trees, I couldn't help wondering: When was Luang Prabang established? Who established it?

I had too many questions, but the shop owner Mimi, a young Lao woman, could understand none of them. When a guest went out, Mimi would stand by the door and say in Lao: "Take your time!" She had a soft voice and a gentle expression, filling your heart with warmth.

Alms-giving is a unique sight of Luang Prabang in the early morning. Under a line of nostalgic street lamps, devout men and women spread bamboo mats on the ground, put down alms and eagerly wait for the

arrival of monks. The day has hardly broken when a group of monks dressed in orange robes appear in the first rays of the morning sun. They pinch a small lump of glutinous rice, take a banana and an orange and put them in the bamboo baskets. Seeing this, you would feel peace of mind as if you were worshipping in a temple.

If you like taking pictures, the classic cars that can be seen everywhere in Luang Prabang are the best props. The tuctucs—big motor tricycles are actually cabs in Luang Prabang. I invited a tricyclist to pose for a picture with me and I asked "How much?" He showed his palm and said "Fifty thousand Lao kips." I was surprised and put out two fingers (Ten thousand Lao kips equal eight yuan). We both laughed and I captured this happy moment with my camera set to burst mode.

In Luang Prabang, a paradise of barbecue lovers, almost every food can be barbecued. This includes chicken, fish, beef, vegetables and fruit. They are good and you can't afford to miss them, and the grilled shrimps are the

Photo by Liu Jianhua

best. It even tastes better than the crab roe and is a real delicacy.

The golden colour of Lao beer is like the sunset glow on the Mekong. During the evening of Luang Prabang, when the waters and skies merge into one colour, you can sit by the river and sip from a glass of beer. The pure coolness will flow into your body like air and brings you serenity.

Recently, Yunnan Daily Press Group launched the "Depicting Kunming-Bangkok Expressway" Photography & Writing Contest. This story is for the Contest. If you have any experiences with the Expressway and are interested in this Contest, please share your stories and photos with us at kunmingbangkok@163.com. Bonuses will be granted to winners.

