



BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

China-Thailand Railway to bring enormous business opportunities

BY DAI CHUAN

According to the Thai Ministry of Transport, the China-Thailand Railway Cooperation Project will break ground on December 19. After the groundbreaking ceremony the Lao section of the China-Laos Railway is expected to start construction this month, and the Kunyang-Yuxi section in China will be ready for integrated commissioning and testing during the second half of 2016. Before or after 2020, Yunnan, Laos and Thailand will be interconnected by rail.

This series of good news greatly inspired Yunnan entrepreneurs attending the 2015 Thailand-China Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum. There, they are discussing what can be transported when the China-Thailand Railway opens to traffic.

"The China-Thailand Railway will greatly facilitate the industrial interconnection among China, Laos and Thailand," said Chen Jiaxiang, Chairman of Kunming Unified Biotechnology Company. When interviewed at the Forum, Chen said that the trains on the China-Thailand Railway will not necessarily transport fresh cut flowers, but there will surely be more value-added flower products.

"How can we make Yunnan flowers directly available to more consumers?" According to Chen Jiaxiang, Yunnan need to step up the development of the floriculture industry, which is closely related to fresh cut flowers. Yunnan must not just export

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primary products, but should also enhance the product value through culture and creativity. The China-Thailand Railway will provide a more convenient and affordable means of transport facilitating this end. In the future, flower cakes, flower tea and deep-processed flower products such as incense, essences and essential oils will be transported to Thailand through the China-Thai Railway before being sold all over the world.

According to Zheng Yike, vice president of the Yunnan-Taiwan-ASEAN Cultural and Trade Promotion Association in Thailand, the demand for electric vehicles from the Thai tourism market is huge. With its unique geographical position, Yunnan will enjoy unparalleled advantages in the export of such vehicles. Currently, China is exporting electric vehicles to India, Pakistan, Turkey and other countries.

As is learnt, Yunnan-made electric vehicles went into production in Kunming in late 2014, and leading elec-

tric vehicle brands such as BYD have long begun to make their presence felt in the Yunnan market. With the opening of the China-Thailand Railway in the future, Yunnan-made electric vehicles will certainly be exported to South and Southeast Asia.

According to reports, the China-Thailand Railway Project will be a double-track railway project covering a total length of 867 kilometres. The design speed is about 180 kilometres per hour. The project will consist of four lines, namely the Kaeng Khoi-Bangkok line, the Kaeng Khoi-MapTa Phut line, the Khorat-Kaeng Khoi line and the Khorat-Nong Khai line. "We hope that the China-Thailand Railway will bring more and better products to Thailand, and Thai consumers will have a new perception of Chinese products," said a Thai entrepreneur. He added that over the past few years, many Chinese brands have actually won increasing recognition in Thailand, and China's high-speed rail technology is especially praiseworthy. The entrepreneur also expressed his hope that the China-Thailand Railway will bring more high-tech products to Thai consumers.

Accordingly, the Chinese section of the China-Laos Railway is progressing smoothly. The construction of the Kunyang-Yuxi section is in full swing, with girder erection, track laying and tunnel digging occurring simultaneously. The Yuxi-Mohan section is also under construction.

ARTS



Scarecrows and Art

The First Dali Scarecrow Field Art Festival kicked off on the shores of Erhai Lake the other day. It was cold and windy and there was a light rain before the opening ceremony, but the scarecrows still attracted many visitors. They took photos with Minions, climbed into the mouth of big cats and explored a labyrinth as if they were children again.

In order to give visitors some hands-on experience, the organizer prepared 99 scarecrow frames in the parent-children interaction area. Then together with their children, they could choose scarecrows to decorate with environmentally friendly materials and experience the fun of DIYing.

Photo by Jiang Yang

NEWS EXPRESS

Laos Jixiang Cement Factory inaugurated

BY LUO RONGCHAN

The Laos Jixiang Cement Factory was built by Yunnan Energy Investment (Group) Co., Ltd., with an investment of 120 million U.S. dollars. It was recently inaugurated in Khammouane Province in Laos.

Governor of Khammouane Province, Oday Soudaphone, expressed his thanks and extended his warm congratulations on behalf of the Lao government during the project's inauguration.

Yunnan Energy Investment Company, and the Laos Ministry of Planning and Investment signed an agreement for the Laos Jixiang Cement Project on March 30, 2012, during the China-Laos Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion. Yunnan Province has provided strong support for this key cooperation project, which involves a total investment of about 120 million U.S. dollars. The factory is located in Khoun Kham County, Khammouane Province. Upon completion, the project is expected to produce one million tons of cement every year, accounting for 20 percent of Laos's cement production capacity. It will mainly serve key projects, such as Laos's infrastructure construction and the building of the China-Laos Railway.

On behalf of the Laos Jixiang Cement Factory, the principal of Yunnan Energy Investment (Group) Co., Ltd. delivered a primary school it constructed as well as funding for road maintenance and transformation for the local government.

Faster customs clearance spurs trade

BY LIU YAN QIN

It was only 20 minutes after the flight arrived when the goods went through inspection and left the airport. This happened on August 7 at the cargo terminal of Kunming International Airport Customs. Yunnan Chineng Trading Co., Ltd., the largest seafood importer in Yunnan, imported 2.75 tons of shrimps, crabs and other seafood from Thailand and quickly completed customs clearance.

According to Li Changchun, general manager of Chineng, the new measures introduced by Kunming Customs such as paperless customs clearance, networking of ports and border crossings have greatly improved the customs clearance efficiency. "As the time for customs clearance of goods has shortened, we dare to accept more orders." Last year, the company's trade volume reached US\$ 15 million, which is expected to increase this year.

Quicker customs clearance is not only improved in the Airport, but also in land ports. Mohan Port is located in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and is one of the most important channels for Yunnan's exports of flowers and vegetables as well as imports of tropical fruits. In the past, truck drivers needed to park the truck first and enter the document verification hall to go through exit formalities. Now, they can sit back in the driver's seat when going through the exit formalities, making it more convenient to export fresh vegetables.

As of November 9, Mohan Port had registered more than one million entries and exits, becoming the third land port in Yunnan Province to register over one million entries and exits after Ruili Port and Hekou Port. Currently, the entries and exits of people and vehicles are growing at an average annual rate of 20 percent. Xu Wenbin, director of the Border Inspection Logistics Department of Mohan Port said that the entries and exits of people are expected to reach 1.2 million by the end of this year.

At Mohan Port, the Border Inspection Station has opened the WeChat public account of "Mohan Border Inspection", which provides timely information service for border crossers.

YUNNAN IN THE EYES OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

My trip to unique Dai villages

BY HAN XUYA

After a two-day visit in Kunming, we, the foreign journalists from ten South and Southeast Asian countries visited Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture. The Prefecture's sweet rice wine, passionate dances, natural beauty and unique ethnic culture and customs left a deep impression on us.

Dehong Prefecture is a multi-ethnic region in southwest China and borders Myanmar.

On June 3, we came to Ruili city of Dehong. Situated near the Myanmar national port city of Muse, Ruili features a flat terrain with no natural barriers in sight. It boasts convenient transport, complete urban amenities and booming business, making it a "golden gate" in southwest China's opening to Southeast Asia and South Asia.

The journalists visited the cross-border Yinjing Village and the Hansha Ethnic Cultural Tourism Village. Yinjing Village is inhabited by Dai people from both China and Myanmar, and international boundaries runs through the village. According to local people, it is quite common when a vine stretches from China into Myanmar to bear a melon, a hen comes from Myanmar to China to lay an egg, or a cow runs from China to Myanmar to drink water.

Beside the national boundaries in Yinjing Village, a small library called the Border Library was set up in December 2014. It provides Chinese, Myanmar and Dai books for free, including many on agricultural science and technology. Today, the Border Library boasts 24,000 books and 900 audio and video products, while receiving about 60 readers on a daily basis. In the cross-border village, there are no conflicts or disputes, and the two peoples have been living in harmony from generation to generation. A Myanmar journalist in our delegation greeted the Myanmar villagers from time to time, saying, "It makes me feel at home."

Entering Hansha Village, the first thing to greet our eyes were the traditional Dai dwellings. In front of each household was an urn of drinking water for passers-by to quench their thirst. We im-



Han Xuya, the writer

Photo by Zhoucan

mediately realised that we were in a village of considerate and hospitable people.

To welcome the group of journalists, Mr. Yuexiang -- the 78-year-old inheritor of the peacock dance -- along with his students, put on a wonderful peacock dance performance. When the elephant-foot drums gave out resonant and vigorous rub-a-dubs, Yuexiang began to dance like a peacock, flying into the air, chasing, sporting, drinking, pecking, spreading his tail feathers and looking into the water. The vivid performance moved many of us to tears.

Yuexiang said that it has been 40 years since he began studying the peacock dance in 1975. In order to improve his dancing skills, he raised peacocks at home to observe their behaviour and integrate them into the dance. An official of the Dehong Prefectural Publicity Department told us that the Dai peacock dance used to only be passed down to male descents. Yuexiang's peacock dance is original, and in 2007 he was selected as the representative inheritor of the Dai peacock dance, which is a national intangible cultural heritage item.

After the performance, we posed for a photo with Yuexiang and his students before reluctantly leaving this beautiful Dai village.

(Note: This is an excerpt from a news story published in "International Daily News" on June 9, Han Xuya)

FIVE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS - "YUNNAN INNOVATION STORIES"

[Editor's note] From October 26 to 29, the Fifth Plenary Session of 18th CPC Central Committee was held in Beijing, which defined the concepts of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared economic development. The five development concepts are the concentrated embodiment of China's development ideas, development direction and development focus in the "13th Five-Year Plan" period and extend into the long-term.

China's "13th Five-Year Plan" objectives cannot be achieved without pragmatic cooperation with the world, and the implementation of the "13th Five-Year Plan" will bring the world more opportunities for development. In order for overseas readers to understand how Yunnan will implement these five development concepts, as well as the difficulties and priorities in the process, we are devoting space to three special columns, namely: "Five Development Concepts - Voice of Yunnan," "Five Development Concepts - Stories of Yunnan" and "Five Development Concepts - Practice of Yunnan". In this issue, let's look at the "Five Development Concepts - Yunnan Innovation Stories."

KPC Pharmaceuticals: Innovation drives development

BY ZHANG WENGE

Since the 1980s, the Coartem series of KPC Pharmaceuticals have become the world's leading anti-malarial drugs, and the medicine is mainly exported to South America, Africa and the South Pacific, saving millions of lives in developing countries and creating numerous miracles of life.

Based on Artemisia annua, Panax, Gastrodia elata and other Chinese medicinal materials, these bio-pharmaceutical products made by KPC Pharmaceuticals have outperformed industry peers. A report by the Group shows that in the first three quarters of 2015, KPC Pharmaceuticals achieved net profit of 311 million yuan, a year-on-year increase of 58.76 percent. According to its development strategy, KPC Pharmaceuticals aims to achieve operating income of ten billion yuan and net profit of one billion yuan by 2019.

"Since our inception 60 years ago, KPC Pharmaceuticals has given priority to research and development. We focus on research and development and upgrading, and we will seek multi-point development with a global perspective," said Dai Xiaochang, president of Kunming Pharmaceutical Group. "We will seek a global presence and develop new bio-medicine with Kunming Baker Norton Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. as a chemical medicine preparation production and marketing platform for the international market, using the 'sugar needle capsule' project of the US Rani Therapeutics as a starting point. Our liquorice project base in Uzbekistan will go into trial operation in the second half of 2015, and our production base in Ethiopia will also complete site selection, planning and design in the second half of this year," he added.

"Innovation is the source of

development. Without innovative thinking, there could not be innovative behaviours, innovative models, innovative work or innovative plans," Dai Xiaochang continued. With the recent wave of changes in biopharmaceuticals, mobile medical services, pharmaceutical e-commerce, wearable devices and other emerging industries, he believes that the pharmaceutical industry has ushered in a new round of opportunities for revolutionary development. "For KPC Pharmaceuticals, we should take the initiative to seek changes and always be first. Then we will naturally achieve business development."

Innovation has brought vitality for Yunnan's pharmaceutical industry. In the first three quarters of this year, Yunnan Baiyao, KPC Pharmaceuticals, Yixintang, Longin Pharmaceutical and other listed pharmaceutical companies have together achieved net profits of over one billion yuan.