



INTERCONNECTIVITY

Yunnan's North-South Road fully upgraded to expressway standards

BY LI CHENGHAN

The 1,032 km long North-South Road in Yunnan was recently upgraded to expressway standards.

Planning and construction of the North-South Expressway began with the Songming-Kunming Expressway (Yunnan's No.1 Expressway) and construction started in September 1994. After years of construction, most of the sections had been upgraded to expressway standards, but there were still some sections of secondary roads. In 2012, Yunnan began to upgrade the entire North-South Road to express-

way standards, expecting to complete construction in three years.

The upgrade of the Road provides a continuous expressway link between Funing County in south Yunnan and Shuifu County in the north. It extends north to the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Zone and the Yangtze River Economic Belt. And it then stretches south to the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone and the Beibu Gulf Economic Zone. And it will provide a strong impetus to Yunnan's efforts to build centres whose spheres of influence extend across South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Hongtu Airlines' first aircraft arrives in Kunming

BY HU XIAORONG

The first aircraft of Yunnan Hongtu Airlines Company recently touched down at Kunming Changshui International Airport.

The A321 aircraft (registration B-8285) departed from Toulouse, France, flew over Tarbes, France and Aktobe, Kazakhstan and arrived in Kunming after a 15-hour flight. The new aircraft is configured in an all-economy class layout featuring

220 economy class seats and is the first Airbus A321-200 purchased by Yunnan Hongtu Airlines.

As a local Yunnan airline, Hongtu Airlines was the first to launch "Ethnic Minority" series aircraft. All of its aircrafts are named after Yunnan's ethnic minority groups, displaying and communicating the minority cultures and customs of Yunnan. The first "Ethnic Minority" series aircraft of Hongtu Airlines was named "Dai nationality".

Track laying begins on Yunnan Section of Shanghai-Kunming High-speed Railway



Photo by Hu Xiaorong

BY HU XIAORONG

Recently, track laying officially began on the Yunnan section of the Shanghai-Kunming High-speed Passenger Railway. This railway will lay the foundation for the opening to traffic of the High-speed Railway by the end of next year.

The plan calls for 382.9 kilometers of through-tracks and 4.43 kilometers of station tracks to be laid in the Yunnan Section. It is understood that the

track laying work is expected to finish in the first half of 2016, whereupon integrated testing and commissioning will commence.

The Shanghai-Kunming High-speed Passenger Railway is 2,264 kilometers long and has a design speed of 300 to 350 kilometers per hour. The Yunnan Section is expected to be operational by the end of next year. By then the travel time between Kunming and Shanghai will be reduced from the current 40 hours to about ten hours.

Yunnan and Huawei to build regional information centre

BY ZUO CHAO

The Yunnan provincial government and Huawei Technologies Company recently signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement in Kunming, capital city of the province.

Under the agreement, the two sides will build an international communications hub and regional information centre oriented towards South Asia and Southeast Asia. They will carry out extensive and in-depth cooperation in promoting the development of Yunnan's cloud computing industry as well as in areas such as the establishment of an industry alliance, the construction of a national supercomputing (Yunnan) centre, the creation of an ecosystem

for intelligent manufacturing, the cultivation of cloud computing talent, industrial planning and market regulation.

It is understood that Yunnan is striving to push forward with its "Yun Shang Yun" action plan in an effort to develop its big data industry, prompting many large domestic information technology companies to establish their presence in Yunnan. Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Huawei, Xu Zhijun said Huawei was very optimistic about the development of Yunnan. His company looked forward to contributing to building a Kunming-based information centre oriented towards South Asia and Southeast Asia.

ECOLOGY



A city of seagulls

Every winter, thousands of black-headed seagulls fly from Siberia to Kunming. This year, their number exceeds 40,000, a historical record.

Photo by Lin Yiguang

DISCOVER YUNNAN

Mysteries of human evolution posed by "Red Deer Cave People" fossils (Part II)

Diversity has always been present in human evolution

Editor's Note: After several years of research into a mysterious fossilized human femur, Chinese and Australian paleoanthropologists found that although the "Red Deer Cave People" who lived in Mengzi, Yunnan, China 14,000 years ago had existed up until the dawn of agricultural civilization, they retained many of the features of *Homo habilis* or *Homo erectus*. Who on earth were the "Red Deer Cave People"? Were they *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus* or *Homo sapiens*? Ji Xueping, director of the Department of Paleoanthropology of the Yunnan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, and Darren Curnoe, professor at the University of New South Wales, Australia uncover the mystery of the "Red Deer Cave People".

BY LING SHUO

"Red Deer Cave People" were originally called "Mengzi People", and were first discovered in a quarry in Wenlan Town, Mengzi County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan. Since a number of large deer fossils were also found, archaeologists later named the site "Red Deer Cave". Ancient humans once living there were in turn named "Red Deer Cave People".

In 2012, Ji Xueping and Curnoe co-published an article in the U.S. journal PLOS ONE. Based on their analysis of the skulls of the "Red Deer Cave People", they concluded that although the "Red Deer Cave People" lived during the age of

anatomically modern humans, they had the features of *Archaic Homo sapiens* that lived at least 100,000 years ago. This suggests a group of *Archaic Homo sapiens* had survived into the age of anatomically modern humans, spanning hundreds of thousands of years.

Ji Xueping said that through current evidence, he could only make some inferences. For example, the "Red Deer Cave People" might be the last *Archaic Homo sapiens* or even the last *Homo habilis* or *Homo erectus* known to have existed. Another inference is that the "Red Deer Cave People" were a product of hybridization between modern humans and an ancient species. Therefore they not only retained the features of

ancient humans, but also exhibited many of the behaviors of modern humans.

"We need to find more fossil skull specimens to determine whether they were a new human species. But so far there is insufficient evidence," said Ji Xueping, "but my position has always been that the diversification of humans began a very long time ago and *Homo erectus* was not necessarily the only human species existing in the age of *Homo erectus*."

"So I can't say for sure the 'Red Deer Cave People' belong to *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus* or *Archaic Homo sapiens*, but they can be called archaic humans," Ji Xueping said. "So it would be most accurate

to say that they were the last archaic humans known to have existed."

In speaking of the greatest value of the "Red Deer Cave People", Ji Xueping said that it had long been held that human evolution proceeded in a straight line, but now more and more evidence suggests that human evolution was a branching process, and diversity has always been present. For example, the Denisovans discovered in Siberia lived alongside anatomically modern humans and Neanderthals 30,000 years ago. The same is true for the "Red Deer Cave People" who were a branch of the human evolutionary tree. (For more information, please visit english.yunnan.cn)

START-UP

Story of a college graduate beekeeper

BY LI HAIQIU

Yun Zhiqin was born in a village in Luquan Yi and Miao Autonomous County, Kunming, capital city of Yunnan province. In 2006, he was admitted to the Biological Technologies and Applications Department at Simao Normal College. In the eyes of his parents, going to college means bidding farewell to rural life and even securing an "iron rice bowl".

But Yun Zhiqin thought differently. He had loved bees ever since he was a child. After conducting a market research study, he found that beekeeping required little investment, but had good market prospects. During his sophomore year, Yun Zhiqin broached the idea of starting a beekeeping business to his parents, but was met with opposition.

The opposition of his family failed to discourage Yun Zhiqin. He learned beekeeping with money set

aside from the allowance given by his parents, while also pursuing his studies. In September 2007, Yun Zhiqin bought seven packages of bees, rented a house outside the campus and began to practice beekeeping.

"No beekeeper is immune from bee stings, but over time, the body will produce antibodies," Yun Zhiqin revealed that at first he was often stung by bees, leaving him with swollen hands and feet. Those classmates who did not know what had happened to him would give him a wide berth. This made him understand the hardships associated with entrepreneurship.

Shortly after getting started in beekeeping, he found dead bees all around the inside of a hive. After analyzing the problem, Yun Zhiqin found that the bees died from lack of nectar due to a shortage of flowers. The bees needed to be fed syrup. Thereupon he tightened his belt and



Yun Zhiqin now earns 400,000 Yuan a year. Photo by Shen Hao

tried to save money for syrup. The rate of dead bees decreased after he adopted this method of beekeeping. But more problems arose as the stock of bees increased and a split needed to be made. This required additional beehives, frames and queen excluders.

In early spring of 2008, Yun Zhiqin's efforts finally paid off: 42 kilograms of honey were harvested.

The honey sold for 40 yuan per kilogram, earning him more than 1,600 yuan. This modest success solidified his confidence in entrepreneurship. By the time he was in his fourth year of college, he owned 50 beehives.

Upon graduation from college, Yun Zhiqin set up his own breeding base. Today, he owns five bee farms and earns 400,000 yuan a year.

EXHIBITION

First Kunming Asia Animation Expo opened

BY JIN NA

Recently, the press conference for the first Kunming Asia Animation Expo was held in Kunming Economy and Technology Development Zone. This expo is the first trial for the development of Yunnan animation, tourism and Internet industries with milestone meaning. It is also the highest-profile international animation expo with the maximum media coverage, most countries attended and maximum resources invested in Yunnan.

During the expo, nearly 20 cooperation intentions were achieved and transaction intention amount involved was more than RMB 15 million. In this expo, there were more than 10 activities arranged such as copyright trading, international animation summit forum, animation + tourism (industry forum), children animation interaction, Cosplay and stay-at-home dances competition, animation exhibition, animation creation show for collage students, financial conference of animation industry and media platform, presenting a grand animation cultural feast.

INVESTMENT

CITIC-led Consortium wins bid for projects in Myanmar

BY ZHUANG BEINING

The Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC) of Myanmar's Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone recently announced that a multinational consortium composed of CITIC Group Corporation, China Tai Group, CHEC, China Merchants Group, Tianjin Teda and Yunnan Construction Engineering Group won the bid for an industrial park project and deep-water port project in the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone.

In order to develop the 1,736-hectare Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone, the government of Myanmar began to openly invite bids from domestic and foreign companies on September 29, 2014. The Assembly of the Union approved a land use plan for the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone on December 29, 2015.

According to the CITIC-led consortium, the industrial park project covers an area of 1,000 hectares and construction is scheduled to proceed in three phases. And work will commence in February this year.