



CHINA • YUNNAN



BUSINESS

21 offices
Yunnan has set up twenty-one overseas business offices

Han Chengyuan

The reporter learned from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce that Yunnan has set up 21 overseas business offices over the past five years, 11 of them set up in 2015, realizing a full coverage over the entire South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Overseas business offices, as permanent institutions to facilitate Yunnan's opening-up and foreign trade, are usually established based on the business presence of key enterprises with major foreign investments. Currently, Yunnan has such offices in Laos, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and so forth.

As Yunnan continues to accelerate its opening-up to South Asia and Southeast Asia, the coverage of Yunnan's overseas business offices will also expand with better management and services.

INDUSTRY

Yunnan Coffee Trade Center starts online trading

Shen Hao and Li Hanyong

The online trade system of Yunnan Coffee Trade Center was officially put into operation on January 12.

The membership-based Center provides one-stop trade-support services including coffee quality evaluation, online and offline transactions, and professional training, which rely on its warehousing facilities, coffee trade system, logistics, technical support and financial services. Currently, it has around 300 supplier members and over 200 buyer members. As its services gradually expand to cover 80% of the coffee-producing areas in Yunnan Province, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries, the Center is becoming a coffee industry information center, coffee price formation center and industrial service center in Southeast Asia

EDUCATION

Yunnan University steps up internationalization



In Yunnan University, a Spanish student gets more acquainted with Chinese culture through the study of calligraphy.

Chu Donghua and Zhang Ruogu

To be more active in cultural exchanges at the international level, Yunnan University, one of the key

higher institutions in southwest China, recently issued a series of measures and regulations.

In the coming five years, the university will call for more participation of its faculty and students in the internationalization drive,

and the international students will be provided with better teaching resources and more opportunities. The Confucius institutes established by the university will be upgraded to international study centers.

Up to now, Yunnan

University has set up three Confucius institutes in Bangladesh, Iran and Myanmar, and another Confucius institute will soon be built up at Dhaka University in Bangladesh. Cooperative ties by the university have been forged with key higher institutions in more than 100 countries, including the US, the UK, France, Canada, Australia, and Israel.

Currently, the university witnesses an increasing number of international students, 33.26 percent of whom come to pursue a degree. More than 300 Chinese students are sent abroad each year to participate in around 40 exchange programs.

By 2020, Yunnan University is expected to enroll 3,000 international students, and at least a quarter of them will pursue academic education.

Photo by Yang Zheng

INTERCONNECTIVITY

Kunming-Bangkok Highway promotes regional interconnectivity

As the 1800-km Kunming-Bangkok International Highway was completed in 2008, regional economic and trade cooperation along the Highway have been substantially improved, with concerted efforts by China, Laos and Thailand. In an interview last December, reporters witnessed the prosperity of the border trade along the Kunming-Bangkok Highway. Picture shows international freight vehicles passing by villages in Laos.

Lei Tongsu and Xu Yan



TECHNOLOGY

Yunnan has bred a perennial rice

Yang Zhigao

At the Yunnan Province Major Scientific and Technological Achievements Conference (Rice Science and Technology Session), it was announced that Yunnan researchers have bred a perennial rice that farmers can plant once and harvest for several years on end.

With the embryo rescue technique, Tao Dayun at the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Hu Fengyi at the School of Agriculture of Yunnan University obtained the F1 hybrid generation of RD23 and long stamen wild rice and bred many progeny populations. In addition, based on the

perennial characteristics of long stamen wild rice, they bred a series of perennial varieties. These perennial rice varieties can overwinter while most ratoon rice varieties cannot.

So far, the perennial rice cultivated by Hu Fengyi and his colleagues has been planted on 5,000 mu of land. Some varieties are

so strongly perennial that you can plant them once and harvest them for four or five years; they have good overwintering ability and produce stable yield. Last year, the yields per mu of early rice and late rice were 449.5 kilograms and 450.2 kilograms, respectively. According to Hu Fengyi, this perennial

rice can be harvested twice a year in places such as Xishuangbanna where double-cropping rice is planted and once a year in places where single cropping rice is planted. This year this perennial rice will be planted in Kunming, Yuxi and other places to see whether it is suitable for these places.

LIFE

Free passport delivery makes traveling easier



A staff member of EMS prepares the passports to be delivered.

Zhu Hai and Li Qiuming

Li Dan, a resident of Kunming, received her newly-applied passport from the courier on January 15. "I'm lucky to be the first one to enjoy this free delivery service. It makes passport application more convenient," she said happily, "The processing time is also short. I applied on January 5 and got it today."

According to staff of China Express Mail Service (EMS) Yunnan branch, since January 1, the cost for courier delivery of passports would be borne by local public finance, and the delivery service be undertaken by the EMS, the first practice of its kind in China. Residents applying for travel documents can choose to get their documents in person or via free EMS delivery.

EMS Yunnan branch has a dedicated team to handle travel documents with appointed personnel tracking the parcels, so as to ensure all the documents are received by their intended recipients.

For more information, please visit our website: english.yunnan.cn

