

YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

# CHINA·YUNNAN



YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

The Nation

Friday, February 5, 2016

english.yunnan.cn

## TECHNOLOGY

Yunnan perennial rice provides strong overwintering ability, stable yield and good taste

# A crop you plant once and harvest for four or five years

BY YANG ZHIGAO

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

Accordingly, the world's cultivated rice species include Asian and African cultivated rices. However, due to the interspecific hybrid sterility gene, varietal hybridization and gene exchange used to be impossible between Asian and African varieties. This restricts the cultivation of high-quality rice

varieties. Later, researchers successfully cloned the interspecific hybrid sterility gene and bridged interspecific gene exchanges.

"A rice variety you plant once and harvest for several years on end" sounds like a dream but has become a reality through researches made by Tao Dayun at the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Hu Fengyi at the School of Agriculture of Yunnan University.

The two researchers started their work from the long stamen wild rice originated in West Africa. As a perennial herbaceous plant, long stamen wild rice has a well-developed subterranean stem and strong resistance to pests and diseases.

With the embryo rescue technique, Tao Dayun and Hu Fengyi 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.

"Twenty years ago, I thought of converting rice from an annual crop into a perennial one, just like fruit trees," said Hu Fengyi. So far, the perennial rice cultivated by Hu Fengyi and his colleagues has been planted on 825 acres 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 acre of early rice and late rice were 74.17 kilograms and 74.28 kilograms, respectively.

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

## About the Rice

- **Characteristics:** Strongly perennial, good overwintering ability, and stable yield.
- **Yield per acre:** 74.17 kilograms for early rice and 74.28 kilograms for late rice in last year's trial planting.
- **Taste:** The perennial rice tastes the same as normal rice when cooked, though the quality also varies.

- **Harvesting method:** Cut off the superterranean part and leave the subterranean stem; no tillage is needed. The next year, new rice plants will grow from out of the subterranean stem and can be harvested again. Plant the perennial rice once and it can be harvested four or five years.

## COOPERATION

# Yunnan-Thailand trade to open new model of cooperation

BY ZHAO GANG

The Thai Pavilion Group and the Hao-hong Industrial Park have jointly built a large Thai goods trade zone in Kunming, where Chinese consumers will be able to buy products of more than 2,000 Thai companies.

The Thai Pavilion Group is a large Bangkok-based company mainly engaged in import and export of Thai products. The Thai Pavilion project of Kunming will be opened before the Chinese New Year. The project is designed to bring Thai products, services and culture into Yunnan market and open a new model of cooperation for

Yunnan-Thailand trade.

The Thai Pavilion project will showcase and sell high quality Thai products, including farm produce, snacks, medicines, health products and industrial products to Kunming businesses and people. Meanwhile, the Thai Pavilion project will integrate the advantageous resources of Thai Pavilion Group and Yunnan Hao-hong Group to promote Thailand-Yunnan trade and build an e-business platform for Thai goods. Consumers will be able to communicate with Thai people, learn Thai language, buy Thai goods, enjoy Thai foods and experience Thai culture and customs.

## CHINA IN THE EYES OF FOREIGNERS

# Thai reporters give thumbs-up to pottery of Guangxi

BY CHEN YAN

"It takes just some clay to make these exquisite and lifelike pottery handicrafts. It's so amazing," Wangwiwattana, a reporter from the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand exclaimed while visiting Qinzhou Nixing Pottery Culture Creative Industry Park in Guangxi Province recently.

This visit is one of the activities during the "Reporters from Media Outlets in Thailand Visit Guangxi and Guizhou Event" held recently in Guangxi. Eight members of the Thai-Chinese Journalists Association from the Asia Pacific Bureau of People's Daily, FM 103 station in Thailand, Bangkok Today, Thailand's Nation TV, the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand, Thai Television Channel 3, Thailand's TrueVisions, etc. attended the event.

During the visit to Qinzhou Nixing Pottery Culture Creative Industry Park, reporters from media outlets in Thailand gave a thumbs-up to Nixing pottery after learning about the history and culture of traditional Nixing pottery.

In the Qinzhou Nixing Pottery Museum and the Nixing Pottery Traditional Arts and Crafts School, the press delegation was captivated by the lifelike Nixing pottery handicrafts. They were even more amazed by the Nixing pottery production process.

The Qinzhou Nixing pottery with more than 1,300 years of history is renowned both at home and abroad for the clay that is only available locally and the "kiln transformation" art that cannot be copied. It is the only one of its kind in China and one of the four famous pottery in



**It takes just some clay to make these exquisite and lifelike pottery handicrafts. It's so amazing."**

Wangwiwattana

A reporter from the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand

China – the other three being the Violet Sand Earthenware of Yixing in Jiangsu Province, Jianshui pottery in Yunnan Province and Rongchang pottery in Sichuan Province and has been included in the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

In recent years, the local government has been promoting Nixing pottery as an important industry, putting the development of Nixing pottery in the fast lane.

Last year, the local government spent 1.5 billion yuan to build a Nixing pottery cultural and creative industries park covering an area of 445.5 acres (Millennium Ancient Pottery Town). So far 28 Nixing pottery businesses and 15 masters have signed a lease and entry agreement.

Reporters from mainstream media outlets in Thailand said they would introduce the excellent traditional culture of Guangxi to more people through what they saw and heard after they returned to Thailand.

## LOW CARBON



## A low-carbon wedding

Recently, a "grand" electric bicycle wedding was held in Kunming. A total of 100 electric bicycles followed a festively decorated electric bicycle, on which the bride and groom headed happily towards a happy marriage.

The groom Ye Jingxian is a salesperson of an electric bicycle brand. The bride Liu Linglin once bought an electric bicycle from the groom before they fell in love with each other. To commemorate the electric bicycle's role in their love and call on more people to protect the environment, they held a simple yet stylish low-carbon wedding.

Photo by Zhou Mingjia

## BUSINESS

# 7 ports in Yunnan designated as ports of entry for grain imports

BY LI CHAO

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China recently announced the country's ports of entry and inspection for grain imports. On the list are seven ports in Yunnan, namely Rui-li, Wanding, Hekou, Mohan, Tianbao,

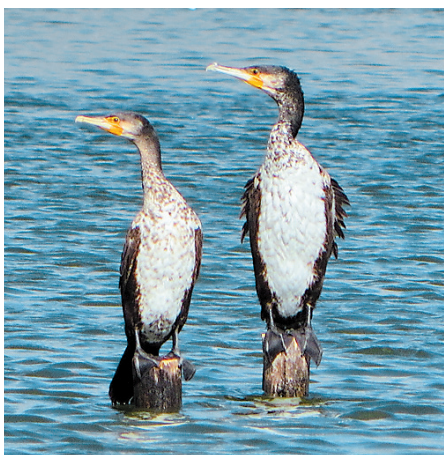
Mengding and Houqiao (Tengchong). Among them, Tianbao is the only port designated as an inspection point for the import of cassava.

As an important area of China facing South and Southeast Asia, Yunnan has 25 counties (cities) bordering Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. In order to effectively prevent and reduce foreign

pests and other potential security risks from grain imports, China AQSIQ and other relevant ministries require that key sensitive goods must be imported via designated ports of entry starting last year. Detailed standards and strict rules have been prescribed for the construction and appraisal of designated ports of entry.

## ECOLOGY

# Wild cormorants come back to Dianchi Lake after 30 years



Wild cormorants in Dianchi Lake  
Provided by Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau

BY LI CHAO

Wild cormorants have been seen recently again in the Dianchi Lake after an absence of more than 30 years, the Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau disclosed at a recent press briefing.

Dianchi Lake is the largest of its kind on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. It has been listed by Birdlife International as an important bird area in Asia because of its abundant bird resources. Over the past five decades, according to Zhao Xuebing, Secretary-General of the Kunming Bird Watching Association, a large number of ponds and wetlands in the Di-

anchi Lake drainage basin disappeared, depriving many waterfowl of their natural habitats.

A few days ago, a local photography enthusiast surnamed Wang was taking photos beside Dianchi Lake when he spotted three large dark-feathered birds with long pointed beaks. At the press briefing, the Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau confirmed that the three large birds were wild cormorants, which have been absent from Dianchi Lake for three decades. There are a very small number of wild cormorants in China at present. In 2013, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) includes

the wild cormorant on the Red List of Threatened Species.

"With the ecological construction around Dianchi Lake, the lake ecosystem is improving and the biodiversity has been restored to a certain extent," said Wang Lihua, deputy director of the Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau. In recent years, the improving ecological environment around the Dianchi Lake has attracted significantly more birds to live or winter there. Of the 140 species of birds observed in this area, many are newly recorded in Yunnan, and the Anastomus oscitans observed here in 2013 even marked a new record in China.

## TRAVEL

# Yunnan to open first cliffside glass walkway

BY QIN MENGJIN

In the Shimenguan scenic area on the western slope of Cangshan Mountain in Yangbi County of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, a 1,550-metre-long and 170-metre-high tourist walkway is going into trial operation. It includes a breath-taking cliffside glass section that extends for 80 metres. The walkway was developed by Cangshan Shimenguan Tourism Development Company.

According to Ji Xiaodong, chairman of Cangshan Shimenguan Tourism Development Company, the cliffside glass walkway is the first of its kind in Yunnan and is longer than the glass walkway in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park by 20 metres. The glass for the two walkways was produced by the same manufacturer. The walkway also provides a glass viewing platform that stretches out from the cliff wall for seven metres, where tourists can get a bird's view of the cliffs, waterfalls and pools.

Following the opening of the cliffside glass walkway, the five-star Shimenguan Hotel, the Old Village Head Inn and the Bai Ethnic Dwellings Hotel will go into trial operation. In addition, an outdoor spa establishment will be completed in the near future.