



CULTURE



Spring Festival around the corner

Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival, has more than 4,000 years of history. It is the grandest and most important annual event for Chinese people. The preparation starts seven days before the New Year's Eve, and the holiday celebration will last to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month. During the Festival, people have different things to do each day. Among these days, the Eve and the first day are the peak time and people have big dinners and set off fireworks. This year, the Festival starts from February 7 (the Eve) in the solar calendar. In the photo, a local elderly lady is selecting decorations for the forthcoming Festival at a Walmart in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Photo by Yang Zheng

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Consul-General New Year Storytelling Concert 2016 held

BY CHEN XIAOBO

The second "I have a date with Yunnan" Consul-General New Year Storytelling Concert 2016 was held recently in Kunming. The event related the experiences of foreign consuls-general in Yunnan and China, as well as cultural exchanges between China and other countries.

The Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Lao, Malaysian, Myanmar, Thai and Vietnamese consuls-general in Kunming, and the Indian consul-general in Guangzhou, watched the performances.

The folk dances *Beyond the Southern Clouds* and *The Moon and Flowers Reflected in Water*, the acrobatic show *The Maiden and the Drum* and the artistic performance *The Tiger Drum* demonstrated Yunnan's intoxicating culture. A selection of eight other performances, namely *Chinese Spices*, *Path of the Wind*, *Love of Tea on the Silk Road*, *Colourful Fields in the Distance*, *The Story of Window Papercuts*, *Vietnamese Seafood in Yunnan*, *A Zen Farewell* and *A Dialogue Between Dancers*, told eight stories corresponding to the experiences of eight foreign consuls-general in China. These performances showcased an amicable, faithful, friendly, open and inclusive image of modern China.

Indian students finish hotel internships in Kunming



Affan(left) and Pawan are going to work.

Photo by Ma Xiao

BY LUO RONGCHAN

Recently, Kunming Expo Garden Hotel held a special farewell party for twelve interns from India. In the blink of an eye, they have finished their six-month internships in China.

Pawan is a 23-year-old man from Bombay. He said emotionally, "Before coming to China, I was a little worried. Upon arrival, however, I felt as if at home. People here are friendly and helpful. The six-month internship is my happiest experience."

Pawan and other interns are from schools of at the Indian

Institute of Hospitality and Management (IIHM) in different Indian cities. This is their first "Chinese experience", as well as an important part of their professional training.

In the second quarter of 2015, the Yunnan Expo Tourism Group began to provide internships for the IIHM students in its subsidiaries, Kunming Expo Garden Hotel and Kunming Hotel. The project is the first in the country and involved a total of seventeen Indian students.

The 19-year-old Indian student Affan found his internship in China essential and rewarding. "Many students

chose hotels in the United States, Dubai and other countries for their internships, but I decided to go my own way. China is so close to India, but why do we not know enough about it? Why is China developing so fast? I wanted to find the answers myself."

As the internship came to an end, Affan described his "Chinese experience" as "unexpectedly great." He is now considering opening a Chinese-style hotel in India after graduation. "I want to integrate Chinese culture, Chinese tea ceremonies and people-oriented services in my hotel. I wish my guests will fall in love with Chinese tea culture. I like everything about China," he said.

Throughout the six-month internship, the Indian students not only obtained a deeper understanding of hotel management, but also experienced cultural differences between India and China. Avinash from Calcutta felt lucky to get an internship in China. He said, "Here managers treated us fairly and helped us solve many problems. The people-oriented management is the most valuable thing we learned in China."

TRAVEL

Folk inns: A window on Yunnan

BY HU SIMEI

"Travelling in Yunnan, especially in Dali, Lijiang and Shangri-la, you must stay at folk inns to experience local culture," said Miss Li from Guangzhou. Today, staying at folk inns has become an essential experience for tourists coming to Yunnan.

As a window on Yunnan's local characteristics, folk inns are seen everywhere around popular tourist destinations such as Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-La, Tengchong and Xishuangbanna. Currently, there are thousands of folk inns in the province, including about 3,000 in Lijiang, 3,800 in Dali, 300 in Xishuangbanna and 300 in Tengchong.

These folk inns are of unique architectural styles and are beautifully decorated. They often make headlines in media. Some have even become well-known for appearing in TV series. Folk inns and rural tourism are forming a new model of tourist experience in Yunnan, catering to the needs of different tourists with a wide range of rates.

In late 2015, the State Council of China proposed for the first time "to actively develop folk

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Fan Dehua

President of Yunnan College of Tourism

inns, short-stay apartments, long-stay apartments and other minute branch industries," promising multi-dimensional policy support to such life services. "The state policy explicitly proposed to develop folk inns. It will have a positive effect on the development of folk inns in Yunnan in 2016," said Fan Huade, president of the Yunnan College of Tourism.

"By December 2015, Dali and Lijiang have developed a mature business model," said Yang Hongzhong, president of the Dali Folk Inn Association. "Folk houses and

folk customs are what distinguish folk inns from business hotels. Running folk inns requires an in-depth understanding of local culture. Folk inns should be personalized and differentiated. They should be small but excellent, enabling tourists to experience the profound local culture."

"Yunnan boasts favourable conditions for developing folk inns. Well-operated folk inns are usually located in ancient buildings within cities and counties with profound history and culture. Many places in Yunnan integrate history, culture and natural beauty. We should make the best of these unique advantages to increase the value-added aspects of our folk inns," said Fan Dehua.

"At present, besides online marketing, folk inns rely on guest referrals to a large extent. Satisfied guests often recommend to others the folk inns in which they have stayed. A lot of better-run folk inns provide good services and enjoy good reputations. Service awareness is essential in raising the value-added aspects of folk inns," said Wang Lidong, president of the Lijiang Folk Inn Association.

DISCOVER YUNNAN

Canola flowers blooming in Luoping



131,200 acres of canola flowers in Yunnan Province's Luoping County are already in full bloom, turning fields into a bright golden colour and betokening the arrival of Spring. On February 8, the Luoping International Canola Flower Cultural Tourism Festival will kick off. Activities will include performances by Royal International Circus, camping parties, an international kite tournament, a national cross-country championship and cycling races.

Photo by Mao Hong

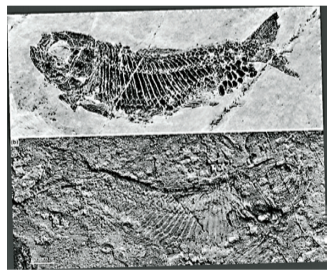
Venusichthys comptus fossils discovered in Yunnan

BY QI FANG

Xu Guanghui, of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Zhao Lijun of the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, discovered a new species of stem-neopterygian fish that lived 240 million years ago in Yunnan. The two researchers gave it a beautiful name: *Venusichthys comptus*. Most remarkably, the *Venusichthys comptus* fossils show secondary sexual characteristics. The discovery, which was published in a recent issue of *Science Bulletin*, represents the oldest known secondary sexual characteristics in neopterygii.

Secondary sexual characteristics are features that appear at sexual maturity and distinguish the two sexes of a species. They are readily observed

and studied in living animals, but are more difficult to identify in fossils. Researchers discovered *Venusichthys comptus* in the form of more than 30 fish fossils from the Middle Triassic (Pelsonian, Anisian) Luoping Lagerstätte in Yunnan. It is evident that *Venusichthys comptus* is sexually dimorphic, because adult males show secondary sexual characteristics, including pointed tubercles on cranial bones, scales and fins, and a hook-like contact organ anterior to the anal fin. According to Xu Guanghui, like Guizhou *Peltopleurus orientalis* and *Wushaichthys exquisitus*, Yunnan *Venusichthys comptus* has high-side scales, but it does not have the anal fins characteristic of *Peltopleurus*, a prehistoric flying fish, or other ovoviparous fish. Previous studies showed that *Peltopleurus* and pre-



Fossils of female *Venusichthys comptus* Provided by Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

historic flying fish conceive by vivo fertilization and are ovoviparous. Therefore, scientists speculate that *Venusichthys comptus* might have conceived by vitro fertilization and be oviparous. (*Guangming Daily*)

INVESTMENT

131 Top 500 companies set up offices in Yunnan

BY LI DANDAN

According to the Yunnan Provincial Investment Promotion and Cooperation Bureau, a total of 22 world's Fortune 500 enterprises and 109 China's top 500 companies set up offices in the province during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period.

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan period witnessed the fastest growth and the largest contribution in Yunnan's efforts to attract foreign businesses and investment. During this period, investment in Yunnan from other Chinese provinces exceeded two trillion yuan, and actually utilized foreign investment reached 12 billion US dollars, 4.9 times

and 3.1 times those of the Eleventh Five-Year period, respectively. The capital availability ratio of industrial investment projects rose from 40 percent in 2011, to 56 percent in 2015.

In the past five years, many well-known companies set up offices in Yunnan and expanded their fields of investment. The arrival of

foreign banks and institutions such as HSBC, Hang Seng, Bank of East Asia, Standard Chartered Bank and Malayan Bank has brought the number of foreign banks operating in Yunnan to seven. Bayer AG, Israel Chemicals, Hang Lung, Uni-President, ZTE, Ming Yang Group, New Hope, Wahaha, BAIC Motor Corporation and other

famous domestic and foreign enterprises have settled in Yunnan as well, bringing the number of world top 500 companies and China's top 500 companies in the province to 22 and 109, respectively. A total of 52 brands, comprising 27 domestic and foreign hotel groups, such as Intercontinental Hotel, Hilton, Shangri-La, MGM and Windham

have made their presence felt in Yunnan, and have promoted the province's tourism industry. The introduction of Huawei, Inspur Cloud Computing, Alibaba Group and other projects have instilled a strong driving force in the cultivation and development of emerging industries in the province. Clothing, toy and electronics projects at

the Yanshan Industrial Park, a toy manufacturing project at Zhaotong Industrial Park, a textile project in the Baoshan Industry and Trade Park, and garment processing, footwear making and other industrial transfer projects at the Lincang Industrial Park, have also promoted industrial clustering and capital agglomeration.