



BUSINESS STORY

## An enterprising spirit in a disabled body

BY LI XIUCHUN

Ding Caixiang lives in Xi-hao Village, Huaping County in northwest Yunnan Province. When he was 18 years old, he suffered a back injury in an accident, which rendered him permanently disabled. However, he did not lose heart but instead achieved his entrepreneurial dream.

Ding Caixiang set up a walnut orchard. Every time when he handles walnut seedlings, it would be a difficult task for him because he relies on crutches to take every step and make every movement. However, despite these difficulties, Ding Caixiang was full of youthful spirit and talked confidently about his life.

"For several years after the accident, I could hardly get out of bed or take care of myself," said Ding Caixiang. Not wanting to be a burden of his aged parents, he was determined to be self-reliant and chose to leave the village in search of job.

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“Accidents are sometimes inevitable in life. Persevere and you will see the most beautiful scenery. It is not dire to have a disabled body as long as your spirit is not broken.”

Ding Caixiang

However, Ding Caixiang soon realised that physical disability made it harder for him to work in a city. In 2012, he returned home and attended a planting and breeding training course organized by the Disabled Persons Federation of Huaping County. "The training gave me confidence. However difficult it could be, I decided to make my fortune in the village," he said.

To date, Ding Caixiang has planted 13.05 acres of walnut trees and 4.8 acres of pepper trees, and he also raises chickens and pigs in the orchard. Last year, his peppers brought in 6,000 yuan.

Villagers are inspired by the deeds of Ding Caixiang. "Seeing a disabled person actively seeking development, we work even harder to make our lives better," said Gu Zhengqian, leader of the village. Ding Caixiang has set up an example for other villagers with the enterprising spirit contained in his disabled body.

"Accidents are sometimes inevitable in life. Persevere and you will see the most beautiful things," says Ding Caixiang. "It is not dire to have a disabled body as long as your spirit is not broken." Ding Caixiang is sure of wonderfulness in the stage of his life.

# Overseas investment by Yunnan enterprises maintaining rapid growth

BY LUO RONGCHAN

In 2015, overseas investment by Yunnan enterprises continued to maintain a high growth rate. By the end of the year, the number of Yunnan enterprises (institutions) investing in other countries reached 635, with actual overseas investment amounting to 5.76 billion US dollars. Among these, 103 enterprises engaged in overseas investment were newly established in 2015, registering direct overseas investment of 1.344 billion US dollars, a year-on-year increase of 30.4 percent.

Yunnan companies made breakthroughs in new markets while maintaining strong positions in traditional ones. Five GMS countries (Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and

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5 countries

in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam) are main overseas investment destinations for Yunnan enterprises.

high-end

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Vietnam) are the main overseas investment destinations for Yunnan enterprises. In 2015, Yunnan companies set up 67 subsidiaries in Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, accounting for 65 percent of foreign companies newly established by Yunnan entities over the same period. Yunnan companies actually invested 793 million US dollars in the five GMS

countries, accounting for 59.4 percent of actual overseas investment over the same period. Meanwhile, Yunnan companies accelerated exploration of new markets by setting up branches in the UK, India, New Zealand and Canada. So far, Yunnan companies have invested in 45 countries.

State-owned enterprises main-

tained investment momentum and private enterprises also delivered remarkable performances. In 2015, the Yunnan Investment Group and other state-owned enterprises actually completed overseas investment of 655 million US dollars, accounting for 49.1 percent of the province's overseas investment over the same period. Private enterprises

were very active. Of the province's 103 newly approved overseas investment companies, there were 89 private enterprises, accounting for 86.4 percent of the provincial total. These private enterprises invested 679 million US dollars in foreign countries over the same period, accounting for 50.9 percent of the provincial total.

Investment industries are increasingly diversified and the field of investment continues to expand. In 2015, the province's overseas investment covered nine industries. Newly approved investment companies expanded to high-end manufacturing sectors including pharmaceutical manufacturing and emerging service sectors such as ecological protection, environmental governance, e-commerce service and the cultural industry.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

## It proved correct for me to choose Kunming: Mimane

BY LIU ZIYU

If you come to the Dangsters Dance Studio in Baoshan Street in Kunming, you will see vibrant young people talking about and practising the steps that they have just learned. Many people are attracted here not just to learn to dance but also to meet Mimane, manager of the studio.



Mimane (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with his friends Photo by Liu Ziyu

Mimane and his friends set up the Dangsters Dance Studio. With a professional Euro-American teaching style, the studio attracts two to three hundred hip-hop enthusiasts every day. "There are an increasing number of hip-hop dancers. Young parents are willing to let their kids learn hip-hop," said Mimane. He feels that the development of hip-hop training reflects the changes in the thinking and lifestyles people in Kunming.

When Mimane's dances met Yunnan's ethnic customs, the result was a wonderful "chemical reaction." He said, "Yunnan's diverse ethnic dances are simply a treasure house. Some instructors of our studio are local and professional dancers, so we often integrate Yunnan's ethnic elements into hip-hop." In 2013, Dangsters collaborated with a French dance group in developing a dance drama entitled *Feng Shui*, combining Yunnan's traditional dances with modern hip-hop. *Feng Shui* was not only introduced to audiences in domestic cities such as Kunming, Chongqing and Chengdu, but also went on a three-month tour of more than 30 French cities. And it was well received by both domestic and foreign audiences. "I recently participated in preliminary research work for a proposed French language alliance," said Mimane. He hopes that the alliance will become a window on French culture for more Kunming people.

Mimane met a lot of difficulties in Kunming in the past eight years, but the team is always united. He said happily, "It proves to be correct for me to choose Kunming." Actually, he has made a group of friends and met his love as well. Now, his parents often come from France to visit them in Kunming.

Mimane's dancing career saw new development not long ago. On New Year's Day, 2016, some members of Dangsters Dance Studio came to Kunming Xinying Primary School and taught the kids hip-hop. "It is our plan to be involved in more social activities and introduce hip-hop to more people," Mimane said. He was very happy to see the kids' smiling faces.

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Mimane  
Manager of Dangsters Dance Studio

Mimane, or Laomi among his friends, is a French guy. Having lived in Kunming for eight years, he is already an "old Kunminger."

Mimane first came to China as an exchange student. After a year of study in Shanghai, he considered three cities for his second year in China, namely Chengdu, Xi'an and Kunming. His final choice was Kunming. He said, "I chose Kunming just for its mild weather." And this decision took his life in a new direction.

Mimane had fallen in love with hip-hop since his childhood. In Kunming, he met the local dance group Dangsters and often shared his dancing skills with its members. Mimane soon came up with an idea: "Why can't I make a career of my hobby?" In 2009, after some preparations,

CULTURE



On December 22, Zhiqiu Yi People's Costume-Competition Festival opens in Zhiqiu Village, Yongren County. Thousands of local Yi people are dressed in meticulously stitched clothes and attend the event where they compete who is the most beautifully dressed, who sings the best, who dances the best and who is the most pretty. The festival has a history of 1,300 years. Photo by Chen Fei

COOPERATION

## Remarkable effects achieved in joint patrol of the Mekong

BY YANG XI

As the 41<sup>st</sup> China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand joint patrol of the Mekong came to a successful end, more than 170 law enforcement personnel recently disembarked at Guanlei Harbour in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province.

During the joint patrol, the four countries sent a total of ten law enforcement boats. The action lasted four days and three nights. In the Golden Triangle, the personnel searched for illegal action, vis-

ited local people, organised anti-drug publicity events and carried out cultural exchanges. In addition, they also intensified efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes along the Mekong.

During the joint patrol and law enforcement, the four sides held a multilateral information exchange conference in Muang Mo, Laos, sharing the current security situation in the Mekong Basin and arriving at further consensus on closer cooperation and more joint law enforcement. The joint law enforcement personnel patrolled 512

kilometres from China's Guanlei Harbour to the Golden Triangle Area.

With the combined efforts of the four countries, joint patrol of the Mekong are currently conducted on a monthly basis. The four sides' law enforcement bodies are carrying out more frequent exchanges and closer cooperation. Their joint maritime search and rescue, emergency responses to major epidemic situations and anti-drug operations are effectively safeguarding the security and stability of the Mekong Basin.

## MOU signed to protect Asian elephants in Yunnan

Elephants Parade (China) signed a project operation MOU with the Wild Elephant Valley in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province on February 16.

The elephant parade project is an international brand activity of public good to protect and rescue Asian elephants. The project targets to promote Asian elephant conservation by making and selling elephant-related creative products. 20% of the net profit will be donated to elephant welfare agencies across the world. China has made great efforts to protect Asian elephants which are the Class I protected animals at the national level in the country.

Photo by Dai Zhenhua

