**ECONOMY**

**Bio-pharmaceutical industry leads the development of SEI in Yunnan**

By the end of 2015, the total output value of the province’s medicine industry is expected to reach 97 billion yuan.

Hu Xiaorong

Over the past five years, cultivating strategic emerging industries (SEI) in Yunnan Province has achieved initial success and the ability to innovate continues to improve. Because new information technologies are constantly developing, new economic forms and new industrial patterns ceaselessly emerged in large numbers. SEI have begun to take shape.

The fastest and best development period for the bio-pharmaceutical industry was from 2011 to 2015 in Yunnan Province. The compound annual growth rate of total output value in the province’s medicine industry is expected to be 18 percent, with a sales revenue growth rate of 26 percent and an annual growth rate total profit of up to 20.57 percent. By the end of 2015, the total output value of the province’s medicine industry is expected to reach 37 billion yuan. Aggregation zones of modernized traditional Chinese medicine, new vaccines and the development of the biotechnology pharmaceutical industry in Kunming City were all included in a pilot site for the regional concentration and development of national SEI in 2015. The core area of the Kunming national biological industry base (Kunming National High-Tech Industries Development Zone) gathers more than 80 percent of biotechnology companies in the province. Led by a group of enterprises including Yunnan Baiyao Group Company (YNBY) and Kunming Longjin Pharmaceutical Company, the growth rate of total business revenue in the core area is expected to be ten percent, or 38.5 billion yuan. Over the past five years, the National Development and Reform Commission has provided a full range of support for such industries, including policy, fund and technology innovation to the development of tele-medicine in Yunnan Province. In the future, telemedicine is expected to become a new growth point among Yunnan’s SEI. At the same time, along with new emerging forms and patterns in biotechnology medicine, Yunnan biological medicine will achieve innovative breakthroughs based on the “Internet Plus” model.

Leading enterprises are rising quickly among SEI. In 2013, Yunnan identified 27 enterprises -- including YNBY, as fostering objects for leading enterprises among SEI in the province, with a cultivation period of three years. At present, fostering objects of SEI maintain rapid development, with the continuous development of core industry competitiveness and the enhancement of sustainable development.

**FINE VIEW**

**Canola flowers blooming in Luoping**

When northern China is still a world of ice and snow, 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.

Photo by Mao Hong

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**FLOWERS**

**Hot sales of Douman Flowers**

Since the Spring Festival, trade of Kunming Dounan International Flower Market has been particularly lively. Roses as the representative of fresh cut flowers, gains a good rising of transaction volumes and prices. Every day more than 600 tons of fresh cut flowers are shipping to over 80 large and medium-sized cities in China in order to meet the market needs.

The photo shows the florists are sorting the roses.

Photo by Yang Zheng

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**INTERCONNECTIVITY**

**Xiaomo Highway under construction**

By Yunling Expressway Construction Group Company – project manager Liu Honggang was inspecting the site. He said, “The geological structure of our section is complex, and it is difficult to build with such heavy tasks and tight time frames. Since its commencement in early October of last year, we have never delayed a day. We only had three days free for this Spring Festival. Most people celebrated the festival at the site.”

Section V is 9.76 kilometer long, with an estimated investment of 320 million yuan, including 15 bridges and five tunnels. It is the highway extension project’s longest section and contains the most bridges and tunnels. Since the project’s commencement, nearly 700 staff members have worked in management and construction with more than 70 large-scale machines in operation. Nearly half of the project has been completed.

The Xiaomo Highway is the last part of the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway within the territory of China. It reaches Bangkok, capital of Thailand, directly after leaving China via Laos. Its trunk line connects three countries: China, Laos and Thailand. The highway is an important part of the Asian highway network. The Xiaomo Highway expansion project adopts a standard four lanes, two in each direction, with a designed speed of 80 kilometers per hour and a road construction mileage of 167 kilometers. It will be completed and opened to traffic in 2017. Upon its completion, the whole road from Kunming to Mohan will be an expressway, and the travel time from Xioonmgengyang to Mohan will shorten from the current three hours to 1.5 hour travel time.

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**COOPERATION**

**Sino-Laos protection over native fishes of Lancang-Mekong River**

Dai Zhenhua

The reporter recently learned from Agricultural Bureau of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture that a total of 107 indigenous fish species of Lancang-Mekong River have been identified. At present, Xishuangbanna and northern provinces of Laos including Namtha have established an effective cooperation mechanism to protect fishery resources jointly.

In order to protect the mother river shared by six countries, including China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, Xishuangbanna has actively conducted a cross-border cooperation with Laos to protect fishery resources. It has respectively established bilateral exchange mechanisms with Namtha Province, Oudomxay Province and Phongsaly Province of Laos, which lays a solid foundation for fisheries go global. At the same time, Xishuangbanna has signed a cooperation agreement with Laos to protect fisheries resources, define common protection areas.

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**ECOLOGY**

**Wild Elephant Valley signed a cooperation memorandum of Elephant Parade**

Dai Zhenhua

A native Asian elephant walked to the front of the stage, rolled up a picture with its trunk and scientists, through public activity of public good with a theme of Asian elephants in China. The project will be officially launched this year.

With the participation of artists and scientists, through public science popularization activities to enhance people’s awareness to protect Asian elephants.

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