



CHINA • YUNNAN



INTERCONNECTIVITY

Waterway mileage in Yunnan will reach 5,000 kilometres

Li Chenghan

The reporter learnt from the Provincial Navigation Administration that the construction of waterway transportation infrastructures in Yunnan Province will be further accelerated and the mileage of waterways in the province will reach 5,000 kilometres between 2016 and 2020.

It is learnt that the navigation mileage in Yunnan is currently 4,200 kilometres. According to the person-in-charge of the Provincial Navigation Administration, over the following five years, Yunnan will preliminarily build an international shipping channel from the Lancang River to the Mekong river; will connect the Jingsha River and the Changjiang Shipping Channel in the Changjiang Economic Zone; activate shipping on the Red River between China and Vietnam; push forward the connection of the Youjiang-Zhujiang Economic Channel in the Zhujiang-Xijiang Economic Zone and the construction of the land-water shipping channel on the Irrawaddy River in China and Myanmar; standardize transport ships on the Lancang-Mekong channel, the Jinsha-Changjiang channel and the Youjiang-Zhujiang channel; further strengthen emergency reaction capabilities concerning waterway transportation, (with an arrival time of less than 90 minutes for emergency rescues in major water areas and significantly improved security capabilities); normalize maintenance work on the main channels and the boundary rivers; and will keep all water traffic safety persistent and stable.

In addition, the collecting and distributing passages and the supporting systems for major ports and port areas will be accelerated in order to connect to other transportation means more effectively. In this way, a well-connected, convenient and effective waterway to other provinces and countries, with improved functions, can be built up quickly.



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Yunnan Express:
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CULTURE



On February 22, Yi Costume Competition Festival were held in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan. During the festival, Yi people put on beautiful clothes to have a competition of their costumes. This tradition has been around for over 1,300 years.

Photo by Rao Yong and Chen Fei

INVESTMENT

Overseas investment by Yunnan enterprises maintains rapid growth

Luo Rongchan

In 2015, overseas investment by Yunnan enterprises continued to maintain a high growth rate. By the end of last year, the number of Yunnan enterprises (institutions) investing in other countries reached 635, with actual overseas investment amounting to 5.76 billion US dollars.

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

companies in the UK, India and Canada. So far, Yunnan companies have invested in 45 countries.

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 e-commerce service and the cultural industry.

COOPERATION

Coffee Plantation Spreading its Aroma in Laos and China

Luo Rongchan

Ever since the coffee plantation in Phongsaly Province in the north of Laos was founded in 2011, Yunnan Changshengda Investment Co., Ltd. has been promoting coffee plantation across six districts. These include Phongsaly, Boun Neua, Boun Tay, Samphanh, Khoua and May districts. In addition, the company has signed a Coffee Plantation and Preliminary Processing Contract with the governments of these six districts. It will involve 22,479 households from 186 villages and the contracted plantation will cover an area of about 120 million square meters.

In just a few years, through the joint efforts of the company and the government of Laos, the coverage of coffee plantation in the project areas has increased quickly. In the six districts in Phongsaly Province, coffee plantations now cover an area of 29 million square meters, with 7,000 farmer families from 126 villages involved. Since the project started, the leaders of Laos, the directors of several ministries and departments of the Lao government, and China's ambassador to Laos have all visited the project base several times for on-site investigations, and recognized the project's success.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Jansen: A Dutchman running a website in Kunming

Duan Xiaorui and Liu Yanqin

Speaking both Mandarin and Kunming dialect, adept with chopsticks, this foreigner is from the Netherlands and his name is Yereth Jansen.

Jansen has been living in Kunming for more than six years and knows this city inside out. He likes collecting intriguing information and tasting various foods. He runs the English website GoKunming.com, hoping that more foreigners can learn about Kunming through his eyes. Today, GoKunming.com has become an important guide for foreigners touring Kunming. At present, the site registers 300,000 page views per month, 34 percent of which are from overseas.

According to Jansen, GoKunming.com is run by a team of five people from different countries: an editor who updates the website content on a daily basis; a forum administrator in charge of the forum's daily maintenance; an event promoter who collects and posts information about various events in Kunming; and a micro-blog and WeChat



I am already an 'Old Kunminger', but I still likes walking around the city. I hopes to learn more about Kunming and better understand its people and culture."

Yereth Jansen
CEO of GoKunming.com

administrator. As CEO, Jansen is mainly responsible for the website design and operational management. Every day, GoKunming.com publishes information collected from Mainland media, micro-blogs and WeChat on all sorts of events in Yunnan. It also provides a free platform on which users can publish their own ideas. Today, many foreigners in Kunming regard the site as their "online home."

Living in Kunming, Jansen is concerned about Kunming's development, including the progress of metro construction. Jansen is already an "Old Kunminger", but he still likes walking around the city. He hopes to learn more about Kunming and better understand its people and culture.

EXPO

2016 Dali International Camellia Congress opens

Zhuang Junhua

On February 21st, 2016 Dali International Camellia Congress opens in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. The congress took a "habitable Dali with flowers in all seasons" as the theme. It aimed to create a great flower event of Chinese features and Dali characteristics, to strengthen the communication and cooperation in different fields at both home and abroad.

International camellia experts and camellia fans from 13 countries and regions and guests from inside and outside the province attended the event.

The International Camellia Congress is a highest-standard meeting of the international camellia industry. Since the



Foreign visitors enjoy the beautiful camellias with local people.

Photo by Su Ying

establishment of the International Camellia Association in the United States in 1962, 27 sessions of the International Camellia Congress were held in countries including the United States, Australia and China.

Dali, with the reputation of the "hometown of Chinese camellia", covered a total area of 93 million square meters for flower plantation, which created a total output of RMB 6.6 billion yuan last year.