CHINA·YUNNAN

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INVESTMENT

Overseas investment by Yunnan enterprises maintains rapid growth

The five countries of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam in the Greater Mekong Subregion) are main overseas investment destinations for Yunnan enterprises

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 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 maintained 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.

VISA

Germany to set up visa centre in Kunming this year

BY HU SIMEI

The German National Tourist Board announced through its WeChat public account that Germany will set up another ten visa centres in China in 2016, including one in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Later, the visa office of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chengdu confirmed that Germany will set up a visa centre in Kunming this year, though the exact time is subject to further notice by the German Embassy in China.

Of the ten new German visa centres to be set up in China, those in Kunming, Xi'an, Changsha, Nanjing and Fuzhou will be opened in the second quarter of this year. The German Embassy will announce specific dates and more details at a later date.

EXCHANGE

Yunnan to strengthen exchanges with Chiang Rai

BY ZUO CHAO and WANG SHIXUE

Liu Huiyan, Yunnan vice-governor, met with a visiting Thai delegation headed by Boonsong Techamanisatit, governor of Chiang Rai Province on Feb. 25 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province.

Currently, Yunnan Province is speeding up its connectivity with neighboring countries to better serve the national Belt and Road Initiative. Liu Huiyan hopes that the two sides could strengthen exchanges among teenagers and deepen cooperation in trade, tourism, and agriculture.

Liu also invited the Thai guests to attend the 4th China-South Asia Expo to be held in Kunming in June this year.

In response to Liu, Governor Boonsong Techamanisatit said Chiang Rai will enhance exchanges among teenagers from the two sides, and increase cooperation with Yunnan in terms of trade, logistics, tourism, agriculture and build-up of industrial parks.

SPORTS

A half Marathon was held in Kunming on February 28. More than 18,000 runners took up in the contest. Emanuel Giniki Gisamoda from Tanzania won the men's half with a time of 1 hour 4 minutes and 2 seconds, while Rebecca Kangogo Chesir from Kenya was crowned in the women's race with a time of 1 hour 12 minutes 57 seconds. The event was held by Agriculture Bank of China. **Photo by Chen Fei**

COOPERATION

Remarkable effects achieved in joint patrol of the Mekong

BY YANG XI

As the 41st 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, visited 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.

ECO

A rescue relay

Two young guys saved a black-necked crane with body heat by Napa Lake in Shangrila. Staff at Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration helped the crane recover under directions of a zoology expert

Ang Zhaxi took the trapped black-necked crane into their car from the ice hole. **Photo by Shi Xiaoxuan**

BY SHI XIAOXUAN

Recently, it was minus 18 in Yunnan's Shangri-La. Ang Zhaxi and Gengqing Basong from Yushu of Qinghai Province were driving by the scenic Napa Lake when they noticed something in the water. A black-necked crane was struggling in a hole in the ice. They jumped into the waist-deep water to the bird's rescue. Ang Zhaxi even held the black-necked crane against his body and wrapped it with his coats. Finally, they saved the dying crane with body heat.

On that day, the Napa Lake Nature Reserve was covered by heavy snow. Landing in the severe cold, the black-necked crane accidentally fell into a hole in the ice. The ice was thick and the hole was small, so the crane was trapped for a long time. Just as it was dying, Ang Zhaxi and Gengqing Basong came to its rescue. Despite the cold weather, they jumped into the waist-deep water without hesitation and took the crane into their car. Seeing the black-necked crane was nearly frozen, Ang Zhaxi put it inside his coat and saved the crane with his body heat.

When the black-necked crane recovered, they immediately called the Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration and sent the crane there. He Shaoyou, director of the Nature Reserve Administration, quickly contacted Wu Heqi, an expert at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, who gave directions on how to take care of the black-necked crane. Staff members at Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration first dried the crane's feathers with a hair dryer and then fed it with some earthworms and glucose. After more than a week's observation and feeding, the black-necked crane recovered its strength.

After seven days, the black-necked crane was released. A few days later, to everyone's delight and surprise, the crane flew back and wandered outside the Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration building.

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, 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, 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 in Kunming 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 of 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.

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>
> **Mimane**
> Manager of Dangsters Dance Studio in Kunming

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.

Miane(fourth from left) with his friends **Photo by Liu Ziyu**