



EXPO

4th China-South Asia Expo to be held in Kunming June 12 to 17

BY QU SHUNING

On March 1, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Yunnan Provincial Government jointly held a promotional conference for the fourth China-South Asia Expo and the twenty-fourth China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair (Kunming Fair), which will be held together in Kunming from June 12 to 17.

This year's China-South Asia Expo and Kunming Fair will follow the concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. Themed on "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation," they will embrace "the promotion of all-round China-South Asia cooperation and development." The exhibitions will cover a total area of 170,000 square metres, a 38 percent increase over last year.

There will be 8,000 booths, a 30 percent increase over 2015, and more than half of the booths will be provided for foreign exhibitors.

In addition to exhibitions, trade negotiations and the signing of agreements, a series of other activities will also be held during this year's China-South Asia Expo. These include the eleventh China-South Asia Business Forum, the fourth China-South Asia Think Tank Forum, the

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eight GMS Economic Corridor Week and the China-South Asia-Southeast Asia TV Art Week.

Under China's Belt and Road Initiative, Yunnan makes up a major part of the BCIM economic corridor and the China-Southeast Asia economic corridor. So far, Yunnan has become one of China's most attractive provinces. More and more foreign people are coming to Yunnan to seek business opportunities and make investments.

More than 80 diplomats from 39 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia,

Europe, Africa and America attended the promotional conference. They said that through its first three sessions, the China-South Asia Expo has increased China's influence in neighbouring countries and has promoted economic and cultural exchanges among all participating countries. They promised that their countries would participate in the event in various forms, and wished the China-South Asia Expo a better future.

FTZ

China approves the establishment of comprehensive free trade zone in Kunming

BY ZHANG YANQUN

China's State Council has recently approved to the upgrade of export processing zones in Nanchang and Kunming to comprehensive free trade zones.

The comprehensive free trade zones are special customs supervision zones that are set up at the approval of China's State Council in Mainland China. They enjoy taxation and foreign exchange policies different from other ports.

The Kunming Comprehensive Free Trade Zone consists of Zone A and Zone B. Zone A, now in operation, is located at Kunming Export Processing Zone and covers an area

of 0.58 square kilometres. Zone B is in the vicinity of Kunming Changshui International Airport and is expected to cover an area of 1.42 square kilometres. Zone A will focus on industries with the characteristics of Yunnan and neighbouring countries, such as resource-based industries, the jewellery industry, the biomedical and food industries, all highlighting the functions of bonded processing and bonded logistics. Zone B will rely on Changshui Airport to develop international re-export trade, storage and processing industries, highlighting the functions of bonded trade, bonded services, bonded logistics, bonded processing and bonded exhibitions.

INTERCONNECTION

Yunnan's longest suspension bridge to open to traffic in May



Longjiang Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in Yunnan, is expected to open to traffic in May of this year. The bridge is located in west Yunnan's Baoshan City and is a part of the Baoshan-Tengchong Express Highway. It is 1,196 meters long.

Photo by Chen Fei

SURGERY

Yunnan sets up its 1st "hybrid operating room"

BY CHEN XINLONG

Recently, Yunnan set up a "hybrid operating room" in the First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University.

Hybrid surgery, or composite surgery, is a cutting-edge cardiac surgery technology developed in recent years. It combines cardiac surgery with intracardiac intervention and imaging diagnosis on

the same patient to achieve a synergistic effect. In addition, the patient does not need to be transferred between different operating rooms, thus avoiding repeated anaesthesia and greatly reducing surgical risks and postoperative complications. On October 12, 2015, the hospital performed the first "hybrid" operation on a child with a complex congenital heart disease known as "ventricular septal defect with patent ductus arteriosus."

SPORTS



The Third Red Bull Canoeing Challenge was held at Tiger-leaping Gorge in the upper stream of Yangtze River in north-west Yunnan's Shangri-la County. Challengers from the US, Canada, France and China took part in the race. Tiger-leaping Gorge is famous for its steep cliffs, narrowness and dangerous rapids. It is a popular tourist destination in China.

Photo by Wang Ying (Xinhua News Agency)

INVESTMENT

Kunming National Advertising Industry Park releases investment policy Each resident enterprise can receive up to one million yuan in rewards

BY ZHAO SHUYONG

Recently, the Kunming National Advertising Industry Park Phase II (the Park) released a new investment policy: Depending on their sizes, nature and qualifications, each resident enterprise can receive a reward between 50,000 and 1,000,000 yuan.

The investment policy mainly targets Kunming National Advertising Industry Park Phase II. In terms of rent, the Park will grant each resident

enterprise a monthly rental subsidy of 15-20 yuan per square meter based on their annual revenue. The total subsidy can be as high as 200,000 yuan. Depending on their sizes, nature and qualifications, each resident enterprise can receive a reward of 50,000 to 1,000,000 yuan. Meanwhile, key cultural and creative projects and enterprises as well as professional and technical personnel can receive up to one million reward and 50 percent subsidized loans.

In addition, the Kunming National

Advertising Industry Park will provide resident enterprises with comprehensive services through eight public service platforms, including the cloud-wise service platform, the financial service platform, the advertising culture and new media showcase centre, the one-stop service platform, the advertising development and design platform, the academic exchange centre of advertising ideas, the advertising elements exchange platform and the advertising talents training centre.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Olivier: I want to stay in Yunnan

BY WANG SHIXUE

"Ah, well, I am Swiss, Peruvian or Mexican," Olivier would say when asked about his nationality. He has curly hair and is talkative. His father is a Swiss diplomat, his mother is Peruvian and he was born in Mexico. He used to study in Australia and is now learning Mandarin in China.

In 2013, Olivier became a waiter at a local hotel in Queensland. The hotel often received Chinese guests who mostly came to Australia for sightseeing. One evening, a Chinese guest called reception for help. The hotel manager told Olivier to serve the guest. Olivier could not speak Mandarin and had many difficulties communicating with the guest. It was then that he thought of learning Mandarin.

In 2015, Olivier decided to study in China for one or two years. After

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Olivier

much comparison, he chose Kunming because of the liveable environment, good weather and affordable tuition. It is not easy to integrate into a new environment, but the best way to learn a language is to talk with locals, Olivier said.

"So far, I have neither met any unpleasant things in Yunnan nor heard of other foreigners complaining about Yunnan," said Olivier. He felt that he had made the right choice. In the past year, Olivier deeply felt the friendliness

of Yunnan people.

More fortunately, Olivier became acquainted with a Kunming local surname Zhang, who took him in his car to half of China. Olivier is very grateful. Now Mr. Zhang is preparing to open a bar and would like him to manage it.

Olivier has his own idea: In Switzerland, even a small town has more than 200 craft beer pubs, while a city as big as Kunming has only four such establishments. So craft beer will have a good market in Kunming.

Yunnan is close to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and India. With China reviving the Maritime Silk Road, Yunnan is in a better position to learn about South and Southeast Asia and spread craft beer to neighbouring countries. Olivier is already making preparations for the new bar. He said, "If everything goes well, I wish to stay on in Yunnan to make my fortune."

SCIENCE

Chinese scientists solve the mystery of lighter complexion in East Asian populations

BY CHEN XINLONG

A recent joint study by Kunming Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences and several other research institutes has solved the mystery of lighter complexion of East Asian populations. Scientists discovered the OCA2 gene, a pigment gene that shows the biggest genetic difference between the light-skinned Chinese Han population and the dark-skinned Austro-Asiatic population. An amino acid mutation in the gene can significantly affect melanin synthesis and maturation, resulting in the lighter complexion in East Asian populations.

East Asia has a great span of latitudes, with the annual amount of ultraviolet exposure varying at different latitudes. In order to understand the genetic mechanism of colour adaptation in East Asian populations, the Kunming-based Laboratory of Genetic Resources and Evolution headed by Dr. Su Bing, along with the Houston-based Baylor College of Medicine, Tsinghua University and Liaoning Normal University gathered nearly 1,000 blood samples and skin colour phenotype samples from members of East Asian populations. Through whole genome microarray analyses, they found OCA2, the pigment gene that shows the biggest genetic difference between the light-skinned Chinese Han population and the dark-skinned Austro-Asiatic population. Further molecular evolution analyses revealed that OCA2 is subject to strong positive Darwinian selection in East Asia populations, so that an amino acid mutation is commonly seen in East Asian populations while not in European and African populations. Through skin colour phenotype correlation analysis, melanoma cell function experiments, zebrafish transgenic experiments, mice Cas9 genetic mutation locus replacement experiments and TEM analysis, it is proven that the mutation can significantly affect melanin synthesis and maturation, resulting in the lighter complexions in East Asian population.

The study has uncovered the molecular mechanism underlying the lighter complexion in East Asian populations, which is of great significance for a deeper understanding of the genetic mechanisms of convergent evolution and phenotypic adaptive evolution. The findings were recently published in the internationally renowned journal Molecular Biology and Evolution.