



CHINA • YUNNAN



EXPO

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

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 economic 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



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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 eighth 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 from different countries to seek business

opportunities and make investments.

More than 80 diplomats from 39 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas attended the promotional conference. They agreed 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 and brighter future.

COOPERATION

Kunming forges partnership with Liverpool

Peng Xi

Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, has signed a cooperative agreement on February 25 with Liverpool to initiate partnership with the British city.

The agreement is based on consensus reached in Kunming in September last year. According to the agreement, Kunming and Liverpool will work together to cultivate positive bilateral relationship which will bring benefit to both cities. Specifically, the two cities will deepen cooperation in trade, science, education, medicine, renewable energy, and cultural tourism.

In 2016, Kunming will send a business delegation to participate in an international business festival and promotion activities to be held in Liverpool.

At the business festival, Liverpool will help Kunming to hold a promotional event called Overseas Kunming Week. In return, Kunming will assist Liverpool to have a similar promotional activity.

"We welcome the Kunming delegation to Liverpool international business promotion 2016, and I hope our bondages could be strengthened in the visit," said Gary Millar, vice mayor of Liverpool, at the signing ceremony.

Millar added that besides business exchanges the two cities have more potential to be tapped in multi-cultural cooperation.

"In signing the agreement, we have set up an interactive platform for our cooperation. Through the platform, Liverpool can deepen connection with the Kunming and we can work together to explore new ways for win-win cooperation in culture, economy, education, and others," said Ellen Curtler, director of invest Liverpool

BIG DATA

Yunnan University sets up Big Data Research Institute

Chen Xinlong

The Big Data Research Institute of Yunnan University was established on February 27.

The institute is committed to carrying out research and personnel training regarding large data-related sciences and critical technical issues. Its establishment will also build up a high-level, multi-disciplinary international academic exchange platform, so as to foster the development of innovative research and industry-based think tanks that integrate academic research, technology development,

personnel training and application services concerning large databases.

Focusing on large data-driven scientific and technical issues in the framework of South Asia studies, Southeast Asia studies, and the Belt and Road Initiative, the institute aims to provide industry-specific and personalized overall data solutions. It will also help formulate large data application standards and norms, and establishing demonstration projects through international cooperation, scientific research and personnel training, including doctoral and graduate programs.

FESTIVAL



The seventeenth Kunming Cherry Blossom Festival, an intangible cultural heritage exhibition, opened at Kunming recently. This year's cherry blossom festival highlighted with local folk heritage works and hands-on sessions. This picture shows a live performance by an intangible cultural heritage inheritor.

Photo by Chen Fei

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

First Run in Spring



Photo by Chen Fei and Zhou Can

Hou Tingting Xiong Ming

On February 28, the Kunming International Half-Marathon 2016 concluded at Yunnan Haigeng Convention Center in Kunming. More than 18,000 competitors from home and abroad completed their 21.0975-kilometre run in the City of Eternal Spring. Tanzanian runner Emanuel Giniki Gisamoda captured the men's gold and set a new course record of 1:04:02. Rebecca Kangogo Chesir from Kenya won the women's gold in 1:12:57. The 12-kilometre championship went to Chinese runners Li Guanping (male) and Chen Hongmei (female).

"I love Kunming and its unforgettable beauty. And I'll be here for the event again next year," said Emanuelin in an interview after the mara-

thon. Although this is the first time he has taken part in the Kunming Half Marathon, he's satisfied with the organization and the route. The enthusiasm of the audience along the route cheered him up. The crowd's passionate applause during his sprint helped him overcome the difficulties of running at altitude. This championship also marked his personal best record. "I think, as long as we are brave enough to challenge ourselves, each of us deserve to be proud," said Emmanuel, "My dear friends, let's meet here in Kunming again next year."

The marathon turned out to be a real public holiday. A 54-year-old veteran came to take part in the race all the way from Guizhou. A young man had his most unforgettable moment in life by proposing to his girlfriend, witnessed by thousands of runners.



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Emanuel Giniki Gisamoda, Tanzanian runner who wins men's gold of the race

In order to showcase the unique charm of Yunnan ethnic cultures, a half-hour show was staged during the traditional warm-up exercises. Ethnic exercises, professional stretching teams, and intangible heritage and culture shows at the start and finish lines created a dynamic scene. Ushers and volunteers dressed up in colorful ethnic costumes along the route and helped attract numerous domestic and foreign visitors.

