



INNOVATION

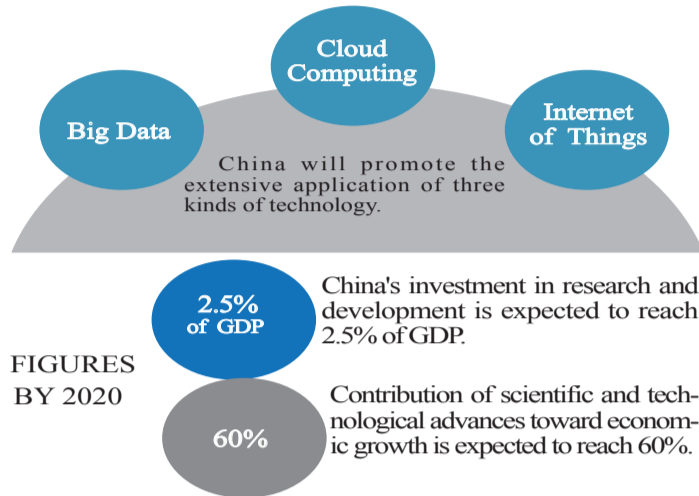
Technological innovation draws increasing attention in China

BY HAN JIE, LI WENXI and LI CHAO

From March 2 to 16, China's National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) were held in Beijing, during which technological innovation became the focus of attention. Representatives from the Internet and the manufacturing industries spoke about artificial intelligence and unmanned vehicles, while journalists also used the virtual reality cameras, 3D cameras and other virtual reality devices to release news.

Artificial intelligence is agreed to be the next major topic of concern in the scientific community. The recent "man-machine competition" between the Korean Go master Lee Sedol and Google's AlphaGo has aroused heated public discussion, which has included remarks by Wan Gang, China's Minister of Science and Technology. At the press conference held in Beijing on

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT



March 10, Wan Gang said that the development of artificial intelligence is pushing human labour to a higher stage, but he admitted that he prefers to play Go against humans.

According to Wan Gang, China has also made great progress in the fields of supercomputers and artificial intelligence, and such technology has found wide applications, including in Tianhe-2, seismic

modelling, design of large aircraft, anti-Ebola drug screening, simulation of the origins of the universe, and Guangzhou's smart city construction, among other areas.

Wan Gang said artificial intelligence is making complex computing operational and programmable. For example, robots can be programmed to complete cumbersome and complex labour, thus improving quality and efficiency while providing better and more advanced employment.

If we turn our eyes from the "two sessions" to Yunnan, we find that Yunnan is also making active attempts in technological innovation and information construction. In order to help Yunnan enterprises better communicate with South and Southeast Asian countries, the Kunming Langchao Cloud Computing Industrial Park is intensifying efforts in the studies of South and Southeast Asian languages.

According to Lei Chang, deputy general manager of Langchao Technology

Company Limited of Yunnan Energy Investment Group, the Kunming Langchao Cloud Computing Industrial Park is planning to set up a research and development centre for South and Southeast Asian languages. The translation platform will enable Yunnan enterprises to better communicate with South and Southeast Asian countries. "The web pages of a Yunnan enterprise will be automatically converted into the language of any neighbouring country for barrier-free communication," said Lei Chang. Not only can the text be translated, but online voice customer services will be provided as well. "The research and development centre will collect big data regarding South and Southeast Asian languages to achieve semantic translation. Unlike the online translation software currently in use, the translation platform will try to achieve faithful, expressive and elegant translations in different contexts," said Lei Chang.

INVESTMENT

Vientiane Water Treatment upgraded

BY STAFF REPORTER

In December 2015, the final acceptance check on the second phase of the 'Upgrading Project of Dongmakhai Water Treatment Plant in Vientiane, Lao PDR' was completed by the Lao Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Vientiane Water Supply Company. The acceptance panel declared that the project, implemented by Yunnan Construction Engineering Group, conforms to relevant technical specifications, legal procedures, as well as design and construction requirements, thus meeting acceptance conditions.

In order to address increasing water demand in downtown Vientiane and its comprehensive development zone, the project was signed between the Government of Laos and Yunnan Construction Engineering Group. After the upgrade, the daily water treatment capacity of Dongmakhai Plant increased from 180,600 cubic metres to 280,600 cubic metres, and its daily supply capacity from 20,000 cubic metres to 120,000 cubic metres.

Talking about the difficulties during construction, pipeline project leader Chen Hualin said, "The geological environment underground is complex. And it had been really difficult to lay pipes and also ensure the traffic flow in these narrow and congested roads. Therefore, we had to coordinate with local authorities from time to time to deal with various problems." The project would not have been possible without the support of the Lao government and local companies. Over the past two years, the project team had established good friendship with the local people.

Yunnan Film Group invests in Hollywood blockbuster

BY DU JING

On March 10, Chilean Ambassador to China, Mr. Jorge Heine, and his wife -- as well as ambassadors and envoys from many other countries -- watched *The 33*, a Hollywood blockbuster partly invested by Yunnan Film Group. Based on a true story that occurred in Chile, the disaster film highlights the power of human nature, and has won high praise from this special group of viewers.

The 33 is set in 2010, when 33 miners were trapped in a severe mining accident in Chile. They lived 700 meters below ground for 69 days and survived. As the first imported Hollywood blockbuster in 2016, *The 33* is being shown in many Chinese cinemas.

"We were deeply touched by the script itself. Additionally, we had a very strong production team and a cast of international stars," said Zhang Lun, chairman of Yunnan Film Group. "After its release in China, the film has been well reviewed. The film shows us the spirit of Chile and its people," Zhang Lun added.

At the end of the film-viewing meeting, Mr. Jorge Heine said, "Importantly, although China and Chile are far apart and have different histories, languages and cultures, a film links us together. This film comes to China across the oceans. A disaster film as it is, it has a good ending and this is very important."

AGRICULTURE

KIB Dendrobium Base passes National Organic Certification

BY CHEN XINLONG

Recently, the Dendrobium planting and breeding base at the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), successfully passed organic certification by Nanjing Guohuan National Organic Product Certification Center.

China's Dendrobium planting area totals ten hectares, of which 50 percent is in Yunnan. Safe and pollution-free ingredients are key factors affecting the quality of raw materials used in medicinal and health care products. The project team, led by the CAS KIB researchers Hu Hong and Zhang Shibao, and follow-

ing GAP cultivation guidelines, focuses on the collection of choice Dendrobium germplasm, as well as the research and design of key technologies on green Dendrobium breeding and cultivation at their base in Pu'er. Currently, the team has made important progress in key industrial technologies, including large-scale seed breeding, cultivation of new varieties and organic farming.

Organic certification, as a form of certification for agricultural products recognized and promoted by national and international organizations, falls under the unified management of the China National Certification and Accreditation Administration.

ECO

20-year relay protection of black-necked cranes by mother and daughter



Dong Yinglan is feeding the cranes. Photo by Hu Chao

BY HU CHAO

Dashanbao Township in Yunnan's Zhaotong City is an important wintering habitat for black-necked cranes, a rare species of plateau cranes. Dong Yinglan and Chen Guanghui live next to the Dahaizi Wetlands, where black-necked cranes spend the night. They are mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. For more than twenty years, they have been protecting wintering black-necked cranes in Dashanbao Township as if the

black-necked cranes were their family.

More than ten years ago, Dong Yinglan became one of the first crane protectors in Dashanbao Township, as designated by the Zhaotong Black-Necked Cranes Protection Volunteers Association. When Chen Guanghui married into the family, the task of feeding and protecting the cranes fell on her shoulders. At first, it was hard for Chen Guanghui to approach black-necked cranes. However, under the instructions of her mother-in-law, Chen Guanghui

gradually mastered the skills. She even developed her own whistling method to communicate with the birds. Today, at her whistles, cranes will come to her in flocks for food.

Dong Yinglan and Chen Guanghui have been protecting black-necked cranes for more than 20 years. Today, the population of wintering black-necked cranes in the Dahaizi Wetlands has increased from a little more than 300 when the reserve was first established, to about 1,200 in 2015.

YUNNAN-FEATURED PRODUCE

UK research shows values of Yunnan Pu'er tea

BY STAFF REPORTER

Recently, the British Journal of *Nutrition* published an article, saying that unlike green tea, Yunnan Pu'er tea is produced on the plateau through a fermentation process which retains more nutrients in the leaves. The latest research shows that this type of tea not only reduces the risks of cancer and rheumatoid arthritis, but also helps to reduce age-related wrinkles as well.

Researchers at Kingston University London collaborated with Neal's Yard Remedies (NYR), a British essential oils brand, in testing the health characteristics of extracts from 21 species of plants and herbs. They found that all tested plants are beneficial to the human body, but to their surprise, Pu'er tea was the most beneficial. According to Professor Declan Naughton from the School of Life Sciences at Kingston University, the research shows that Pu'er tea has an anti-aging effect and high levels of anti-oxidants, which can

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The early indicators are that Pu'er tea reduces the risk of the inflammation which is characteristic of rheumatoid arthritis and some cancers, as well as preventing wrinkles.”

Declan Naughton

Professor from the School of Life Sciences at Kingston University

help prevent cancer and heart disease.

Naughton explained: "We've carried out tests to identify plant extracts that protected the structural proteins of the skin, specifically elastin and collagen. Elastin supports the body's natural elasticity, which helps the lungs, arteries, ligaments and skin to function properly. It also helps body tissue to repair

when you suffer wounds, and stops skin from sagging." Collagen is a protein found in connective tissues in the body, and is important for skin, its strength and elasticity.

Tea generally falls into six categories: green, red, yellow, white, blue and black Pu'er tea is generally classified as black tea but is actually very different from black tea. The tea trees suitable for making Pu'er tea are planted nowhere else in the world but China's southern Yunnan. As a Chinese specialty, Pu'er tea has been produced for about 1,000 years. The tea buds from ancient Pu'er tea trees are the best ingredients for making Pu'er tea.

All researchers were blown away by the performance of Pu'er tea. As one of the country's leading experts on inflammation, Naughton said: "The early indicators are that Pu'er tea reduces the risk of the inflammation which is characteristic of rheumatoid arthritis and some cancers, as well as preventing wrinkles."

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Hospitalised Cambodian student in Kunming receives donations

BY WANG SHIXUE

"Kim Menghuor is critically ill. He is in First People's Hospital of Yunnan Province. Please come quickly!" the Cambodian student Nhel Soviet could not conceal his anxiety when making a phone call to another Cambodian student on March 6. Three Cambodian students are currently studying at the School of International Education at Kunming University of Science and Technology. On the evening of March 10, when the reporter came to the hospital, Kim Menghuor's condition had improved. He could speak and eat a little food. And he expressed his gratitude for the care, help and donations of Chinese teachers, students, doctors and people from other walks of life.

Kim Menghuor's parents run a small business in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and they are not well-off. However, Kim Menghuor was diagnosed with severe hemolytic anaemia and acute renal failure, a condition requiring repeated blood transfusions and dialysis, as well as immediate surgery. In desperation,

Nhel Soviet got into touch with Kim Menghuor's parents in Cambodia and called their head teacher at the School of International Education, who rushed to the hospital.

At the consent of Kim Menghuor's parents and teachers, the hospital performed the surgery and gave blood transfusions. The dean of the School of International Education at Kunming University of Science and Technology visited Kim Menghuor at the hospital. Every day, many students came to the hospital to provide help, donate money and even blood so that Kim Menghuor could have access to better treatment. They were mainly Chinese and Cambodian students, as well as some students from Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, India and other countries. Donations from various channels helped Kim Menghuor through. To date, about 50,000 yuan has been cumulatively donated, including 20,000 yuan from an unnamed Chinese actor.

Currently, Kim Menghuor's mother is already at the hospital, and Kim Menghuor's anemia has improved to a certain extent.



Several donors come to the hospital to visit Kim Menghuor. Photo by Lu Yuchu