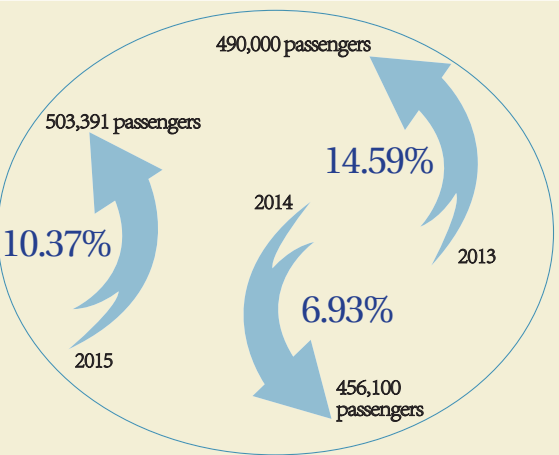




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Kunming, Getting Closer and Closer to the World



The diagram indicates the number of Thai tourists heading for Yunnan in past three years.

Photo by Zhu Ling

51 countries can apply. It makes people easy to visit Kunming.

Beside this good policy, people from Yunnan who would like to go abroad becomes easier as well. To them, distance never becomes a problem, while what they worried about more is the visa which must be handled in the embassies and consulates and is always required to go through the visa interview.

Recently, when logged in the official websites of the embassies and consulates in China of the European

tourist hot spots, we found out that Spain, France, Sweden, Germany, Italy and Finland will successively set up visa centers in Kunming this year.

The information of the locating of visa center makes more European countries be closer and closer to Yunnan, which pleases not only the tourists. In the past, there have always been few students from Yunnan in European universities. With the locating of more visa centers of European countries in Kunming, going to schools and universities in Europe will become a choice for young students in Yunnan. Similarly, the space for business visits as well as exchanges and cooperation will naturally grow bigger and bigger. Enterprises in Yunnan have also awarded more business opportunities from the visa dividends.



More European countries set visa application center in Kunming

BY HU SIMEI

Since the end of 2014, the implementation of Transit Without Visa has been carried out in Kunming Changshui airport, and people of

Recently, when logged in the official websites of the embassies and consulates in China of the European

LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION

LMC closely linked with daily life of ordinary people



Editor's note: On Mar. 23, 2016, the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting kicked off in Sanya, Hainan, China. Leaders from six countries including China, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam attended the meeting. Premier Li Keqiang delivered a keynote speech. At the meeting, such important documents as the Sanya Declaration and the Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation among Lancang-Mekong Countries were signed, and detailed rules on the political framework, cooperation fields and development direction of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation were formulated. This meeting drew a beautiful blueprint for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

The conception of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation was first proposed by Thailand in 2012, and China gave a positive response. At the 17th China-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting in Nov. 2014, Premier Li Keqiang raised the initiative of the Lancang-Mekong River Dialogue and

Cooperation Mechanism. In Nov. 2015, the First Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation was held in Jinghong, Yunnan. The six countries unanimously agreed on the formal launching of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, announced the formal establishment of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism, and determined the three pillars of political security, economic & sustainable development and social humanities, as well as five preferred cooperation directions concerning interconnection, production capacity, cross-border economy, water resources, as well as agriculture and poverty reduction.

"Lancang-Mekong Cooperation" may sound unfamiliar, but it is homonymic with the fruit "Lanmei" (blueberry) in Chinese. Thus, the new diplomatic term "Lancang-Mekong Cooperation" appears to be amiable. Actually, "Lancang-Mekong Cooperation" is closely linked with the life of ordinary people.



LMC infusing new impetus for regional agricultural science & technology cooperation

BY JI ZHEPENG

On Monday Mar. 21 around 20 agricultural science & technology experts from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and China gathered in Kunming, and carried out an in-depth discussion on such matters as the transformation of cooperation achievements of autumn soybeans over the years. Meanwhile, a number of scientific and technical personnel from Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and other countries will carry out training regarding the demonstration and promotion of new varieties and new technologies of upland rice in the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

This is another pragmatic measure for the agricultural science & technology cooperation among countries in the Mekong River basin.

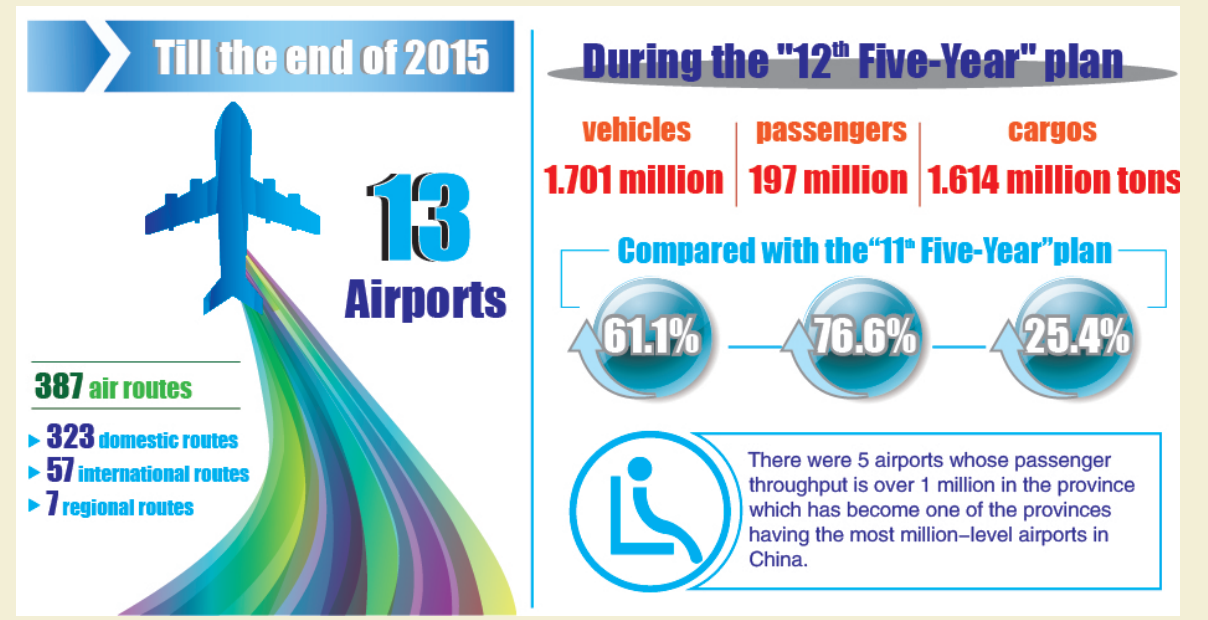
The cross-border agricultural cooperation between countries in the Lancang-Mekong River basins is time-honored. Agricultural science & technology experts hold that Yunnan is advanced in agricultural

production technologies, especially the R&D of main improved crop varieties like rice and corn, as well as high-yield & high-efficiency saving cultivation technology, rural energy technology and construction technology of water conservancy works, so the countries from both river basins are highly complementary. Since the 1990s, various cooperation mechanisms have been established. Since 2008, a number of cross-border cooperation platforms including the "Agricultural Science & Technology Exchange and Cooperation Team in the Greater Mekong Sub-region" led by the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences have been established. Centered on these platforms, a number of exchange and cooperation projects have been carried out.

Statistics show that in recent years, the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences has achieved the exchange of over 260 varieties among six countries and trained nearly ten thousand person-times of scientific & technical personnel and peasants via the platform -

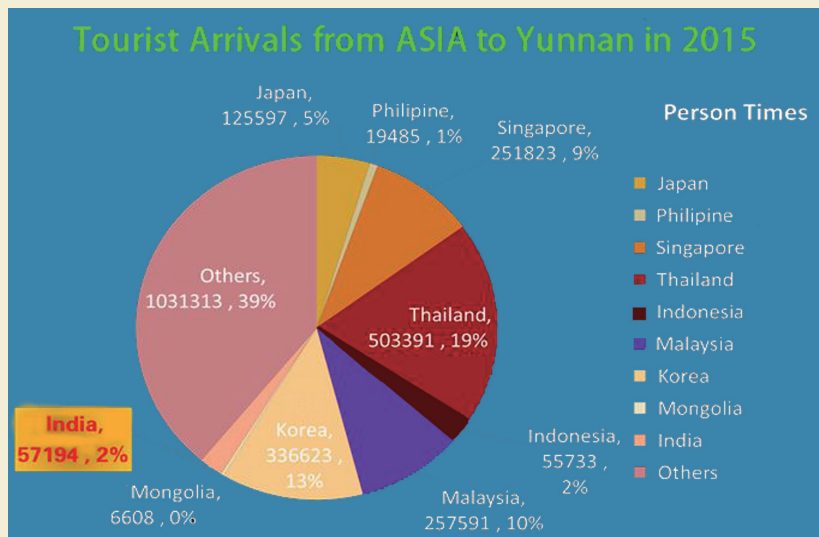
"Agricultural Science & Technology Exchange and Cooperation Team in the Greater Mekong Sub-region". Such high-quality rice varieties as "Yunguang 14" and "Yunguang 17" of Yunnan have realized the extension area of over 1 million hectares in Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan and other countries. The advancement and adaptability of the agricultural science & technology of Yunnan has a huge influence on the countries in the Mekong basin.

Analysts said that the establishment of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism has infused a new impetus for the agricultural cooperation in the sub-region. Xiao Yi, Director of the Foreign Exchange & Cooperation Division, the Department of Agriculture of Yunnan Province, said that Yunnan is trying to propel the mutual benefits, win-win results and sustainable cooperation & development of regional agriculture, rural economy and society in all the countries and regions through "agricultural priority" to benefit the masses in partner countries.



By the end of 2015, Yunnan has built and operated 13 civil transport airports and opened 323 domestic routes, 57 international routes as well as 7 regional routes, a total of 387 air routes. The international routes with Kunming as origin are increasingly intensive and the range of radiation is increasingly broad. At present, there are a total of 284 domestic and international routes originating from Kunming Changshui airport, navigating to 148 cities, and it has become one of the airports which have the most air routes to South Asia and Southeast Asia. It makes the world be easy to reach within 24 hours from Kunming.

Photo by Zhou Yu



Thai tourists tops the most tourists to Yunnan in the year of 2015 with the number of 503,391 which takes up of 19% of the whole tourists from Asia countries.

Statistics from Yunnan Provincial Tourism Development Commission.

LMC spurs SE Asian languages learning craze

BY YUAN XUELIAN
BAI JINGLI

Hearing the news about the first Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting, Ren Maoyang, a graduate student studying the Cambodian language at Yunnan Minzu University, was excited. His major is becoming increasingly popular as the Lancang-Mekong cooperation continues to gain momentum.

Ren still remembers that his undergraduate classmates had already been fully "reserved" by employers even before they graduated. Ren himself was offered the job of Cambodian language teacher by Yunnan Normal University.

Since the 1990s, Lancang-Mekong regional cooperation has started in diverse forms. Currently, pertaining cooperation mechanisms include the Lancang-



11

55,000

As of the end of 2014, Yunnan has established 11 international training bases in its colleges and universities, with a total of 55,000 students enrolled in related majors.

Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation, the ASEAN-Mekong Development Cooperation, the Mekong Commission and more. On March 23, the first LMC Leaders' Meeting was held in Sanya, Hainan, during which leaders of the six countries had an in-depth exchange of views on the promotion of LMC mechanism, all-round cooperation in GMS countries and regional integration.

Professor Liu Xiaorong, who has been teaching at Yunnan Minzu University for 37 years, believes that as the GMS regional cooperation mechanism deepens, the demand for

talents in Southeast Asian languages will grow drastically. As early as 2013, Yunnan Province had set up a language education board to strengthen the training of Southeast Asian and South Asian languages.

As of the end of 2014, Yunnan has established 11 international training bases in its colleges and universities, with a total of 55,000 students enrolled in related majors. At present, these majors includes Thai, Burmese, Lao, Hindi and more, and are training a large number of talents of Southeast Asian and South Asian languages every year with promising employment prospect.