



CHINA • YUNNAN



HEALTH CARE

Sino-Lao cooperation in healthcare yields positive results

Dai Zhenhua

Thirty-four medical workers from Laos PDR recently received health-care certificates granted by Chinese authorities after passing related examinations in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan province.

The Lao workers come from five provinces in northern Laos, and they participated in the second session of a training program on health-care techniques and specifications.

Proposed by the National Health and Family Planning Committee of the People's Republic of China in 2015, the training program is carried out by Xishuangbanna People's Hospital, with medical cooperation deepened, new cooperative mechanisms explored, and positive results achieved in the bordering areas.

Besides technical training, other major contents of the program include communication among health workers, forums for hospital directors and the build-up of community health services.

On July 16, 2015 the community build-up of health services was officially launched in Xishuangbanna. The newly created medical community covers five Lao provinces, including Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Bokeo and Phongsaly. Via an internet platform maintained by Xishuangbanna People's Hospital, doctors from the Peking University People's Hospital conducted remote consultation, case discussions and intellectual sharing with doctors in the Lao provinces.

Up to now, 139 health workers have been engaged in 13 separate medical exchanges. Xishuangbanna People's Hospital sent 12 medical staff members to Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital, where they received training in the Lao language. The five provinces in northern Laos sent around 100 health workers to Xishuangbanna People's Hospital to receive technical training and study clinical testing and care. Through real-time consultation and guidance, the Xishuangbanna People's Hospital helped cure four patients with critical illness at Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital. The Xishuangbanna hospital also held its first director's forum, where famed directors from Chinese hospitals had in-depth communication with their counterparts from Laos.

INTERCONNECTIVITY

Yunnan to build aviation center

Cao Jie

Yunnan is aiming to speed up its civil aviation and tourism development between 2016 and 2020, establishing itself as a regional aviation center by opening flights to country capitals and major tourist cities across Southeast Asia and South Asia in the year to come.

"We strive for new breakthroughs in developing the international aviation market this year," said Zhou Kai, Chairman of Yunnan Airport Group. A "dual hub" initiative, an interactive development of Yunnan and Shanghai airport groups, is stepping up to reshape China's aviation networks by facilitating tourist entry in China's eastern seaboard and exit from the west, and

vice versa. Direct flights from Kunming to Australia, transit flights to the U.S. and chartered flights to Cairo are expected to open this year. Full flight coverage between Kunming and country capitals and major tourist destinations is also expected to be in place next year.

"Our new international routes from eastern China to Japan and Korea have been quite popular, so this time we plan to sign a strategic cooperation agreement with Yunnan Airport Group on opening a number of new international routes." Zhang Wu'an, spokesperson of the budget airline Spring Airlines said, international flights from Kunming to South Asian cities including Mumbai (India) and Colombo (Sri Lanka), as well as flights

from Kunming to Northeast Asian cities including Okinawa, Osaka, Hokkaido (Japan) and Jeju (ROK), are already on their agenda.

According to Zhou Kai, in terms of transit services, Yunnan Airport Group plans to launch free lodging service for overnight transit passengers, offer free small lockers to passengers with long transit time, provide free round-trip airport express tickets, one-day Kunming city tour, half-day shopping coupons and other services and products. The group will also accelerate its airport express development to connect the airport with more surrounding cities.

"In five years, we plan to build five new airports in Lancang, Cangyuan, Honghe, Yuanyang and Qiubei, and

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complete pre-construction work for the Mongla and Xuanwei airports. The Cangyuan airport is expected to be in use this year. A feasibility study on the site selection for Nujiang airport is also underway. Therefore, Yunnan will have 14 civil airports in the near future."

Reporters learnt from the conference that Colorful Yunnan General Aviation

Company initiated by Yunnan Airport Group will come into operation this year. With an initial investment of 1.5 billion yuan, the company aims at developing short-haul transport via general aviation as a supplement to the current public transport. By 2020, Yunnan is expected to have 50 airports, among which 20 are Class I airports.

BRIDGE



Asia's longest and highest bridge Longjiang Grand Bridge has finished closure in advance and passed load test on April 5. The 8,100-foot-long suspension bridge over Longjiang River, southwestern China's Yunnan province, will open to traffic on May 1, 2016. The new bridge, connecting the cities of Baoshan and Tengchong, and going straight to Myanmar.

Photo by Li Wensheng

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Teddy: Welcome to my bar

Liu Ziyu

"Warm welcomes to you!" The words are printed on the menu of O'Reilly's Beer Garden on East Dongfeng Road of Kunming, representing greetings from Teddy, the American partner of the beer bar.

Teddy started systematically learning Chinese in high school in New York, and during college time he spent one semester in Peking University, further learning Chinese language, economics and history. After study, Teddy started working as an investor in Beijing, but he gradually felt that he is not fond of the life in metropolis. In 2012, Teddy came to Kunming because of work and fell in love with the natural scenery and unique city culture here at first sight. "Three years later, when I



Everything is possible in Kunming, so exciting! Kunming is also the pivot of China's opening-up to South and Southeast Asia, which makes it more potential."

Teddy

had to go back to Beijing, I met with the operator of O'Reilly's by chance and we hit it off. So I became the partner of the bar and decided to stay in Kunming."

It is by no means easy to manage a bar. According to Teddy, his employees have to understand the products and master English at the same time. Every employee will work in turn as a chef, a waiter, or the cashier to be fully familiar with the whole

business. To be unique and able to meet a variety of needs, the bar provides some kinds of the beer with fixed brands but varied styles. At the same time, dinners or snacks in Chinese styles are also available at the bar.

Surprisingly, while good at business, Teddy's major is archaeology. He said that his parents always tell him to learn and do what he loves. It was also the code of the "follow my heart" that guides him to firmly choose Kunming: "Everything is possible here, so exciting! Kunming is also the pivot of China's opening-up to South and Southeast Asia, which makes it more potential."

"I hope we will open bars in cities like Yuxi or Qujing in the future," Teddy said, adding that he is ready to welcome more people to visit his bar.

COOPERATION

Yuxi-Mohan section of China-Laos International Railway begins construction

**Hou Wenkun
Deng Yu**

Pre-construction mobilization for the Yuxi-Mohan railway was held in Yuxi City on April 19, marking the beginning of full-fledged construction on this leg of the China-Laos International Railway.

According to the Kunming Railway Bureau, this section is part of the international railway linking China's Yunnan Province to both Laos and Thailand. The railway is 508.53-kilometre long, starting from Yuxi, Yunnan and

ending at Mohan on the China-Laos border. With a design speed of 160 kilometres per hour and a total investment of over 50 billion yuan, the railway is divided into a two-lane section from Yuxi to Xishuangbanna, and a single-lane section from Xishuangbanna to Mohan.

The completion of this railway, together with the existing Kunming-Yuxi railway, will better connect the central and southern city clusters of Yunnan, driving up economic and social development in regions along the route.

Plants of Laos' Saysettha Development Zone II pass acceptance check

Recently, plants of Laos' Saysettha Development Zone Phase II were completed and passed Lao acceptance checks.

The project was initiated on July 1, 2015 with a total investment of USD 1.72 million by China-Laos Joint Investment Company. It covers a land area of 20,648 square metres.

A project officer explained, "Premade standard plants greatly shorten construction time, making it easier finish a project. Therefore, such plants serve as business development incubators and attract more quality projects." The standard plant of Phase I of the development zone, completed in August 2015, is now home to a number of prominent businesses. The completion and full operation of the large-scale standard plant complex in the near future is set to improve

the development zone's capacity to attract science and technology-centred SMEs, and give full play to the zone's role as a business incubator and accelerator.

Saysettha Comprehensive Development Zone is a joint venture of the Yunnan Construction Engineering Group (YNJG) and the Vientiane municipal government. In July 2012, the governments of China and Laos signed an agreement on joint development of the zone, making the project a key international cooperation between the two countries. (YNJG)



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