



## China praised for releasing water to drought-hit Mekong countries

According to a report released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on March 14, Vietnam is suffering its worst drought in 90 years, which rendered nearly a million people short of water for domestic use and affected nearly 160,000 hectares of rice fields. Meanwhile, the seawater intrusion caused severe soil salinization in the Mekong Delta.

The drought's recent development is threatening people's production and living along the Mekong. In order to accommodate the

concerns of Vietnam and other countries in the river basin, the Chinese government notified the Jinghong Hydropower Station in Yunnan province to release water for downstream areas, effectively alleviating the persistent drought.

A report in *The Nation* of Thailand quoted a Thai official saying that the action demonstrated more transparency in China's management of trans-boundary water resources. Prior to the emergency water release, the Chinese government wrote to inform the Mekong River Commission members of

the water release plan. Additionally, Chinese diplomats were sent to notify the governments of involved countries.

On March 17, the Vietnam News Agency published a report entitled *vietnam highly anticipates emergency water supply from China*. A Vietnamese official of Water Resource Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was quoted saying that China's release of emergency water supply is "a big help" for alleviating the drought and seawater intrusion on Vietnam's Jiulong River Plain.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia issued a statement on March 16, praising the Chinese government's decision to release an emergency water supply to help the countries in the lower Mekong River Basin cope with the drought. According to the statement, the water resources management cooperation is an important part of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism, and China's decision to release the emergency water supply proves that China is maintaining a good cooperative relationship

with the countries along the Mekong in water resources management.

According to reports, climate change, reduced precipitation, less runoff on tributaries and other factors have resulted in repeated droughts in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin. The water regulation of Jinghong Hydropower Station and other hydropower stations is of great significance for the dry season navigation, irrigation and seawater intrusion prevention as well as the wet season flood control on the Mekong. (Source: Xinhua News Agency and China Daily)

(Collated by Shu Wen)

## Monihei Carnival



People of Wa ethnic group and tourists take part in the "Monihei" Carnival in Cangyuan Wa Autonomous County, Southwest China's Yunnan province on May 1, 2016. As a tradition, Wa people throw and smear muddy water onto each other to express their wishes for health and happiness during the "Monihei" carnival, which has attracted a lot of tourists both from home and abroad. Photo by Chen Haining.

## What amazed foreigners so much during their travel in China?

Recently, 36 members of a basketball team from Australia - Adelaide came to China and participated in the 2016 China-Australia Basketball Championship. Upon arrival in China, they took the high-speed railway to Shandong and felt amazed at seeing the speed of 300 km/h, taking photos with the train and showing scissor-like hands.

Actually, this is not the first time foreigners have marveled at the Chinese high-speed railway.

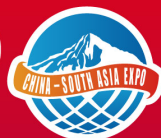
In November 2015, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang invited leaders of 16 central and eastern European leaders attending the Fourth Chinese-Central and Eastern European National Leaders Meeting to together take the high-speed railway heading from Suzhou to Shanghai. They all expressed appreciation of Chinese high-speed railway for its smooth running and comfort.

In July 2015, when taking Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, a Sweden guy put a coin near the window of the train running at the speed of 300 km/h, and the coin kept standing still despite of the high speed in the 9-minute video. He said, "Modern high-speed railway is fast and comfortable, and Chinese high-speed railway is a global leader."

Many foreign friends having experienced Chinese high-speed railway remarked one after another. Ericab, a British netizen, remarked: "Beijing to Tianjin. The space is roomy for stretching feet and the seats are comfortable. It is exceptionally smooth and wonderful." Aslimversgwm, a Thai netizen commented: "The world's fastest - dreamlike! 300 km per hour! But you cannot even feel the rapidity! It's a brand new train and super smooth. It takes 4-5 hours to run 1350 km - oh, my gosh!"

(According to People's Daily)

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