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The Nation

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## EDUCATION

### Yunnan, Thailand to deepen exchanges in education

By Li Qinying

The 2016 Yunnan-Thailand educational exchange conference took place on July 11 at Yunnan Minzu University (old campus) in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Jointly hosted by Thai Consulate General in Kunming and Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, the exchange gathered more than 100 teachers and students from 11 Thai universities and 28 higher institutions in Yunnan.

Thai consul general in Kunming suggested the two

sides improve their working mechanism and work out more programs for international students.

In response to the Thai consul general, Zhou Rong, director of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, said that Yunnan will provide more scholarship for Thai students who are willing to study in Yunnan. Zhou hopes that the Thai side could assist Yunnan in Thai language teaching.

University delegates from the Yunnan and Thailand briefed their schools and shared insights on furthering educational exchanges between the two sides.

## INTERVIEW

### Raymond Greene sees huge potential in tourism cooperation with Yunnan

BY WANG JING

"Southeast Asia is one of the most popular tourist destinations for Americans, as Yunnan is adjacent to South and Southeast Asia, it should introduce more targeted cross-border tourist routes to the American people," said Raymond Greene, the U.S. Consul General in Chengdu, during a recent interview with Yunnan media.

American politicians and business people, as well as tourism professionals, are increasingly recognizing Yunnan's important position as a pivot of China's opening-up to South and Southeast Asia. The launch of U.S.-China Tourism Year in 2016 provides an opportunity to deepen tourism cooperation between Yunnan and the United States, said Greene.

Among other factors, the two countries' reciprocal ten-year visa policy, and the increasing number of flights and air routes are making it easier for Yunnan tourists to travel to the United States. Meanwhile, the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu and the Yunnan Provincial Commission of Tourism Development are seeking to attract more American visitors to southwest China through various activities.



**"In 2015, according to the Yunnan Provincial Commission of Tourism Development, the number of American tourists to Yunnan reached nearly 200,000."**

"Many American tourists choose to visit the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an and other traditional tourist attractions in China, just as Chinese tourists would travel to New York and Los Angeles," Greene said. Actually, Yunnan boasts unique tourism resources, including excellent natural landscapes and diverse minority cultures, Greene observed. "Many people do not know that Yunnan is geographically and culturally close to Southeast Asian countries. Yunnan should step up publicity efforts in this regard and enhance the development of high-quality cross-border tourism," Greene said. He also expressed the hope that the two peoples can discover more destinations worth visiting in each other's countries.

In his view, there is huge potential for cooperation between Yunnan and the United States in cold-chain logistics, the processing of agricultural products, cultural products, the elder care industry and many other areas.



Raymond Greene was receiving an interview from reporters in Kunming on June 29.  
Photo by Wang Jing

## SUMMIT



Edmund Phelps, 2006 Nobel Laureate in Economics.



Eric Maskin, 2007 Nobel Laureate in Economics.

Recently, the 4<sup>th</sup> Nobel Economists Summit of China with the topic "Innovative Development of Regional Economy - Regional Cooperation between China and South Asia & Southeast Asia" was held in Kunming. More than 300 guests attended, including Edmund Phelps (Nobel prize winner in 2006), Eric Maskin (Nobel prize winner in 2007) and economists and famous entrepreneurs in China, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Photo by Zhang Tong

## CULTURE

### More "Thai elements" in Chinese movies and TV series

By Yu Yichun

From *the Lost* in Thailand released in 2012 to *the Detective Chinatown* released at the end of 2015, "Thai elements" have become unique ingredients for Chinese movies and Thailand has become one of the important filming spots for Chinese film and television industry.

According to a new statistics from Thai Film Office, the number of Chinese film shooting in Thailand in the past 4 years is keeping increasing. In 2015, there were 48 Chinese film teams shooting in Thailand. Till March 11, 2016, there were 15 Chinese film teams shooting in Thailand.

For Chinese film crew, the most attracting things are the diversity of shooting spots, unique culture, efficient filming approval procedures and high quality local assistant team.

The director of Thai Film Office said at the interview said that there were more and more Chinese film shooting team coming to Thailand, and in 2015, Chinese film contributed THB 0.455 billion for Thailand (THB 1 equals to about RMB 0.19), among which 13 films accounted for nearly 80% of earnings. The director also mentioned that Tourism Authority of Thailand invited Chinese film teams to shoot in Thailand for Thai

tourism promotion purposes as well.

It is said that China Hongkong firstly began to shoot film and television in Thailand. Since the *Lost*, Thailand is gradually popular in mainland of China.

When *Detective Chinatown* was shooting last year in Bangkok, a whole busy street was closed with the assistance of tourism department. It is because Thai Film Office is affiliated with Ministry of Tourism and Sports, therefore foreign film crews are able to apply for shooting in public places, national parks, airports and military base.

In recent years, Chinese film industry has developed rapidly and there are potential market

ahead. Thai films and TV series are popular in China, especially Thai food and culture enjoyed a good reputation in Chinese audiences. The director of Culture Promotion Department of Culture Department of Thailand mentioned that values and customs between two countries were similar, and movie was the most direct way for people from two countries to enhance communication and understanding. Thailand attached great importance to communication and cooperation between the two countries in terms of film industry and she believed that there will be huge prospects of cooperation in the future.

People's Daily BKK

## THAI BOXING

### Thai Boxing are fascinated by Yunnan Youth

On July 9, a group of young people who are fascinated by Thai Boxing gathered together in Kunming to try Thai boxing. Though with different ages these young people showed a great interest in Thai boxing as some of them are well equipped. After the showcasing from the coach, they were grouped to practise. It is known that Boxing in Thailand is as important as Tai-Ji in China, with the deepen of cooperation between Thailand and Yunnan, more and more people enjoy Thai sports very much.

Photo by Wang Chunyang



## NEIGHBOURS

### China showing goodwill in water diplomacy: Vietnamese reports

By Xinhua News Agency

As a big power in the upstream of the Mekong which has crucial role in socio-economic situation of countries in the Southeast Asia, China is showing its goodwill to join hands in dealing with water resource with neighboring countries in the downstream area, said a Vietnamese state newspaper on Tuesday.

This is a positive move in Beijing's water diplomacy," Nhan Dan (People) Newspaper assessed in its report about Me-

kong River cooperation, adding that countries in the Mekong basin hold responsibility for suitable use of Mekong water.

Mekong River originates in China and runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is known as Lancang in the Chinese stretch.

In the context that lives of millions of people in the river basin have been largely affected by climate change, a closer and more active cooperation mechanism among related countries is needed to exploit and effectively use the import-

ant water resource in Mekong River, reported Nhan Dan.

From March 15 to May 31, China discharged water from southwest Yunnan province's Jinhong Hydropower Station to the lower reaches of the Mekong River.

The move aimed to alleviate severe drought partially caused by El Nino phenomenon in Mekong downstream.

During the first Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) leaders' meeting held in China's Hainan Province in late March, six Mekong countries

continue to affirm their cooperation for peaceful, stable and sustainable development of the Mekong sub-region.

The LMC, involving China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, will focus on security and development, as well as political, social and cultural fields. Interconnectivity, production capacity, cross-border economy, water resources, agriculture and poverty alleviation are five priority directions for cooperation, claimed by Nhan Dan as background.

## AGRICULTURE

### Yunnan to foster 100 agricultural giants

By Yan Xiu'e

According to Agriculture Department of Yunnan Province, Yunnan has attained fruitful achievements in developing its modern plateau agriculture. The exports of vegetables and fruits have exceeded those of tobacco, topping Yunnan's agricultural export list.

In recent years, Yunnan's plateau agriculture has developed rapidly, with the production of rubber, coffee and flowers ranking first in China. Meanwhile, sugarcane and tea production rank second in terms of cultivation area and production capacity. In addition, silk production also ranks third in terms of total cultivation area, fifth in production capacity while potatoes ranks fifth nationally in terms of both.

Over the next five years, Yunnan will continue to push forward the development of 10 key industries including the raising of pigs, cattle and goats, as well as cultivation of vegetables, flowers and nursery stocks, Chinese herbal medicines, tea, walnut, fruits, coffee and edible fungus. Combined, those products have a targeted output value of 770 billion yuan. The province is also aiming at fostering some 100 agriculture giants each with an annual output value of one billion yuan. The output value of pig farming industry is expected to reach 150 billion yuan, while that of vegetables, flowers and Chinese herbal medicines should reach 100 billion yuan each.

## EMS

### 21 Countries discussing E-Commerce cooperation in Kunming

By Chu Donghua

Universal Postal Union EMS cross-border e-commerce and EMS market development strategy symposium for senior management of the Asia-Pacific region was held in Kunming last week.

This symposium was held by Universal Postal Union EMS cooperation agency and undertaken by China Post Group Corporation. 50 representatives from 21 countries and regions such as China, the USA, Japan and Brazil attended the symposium. The symposium aims to promote post services cooperation and mutual benefit among Asia-Pacific region. Representatives discussed issues such as regional EMS market development strategy, EMS operation quality improvement, supply chain integration as well as customs clearance.

During the symposium, representatives communicated issues regarding EMS post rates, small parcel tracking service, EMS terminal fees as well as issues such as Twinning Project development and capacity improvement of bilateral ports. In addition, discussed about EMS quality and efficiency issues.