



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## NEIGHBOURS

### Strategic deals focus on training railway talent

Chinese colleges signed strategic agreements with counterparts in Southeast Asian countries to train skilled railway transportation talent for ASEAN member countries.

As China has added contracts with ASEAN countries to build new railways, the need for technicians skilled in railway construction, operations and maintenance has grown.

Under the agreements, faculty members and students will be able to visit each other and exchange their experiences and programs.

It is the latest development in relations between Chinese schools and their Association of Southeast Asian Nations counterparts, after a deal at China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week established a railway transportation training league.

13 Chinese railway enterprises, including Chinese CRRC Corp and China Railway Group, 36 Chinese universities and colleges specializing in the railway industry and about 20 colleges from Southeast Asia, had joined the league, including Siam University in Thailand and the University of Surabaya in Indonesia.

Liu Luming, vice-president of Guiyang Vocational and Technical College, said the school has 36 students from a province in Laos enrolled in courses related to the railway industry.

Laos and China have agreed to build a rail line between Vientiane and Kunming in Yunnan province.

(China Daily)

### Lonely Planet special issue for Yunnan debuts in Singapore and Malaysia

Recently, a Lonely Planet special issue for Yunnan was published in Singapore and Malaysia.

Eight million copies will be available to subscribers for free as inlays of Lonely Planet magazine. The special issue, focusing on Yunnan's ethnic cultures, customs and natural sceneries, shares the charm of Yunnan with readers.

110,000 copies of the special issue for the Indian market will also be available this year.



### Summer traffic spikes

Kunming Changshui International Airport has seen a steady passenger traffic growth since the beginning of the summer vacation, with around 1,000 flights into and out of Kunming every day.

Photo by Zhang Tong

## VOICE

### Don't miss the G20 summit in China

Wang Wen

The G20 Hangzhou Summit is around the corner. On July 29, the T20 think tank conference, a warm-up event for the G20, was held in Beijing, attended by around 200 think tank representatives from around the world.

China's continuous strong economic growth has attracted worldwide attention during the global turmoil, and the economic and trade downturn. During the conference, an Indian scholar asked about China's experience in setting up economic development zones across the country.

- The summit will be a collective demonstration of the world's interest in China's new development concepts

- China's position as the host will be conducive to strengthening dialogue between developed and developing countries

Therefore, this year's G20 will likely also be a collective demonstration of the world's interest in China's new development concepts.

G20 is not only a platform for international economic cooperation, but also an improvement in the international

order. China's position as the host will be conducive to addressing global risks and forming synergy for growth through strengthened dialogue between developed and developing countries, as well as improved macroeconomic policy coordination.

Interactions between separate parties always comes with friction. Now it's time for the world to explore the opportunities brought about by this year's long-awaited G20 Summit.

(The author is Executive Director of Chongyang Institute of Finance, Renmin University)

## BELT AND ROAD

### A dream of six countries: The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

Luo Rongchan  
Zhang Ruogu

This March, during the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting held in Sanya, China, leaders jointly issued the Sanya Declaration, which aims at establishing a future community of shared peace and prosperity among Lancang-Mekong countries.

The LMC, which pursues the common interests of the countries along the Lancang-Mekong River, is a cooperation mechanism jointly fostered by Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Yunnan's historical connections and its geographical vicinity enabled it to be one of the earliest provinces in China to engage in international and sub-regional cooperation. As early as 1992, Yunnan joined the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (GMS). Over the past 20 years, Yunnan has carried out pragmatic cooperation with the GMS countries in multiple fields, including transportation, resource development and

agriculture. Cooperation is managed by five established bilateral mechanisms that includes the Yunnan-North Laos Cooperation Working Group and Yunnan-North Thailand Cooperation Working Group.

When it comes to the three pillars of the LMC, namely political security, economic and sustainable development, and social and cultural communication, Yunnan has close cooperation with the Lancang-Mekong countries in energy, power and agricultural projects and sub-regional transport projects such as the China-Laos and China-Thailand railways.

The first Lancang-Mekong University Friendly Games, proposed by Yunnan, will be held in Yunnan this year. Another of the province's initiatives for the establishment of the Lancang-Mekong tourism cities alliance was also written into the Sanya Declaration, its permanent body possibly located in Yunnan.

The LMC is also planning to set up a Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation centre and a water resources management centre. The former will be located in Yunnan.

## COOPERATION

### Chongqing and Yunnan join hands in Lao coffee industry

Luo Rongchan

Recently, Yunnan Changshengda Investment Company and Chongqing Energy Investment Group Import & Export Company held a strategic cooperation signing ceremony concerning the Lao coffee industry in Vientiane, Laos. Both sides plan to build a large-scale coffee plantation and processing park in Phongsaly Province, Laos.

In 2011, Changshengda Investment Company carried out a 12,000-hectare coffee planting project in six counties of Phongsaly. Under the support of both countries, the Phongsaly coffee industry has become a key project under the Yunnan-North Laos Working Group Cooperation Mechanism.

Chongqing Energy Investment Group, with a fixed

assets investment of RMB 100 billion, has set up a Coffee Trading Centre in Chongqing. Taking the Phongsaly coffee project as a starting point, the two sides plan to develop a coffee plantation and primary processing base in North Laos, introduce China's largest coffee group Hogood Coffee to central Laos (Vientiane), build a coffee deep-processing plant with an annual output of 10,000 tons in Saysetha Development Zone, and promote coffee cultivation in southern Laos with investment, equipment and funds.



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## YUNNAN PRODUCTS

### Dounan Flower Trading Centre in peak season

Zhang Yanqun

For two consecutive days this month, over one million fresh-cut flowers have been auctioned off at the Dounan Flower Trading Centre.

The trading centre took less than eight months to achieve noteworthy trade volumes, marking the accelerated transformation and advancements of Yunnan's flower industry.

The trading centre has seen stable growth—in term of supply volume and category—since it began operations in December 24 last year. Currently, the Dounan Flower Trading Centre has 306 trading seats and three auction clocks. Its supply and demand have grown to more than 600 regular buyers and 6,000 suppliers. As its business continues to grow, the construction of its second auction hall, which will be



Trade of Dounan Flower Trading Center has been lively. The photo shows the florists are sorting the carnations.

Photo by Yang Zheng

China's largest with seven auction clocks and more than 700 seats, is going to kick-off soon. After completion, remote auction, online and offline auction, standardized terminal retail and flower futures trade will be functional. Additionally,

auctions of plants and potted bonsais will be available as well. In 2015, Dounan Flower Market saw a 10% year on year growth in both trade and transaction volume, with a total transaction volume of RMB 4.29 billion.