



CHINA • YUNNAN



DIALOGUE

Xu Ningning: For an upgraded China-ASEAN comprehensive cooperation

**Shu Wen
Luo Rongchan**

As a witness and promoter of China-ASEAN relations, Mr. Xu Ningning, Executive Director of the China-ASEAN Business Council, had been engaged in China-ASEAN cooperation since 1990. Xu shared with the reporter what this cooperation has been through over the past 25 years.

Since the two sides established a dialogue relationship

25 years ago, innovation had become the foundation of the cooperation. Xu said China is the first country to form an FTA, establish strategic partnerships and join in the Southeast Asia Treaty of Friendship with ASEAN. These accomplishments bring constant innovation and vitality to all cooperation with ASEAN.

Since 2004, the China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit is held annually in



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Xu Ningning,
Executive Director of the
China-ASEAN Business
Council

Nanning. The two events, as an important achievement of innovative cooperation between China and ASEAN, promoting mutual understanding and furthering business ties.

"China-ASEAN cooperation is still growing in many areas," Xu said. "In the economic field, cooperation in finance, logistics and SMEs continues to strengthen. In social and cultural fields, collaboration in tourism and

education also continues to be deepened and refined."

Xu believes that under the Belt and Road Initiative, China and ASEAN will enrich and deepen the regional partnership and open up a new stage for cooperation. Consensus between the two sides will also expand -- from initial framework agreements to specific cooperation details -- it will push forward strategic cooperation between the two sides.

NEIGHBOURS

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi visits China

Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi paid an official visit to China from August 17 to 21 at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

China is the first country that Aung San Suu Kyi has visited out of the ASEAN, since she took office in April.

"It holds great significance to the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between both countries in the new phase," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said.

Chinese leaders met with her and exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. Apart from Beijing, Aung San Suu Kyi visited other Chinese cities, including Xi'an and Kunming.

(Xinhua)

ASEAN youth optimistic about China-ASEAN cooperation

Jiang Xuelin

"I'm quite optimistic about future cooperation between China and ASEAN," said head of the Singaporean delegation at the 43rd ASEAN Young Leaders Training Program held by Guangxi International Youth Exchange Institute.

The graduation ceremony of the training program was held recently in Nanning.

The head of the Singaporean delegation said that the training program provided a good platform to promote the relationship between China and ASEAN countries, as well as promoting mutual understanding between young people of these countries.

A Lao student also expressed her confidence in China-ASEAN cooperation. She said that Laos is a mountainous country and it takes a long time to drive from one place to another. The China-Laos Railway will be conducive to the rapid development of the Lao economy.

VOICE

Mutually beneficial concept behind China's diplomacy

Chai Yifei

President Xi Jinping often tells international friends and Chinese diplomats that "China will uphold the right concept of justice and benefits."

"China wishes the whole world to develop together and developing countries to develop even faster. All countries should abide by the principle of seeking mutual benefit rather than taking a zero-sum approach."

Why should we adhere to the correct concept of justice and benefits?

"Currently, with the rapid development of economic globalisation and regional integration, different countries and regions have formed a relationship of mutual integration and shared stake. Only by giving consideration to both interests and brotherhood can we obtain both justice and benefits. And only by striking a balance between both can we achieve win-win results," said President Xi on July 2014 in his speech

at Seoul National University of South Korea.

In the past fifty years, China has sent 23,000 medical workers to 66 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They have cumulatively treated 270 million patients and have won widespread praise among the people in these countries.

As China's overall national strength increases since the reform and opening-up period, it is providing more foreign assistance and assuming more international responsibility than in the past.

China has pledged USD 3.1 billion to the South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change, and has provided USD 60 billion for 10 major China-Africa cooperation projects. By upholding the correct concept of justice and benefits, China works actively to advance the win-win cooperation between countries.

(Abridged from an article on People's Daily Overseas Edition)

PEOPLE



Cai Zelin(left) and his teammate rejoices after the game.

Photo by Wang Lili(Xinhua Agency)

Painstaking training pays off at the Olympics

Lou Ying

The Rio Olympic Games has seen the largest-ever athlete delegation from China, and numbers 416 members. Among them, Cai Zelin, a young athlete from Yunnan, won the silver medal in the men's 20-kilometre race walking event, thus establishing a new record in Yunnan's race walking history.

Race walking is both a physical and mental

challenge for athletes. But for Cai Zelin, difficult training is an indispensable part of fighting for the honour of his mother country. He showed the world how he measures the distance between his daily practice and the medal podium with that pair of tough, callus-covered feet.

It wasn't easy for Cai to get his tickets to the Olympics. He suffered from a previous injury during the 2016 National Race Walking Championships, but still

managed to finish in third place after a gruelling final two kilometres.

Two months later, the 2016 IAAF Race Walking Team Championships opened in Rome, during which Cai won the silver medal. His win officially secured his place in the Rio Olympics.

The silver medal at the Rio Olympics is the ultimate reward for Cai Zelin after his painstaking efforts over the years.

INTERCONNECTIVITY

Mengla customs assists in China-Laos Railway construction

Wu Ping

According to Kunming Customs, Mengla Customs, one of its subsidiaries, has been taking active measures to facilitate the customs clearance of railway construction materials since the inauguration of the China-Laos Railway project.

A one-stop reporting window was set up to facilitate the efficiency of customs clearance. It also strengthened consultation with its Lao and Thai counterparts. As the construction progresses, more and more

construction materials will be transported to Laos via the Mo-han land port. Mengla Customs will continue to improve its services and supervision based on the clearance facilitation measures.



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INDUSTRY

Kunming Int'l Flower Exhibition kicks off

**Yan Jiafen
Lu Jiliang**

The 17th China Kunming International Flower Exhibition will be held in Kunming from today to August 28 with the theme of "flowers and life".

115 domestic and foreign exhibitors take part in the exhibition which includes nine major categories, namely fresh cut flowers, ornamental nursery stocks, local flowers, edible flowers, medicinal flowers, industrial flowers, flower-made

food, flower-related cosmetics and preserved fresh flowers. In addition, floral decoration, floral art and related derivatives such as flower paintings and cultural products will also be seen at the exhibition.

To encourage public participation, the organizers will also carry out various forms of flower-related cultural activities. By then, visitors can see some 50 new flower varieties and take part in environmentally-friendly home floral contest, floral show and other cultural and creative activities.



The profile photo of the last year's China Kunming International Flower Exhibition.

Photo by Yan Jiafen