



CHINA • YUNNAN



CHINA TODAY

Time to catch the "China Express"

Wang Junling

Over the past three years, China's Belt and Road Initiative has won tremendous recognition and support from the international community, and has achieved fruitful results while bringing tangible benefits to all countries involved.

The launch of major Belt and Road projects, such as the China-Turkey cross-border e-commerce platform, and the overseas application of China's 3-G nuclear power technology Hualong One, make the initiative influential

worldwide.

According to statistics from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, as of July, the country's total overseas investment under the initiative has reached USD 51.1 billion, and Chinese companies have built 52 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, creating a total tax revenue of USD 900 million while creating about 70,000 job opportunities in host countries.

At the same time, trade along the Belt and Road remains heated in spite of the cooling world economy.

USD 51.1

billion
China's total overseas investment under the Belt and Road Initiative, by the end of July, according to Chinese Ministry of Commerce

Over the first seven months of this year, China's exports to the Philippines, Russia, Thailand and India grew at 26.1%, 14.5%, 9.4% and 7.3%, respectively.

Shen Jiru, a researcher

at the World Economy and Politics Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out in an interview that the reason the Belt and Road Initiative is highly recognized by more and more countries and international organizations over the past few years lies in China's principle of establishing a shared economy and a community of common destiny among all the parties involved.

Analysts say that although the deepening adjustment of the world economy, and the superposition of various risks continue to bring challenges to

the Belt and Road Initiative, the bigger picture of international win-win cooperation should never change. Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech also clearly shows that China will strengthen internal and external coordination so the countries and peoples along the Belt and Road will continue to benefit.

For China, only mutual beneficial relationships matter. All who embrace win-win cooperation are welcome to take the "China Express". **(Reproduced from reports of People's Daily)**

INTERCONNECTIVITY

China's second highway to Laos begins construction

Dai Zhenhua

Recently, the Mengla-Mengman Highway, China's second highway to the China-Laos border after the Xiaomengyang-Mohan Highway, officially began construction in Yunnan.

The 49.02-km highway, with a design speed of 80 kilometers per hour, is expected to be finished in three years.

Starting in Mengla County, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, and ending at Mengman port on the China-Laos border, the highway will connect to Lao National Highway. Upon completion, the highway will become a key land access point from China into Laos and Thailand.

Fast pass for China-Laos Railway project

Wu Ping

Recently, Kunming Customs and China Railway International Company signed a memorandum of cooperation in Kunming. The two sides agreed that based on effective supervision by the customs company, it and China Railway International will work closely in cargo declarations and examinations. The partnership will facilitate the clearance of railway construction materials and equipment for the China-Laos Railway project.

Kunming Customs will set up a fast pass system for the project, with *ad hoc* time slots for project material and equipment clearances, while providing targeted training for the staff of China Railway International. China Railway International promised to improve its customs declaration system and work closely with the customs.

VOICE

Chinese innovation enters a new era

Hu An'gang

China's latest innovative development has drawn worldwide attention.

On August 16, China launched the world's first quantum satellite, marking the first step in building a space-based quantum communications network. One day before, the country entered the world's top 25 most-innovative economies, as ranked by the Global Innovation Index.

Innovation has become a buzzword in China. The theme of this year's G20 summit was "Toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy".

Innovation can cover a wide spectrum of fields, among which scientific and technological innovation grab the most attention. The 13th Five-Year Plan on National Scientific and Technological Innovation, released by China's cabinet, the State Council, clearly stated the guiding

ideology, overall goals, main tasks and reform initiatives of China's nationwide scientific and technological innovation over the following five years. It marks China's entrance into a new era of innovation.

The Plan puts forward China's innovation goals of 2020 thusly: to enter the world's top 15 as an innovation-based economy in terms of overall national innovation capacity. It also defines what is an innovation-based economy and comes up with an overall plan stressing the detailed and quantitative indicators and objectives needed to realize its stated goals.

It can be predicted that by 2020, China's scientific and technological strength and innovation ability will have a significant leap into the world's top innovation-oriented countries. **(The author is the dean of Institute of National Conditions, Tsinghua University, abridged from People's Daily Overseas Edition)**



Flower Expo

The recently held 17th China-Kunming International Flower Exhibition showed that local flower businesses are becoming more and more professional. More than 100 booths exhibited fresh-cut, indigenous flowers, as well as those of the edible and medicinal varieties. Deep-processed products, such as flower-made cosmetics, were new highlights at the exhibition.

Photo by Sun Xiaoyun

CULTURE

Oriental symphony premieres in Guangnan

Li Jie
Fan Chunyan

Recently, an interview tour across Yunnan for nationwide mobile phone media started from Guangnan County in Yunnan Province.

It included the staging of an unusual Zhuang music concert. The traditional ceremonial music, popular in

the Tang and Song Dynasties some one thousand years ago, amazed the reporters present.

Zhuang ceremonial music, known as a living fossil of Yunnan's folk music art. The music, enriched with local touches, has been passed down from generation to generation.

A song called *Pony and Bell*, as well as many other

classic pieces, were played at the show. Distinctive for its Tang and Song styles, the music paced forward with epic grandeur, trotting with cheerful horse bells from time to time.

Zhuang ceremonial music is rich in style and form, and contains unique melodies and singing tunes. It is one of China's oldest ethnic symphonies.

PEOPLE

Age-old ethnic art at the fingertips

Yang Zongyou

Zhang Qiongfeng, technical director of Dayao Nasu Ethnic Handicrafts Development Company in Yunnan Province's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, has led the company to blaze a new trail in preserving and developing thousand-year-old Yi ethnic embroidery traditions through continuous innovation.

Zhang was born into a traditional Yi family in the mountainous area of Chuxiong. As a primary school dropout, Zhang had to do farm work in the daytime

and needlework at night. At the age of 13, she had already become a master of Yi embroidery, and in 2008 was employed by Nasu as the company's technical director.

With the company's support, Zhang has been exploring the Yi embroidery traditions, while getting local women involved in production, effectively preserving and developing this age-old cultural heritage. The jewelry and garments these women design and produce have been well received worldwide and exported to many countries, including Spain, Australia and Japan.



Zhang Qiongfeng(second from the left), guides local women to learn embroidery skills.

Photo by Yang Zongyou (Xinhua Agency)

NEIGHBOURS

China-made train debuts in Bangkok

Yang Zhou

The Thai National Railway Administration recently held a train inauguration ceremony in Bangkok. These up-to-date, China-made trains, after trial operations, will make it more comfortable to travel by train in Thailand. The new trains are expected to begin running on the Bangkok-Chiang Mai line this October.

According to the Thai Transport Minister, this batch of trains includes 115 meter-gauge passenger cars and locomotives bought at THB 4.98 billion (about USD 144 million) from CRRC Chang-

chun Railway Vehicles Company.

Liu Gang, Vice General Manager of CRRC Changchun's International Business Department, told reporters that this is the first time Thailand has bought trains from China, which is a new recognition of the Chinese technology.



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