



CHINA • YUNNAN



AMBASSADOR

Li's tour significant to China-Laos partnership

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's tour to Laos will significantly enhance relations between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China-Laos comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Chinese ambassador to Laos said recently.

Guan Huabing, Chinese ambassador to Laos, said that since this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of China-Laos diplomatic ties and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the China-ASEAN dialogue relationship, Li's visit is expected to push forward regional integration in East Asia.

China and Laos, linked by rivers and mountains, have enjoyed a long history of friendship and are "good neighbors, good friends, good partners and good brothers," said Guan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries 55 years ago, the development of China-Laos relations has withstood tests and scored substantial progress featuring deepened comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, closer high-level exchanges

and fruitful achievements from pragmatic cooperation in all sectors, thus benefiting the peoples of the two countries, he said.

Guan also said China believes that Laos, which took over the rotating chair of ASEAN immediately after the establishment of the ASEAN Community on Dec 31, 2015, will play an important role in boosting regional cooperation and maintaining regional peace and stability. China will continue to fully support Laos' role as ASEAN's chair for 2016, he added.

The ambassador said that during the visit to Laos, Li exchanged views with Lao leaders on further deepening the China-Laos comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, pushing forward the implementation of the Belt and Road initiative, and boosting cooperation in various fields.

Shared river, shared future, peoples of the two countries hope that the traditional friendship between China and Laos will be injected with new vigor in the new era, and bring about more benefits for all, Guan said.

(Xinhua)

FESTIVAL

Thai Food Festival opens in Kunming



The Thai product exhibition at the festival.

Photo by Wang Jing

Wang Jing

A Thai Food Festival is jointly launched by the Thailand Consulate General in Kunming and Holiday Inn Kunming from September 1 to 30.

The organizers invited two chefs from the School of Cookery of the well-known Suan Dusit University in Thailand,

so as to bring more authentic Thai delicacies to Kunming residents. Visitors can enjoy Thai food cooked in the most authentic ways and with extremely fresh food materials and spices flown in from Thailand. During the food festival, there are also Thai product exhibition, traditional Thai dance performance and other activities.



Giant mooncake

The traditional Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival falls on September 15 this year. Mooncake, with its thin crust and a rich flavourful filling, is a must-eat item during the festival. To celebrate the festival, a Yunnan company recently made a giant mooncake with a diameter of over 2.4 m and a total weight of 100 kg.

Photo by Lin Yiguang

FRIENDSHIP

China and Laos knot closer ties

Liu Tian Rong Zhongxia

As Laos' strategy of turning itself from a "landlocked" country into a "land-linked" country meets China's Belt and Road Initiative, the destinies of the two countries are now more closely linked than ever before.

It is said that Laos is the only landlocked ASEAN country. However, after the China-Laos railway opens to traffic, the current 16-hour bus trip from the China-Laos border to Vientiane will be shortened to only a three-hour train ride. The railway will traverse Laos, connecting the China-Laos border in the north, and the Laos-Thailand border in the south, via Vientiane. The railway will also become part of the railway network of the Indochina Peninsula.

In June 2010, China and Laos signed an MOU on the

construction of the Saysetha Development Zone, which is now listed as a priority project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to Liu Hu, General Manager of China-Laos Joint Investment Company, and operator of Saysetha Development Zone, the zone is expected to attract around 150 companies with an annual output value of up to USD 6 billion. It is also expected to create more than 30,000 jobs and generate annual fiscal revenue of USD 300 million.

The cooperation between China and Laos is not only confined to infrastructure, but also includes high-tech projects. In November 2015, the Lao I Satellite was jointly launched by the two countries. In March of this year, the satellite in-orbit delivery was completed, and the China-Laos joint venture Lao Asia Pacific Satellite

Company was established. The company is responsible for the commercial operation of the satellite and represents China's first commercial satellite export to an ASEAN country.

Ding Yongbing, general manager of the company, hopes, the satellite will enhance cultural exchanges between the two countries. He also said that connectivity between China and ASEAN should include not only transport interconnection and other infrastructure necessities, but also foster cultural interconnectivity.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Laos. Standing at a new starting point, the two countries still have many ways to cooperate, including in the fields of infrastructure, energy and more.

NEIGHBOURS

Myanmar teachers train in Yunnan

Wu Ping

Recently, a teachers' workshop was launched in Ximeng County, Yunnan Province.

Some 30 teachers from Myanmar border area schools attended the workshop, which consisted of educational, information technology and field practice seminars.

The workshop was well-received among the teachers, and the courses were tailored for their actual needs, featuring a reasonable curriculum, balanced training and field practice, while effectively improving their teaching skills.

1st Lancang-Mekong Fair to open in November

Yan Xiu'e

According to Kunming Exposition Affairs Bureau, the first Lancang-Mekong Sub-Regional Commodities Fair will be held between November 15 and 20 in Kunming.

The event is jointly hosted by China, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam with the theme of "Promoting Common Development along the Lancang-Mekong River". Business exhibitors from the six countries will be invited to this annual fair which will have 3,200 standard booths in the 80,000-square-meter exhibition hall.

The fair will have National Pavilions dedicated to countries engaged in the Lancang-Mekong cooperation; International Pavilion, showcasing businesses and cultures of other countries; as well as Yunnan's "One County One Product" Pavilion, to promote the trade of unique local and foreign produces.



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PEOPLE

Legendary variegated copper

Hu Chao

In northeast Yunnan's Huize County, a legendary copperware with mottled patterns on the surface in made. It is known as variegated copper. Twenty-eight-year-old Zhang Wei is the 13th generational descendant of the Zhang family, and a master craftsman of variegated copperware. In order to carry forward his ancestral skills, Zhang quit his job and picked up the family business.

With beautiful mottled patterns and a hefty feel, variegated copperware is

difficult to craft. It takes a chunk of natural cooper of more than 90% purity, more than 20 complicated steps, and two to three months to complete a single exquisite work.

In June 2008, variegated copperware production was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage. As there are very few hand-forged works on the market today, the inheritance of this unique craft faces huge challenges.

Zhang Wei said he will sometimes take his casting kit out of his workshop to show people how his wares are made. "I hope that my efforts can help



The picture shows Zhang Wei and one of his variegated copper works.

Photo by Hu Chao(Xinhua Agency)

more people know and like variegated copper, so that we

can better preserve and develop this age-old craft."