



CHINA • YUNNAN



VOICE

China's new initiative to benefit more

Shen Dingli

Infrastructure is the foundation of development. A global infrastructure connectivity initiative proposed by China has been warmly welcomed by governments and people worldwide.

During the G20 Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech entitled "A New Starting Point for China's Development, A New Blueprint for Global Growth". In the speech he put forward what is billed as the global infrastructure connectivity alliance initiative. The president pointed out, "We need to enhance the interconnection of our infrastructure. China has put forward the global infrastructure connectivity alliance initiative to encourage multilateral development banks to adopt the joint

declaration of aspirations, while giving greater funds and intellectual support to infrastructure projects to speed up the process of global infrastructure connectivity."

It is an initiative proposed by China for the benefit of the whole world. This is also China's third global proposal after the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

While the AIIB aims to finance infrastructure development in the Asian region and thus benefiting billions of people, the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance aims even higher — to scale up infrastructure connectivity worldwide and to benefit people the world over.

(The author is professor of Fudan University. The article is reproduced from People's Daily Overseas Edition)

- **The Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance**
- **Encourages multilateral development banks to adopt the joint declaration of aspirations**
- **Gives greater funds and intellectual support to infrastructure projects to speed up the process of global infrastructure connectivity**



Flowers in bloom in Yunnan

Flower expo was held in Songming County, Yunnan Province, during the China's National Day holiday (October 1-7), attracting tourists home and abroad. Occupying an area of 860 mu (57.3 hectares), the expo will last till October 25. **Photo by Yang Zongyou (Xinhua Agency)**

COMMERCE

List of top 100 private businesses released

Yang Shuyan

Recently, a ranking of Yunnan's top 100 non-public businesses for 2016 was released at a press conference. Rankings for top 20 manufacturers and top 20 service providers were also issued.

In 2015, Yunnan's non-public economy has seen remarkable growth, contributing 46.6% of Yunnan's annual GDP and

49.5% of the province's economic growth. The number of private businesses has grown to 2.25 million, up 12.1%. This represents the fastest growth rate nationwide. A number of locally well-known businesses, such as Junfa Real Estate Company, Lifan Junma Vehicles Yunnan Company, Nanlin Group, Xiangfeng Chemical Fertilizer Company, Hongxiang Yixintang Pharmaceutical Group and

North Star Group were included in the lists.

A strategic cooperation agreement was signed between Bank of China's Yunnan Branch and the Yunnan Provincial Federation of Industry and Commerce during the press conference. The two sides committed to supporting the development of non-public enterprises. The bank will offer a 30-billion yuan credit line for all local private enterprises.

NEIGHBOURS

China-Vietnam border trade fair to open in November

**Luo Rongchan
Cai Ziting**

The 16th China-Vietnam Border Trade Fair, themed "Integration, Interconnectivity and Win-Win Cooperation," will take place in Hekou Yao Autonomous County in Southwest China's Yunnan Province from November 12 to 16.

As part of Yunnan provincial trade promotion program for 2016, the fair is expected to accommodate 1,200 stands run by enterprises from different countries, including 10 top 500 Chinese companies, Vietnam companies and 30 well-known ones from other countries.

The major exhibits include cars, digital products, household appliances, wooden furniture, sea food, and others.

China-Vietnam investment signings and promotions, policy publicity, food festival, and art performances will be staged during the fair.

The fair is organised annually, alternating between Vietnamese Lao Cai Province and China's Yunnan Province, with the goal of promoting trade cooperation between the neighbours.

China's Eastern Airlines launches Kunming-Qingdao-San Francisco route

China Eastern Airlines launched flights connecting the Chinese cities of Kunming and Qingdao with San Francisco in the United States recently.

An Airbus 33H will fly the route three times a week.

It will depart from Kunming on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and arrive at San Francisco International Airport via Qingdao, a port city in Shandong Province, according to a statement issued by the Yunnan branch of China Eastern Airlines.

The return flight is scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and will arrive in Kunming the next day, it said.

Kunming, capital of China's southwestern Yunnan Province, is known as Spring City for its mild climate and green environment. The city offers international transit passengers 72-hour visa-free stays.

(Xinhua)

ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Exploring China's only wild elephant reserve

Situated 22 kilometres away from Jinghong City, the Xishuangbanna Wild Elephant Valley is China's only elephant conservation, breeding and medical aid base. Moreover, it is China's only national park offering up-close observation and contact with these wild giants. Covering an area of 370 hectares, the reserve is home to more than 80 wild Asian elephants grouped together in 8-12 families.

In order to better observe the population, its reproduction cycle and survival conditions, so as to implement effective protection, an elephant observation protection group was established in June 2005. The group is responsible for tracking, observing and recording



The picture shows elephants play with one tourist in the Wild Elephant Valley.

Photo by Chen Haining (Xinhua Agency)

the behavior of wild elephants appearing on the periphery of the reserve, thus providing scientific data for wildlife studies.

At present, about 100 wild elephants from 12 different families are regularly spotted in the wild elephant valley.

The Wild Elephant Valley also has China's

first Asian elephant museum, which introduces the origin and evolution of Asian elephants, as well as the crisis they currently face. The facility calls for the protection of all Asian elephants.

(Publicity Department of the CPC Committee of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture)

CONNECTIVITY

Belt and Road Int'l Car Rally across five countries

**Lou Ying
Zu Hongbing**

The Belt and Road International Rally was kicked off recently in Kunming. Today, the rally team returns to Kunming. The rally team consists of 45 off-road vehicles and more than 140 members, including racers, businessmen, media reporters and staff of the organizing committee. The rally traveled 8000 kilometres through Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore in the 19 days.

The rally aims at promoting trade and economic cooperation along the route through sports and cultural exchanges. Endurance races and trace races were held at a number of legs. Local racers also joined in the

rally in the Lao, Malaysian and Thai legs. Drivers' exchanges, trade talks, field visits and many other activities also took place in route.

Mr. Bounliep Houngvongsone, Laos' Counsel General in Kunming, said that the rally will play an important role in knotting closer ties between China and southeast Asian countries, thus promoting the implementation of China's Belt and Road Initiative.



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