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51 countries and regions to participate in 2017 SSACEIF

Luo Rongchan

With the 2017 South-Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) coming soon, remarkable results have already been achieved in terms of both investment promotion and exhibitor recruitment. To date, the foreign trade and economic departments of 51 countries and regions -- especially those from eight South Asian countries and ten ASEAN states -- have responded positively to the exhibition. A total of more than 4,000 domestic and overseas enterprises have booked exhibition booths, 41.2 percent of the reserved spaces reserved by overseas companies.

The event will have 8,000 standard booths spanning 17 exhibition halls, and will cover a total area of 170,000 square metres. Half of the halls will be dedicated ones.

Every pavilion of the 2017 SSACEIF will be "eye-catching." In the tourism pavilion, a total of twelve countries will participate in the international tourism exhibition. Participating countries include Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Malaysia.

In the ASEAN pavilion, all ten ASEAN member-states, as well as the would-be ASEAN state of Timor-Leste, will participate in the exhibition. The 2017 Top Thai Brands Exhibition will also be held during SSACEIF.

The South Asia pavilion will present exotic exhibits from South Asian countries. At the Nepal booth, visitors will even be able to take photos with the famous Bodhnath Stupa.

The International Capacity Cooperation Pavilion is planned to feature new exhibitors. These include China's largest steel structure manufacturer, as well as cutting-edge capacity and production enterprises specializing in the aerospace, building materials and food processing fields.

The Sino-US Cooperation Exhibition will house the Google AdWords Yunnan Experience Centre which is a cooperation project between Google and iWatt Yunnan.

India plays protagonist role in China-South Asia Business Forum

Wang Jing

The 12th China-South Asia Business Forum will be held in Kunming from June 11th to 13th. At that time, presidents of Chambers of Commerce and business entrepreneurs from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Afghanistan will meet in the Spring City to discuss the theme "Challenging opportunities, innovation and employment, and innovative investment".

Businessmen from South Asian interact with each other on business opportunities. (File photo)

In addition to an opening ceremony and a keynote speech part, a China-South Asia Business Cooperation Forum, Nepal Tourism Investment and Trade Promotion Conference and other activities, sub-forums such as Internationalization Forum, big health industry forum, youth forum, consumer forum, and agriculture forum will also be held.

The leaders of the world's top companies like Tata, Reliance and Infosys will present at the Internationalization Forum with the theme "Dialogue between Chinese and Indian Entrepreneurs – new vision and opportunity for regional cooperation and globalization".

India's private sector is an important engine for maintaining a good momentum of growth. The implications of internationalization of India enterprises for China and other South Asia countries, and the emerging investment areas and opportunities in China and South Asia will be the focus.

China South Asia Business Forum is a backdrop of growing political mutual trust and economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries. The forum reflects the common desire of all countries in the region to strengthen cooperation and seek win-win situations.

Figures show that, in 2016, the total trade volume between Yunnan and South and Southeast Asia countries reached 10.882 billion dollars, which is almost twice of the volume since the China proposed Belt and Road Initiative. The number of inbound and outbound visits between Yunnan and its neighboring countries is close to 20 million. The number of foreign students in Yunnan has exceeded 30,000, with South Asian and Southeast Asian students accounting for more than 80% of the total.

Anti-graft drive vital to a better future

China has done more in the past three years to bring corrupt officials to justice than was seen during the previous 30 years. And China's unprecedented crackdown on corruption will, to a very large extent, ensure people honestly and sincerely execute the projects not only along the Belt and Road countries but also under other programs.

China has punished far more dishonest officials than India, but this is reflective of the different political systems in the two countries. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares President Xi's views that improving governance is a prerequisite to boosting economic performance and improving public welfare.

Apart from making concerted efforts to hold corrupt officials to account, the Indian government is also harnessing technology, especially information and communications technology, to curb corruption in the administrative machinery. The more processes go online the more transparent they will become and the greater will be the degree of honesty in the implementation of policies.

> "In China, the officials have realized their duty is to serve the people and not be served by the people"

China has become a global internet power thanks in part to giants such as Baidu and Alibaba. It is therefore in a position to use digital systems to promote speed along with honesty in decision-making on a much larger scale than India, where internet coverage and bandwidth are still below desirable standards.

In China, the officials have realized their duty is to serve the people and not be served by the people. And the introduction of strict accountability criteria for high-level officials has been a welcome side effect of China's anti-corruption campaign.

Overall, the use of technology and the strengthening of the accountability system will ensure a better future for China and India both. Certainly the road ahead for them is hard and long. But China and India have to walk that road to fulfill the historical task as the two fastest growing developing countries.

(M.D. Nalapat, professor of geopolitics at Manipal University, India. Adapted from China Daily.)

Explore the highest tropical rainforest in the world

Zhou Can

Editor's note: Yunnan is the most biodiverse province in China winning it the fame of "plant kingdom" and "animal kingdom". Preservation of ecology in Yunnan has never been just a slogan but an active effort. In this issue we will continue to take you into the 17 National Nature Reserves in Yunnan and share the stories and changes in the past 60 years since the founding of the nature reserves in Yunnan Province.

Li Zhengbo(middle) introduces how to observe plants and animals. (Photo by Chen Fei)

With awe and curiosity, we entered the Baihualing tropical rainforest. It is the northernmost and highest altitude tropical rainforest known in the world today.

Baihualing Rainforest is not big but it is beautiful. Li Zhengbo is an expert from the Baoshan Municipal Forest Bureau. Along the way, he pointed out plants that look normal and introduced each to us. This is wild Bazhi. Drinking it as tea can not only sooth your throat but functions todetoxify and serves as an antiphlegm. This is Gyynostemma pentaphyllum, an herb medicine. It activates blood circulation, removes blood stasis, diuresis and reduces swelling, and can reduce blood sugar and blood fat. Deep in the rainforest, we observed the forest using the method taught by Li Zhengbo. Standing up, we can see representative plants of the tropical rainforest, like wild banana, large vine cane plants, and tall trees which are everywhere. Squatting down and looking around, all kinds of shrubs and ferns come into view. Lying down on ground, the earth under our feet is still very busy with little bamboo worms crawling slowly on a piece of deadwood.

Deep in the rainforest, there is a famous scenic spot – Yingyang Valley. Here we found the most beautiful waterfalls in the high density of Gaoligong Mountain. There is a hot spring in the valley. The water was clear and the temperature was warm to the touch.

Trekking through the rainforest is hard, but it is enjoyable. We can feel the charm of being close to nature.

International standard for Sanqi seed and seedlings promulgated

Zhu Dan

The journalist recently learned from the Yunnan Provincial Bureau of Quality Supervision that Yunnan has made a big breakthrough in the implementation of international standards. The International Standard Organization (ISO) has officially published and promulgated the international standards for Sanqi seeds and seedlings.

The ISO promulgated and implemented Sanqi seed and seedling standard, the second standard for Chinese medicine seeds and seedlings after Ginseng. It is also the first international standard formulated and promulgated by relevant technical institutions in Yunnan.

Sanqi, mainly produced in Yunnan, is a famous Chinese herb medicine. Its remarkable curative effect has been rocognised by more and more people. Sanqi can stop bleeding, cure bruise,relieve pains and protect people from heart disease.

After nearly three years of hard work, a draft of the Sanqi seeds and seedlings international standards was finalized and officially published and promulgated by the ISO on 16th of January 2017.

The publication and promulgation of the international standard for Sanqi seeds and seedlings will greatly benefit the internationalization process of Chinese medicine.

Lancang Jingmai Airport in operation

At 11:02am on May 26, a Boeing 737 carrying 124 passengers successfully made its maiden flight to southwest Yunnan's Lancang City. It marked the official opening of Lancang Jingmai Airport. Henceforth, the number of airports in Yunnan is increased to fifteen. Lancang Jingmai Airport is located in the Donghui Township of Lancang Lahu Autonomous County which is 203 kilometres away from Pu'er City. The airport will play an important role in promoting the development and utilization of tourism resources in the counties of Lancang, Menglian and Ximeng and improves the local comprehensive transportation system.

(Shen Hao)

Dare to challenge this in Yunnan?

Challenge 6: Exploring the Dinosaur Valley in Yunnan

Editor's Note: Looking for fun things to do in Yunnan? This issue continues to introduce you a challenge programme of 16 prefectures(cities) and help you discover abundant attractions and activities in Chuxiong Prefecture.

Lufeng Dinosaur Valley is located in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Southwest China's Yunnan province. It is a Chinese 4A cultural themed park where people can either view the well-preserved heritage or take scientific researches. It is a destination where

scenes of the Jurassic period are recreated. When you enter the valley, you will have a chance to learn about the rise and fall of the earth creatures evolution and witness the world wonders of hundreds of millions of years old.

Since 1938, Chinese archeologists have excavated 120 fossils of dinosaurs living in the Early, Middle and late Jurassic period.

Experts both at home and abroad regard Lufeng as the home of Chinese Dinosaurs since dinosaur fossils discovered here are the richest, the most well-preserved, the most immemorial and the most primitive.

(Zhuhai)

HSR upgrades Yunnan tourism to a higher level

During the Dragon Boat Festival holiday, more tourists chose to take high-speed rail enjoying a quick and convenient journey. At the same time, it brings more opportunities for Yunnan's tourism industry development.

In the afternoon on May 28, the tickets office on the lower level of the Kunmingnan Railway Station is crowded with people buying tickets. Miss Li had just bought a ticket to Guilin. She said that the last time she self drived to Guangxi, taking almost 10 hours on the road, but now it only takes 4 hours by high-speed rail.

According to the staff of the Kunming South Station, many tourists take high-speed rail for short to medium distances, with scenic spots along the high-speed rail in Yunnan and some bordering provinces becoming popular destinations.

- **665,000 passengers travelled during the Dragon Boat Festival.**
- **HSR facilitates Pearl River Delta tourists coming to Yunnan.**
- **Most people choose Dali, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna as their tourism destination.**

During the Dragon Boat Festival holiday, the Puzhehei scenic spot in Wenshan began its busy season. Bi Songyun, the Manager of Yunnan Puzhehei Culture Tourism Development Company, believes that they are benefiting from the operation of the high-speed rail, which facilitates Pearl River Delta tourists, especially tourists from Guangzhou , coming to the Puzhehei scenic spot.

The reporter asked some tourists from other provinces and found that many tourists not only choose scenic spots along the high-speed rail. Miss Zheng from Guangzhou said that she took the high-speed rail to Kunming, then she plans to take the regular train to Lijiang, to enjoy the slow rhythm of life. She said, "The high-speed rail ticket price is cheaper than a flight ticket, it saves some money."

The reporter learned that during the Dragon Boat Festival the Kunming Railway Bureau ran a total of 40 bullet and normal trains from Kunming to Funing, Mile, Dali, Xuanwei and Hekou, to meet the needs of tourists. About 665,000 passengers travelled during this time, an increase of 25.4%.

(Jiang Zhuocheng/Kunming Daily)

Dongjing music, living fossil of Chinese music

Chen Yixi

In Tonghai County of Yuxi City, a beautiful piece of music has been passed on over the years. It is the Tonghai Women's Dongjing music which is called a living fossil of Chinese music.

Tonghai Dongjing Ancient music has a long history which started in the Ming Dynasty. There were once over 100 pieces and 47 pieces are now completely preserved.

In the 1940's, in order to pursue the Dongjing ancient music, which was holy in their minds, 18 young girls vowed never to marry. From then on, they have been accompanied by flutes and cymbals and formed the first women's Dongjing music association "Miaoshanxue".

In 1981, Yunnan Provincial Culture Bureau assembled 11 ladies who were still alive and worked for 18 days recording 43 Dongjing tunes, which was the prelude of protecting and passing on the Dongjing music in the province .

Now, the sound of the flute and clanging cymbals can be heard in the Tonghai Ancient Music Hall each Thursday, practice time inTonghai County Miaoshanxue Women's Dongjing Moonlight Ancient Music Association. The association is comprised of an all-female group of folk music lovers.

The Association plays the Dongjing music in public. (File photo)

In 2016, the Association gave a total of 106 performances. Starting from this April, the Association is providing free Dongjing music teaching and conducting a series of activities in the communities to introduce the culture essence to more people and allow more people to get to know and appreciate Dongjing music.