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## The 12th China-South Asia Business Forum held in Kunming

Wang Jing

On June 11-13, the 12th China-South Asia Business Forum was held in Yunnan's capital Kunming.

In the context of deglobalization, politicians and business leaders from China and South Asian countries, and representatives of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the UNESCAP Business Advisory Council, discussed how to jointly promote regional cooperation between China and South Asia, focusing on the theme "Challenging Opportunities—Job Creation and Investment Innovation". Compared with previous years, "China experience" has become a trendy phrase this year, attracting widespread attention from the business communities in South Asia.

"We especially need to learn from China how to



A participant from South Asia takes picture at the forum.

(Photo by Sun Xiaoyun)

use "internet plus" to upgrade and transform from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture," said Rajeev Singh, the director-general of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata.

"WeChat is not only

popular in China but it is also commonly used across the region. I believe that this is the innovation we need in the future." Asif Ibrahim, the executive director of UNESCAP Business Advisory Council, affirmed China's leading

role in regional economic cooperation. He said that innovation and entrepreneurship have become a new norm in China, and he expects Chinese entrepreneurs are expected to add momentum to global innovation.

"New ideas are needed as China and South Asia regional cooperation is moving into a new development stage. Innovation based development should be a priority in the cooperation," said He Yafei, the former vice Foreign Minister and the former deputy director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council. He said, the Belt and Road Initiative is actually promoting a new international cooperation model of mutual opening up, common development and common prosperity, which is China's contribution to the world, including South Asia.

In fact, more young faces are participating in the China-South Asia Business Forum. A group of entrepreneurs born in the 80's and 90's have bravely undertaken the responsibility of actively exploring the future for China and South Asia regional cooperation

and development.

Zha Yanqiu, a Chinese man who was born in the 80's, shared his experience. One month ago, HappyEasyGo, a company he founded, entered the India market and had a good start. Being a comprehensive Indian version of "Qunar plus Ctrip", he saw the commonality in consumer culture in India and China and is breaking through into a new world in the India online tourism market.

"Thanks to the Forum for providing a good platform for international cooperation between the youth of China and South Asia, and for young entrepreneurs to exchange ideas." Pan Song, the founder of QiGoal Capital, said that it is necessary to set up such a platform for young entrepreneurs to communicate and exchange, and he hopes the platform could become a permanent one.

### Further Reading

#### 86 countries, regions participate in 2017 SSACEIF



Exhibitors from South Asia at the 2017 SSACEIF. (Photo by Zhang Tong)

The 2017 South-Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) were held in Kunming, Yunnan province from June 12 to 18, attracting 86 countries and regions to take part. Themed on "creating new opportunities and seeking new development", the expo is aimed at deepening the relationship between China and other countries in South and Southeast Asia.

Covering an area of 170,000 square meters, the expo is comprised of 17 ex-

hibition pavilions with 8,000 exhibition booths. In addition to the standard themed pavilions, special pavilions have also been set up for Pakistan and Laos.

A total of 18 activities were held to accompany the expo, including the ASEAN Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs Conference.

It is expected that nearly 300 projects will be signed during the week-long expo, of which more than one third will be worth above 1 billion yuan (\$147.12 million).

## Yunnan hosts fifth annual think tank forum

Li Hongfeng

The fifth China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum (CS-SATF) was held in Kunming on 12th and 13th of June.

More than 300 experts and scholars from 14 countries and some international organizations have attended this year's think tank forum, a record high in its history. The number of participating think tanks also increased, comprising more than 30 foreign and 40 domestic organizations.

The theme of the forum is deepening practical cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asian countries with new opportunities, new ideas and new

measures in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative. Six major topics were discussed at the forum, including construction of the BCIM Economic Corridor, people-to-people exchanges and tourism cooperation, and economic, social and cultural communication among the cross-border ethnic groups between Yunnan and neighboring countries.

The think tank forum has been held four sessions so far and achieved concrete results. It has increased mutual trust between China and South and Southeast Asia countries. It has promoted facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration,

policy coordination, and people-to-people bond between China and South and Southeast Asia countries. It also promoted close cooperation and exchanges among the think-tanks.

It is notable that in September 2015, Yunnan government established the China (Kunming) South Asia Research Institute under the Yunnan Provincial Social Science Academy. The Institute is currently working to become one of the top think tanks in China.

In 2017 The name of "China-South Asia Think Tanks Forum" was changed to "China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tanks Forum" starting to further increase its influence.

## Paper-cut Art Exhibition goes on show in Kolkata

Luo Wei

Recently, the Yunnan Chinese Culture Promotion Association paid a visit to Kolkata for a cultural exchange and to present the Belt and Road China Yunnan Paper-cut Art Exhibition.

After an intense demonstration by the art troupe, more than 100 paper-cut works were displayed outdoors at the site of the Dragon Boat Festival in Kolkata. A number of Indian people praised the exhibition. A middle-aged audience said through a translator, "India and China have had friendly exchanges for thousands of years and have done busi-



Children display their paper-cut works at the exhibition. (Online photo)

ness harmoniously. Today we should do more exchanges for mutual understanding. India and China are friends forever."

Many overseas Chinese came to see the exhibition. One said excitedly, "I feel very happy to see pa-

per-cuts with rich Chinese characteristics in a foreign land. Thank you for bringing them from thousands of miles away. Through the exhibition, Indian people can learn that the Belt and Road is a road of friendship and co-development.

## Abide by cyber law to profit from market

The much-anticipated cyber security law that came into force on June 1 reflects China's determination to secure its cyberspace and protect Chinese citizens against data theft. Some Western observers, however, are worried that the new law targets foreign enterprises by "restricting the cross-border flow of information", which could "give Chinese companies an unfair advantage".

Such worries are uncalled for, as the ultimate aim of the new law is to safeguard China's cyberspace sovereignty and security.

The truth is, cyber security is a precondition for national security, as President Xi Jinping has said. Xi has time and again emphasized the need to strike a balance between secure cyberspace and digital development, and ruled out the possibility of "shutting the door" to the internet for security concerns.

But some Western media outlets have made it a business to misread China's laws.

The provision requiring key information on infrastructure operators' data should be especially protected as it is closely linked with national security. And it is necessary to conduct a security review to ensure their data systems do not compromise China's national security.

China aspires to become a digitally advanced country, which should be seen as a great opportunity by overseas internet operators and service providers, especially those in the possession of desired technologies or businesses.

Also, since China has a long way to go to improve its cyberspace management, it could enlist the help of business pioneers at home and abroad. And foreign companies, like their domestic counterparts, can work with Chinese government to improve China's cyber governance.

(By Shen Yi, deputy director of the Cyberspace Governance Study Center at Fudan University)

## Dare to challenge this in Yunnan?

Challenge 7: Playing Go game with Yunnan's precious chess pieces Yunzi



**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 Baoshan City.

Google's artificial intelligence program AlphaGo competed against Ke Jie, the world's No 1 Go player from China recently and prevailed in all three games.

Do you know that the playing pieces used by AlphaGo and Ke Jie are from southwest China's Yunnan Province?

Yunzi is the name for the exquisite pieces made in Yunnan. The craft has a 500-year history. According to the records of Xu Xiake, a Chinese geologist in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644),

Yunnan was described as the very place to produce chess pieces and Baoshan Yongchang's were the best.

The pieces are made from a blend of ten plus materials including red agate, amethyst and amber. Making Yunzi is a quite complex process and is a combination of craftsmanship and artistic beauty. The white ones should be as bright as egg white, the dark ones as green as jade.

In 2009, the craft of making Yunzi has been listed as the provincial intangible cultural heritage in Yunnan.

Last October, Yongzi Chess Club opened in the Longyang District of Baoshan City. The Club integrates Yongzi historic and culture displays, chess training, and chess competitions. Do you dare to come for a challenge?

## Indian masters to give instruction at China-India Yoga Festival

Zi Jianli

The 2017 Kunming China-India International Yoga Festival will be held on June 21-25. The theme of the Festival is "Charming Oriental Culture and Beauty of Healthy Life". The festival includes an opening ceremony, free public Yoga classes, Yoga Masters' teaching classes

and a closing ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, Yoga masters from India and Taiji Masters from China will lead students to present a show of a thousand people practicing Yoga and Taiji. From 23rd to 25th, 9 Yoga masters selected by the Indian government will provide 1000 Yoga amateurs with three days of different

types of classes.

Li Bingze, vice president of Yunnan Minzu University, said that the purpose of practicing Yoga is for a healthy life. The Yoga Festival will share the essence of Indian Yoga with participants. The activities of China-India International Yoga Festival will promote cultural communication and exchanges

between the two nations and further deepen the friendship between the two peoples. It not only brings India and China together but also connects the traditional cultures of the two countries, connects Yoga and Taiji, connects the Yoga College with its students and connects the teaching with public health as well.

## Young ethnic minority woman preserves batik skills for the future

Zhao Gang

Stars work at sunrise and stops work at sunset, which is a typical work day routine for a Miao girl named Xiong Zhaomei. "Very few young people like to work on batik because the income is not good and it is boring," Xiong Zhaomei, a 90's Miao girl said. She was born in a batik family so she has a strong interest and deep sense of responsibility for batik. "I don't want excellent batik art to disappear."

Xiong Zhaomei said that she started to learn batik-making when she was ten years old. She is now the seventh generation of batik-maker in the family. While batik skills have



Xiong Zhaomei is making a batik with a blade. (Online photo)

been improving, she has also witnessed the decline of batik, the traditional art of her hometown in her own generation.

"We all want to go out to see the world and are not able to get down." Xiong Zhaomei said that fewer and fewer people are

willing to be engaged in batik business because it is difficult to choose between income and tradition for young people.

Xiong Zhaomei is not undismayed. She is still working to encourage people to accept this art and has found new ways of ex-

panding batik use. "In my grandmother's day, batik was only used for clothing they wore every day. But now we are making batik art into tourism souvenirs and integrating this intangible heritage into modern life." Wallets, Qipaos, scarves.....these modern products are not only welcomed by consumers, but also enable the intangible heritage to be carried forward in an innovative way.

## Kunming Flying Tigers Elementary School debuts



To commemorate and carry forward the spirit of the Flying Tigers, an unveiling ceremony of Kunming Flying Tigers Elementary School were held in Kunming Chenggong New District No.1 Elementary School on June 12. The U.S. Consul General in Chengdu Raymond Greene attended the ceremony. The elementary school was set up on the former site of Kunming Chenggong Airport, which was an important military base for American troops stationed in China during the World War II. The Flying tigers was once here with the mission of defending China against Japanese forces.

(Yunnan Flying Tigers Research Institute)