



YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP



云快报  
english.yunnan.cn

YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

The Nation

Friday, July 21, 2017 No.42

## VOICE

### China-Thailand rail deal will also benefit region

There's no gain without pain, as the saying goes, and that's certainly been true of the China-Thailand high-speed railway, which has found its way strewn with obstacles before the first phase finally got the green light to go ahead on Tuesday.

After years of delay, Thailand's Cabinet finally approved \$5.2 billion in funds to build a 252-kilometer railway that will cut the travel time between the Thai capital and its northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima from the nearly six hours it takes now to less than one and a half hours when it is completed in 2021.

According to the deal, Thai companies will be responsible for construction of the railway, due to start in September, while Chinese enterprises will design it, advise on its construction and provide technology and technical training among other things.

With a maximum speed of 250 km per hour, the railway will help facilitate Thailand's trade and investment, and attract more tourists. More importantly, it will help restore the confidence of foreign investors. The Thai economy has already rebounded after a decade of slowdown, with growth expected to reach 3.4 percent this year, but the railway project will further propel that good momentum.

The second phase of the project will see the railway extend from Nakhon Ratchasima to Nong Khai, across the Mekong River from Vientiane, capital of Laos, paving the way for a railway from Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, to Bangkok, and finally to Singapore.

The two sides first agreed to build the railway in Thailand as early as in 2010. That it has taken so long for the project to finally be put on track, after Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha invoked an executive order last month to clear the legal and political hurdles standing in the way, speaks of the need for China to better communicate the benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative to all members of society in countries along the new Silk Road routes.

There were disagreements on costs, loan interest rates and labor rules, but failure to kick-start the infrastructure project earlier was mainly due to the concerns among Thais about how much ordinary people would benefit from the railway.

However, both countries believe that their and the region's economic development potential will be further boosted by the railway, which will serve to promote the construction of a trans-Asian high-speed railway network.

And it shows that China and countries in the region are willing to join hands to create a favorable trade and investment environment from which all can benefit.

China Daily

## BELT AND ROAD

### Educational cooperation injects new impetus into Sino-Thai friendly development

By Cai Meng

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of June, the "2017 Yunnan-Thailand Education Cooperation Exchanges Activities", organized by Yunnan University and sponsored by the Royal Thai Consulate General in Kunming and the Yunnan Education Department, has been held at Yunnan University. Some 44 universities from Yunnan and 16 representatives from Thailand hotly debated the topic of education cooperation.

#### Yunnan-Thailand Education Cooperation is Fruitful

As China's gateway to South and Southeast Asia, Yunnan and Thailand are geographically close and culturally connected with peoples that are friendly to each other, which are all advantages to develop education cooperation.

Lin Wenxun, the President of Yunnan University, said that the cooperation between Yunnan University and Thailand

started pretty early and very practically. In the field of talent cultivation, a joint undergraduate program major in international education in Chinese was launched together with Prince of Songkla University and Xibokang University, and a joint undergraduate program in Thai language was developed with Chiang Mai University and Mahilung University. Over one hundred Thai students come to Yunnan University to study at different levels every year.

"In recent years, Yunnan's education cooperation with Thailand has borne abundant fruits. In 2016, Thai students in Yunnan were over 2,000 while Yunnan students in Thailand were over 4,000," said Zhou Rong, the head of Yunnan Education Department. Now, 28 universities and colleges in Yunnan have opened Thai language courses. Two Confucius Schools have been established jointly by Yunnan and Thai Universities. The 2+2

joint program has been welcomed by the students.

#### Prospects for Yunnan Thailand Education Cooperation is Broad

It is said that the Thai government officially approved the legalization of Chinese medicine, causing Chinese medicine to grow in popularity. Chinese medicine, which has been in China for thousands of years, is a new blooming medical science in Thailand. Currently, over 200 hospitals in Thailand have opened Chinese medicine clinics.

Mr. Pornpop Uampidhaya, the Royal Thai Consul General in Kunming, said that the 2017 Yunnan-Thailand Education Cooperation exchange activities have brought about a strong platform for both parties to conduct deeper communication that will promote the upgrading of education cooperation and accelerate the friendly relationship between the two countries for win-win benefits.

## MADE IN YUNNAN

### Yunnan-made airplane makes successful maiden flight



The first Yunnan made airplane.

Photo by Li Shufen

By Li Shufen

Yunnan reaches a major milestone in its aeronautical manufacturing industry on July 6, with the successful maiden flight of the DL-2L airplane made by a local company at Puzhehehe Airport in the province's southeast Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture.

It is the first time that a Yunnan-made aircraft made its test flight. The airplane flew a distance of more than 40 kilometers

for nearly half an hour.

The airplane is designed and made by a Yunnan company Mile Haoxiang Technology. It weighs about 600 kg, and has a top speed of some 220 km per hour and a maximum range of 1,200 km. It can reach an altitude of 4,500 meters.

The aircraft is being developed to serve pilot training and air survey needs, and meet demands in fire patrol and bird repellent work. It is expected to cost \$176,000 when it goes on sale.

### Kunming Action Vision promotes cooperation in cross-border tourism

By Liu Yanqin, Zhu Hai

Promoting cross-border cooperation in tourism through China's Belt and Road Initiative has become a consensus among many South Asian countries.

The *Kunming Action Vision*, passed at the Cross-Border Tourism Cooperation Forum of the 2017 South & Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair held on June 13, proposes that all participating countries should: establish institutional mechanisms to promote cross-border cooperation in tourism as soon as possible; set up the Lancang-Mekong Tourist Destination Alliance in line with the principle of seeking common ground; support cooperation between tourism-related enterprises, education and academic institutions, as well as associations in the region; promote regional media cooperation through information-sharing platforms; increase tourism product promotion and expand the scale of the tourism

market; carry out extensive exchanges and cooperation in interfacing tourism standards, improving service quality and tourism safety and safeguarding the rights and interests of tourists, in a bid to promote prosperity and development of the regional tourism market.

In recent years, Yunnan and Southeast Asian countries have further strengthened cooperation with each other by participating in bilateral or multilateral tourism exhibitions, promotions, forums and other platforms, significantly increasing the number of tourist visits to the region.

According to incomplete statistics, in 2016, overnight visits to Yunnan from South Asia and Southeast Asia totaled around 2 million, up over 20% y-o-y, while the one-day trip visits totaled around 5.7 million, up 18%. In addition, the number of visits into and out of Yunnan reached 37.17 million (up 6.81%), of which inbound tourist arrivals registered 11.816 million, increasing 39.78%.

## SERVICE

### 24X7 clearance service implemented in Yunnan

By Han Chengyuan

Starting from June 8, the Kunming Changshui International Airport has implemented 24 × 7 hours clearance service. Kunming Changshui International Airport has become China's sixth all-day long customs clearance airport after Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Xiamen.

Kunming Changshui International Airport is the first airport in Yunnan and is also the province's largest, most functional airport in Yunnan. It is reported that after the implementation of 24 × 7 hours service, it will guarantee all international flights, including international passengers and import and export products with timely and fast customs clearance.

This will attract airlines to open more new international routes and to set international flights intensively by effectively using the night time.

It is reported that in 2016, International flights from Kunming Changshui International Airport reached 20,000, an increase of 9.1%; meanwhile, exit and entry personnel reached 2.66 million, an increase of 14.6%.

It is expected that the number of international flights and international visitors will maintain an average annual growth rate of over 25% in the next four years, and strive to double within 3 years. The number of international flights will exceed 50,000 by 2020, and the number of entry and exit personnel will exceed 6 million.

## YUNNAN DATA

#### Where Yunnan Is

Yunnan is located between the east longitude of 97°31' and 106°11', and north latitude of 21°8' and 29°15'.

Yunnan is in the southwest of China and covers a total area of 294 million square meters with 94% of the land made up of hills. Its

population was 47.418 million at the end of 2015.

Yunnan borders with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. It is one of the China's provinces which has the longest borderline. The borderline is around 4060km.

### Yunnan Yi torch festival delights visitors



The annual Torch Festival of the Yi people in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture has been observed from July 13 to 19.

An ethnic costume expo has been staged during the festival, showcasing the most authentic ethnic flavor and

customs to visitors. A torch parade, a left-foot dance carnival, traditional Yi games, food fairs and cultural forums have also been held concurrently.

As the most important festival of the Yi people, Torch Festival has been an indispensable way for the Yi to

express their unique music, dance, poetry, food, culture, costumes and astronomical traditions. The festival has therefore been inscribed as a national intangible cultural heritage. It usually starts annually on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> Chinese lunar month.

By Cha Zhifu

## TRAVEL

### Culture Tour Routes Introduction to the National Minorities of Yunnan ④

Editor's Note: Twenty-six ethnic groups are living in Yunnan. The different ethnic groups and their colorful customs added to the variety and richness of Yunnan's culture. This issue will continue to introduce Yunnan's unique ethnic culture.



①



②

#### The Dai Nationality

Pattra-leaf Scriptures are Buddhist sutras printed on pattra leaves, which were picked from the talipot palm trees growing in the tropical and subtropical rainforests. The Pattra-leaf Scriptures came into existence when Buddhism was brought to Xishuangbanna, and are praised as the "encyclopedia" of the Dai nationality. The Water Splashing Festival, peacock dance, bamboo houses, and long skirts demonstrate their romantic life style to the world. (Picture 1 shows that the Dai People are celebrating the Water Splashing Festival.)

#### The Hui Nationality

The Hui people are distributed

throughout the whole province. The Hui believe in Islam, and mosques are seen in Hui inhabited areas. Most of the Hui's festivals are religious, i.e. the Lesser Bairam and the Corban Festival.

Mosques are the main places where Yunnan's Hui people get together and they are embodiments of the Hui's economy and culture.

The layout of Yunnan's mosques are separated, numerous and with scales related to the local development. The old mosques have kept an Islamic style as well as local architectural style which is of the ancient Chinese flavor. (Picture 2 shows that the Hui girl confidently shows her nice costume.)