



CONNECTIVITY

## Kunming sets up gateway for regional telecom

BY LI CHENGHAN

Kunming has established an international telecommunication gateway to facilitate data transfer between China and South & Southeast Asia.

"Similar to customs in international trade, international telecom gateways also play key roles in international phone calls and online visits," said Zhou Wei, head of international division of China Telecom (Yunnan branch).

An email sent from Laos to Kunming used to be transferred via Hong Kong and Guangzhou before reaching Kunming. Zhao cited a practical case as saying.

After the Kunming gateway is commissioned, however, the mail will directly reach Kunming, reducing transmission delays by tens of milliseconds.

The seemingly little speed-up may make a big difference for bank remittances, overseas purchase and game players.

The Kunming gateway ranks fourth in China, second to gateways in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Approved by the state authorities in 2007, the gateway aims to "provide quality services for Chinese out-looking businesses, transnational companies and network operators".

At present, the gateway can provide international service in the forms of voice, private data and on-line transfer.

Land cables have linked Kunming to Myanmar and Laos, while land cables to Thailand and Vietnam are still under construction.

By far, voice and data transfer services by the gateway are available in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

CHINA STORY

## Educational and scientific cooperation enhanced along Belt and Road

**Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, we will run a column entitled "China Story" which will focus on China's rise, its growing cultural confidence, the Belt and Road Initiative, the anti-corruption campaign, efforts at poverty alleviation, mass innovation and other important topics.**

BY FEI LIENA

Uniardo is 26 years old and was born on the island of Java in Indonesia. He spent his childhood on the hot and humid seashore, where there were volcanic eruptions from time to time. He never expected he would one day come to Beijing and stay for two years experiencing totally different weather.

In 2015, Uniardo found an opportunity to work in China and teach Indonesian language and culture at Beijing

Foreign Studies University. During his classes, Uniardo does not limit his instruction to just grammar, but instead combines aspects of Indonesian history, society and culture into his lessons so that students can develop a vivid impression of his motherland.

In his spare time, Uniardo attends free Chinese courses provided for foreign experts by Beijing Foreign Studies University. Currently, his biggest goals are to teach Indonesian and become fluent in Chinese.

As China continues to increase educational partnerships with countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, many young people like Uniardo are actively engaging in relevant exchanges and other cooperative endeavours.

As of April 2017, China has signed bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements with 45 Belt and Road

countries. Additionally, agreements focusing on higher education and the mutual recognition of diplomas have been signed with 24 Belt and Road countries.

In the promotion of people-to-people exchanges with Belt and Road countries, education not only acts as an adhesive, a catalyst and a lubricant, but also plays a fundamental, guiding and implicit role, said Chinese vice minister of education Tian Xuejun.

Cylimy, a woman from Myanmar, has come to China through the Afro-Asian Talented Young Scientists Programme of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. After obtaining her doctorate in environmental biotechnology in 2011, she later joined a "biological decontamination" project at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2015.

According to Cai Jialing, deputy director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, since the Afro-Asian Talented Young Scientists Programme was first launched in 2013, more than 200 young scientists from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Egypt and other countries have come to China on scientific exchanges. "The programme has greatly promoted exchanges between scientific and technical personnel working in Belt and Road countries," said Cai Jialing.

After returning to Myanmar, Cylimy acts as a researcher at the Institute of Biotechnology at her country's Ministry of Education. "What I learned in China is a great help in my present job. Now I'm using the knowledge and experiences I obtained in China as a part of my work," she said. (Xinhua)

CULTURE



## Ethnic costume and catwalk

It was simply a visual feast of bright colours and exquisite patterns. On July 15, the 2017 Colourful Yunnan Ethnic Costume Cultural Festival finals concluded in central Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture. During the two-day event, 653 contestants from 16 prefectures or prefectural cities formed 26 teams who each took to the catwalk. Some 800 types of gorgeous ethnic costumes showcased Yunnan's brilliant ethnic culture and were major highlights of the festival. (Xinhua)

Photo by Yang Zongyou

## China releases Yangtze environmental protection plan

The Chinese government has released an environmental protection plan covering the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the latest move to protect the country's longest river from pollution.

The plan was jointly released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources.

It places an upper limit on the usage of water resources along the belt, said Zhao Yingmin, vice-minister of environmental protection.

An ecological "red line" will be put in place to protect and restore the environment of key areas, Zhao said.

This is in line with government guidelines issued earlier this year on a nationwide ecological "red

line" strategy that will place certain regions under mandatory and rigorous protection.

Water quality management will be based on a "bottom line" system to strengthen controls on pollution along the belt, especially at drinking water sources, according to Zhao.

Stretching from Southwest China's Yunnan province to

Shanghai, the Yangtze River Economic Belt covers nine provinces and two municipalities in an area of 2.05 million square kilometers.

In 2014, China made developing the economic belt a national strategy. The move was expected to boost development in riverside regions and provide new growth stimuli for China's slowing economy. (Xinhua)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## From tailor to designer

BY WU JIANXUN

**Editor's note: As machines continue to replace people, workers must adapt and factories are in urgent need of transformation. In Zhili Town, Zhejiang Province, the children's clothing designer Xu Songlin blazed a new trail to address this problem.**

When he was 19 years old, Xu Songlin came to Zhili Town with a relative and found a sewing job in a children's clothing factory. Back then, a suit of children's clothing was sold for dozens of yuan and Xu Songlin could earn five yuan from each one he made.

Zhili, a town famous for producing children's clothing, is home to more than 8,000 garment enterprises.

However, most of the factories here are engaged in OEM production. They do not design the clothes, nor do they maintain their own brands. "According to our calculations, the profit margin for producing children's clothing is just about 15 percent," said Xu Songlin. Over the past two years, the

factory introduced large-scale automated production equipment. As machines continued to replace people, Xu Songlin was laid off. "I needed to change in order to earn more money and develop my career," Xu Songlin said. He studied clothing design at his own expense at a school in Suzhou. After graduation, Xu Songlin returned to Zhili and began to work at the design centre at a children's clothing factory.

Today, Xu Songlin is already the chief designer of a well-known children's clothing brand. In Zhili, the number of design teams has increased from 40 in the past to more than 500 today. They introduce more than 1,000 new products every season and respond quickly to the demands of the market. Xu Songlin's company does not have a single production line but has opened more than 730 outlets across China.

In order to help enterprises improve their levels of design and expand sales channels, Zhili has invested nearly 50 million yuan to set up design, quality inspection centres and e-commerce incubators.

EXCHANGE

## People benefit from international medical exchanges

BY LIU YANQIN

"The doctors at the Tumour Hospital are very modest and eager to learn," said Professor Giuseppe Mariano, an internationally renowned bronchoscopy expert. He is also director of the Pulmonary Disease Centre of the Hospital Affiliated with University of Siena, Italy. He accepted our interview request while he was teaching a class at Yunnan Provincial Tumour Hospital - also referred to as the Third

Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University.

"We must increase international exchanges and cooperation to keep up with advanced technologies and cure more patients," said Li Wenhui, deputy head of the Tumour Hospital. From 2014 to 2016, more than seventy experts from the United States, France, Germany, India, Singapore and other countries have been invited to the hospital for exchanges concerning management ideas, operational

modes, academic studies, surgical procedures, research projects and other things.

According to Li Wenhui, after introducing the Spanish single-hole thoracoscopic lung cancer radical resection surgery, the hospital has successfully carried out more than 200 such surgeries. The patients recovered significantly faster than those receiving more conventional three-hole thoracoscopic surgeries.

"In recent years, the hospital has received many patients from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Egypt and other countries," said Li Wenhui. The hospital is making efforts to enable patients at home and abroad to benefit from advanced treatments. Amleth from Nepal learned tumour ablation and thyroid ablation surgical procedures at the Tumour Hospital. After returning home, he has performed a few such surgeries on his own. This year, the Tumour Hospital will carry out free treatments in Laos and send a nursing team to Myanmar to help more patients.



Professor Giuseppe Mariano (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) in a test.

Photo by Liu Yanqin

## Chinese media's influence growing in 21<sup>st</sup> century

BY RICHARD KING

Traditional media are already feeling the shift. The international re-launch of CGTN, China Global Television Network, marks a turning point in international broadcast journalism. The network, still known within China as CCTV (China Central Television), is expanding its international presence.

From the exposé of the AIDS "epidemic" in Central China's Henan province to the mass corruption case in Chenzhou, Central China's Hunan province, some of China's largest scandals in recent years have been uncovered as a result of investigative journalism. In contrast to the adversarial Western "muck-raking" model, this so-called "watchdog journalism" works closely with the government.

As China continues its expansion across the international media landscape, some of the principles of Chinese journalism are also being reflected in the Western media.

China has long encouraged what it calls "constructive journalism". Better known in the West as "solutions-focused journalism", it is the idea that journalists should move beyond the distorted world

view presented by breaking news, and focus on what is working in the world. The BBC explicitly endorsed this positive approach in 2016.

Many of the disruptive ideas emerging in China's "new media" are world leading.

Mark Zuckerberg is not only picking up vocabulary on his visits to Beijing, some of new features of Facebook and WhatsApp are also lessons from ubiquitous Chinese social media platforms such as WeChat and Weibo.

This transformational shift is only just getting started. Last year, China moved up two places in Portland's SoftPower 30, a ranking of countries' soft power, based on a composite index measuring engagement, culture, government, education digital and enterprise.

As China continues to invest in its soft power assets, we can expect it to rise further up the ranks. Its media will be a key part of this. As the driver of a new era of globalization, international norms in media and reporting will continue to flow from West to East. Businesses and governments will need to learn Chinese. And learn fast.

(The author is the consultant at Portland Communications. Adapted from China Daily)

ARCHAEOLOGY

## Yunnan discovers most concentrated Flying Tigers sites

BY LI HONGFENG

Recently, the experts from the Yunnan Flying Tigers Research Institute and the Yunnan Flying Tigers Museum discovered a large number of relics left behind by the US Flying Tigers during World War II as they inspected Kunming's Chenggong District.

The experts said that what they found are by far the most concentrated Flying Tigers relic sites discovered in China. They are of great historical and cultural value and are

important proof of China-US friendship and cooperation during World War II.

According to Sun Guansheng, president of Yunnan Flying Tigers Research Institute, the sites were discovered in Wulongpu Village in Chenggong District, including a Chenggong airfield, a Flying Tigers headquarters, barracks, fireplaces, wells, reception rooms, door posts, red eucalyptus, air-raid shelters, fuel storage tunnels, stone rollers used for building airfields, a P-40 crash site and runways.

SCIENCE

## 'Ark of Seeds' in Yunnan



A staff member is doing routine check in the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species in Kunming. Photo by Zhai Jian

BY YANG ZHIGAO

Recently, the Kew Millennium Seed Bank sent 353 packages of seeds to Kunming. They will be stored in a cold storage facility that maintains a temperature of negative 20 degrees Celsius. When the plants are on the verge of extinction in nature, these seeds will be taken out to be grown into seedlings. So far, more than 40 countries have deposited nearly 1,200 packages of reserve-seeds in Kunming.

The Germplasm Bank

of Wild Species in China's Southwest, referred to as the 'Ark of Seeds', passed a national acceptance review in November 2009. It is the world's second largest germplasm bank for wildlife following the Kew's Millennium Seed Bank in the UK.

Currently, 9,484 kinds of plant seeds accounting for 32 percent of China's flowering plants are stored in the germplasm bank's cold storage in 71,232 packages. In addition, 45 kinds of seeds from abroad are also stored in the germplasm bank.