



VOICE

World has a big stake in China's future

General Secretary Xi Jinping made several references to "a new era" for China in his report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Among the interesting hints were China becoming more open, more welcoming of foreign investment, and being ready to play a greater international role.

The main narrative running through Xi's report was his conviction that only the CPC could lead China into the new era. He recognized that there were still many problems to overcome, including regional and wealth inequality, pollution and the quality of healthcare. He also said China would never again face a century of humiliation.

China has achieved astonishing

economic success over the past decades, lifting millions of people out of poverty. But with economic power comes international responsibility as China is beginning to find out.

But what does China wish to accomplish in the new era? One would hope more of the same. There seems little appetite for China to play a leading role like the US. Indeed, many Chinese officials still describe China as a developing country and warn of exaggerated expectations of any global role for it.

At the same time, China is now engaged in every continent. When things go wrong, China has to take quick action, as it did in Libya, evacuating some 30,000

Chinese citizens within a short time. The greater China's global involvement the more likely it will face similar situations.

We can expect China to push ahead with the Belt and Road Initiative as the long-term scheme will boost local economic growth and infrastructure cooperation, open up new markets, bring more capacity cooperation and widen China's political as well as economic influence. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund will be very supportive for the rollout of the initiative.

As for reforming the institutions of global governance, China would probably be content with a further modest increase in its voting rights at the International Mon-

etary Fund. And it will continue to pursue cooperation with others through other ad hoc bodies such as BRICS.

There are many other areas, however, in which China will exert global influence. Its development of technology (and how to manage big data) will be a key issue, as well as controlling pollution, reforming social security and dealing with an aging population.

These are just some of the questions that will face China as the Party seeks to move toward a new era. One thing is certain, though, the world has a big stake in the outcome. (Fraser Cameron, The author is director of the EU-Asia Centre in Brussels. China Daily)

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, Bangladesh sign framework agreement on oil pipeline

Representatives from the governments of China and Bangladesh signed an intergovernmental agreement the other day. Under the framework, China will fund and build an oil pipeline project for Bangladesh. The agreement is of great significance regarding progress of the Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar economic corridor (BCIM).

According to the agreement, the project will include the construction of a single-point mooring system, a tank field and station facilities, as well as a 220-kilometre offshore and onshore oil pipeline. The total value of the project is 550 million US dollars. The project will be overseen by the China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau and will be provided favourable favourable terms by the Export-Import Bank of China.

Upon completion, the pipeline will not only significantly reduce the time required for offloading crude oil, but will also prevent environmental pollution caused by oil leakages, therefore reducing the shipment costs and losses.

By Liu Chuntao (Xinhua)

Yunnan expands cross-border RMB business to 80 countries

In the first three quarters of 2017, Yunnan registered a net cross-border RMB inflow of 8.367 billion yuan in 80 countries and regions. The collection-payment ratio was 1.54:1, unchanged from the same period last year. The current accounting of RMB funds registered a net inflow of 13.815 billion RMB. This trend was mainly due to the settlement of payments from foreign exports to neighbouring countries. Meanwhile capital account RMB funds registered a net outflow of 5.449 billion yuan, mainly due to direct investment and cross-border financing expenses headed to China's Hong Kong, Singapore and other areas.

Over the same period, Myanmar surpassed China's Hong Kong to become the largest market for Yunnan cross-border RMB settlements, accounting for 35.51 percent of the total amount. This number is up 4.54 percentage points year-on-year. Hong Kong ranked second, followed by Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand. The top five countries accounted for more than 90 percent of the total settlement amount.

CHINESE BRIDGE



US team wins championship at "Chinese Bridge" competition

BY ZHU HAI AND CHEN FEI

On the evening of October 28, the finals and closing ceremony of the Tenth Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for high school students was held at the Yunnan Grand Theatre.

This year, the competition was organized around the motto "learn Chinese and make friends all over the world". During the 17-day event, more than 100 teams from 96 countries participated. They showed their knowledge of Chinese and Chinese cultural, displayed their Chinese communicative skills and participated in

talent competitions, intercontinental team elimination challenges and top 10 experience competitions. The highest ranked teams from five continents competed in the finals.

The first round of competition began with the lively opening show called "Happy Chinese". The five finalists performed a mini-drama named "Fun Three Kingdoms - Entrepreneurship Heroes" to reflect China's achievements in the new era. According to the participants' Chinese proficiency levels, the Kyrgyzstan team, the No.1 team from Russia and the No.3 team from the United States qualified for the next stage. In the second

round of the finals, those three teams told stories related to their "Chinese Bridge" experiences, winning applause from the audience with their wonderful and moving speeches. Eventually, two participants from the United States won the general championship because of their fluent Chinese and rich knowledge of Chinese culture.

Chinese and foreign students also put on exciting performances during the finals, including a Taiqi show called "Young People Should Strengthen Themselves", the dance show "Oriental Tap Dance" and an instrumental ensemble named "Charm of Chinese Arts".

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE

Bangladeshi girl receives surgery in China with donations of Xi'an people

Recently, a Bangladeshi girl with cerebral palsy received assistance and donations from people in Xi'an, China.

Afifa is a six-year-old girl with congenital cerebral palsy, and is unable to walk independently. In September 2013, her father, Abdullah, was sent by the Bangladeshi government to study for his doctoral degree at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in China. Having learned

of China's medical standards and conditions, Abdullah decided to bring his daughter to China for treatment in early 2014.

From 2014 until now, Abdullah's family have consulted many hospitals in Xi'an, Shenzhen and other cities in search of the most suitable therapeutic scheme for Afifa. She has tried both traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine. Finally,

the family decided that Afifa should receive surgery.

However, the 30,000 yuan they brought to China was running short, and they could not afford the procedure. "A Pakistani classmate of mine gave me 40,000 yuan for the initial treatment," Abdullah said. "Later, many Chinese people also donated money to help my daughter."

On October 23, after a group consultation of neurosurgeons, orthopaedic experts and rehabilitation specialists, Afifa underwent successful nerve surgery at Xi'an Children's Hospital. The hospital has specially arranged a single recovery suite for Abdullah's family so that they can live together. English-speaking doctors and nurses have been assigned to them to ensure a smooth recovery.

"I am very confident about the level of medical expertise in China. I am sure my daughter will be able to stand up and take the first step of her life soon," Abdullah said.



Afifa lies at the Xi'an Children's Hospital, and her brother tries to cheer her up with a cellphone.
Photo by Liu Xiao

By Li Hua (Xinhua)

EDUCATION

Yunnan Normal University overseas outreach efforts bearing fruit

"I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the signing of the cooperation agreement between Bangkok University and Yunnan Normal University. Thai and Chinese higher education institutions can now prepare themselves for the implementation of the Thailand 4.0 Development Strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative in terms of personnel training and other forms of inter-university cooperation," said Mr. Pompop, Thai Consul General in Kunming. He made the marks on October 13, when a delegation from Bangkok University visited Yunnan Normal University to conduct cooperative exchanges.

"I am confident about future cooperative efforts between RMIT University and Yunnan Normal University," said Li Xinqing, president of Australia Education Management Group, during the group's visit to Yunnan Normal University on September 5.

Over the past several years, Yunnan Normal University has attracted overseas students from more than 90 countries. Overseas students from more than 40 countries have studied at Yunnan Normal University every year. Today, nearly 1,000 overseas students from 46 countries study and live on the campus. After years of practice, the university has developed a unique training mechanism for overseas students. Undergraduate students study Chinese and specialize in related fields according to the results of their Chinese proficiency tests. Next, graduate students comprehensively explore their professional fields, which involve 19 majors and 11 colleges.

Jiang Lige, a Cambodian student majoring in finance, is preparing graduation

thesis. In fluent Chinese he said that Cambodian financial markets are at a fledgling stage. He has studied finance in depth over the past four years and says he will never forget the friendships he has made with Chinese students.

"We hope to continue learning Chinese," said a participant in last year's Chinese training programme for Myanmar civil servants. The course was the first of its kind provided by Yunnan Normal University over the past five decades.

In June 2011, the Chinese Education Centre of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council was established at Yunnan Normal University. Then, in November 2012, Hanban approved the establishment of the first national teacher training centre for the international promotion of Chinese language at Yunnan Normal University.

Yunnan Normal University, giving full play to these two platforms, has cumulatively carried out more than 100 training and research projects attended by nearly 10,000 teachers and students from more than 90 countries. As one of the first Chinese entities offering courses for teachers wanting to work overseas, the university has dispatched more than 580 teachers to teach Chinese in neighbouring South and Southeast Asian countries.

To date, Yunnan Normal University has signed cooperative agreements with 121 universities in 28 countries and regions. The institution of higher learning has also implemented practical cooperative projects with 57 universities and colleges in 18 countries. These include the United States, India, Myanmar, Laos, Bangladesh and many others. (Chu Donghua, Zhang Ruogu and Liu Ziyu)

IN PICTURE

Yunnan introduces "transport poverty alleviation"



A few days ago, Kunming Airlines Co., Ltd. organized a baggage allowance donation event at Kunming Changshui International Airport. Passengers on chosen flights were encouraged to donate their unneeded baggage allowance so that poverty-stricken vegetable growers in rural areas of Yunnan province could have their fresh vegetables transported and sold in the markets of Shanghai and Taiyuan in Shanxi province. Each participating flight could carry up to 500 kilograms of vegetables. The picture shows passengers participating in the event.

Photo by Peng Xi

CONNECTIVITY

CEA Yunnan to open new routes

With the winter and spring travel seasons starting on October 29, China Eastern Yunnan Airlines Co., Ltd. (CEA Yunnan) plans to add a number of domestic and international flights.

CEA Yunnan plans to open three new domestic routes, namely Guangzhou-Kunming-Urumqi, Kunming-Jinjiang and Kunming-Yantai-Dalian. CEA Yunnan will also augment five international and regional routes with more

planes. The company will operate three Kunming-Phnom Penh flights per week, one Kunming-Luang Prabang flight per day, two Kunming-Nanning-Yangon flights per week, four Kunming-Ho Chi Minh and Kunming-Colombo-Male flights per week. Additionally, CEA Yunnan will advance the return time of Kunming-Paris flights to 06:25 so that passengers can more easily transfer through domestic and foreign airports.