



CHINA • YUNNAN



LMC

Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Centre established

Gao Jing

The Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center was established in Beijing November 28. It will promote the ecological and environmental protective efforts of the six countries of the Lancang-Mekong region, as well as sustainable development efforts.

Chinese Vice Minister of Environmental Protection, Huang Runqiu, said at the centre's inaugural ceremony that the countries along the Lancang-Mekong River will work together to do a better job in top-level design of environmental cooperation. They will also actively formulate the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy, promote further communication and dialogue regarding regional environmental policy, carry out pragmatic cooperative projects focusing on priority areas, and gradually bring about a new model of regional cooperation, providing a full range of intellectual support for regional cooperation.



For more information, please visit our website.

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EXPO

Lancang-Mekong expo held in Kunming

Chu Donghua
Chen Fei

The 2017 Lancang-Mekong Subregional National Commodities Exposition and the Dianchi Forum for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation opened in Kunming November 24.

More than 700 participants including experts, scholars, business leaders and media reporters from China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar, took part in the forum. The main activities of the forum included

keynote speeches on "exploring new initiatives and new mechanisms for new development", exchanges on cross-border investment and trade facilitation, a vocational education alliance roundtable, and the China-Laos trade and investment conference.

Representatives from various countries expressed that the forum would help push the regional cooperation into a new era and build a new pattern for Lancang-Mekong regional develop-

ment.

During the commodity exposition, businesses from the six Lancang countries and the ROK, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran and other countries showcased their agricultural products, tourism products, and more.

The exposition was organized by Yunnan Lancang-Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Coordination Office, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (Yunnan Sub-Council) and others.

Lancang-Mekong countries form education alliance

"The Lancang-Mekong Alliance of Vocational Education was officially formed in Kunming November 24. On the same day, the International School of Lancang-Mekong Vocational Education and the Research Institute for Lancang-Mekong Vocational Education and Industry Development were also inaugurated.

The alliance, initiated by Yunnan Minzu University, is jointly founded by 14 universities in Lancang-Mekong countries for mutual consulta-

tion and common development. It is aimed at pooling vocational training resources based on the economic and industrial demand of the region. Through training talents, carrying out scientific cooperation and cultural exchanges, the alliance will make efforts to provide talent and human resource support to the regional socioeconomic development and the establishment of a Lancang-Mekong community of shared future.

(Yunnan Daily)



Chinese medical team cures patients in Myanmar

The Trip of Brightness along the Belt and Road arrived at Mandalay Eye Hospital in Myanmar recently, operating on some 200 local cataract patients. Kunming AI Eye Hospital sent a six-person medical team to carry out the cataract surgeries.

Photo by Zhou Can

VOICE

Building a better world for all

Bright prospects for the commons are what General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China sought to convey in his keynote speech at the world political parties dialogue on December 1, in which he accentuated his proposal that countries work together to build a community of shared future for all mankind.

Building such a community will remain an unrealistic prospect unless every country associates its own development with that of the world. Yet, despite two world wars and the Cold War, zero-sum thinking is still prevalent. As a result, the prosperity of some nations continues to be at the expense of the rest of the world.

China and its ruling party

are trying to blaze a new trail and are calling on countries to build a global community with a shared future that is inclusive of different countries, cultures and peoples.

The prerequisite and foundation for people to pursue better lives is peace. Xi called for the concerted efforts of all countries and political parties to build a world free from war and all kinds of terrorism. And Xi proposes the building of a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable concept of security in order to maintain a just and fair security pattern that can provide the world with the key to the peaceful settlement of conflicts and maintain world peace.

(Abridged from China Daily)

EDUCATION

Train more talents for China-Laos friendship

The top university in Laos in terms of both scale and level, the National University of Laos, has 36,000 students, 11 schools and nine research institutions. Currently, the university has established partnerships with 134 universities and training institutions worldwide. Recently, we interviewed Dr. Somsy Gnophanxay, president of the university.

Dr. Gnophanxay said that Laos and China are good neighbors, good friends, good comrades and good partners. In recent years, the two countries' cooperation in terms of politics, economics, culture, health and other fields have deepened. The two countries respect and support each other in realizing the dream of reviv-

italizing both countries. As an important part of Laos-China relations, bilateral cultural exchanges have flourished and cooperative educational programmes are becoming increasingly close. Laos and more than 30 universities in China, including those in Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou and Chongqing, have created teacher exchanges and intercollegiate visits. They have jointly launched undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and established the Laos-China Cooperation Centre.

Dr. Gnophanxay said that he visits China two or three times a year, and that China is undergoing huge changes compared with only a few decades

ago. He recalled his first trip to China in 1978, when his one-way train lasted for 11 days. "In the future, when the China-Laos railway is completed, it will take only a few hours to travel to China. Interconnectivity will play a greater role, not only in terms of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, but also in bilateral cultural exchanges."

Speaking of Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Laos, Dr. Gnophanxay said that the visit promoted closer relations between the two countries and brought the two countries' friendly exchanges to a new level. "Friendly bilateral relations are entering a new era."

Cultural exchanges, including in the realm of education,

are of great significance in promoting understanding and communicating between the two peoples. At present, more than 20 teachers and 80 students from the National University of Laos have been studying in China. Among the foreign students at the National University of Laos, Chinese students rank second.

Dr. Gnophanxay believes that as friendly exchanges and cooperative efforts between the two countries increase, bilateral educational exchanges will become more fruitful, thus cultivating more well-educated graduates for not only Laos' national economic and social development, but also for further bilateral strategic partnerships.

(Adapted from People's Daily)

KEY WORDS TO UNDERSTAND CHINA

A new type of international relations

Editor's note: To help readers at home and abroad to interpret the 19th CPC National Congress, the column of "Key Words to Understand China" continues.

The report of the congress points out that China will hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win and adhere to its foreign policy of safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. China will develop friendly cooperation with all countries based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence and promote the build-

ing of a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation.

Currently, China embraces a new type of international relations that feature exchanges and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and a community of shared future.

A community of shared future is the common goal in handling international relations, while common interests forms the foundation for handling international relations.



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EXCHANGE

Forum for university presidents held in Kunming

Zhang Yinglin

On November 25, the inaugural South and Southeast Asia University Presidents Forum was held in Kunming.

The forum was aimed to promote coordinated education programmes between universities in the region, while also striving to carry out all-around multi-level innovation and cooperation. The delegates discussed the possibilities of building an interconnected education community in China and the countries of South and Southeast Asia. Proposals included building a consortium of universities in South and Southeast Asia, creating a regional educational communication and cooperation platform, promoting cooperative research in the field of regional priorities development, and improving the level of cooperation between the universities in the region so as to make a regional higher education community.

The forum was sponsored by Yunnan University. Presidents and representatives from over 20 universities in South and Southeast Asia and 30 universities in China attended the forum.

TOURISM

China-Myanmar tourism roadshow kicks off

Cao Yunbo
Shu Wen

The 2017 China-Myanmar Tourism and Cultural Roadshow, a part of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation series, began in Naypyidaw, on November 25. Twelve Chinese tourism companies and industry associations conducted extensive exchanges regarding tourism cooperation with representatives from the government of Myanmar.

Organized by the Yunnan Provincial Tourism Development Commission, the roadshow is highlighted by a 2,000-kilometre road trip which will stop in Yangon, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Magway and Bagan. Exchanges will also be held in Mandalay, Yangon, Naypyidaw and Bagan.

"This is a trip of friendship and a journey of discovery." As one of the members of this event, Yunnan Fengxian Culture Co., Ltd. believes that the roadshow will give tourism enterprises an in-depth understanding of Myanmar's cultural and tourism resources and promote communication and cooperation between tourism enterprises from the two



Participants of the China-Myanmar tourism roadshow pose for a group picture.
Photo by Yang Zheng

countries. As development of the Belt and Road Initiative continues, tourism is becoming an important way to conduct people-to-people exchanges. It is hoped that through such events, more cooperative opportunities in tourism in both Yunnan and Myanmar will be tapped.

A Myanmar attendee at the event told us that over her six years as a tour guide, she had visited Beijing, Shanghai, Kunming and other places in Yunnan. She said that she was impressed that China's tourism industry is very mature. "The tourism market in Myanmar has been developed for only a very short time, and there is a lot we can learn from China." Regarding the roadshow, she was full of high expectations, saying, "Such

activities can make more Chinese know about Myanmar, and increase their interest in travel or investment here. The increasingly diversified need of the Chinese for traveling in Myanmar is also a good opportunity for Myanmar. Attracting more Chinese tourists will increase the money coming into Myanmar's tourism industry and help with local employment rates."

An official from the Myanmar Ministry of Hotel and Tourism welcomed the Yunnan delegation and the roadshow. For Myanmar's tourism industry, cooperative exchanges between the two countries will lead to the common development of catering, hotels and other services.

(Reporting in Myanmar)

INDUSTRY

Love for coffee beans

Li Qinying

Every coffee bean has gone through a marathon of roasting in order to give birth to a strong aroma. Therefore, flavors vary from coffee to coffee.

On the morning of November 27, the Asian Coffee Association held its 2017 annual meeting in Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan. Having seen how coffee is produced in Yunnan, many foreign friends began to know more about the province.

"I come from Mexico. I was totally intoxicated after drinking coffee from Yunnan. This is my first trip to Yunnan. Everything here is so beautiful – totally different from my imagination. I love it here. We have had a great time enjoying and discussing coffee over the past few days. The food here is superb. The inclusiveness of Yunnan gives me a better understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative. I will closely follow Yunnan and introduce it to my friends." Talking about her impression for Yunnan, Sylvia Gutierrez had a lot to say.

Professor Maria from Brazil greeted us enthusiastically. "The people here are particularly hospitable," she said happily. She told us that the 26th World Coffee Science Conference was held in Kunming last year. That was the first time she came to the beautiful province of Yunnan, an experience that left her with unforgettable memories. "This is my second

trip to Yunnan. It's convenient to travel from Kunming to Mangshi. There are a lot of coffees in the world, but the coffee produced in Yunnan is one of my favorites. Yunnan is developing rapidly with a lot of opportunities. This is her best time."

Teerat Wongvoratat, President of the Thailand Coffee and Tea Association, is Thai-Chinese. He can speak simple Chinese. He believes that the annual Asian coffee conference will be an important step in the development of the industry in this region. "In the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Yunnan and Thailand will have increasingly close cooperation. Many universities on both sides have realized mutual recognition of graduate diplomas."

Dr. Ram from India said that he likes Yunnan very much. The coffee in Yunnan already has a large market share and the industry is developing very quickly. He showed great excitement when he learned about the website called *Amazing Yunnan*. He will introduce it to more Indians and let them know about Yunnan. "As long as the hearts of people are close, everything is possible," said Ram.

The coffee beans are small, but the friendship between participants is true. The coffee beans and the annual meeting have built a bridge of friendship, mutual understanding and communication between Yunnan and the rest of the world through the ever-growing connectivity between them all.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Brian Linden: A promoter of traditional Chinese culture



Brian Linden admires a traditional Bai piece of cloth called tie-dye.
Photo by Xinhua News Agency

Editor's note: Recently, ten foreign experts were awarded 2017 Caiyun Awards for their outstanding contributions to the development of Yunnan. Starting this issue, we will show you the story of ex-

perts in Yunnan.

Dr. Brian Dale Linden, a history professor at Stanford University, was recognized as "one of the top ten most influential foreigners in China by the State

Council and UNESCO. Since he came to China as a journalist for the Columbia Broadcasting System in 1985, Brian has bonded with Yunnan.

A simple Bai minority residence in Dali was turned into the Linden Centre, and is now a popular guesthouse. Over his decade-long residence in Xizhou in Dali, Brian has included local culture, folk customs and practices into his list of conservation and development goals by piloting custom ethnic tourism projects together with locals.

He has introduced more than 40 outstanding young craftsmen to Dali from renowned domestic and overseas universities. In coop-

eration with the Swedish Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, he invited 65 business leaders from Sweden and China to Dali to discuss environmental protection measures.

"Chinese culture is a treasure trove for human civilization. I founded the Linden Centre holds the purpose of developing and protecting China's traditional culture, so as to help the rest of the world know more about the country." Over his 14-year stay in Yunnan, Professor Linden has followed his dream of introducing the beauty of Dali and Yunnan to the world through his own experiences and knowledge.

(Yunnan Daily)

CULTURE

Creative Kunming is in!

Zhang Tong

Activities associated with Creative Kunming and the hashtag "@spring city" took place at the 871 Innovation and Culture Workshop November 24-30. Thirty-one

cultural activities of various styles and rich humanistic expression were staged, attracting many local residents.

It is worth mentioning that this event was highlighted by its design teams, each made up of many top young designers.

