



CHINA • YUNNAN



COOPERATION

Laos-China relation gains momentum

Liu Jianglin

“Laos will play a key role in the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, and this is an important reason why we decided to build the China-Laos Railway,” said Khkenthong Sisouvong, vice president of the Laos-China Cooperation Committee.

He was speaking at the China-Laos Trade and Investment Conference held in Kunming on November 24. He told reporters that the railway is the largest investment project in Laos' history and will provide favorable conditions for business, investment and tourism within the Lancang-Mekong countries. It will also intensify cooperation endeavors between Yunnan and Laos.

During the conference, 12 companies and organizations from both China and Laos signed memoranda of understanding involving planning, energy, electric power, roads and more. A representative of Laos attending the conference said, “The Laos-China cooperation has entered an unprecedentedly promising period and has an unlimited future.”

“China is the largest investment partner and second largest trading partner of Laos,” said Sengdeune Sayasone, an official with the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment.

CHINA FOCUS

High-level party dialogue highlights mutual respect, learning

Mutual respect and learning were highlighted at a high-level dialogue between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and political parties from around the world.

The attendees agreed to respect each other's choice of paths of development and values, and encourage mutual learning among civilizations, according to the Beijing Initiative adopted at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, which concluded on December 3.

Political parties should follow the spirit of harmony among diversity, encourage countries to replace estrangement with exchange, clashes with mutual learning and superiority with coexistence, said the document.

The views were shared by the many representatives during the discussions, which focused on the responsibilities of political parties in building a com-



Overseas political parties' leaders visit a exhibition regarding China's achievements in the past five years in Beijing. Photo by Xinhua

munity with a shared future for mankind.

Khatamjon Ketmonov, chairman of the People Democracy Party of Uzbekistan, said that there is more than one path towards prosperity and a better future has to be built on diversity.

Many speakers attributed China's success to the choice of a path based on

its own characteristics and praised its standing of “not exporting the Chinese model.”

While having confidence in its own path, China has always respected the choice of other countries, said Shiferaw Tekle-Mariam, head of Secretariat of the Council of Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

Ilyas El Omari, general secretary of the Authenticity and Modernity Party of Morocco, added that China's development has offered new alternatives for developing countries.

Another reason for China's rapid development may be the increasing openness and inclusiveness in the practices of the CPC, ac-

ording to Flemming Christiansen, professor of sociology and East Asian studies at University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.

This high-level meeting and the well-received Belt and Road Initiative were frequently cited as examples in proving such findings.

The International Department of the CPC said the CPC has maintained regular contact with more than 400 political parties and organizations in about 160 countries and regions.

To facilitate future exchanges and cooperation, the attendees also called for the institutionalization of the high-level meeting, making it a high-level platform for political dialogue with broad representation and global influence.

The meeting, which opened on Nov. 30, attracted over 600 representatives of nearly 300 political parties and organizations from more than 120 countries.

(Xinhua)

KEY WORDS TO UNDERSTAND CHINA

New Era

“New Era” is one of the keywords in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

According to the report, with decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the

threshold into a new era. This is a new historic juncture in China's development.

This new era will be an era of building on past successes to further advance our cause, and of continuing in a new historical context to strive for the suc-

cess of socialism with Chinese features.

It will be an era that sees China moving closer to the center stage of the world and making greater contributions to mankind.

(China.com.cn)

CONNECTIVITY

Thailand approves EIA for Thailand-China railway

Thailand approved the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of Thailand-China railway, paving the way for the start of construction of the first 3.5-km section this month.

According to website of Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, National Environment Board of the office approved a second part of EIA of the first phase of Thailand-China railway during a meeting on Nov. 30 after approving the first part earlier this year, which means the EIA of the high-speed project is finally approved.

“The next step after the approval of the EIA would be the construction, and we selected Dec. 21 to be the date to begin the work,” said Thai Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith during a press conference at the ministry on December 4.

Arkhom told Xinhua earlier on Nov. 24 during the 22th meeting of Joint Com-

mittee on Railway Cooperation between Thailand and China that Department of Highways of his ministry would be the one to build the first 3.5-km section, while the construction of the remaining 249 km will start gradually later after being put out to tender next year.

The first phase of the high-speed project, linking Bangkok and the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, is set to cost some 179 billion baht (5.4 billion U.S. dollars) and would become Thailand's first high-speed railway.

Arkhom also said during the 22th meeting that Thailand and China had already begun negotiation on the second phase of the project, which will link Nakhon Ratchasima with Nong Khai on Thai-Lao border as the project is set to finally connect with China-Lao railway to form an artery railway from Kunming in southern China to Bangkok.

(Xinhua)

ECOLOGY

New species of mammal discovered in west Yunnan

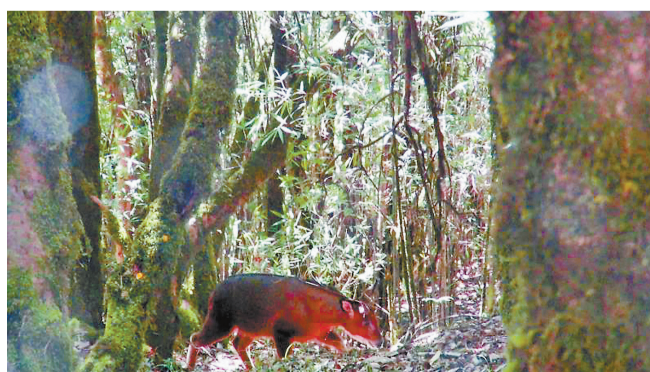
Huang Xiangyuan

During a recent survey on biodiversity, staff members with the Tengchong Branch of Mount. Gaoligong National Nature Reserve Administration of Baoshan in west Yunnan Province monitored a new mammal, which experts say belongs to the red serow (capricornis rubidus).

The red serow is considered a subspecies of *C. sumatraensis* mostly native to northern Myanmar, according to the Mammal Species of the World. And the images taken make hard evidence that the

species also exists in the Gaoligong mountainous areas.

“Similar images were first captured by infrared cameras in 2016, but the pictures were not clear enough. Later the red serow was captured at varied spots and on different occasions. Rangers even saw the mammal in person and took pictures of high definition, paving the way to confirmation by zoologists.” Bi Zheng, head of the Tengchong Branch, specified, adding that the successive discovery of new species in the Mount. Gaoligong reserve in recent years



An image of red serow captured by infrared cameras in 2016. Photo provided to Yunnan Daily

shows positive results by their conservative effort.

At present, the Tengchong Branch has stepped up its monitoring on the red

serow, so as to officially release a clear picture of the distribution and population of the mammal in the reserve as soon as possible.



CHINA • YUNNAN



RAILWAY

First China-Laos railway tunnel holing through

Ban Somsanook No. 2 Tunnel, the first tunnel along the China-Laos railway has been bored through in Laos' Vientiane Province with the length of 301 meters.

Bai Jian, representative of Sino Corporation Engineering Bureau 15 Co., Ltd, the tunnel project contractor, told Xinhua on December 13 that the tunnel has been constructed safely with high quality.

The geological conditions of the tunnel area are clay, mudstone and sandstone with high safety risk and difficulties for construction.

Since the beginning of building the tunnel, the project department has strictly followed the design and requirements, and has always put safety management and quality control in the first place, said Cheng Pingjun, project manager of

Sino Corporation Engineering Bureau 15 Co., Ltd, on Wednesday.

Chindasack Nhotmanhkho, general manager of NTP, a Lao company supplying fuel to China-Laos railway construction contractors said, "I feel proud to support such a big project like this."

The China-Laos railway is promoted as one of inter-connectivity projects. Construction of the railway be-

gan in December 2016 and bridges, roadbed and other sections were progressed smoothly along the route.

The China-Laos railway has a length over 414 kilometers, linking Mohan-Boten border gate in northern Laos and capital Vientiane. With a designed speed of 160 km per hour, the railway is expected to open to traffic in December 2021.

(Xinhua)

CONSULAR NEWS

Thai Consulate in Kunming hosts National Day reception

Yang Fudong

A National Day reception was organized by the Royal Thai Consulate General in Kunming December 4.

Gao Shuxun, Member of the Leading Party Members' Group of Yunnan Provincial Government, attended the function.

Pornpop Uampidhaya, Consul General of Thailand in Kunming, expressed his appreciation to the Chinese government and various other organizations which have all supported and assisted in Thailand's development.

Congratulating China on the success of the 19th CPC National Congress, Uampidhaya said with the steady progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, exchanges and cooperative efforts between Thailand and Yunnan are ushering in a new era of opportunity.

He hoped that both sides could further deepen and broaden bilateral relations for the benefit of both peoples.

The consuls general of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, Laos, and Vietnam in Kunming all attended with their spouses, while officials from the relevant departments, heads of universities and research institutes, and business elites of Yunnan and Thailand also attended.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Belgian Ferrer: Settled in Yunnan with flower business

Wang Shixue

"Look, here are some of the magnificent mountains in China. Can you guys identify all of them?"

"Is it the Meili Snow Mountain in Yunnan? This one should be the Mount Kailash in Tibet. The last one seems to be the Everest..."



The discourse above happened during a recent dinner party marking the 80th anniversary of Kunming Rotary Club, where Miguel Ferrer was hosting a pub-quiz. The party was a gallery of high-profile foreign entrepreneurs in Kunming, including British businessman Robert and GoKunming CEO Yereth. Ferrer enjoyed the dinner party a lot with his guests, cheers of drinking craft beer going on and on that night.

Ferrer is a Belgian who had been working in China for eight years, first in eastern provinces then in Yunnan. "Previously I lived

in Shanghai, but worked mostly in Shandong and Zhejiang. I was a top executive of Volvo in China. Basically we focused on manufacturing of heavy equipment and trucks," said Ferrer.

Then Ferrer came across a leading personage in the flower industry who offered him the position of managing a flower business in Yunnan. "When I was suggested to come to Yunnan to run a flower company, I felt it was a win-win situation: new industry and challenge for me, and at the same time an opportunity to develop and discover a province that has a truly great potential."

In the past two years, Ferrer has been working as the general manager of Kunming Anthura in Songming County, central Yunnan. "I feel that provinces like Yunnan need high profile people running productive businesses, and show that it is possible to develop a sound company based on a 100% legal and international-minded activity."

Beside Yunnan's potential for development, Ferrer noted the favorable conditions for his business. "In Kunming, the flower business is almost natural from the location point of view, as the weather is a great asset for the flower production business."

Ferrer also disclosed some difficulties for an

international business. "Working with the institutions that are sometimes not aligned among them causes a little bit stress, but most people here are friendly and ready to help." Ferrer hoped local administration could be more streamlined.

He said application of some regulations seems to take longer to "arrive" in Yunnan, however, more and more of the local leaders are aware of this and making great efforts to bring the province to a better place."

In general, Ferrer is optimistic about his flower business in Yunnan. "Business is good, and the company is thriving. It is hard work, of course, but with focus and effort I believe success is within reach." Ferrer said Kunming Anthura has clients all over China, and most of its 700 employees are Yunnan locals. The company is the No. 1 breeder of all anthurium in the world.

Now, Ferrer is also president of the Kunming Rotary Club, volunteering to help the needy and enjoying a balanced life in the spring city, where he has settled. "Life in Kunming is enjoyable, and I created a balance in life. Every morning I go to my work in Songming from north Kunming. In the evening, I get back to the gym or dinner at home. Rotary meetings are on Tuesday evenings. On weekends, I mostly have small parties with friends."

NEIGHBOUR

Laos, China launch fish reproduction efforts along Lancang-Mekong



Dai Zhenhua

The 2017 China-Laos Joint Fish Reproduction Operation along the Lancang-Mekong River began in south Yunnan's Jinghong December 6.

Leading officials and relevant authorities, fishery law enforcement officers and local people from both Laos and China released 4,050 indigenous fish species into the Lancang-Mekong River.

Law enforcement officers from the two countries

then carried out a joint patrol along waterways in their shared border regions.

The 3rd annual activity is coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR, the Natural Resources and Environment Department of Louang Namtha Province, fishery authorities from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, the Yunnan Provincial Department of Agriculture, and the People's Government of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture.

Lao, Yunnan customs work together on railway project

Liu Ziyu

Yunnan Mengla Customs held a work meeting with its counterpart Lao Boten Customs in south Yunnan's Mengla County November 29 and 30. The two sides reached a consensus on strengthening cooperation in various aspects.

Both customs and agencies will carry out in-depth discus-

sions, exchange information and strengthen international law enforcement targeting current risks. Together they will step up coordination of the standardized management of international trains, while also improving bilateral customs mechanisms.

Two annual meetings and exchange visits will be held starting in 2018.

NEWS IN PICTURE

Skill competition held for Kunming baristas



Coffee works made by contestants at the recent Kunming Baristas Vocational-Skills Competition. Photo by Zhu Hai



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