



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### International arrivals at KCIA exceed 3 million

Liu Ziyu

The annual number of inbound and outbound tourists passing through Kunming Changshui International Airport (KCIA) exceeded three million for the first time in 2017, according to recently released statistics from the Kunming customs office.

As of December 18, international arrivals at Kunming airport added up to 3.25 million, an increase of 22.83% year on year.

### Laos opens new consulate in China

A brand-new consulate-general of the Laos PDR officially opened in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province on December 23, 2017.

The Lao consulate-general was jointly unveiled by the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee Secretary Du Jiahao and Lao Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith.

Kommasith said the exchanges and communication between Laos and Hunan is a manifestation of the continuous development of the traditional friendship and the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between the two countries.

Du said Hunan and Laos are both landlocked. Sharing similarities in geological and natural conditions, the two sides maintained close trade and people-to-people exchanges.

(Hunan Daily)

## VOICE

# Xi's thought on socialist economy for new era takes shape

**Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era** has taken shape, according to a statement released after the Central Economic Work Conference concluded on Wednesday.

The thought is the "theoretical crystallization" of the past five years of practice in pushing forward China's economic development, and the "latest fruit" of socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics, the statement said.

The three-day conference was attended by

President Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

The annual meeting, which set the tone for China's economic policies in 2018, also described the thought as the "extremely precious spiritual wealth" of the CPC and the country. It must be adhered to for a long time and developed continuously.

According to the statement, the thought is mainly based on the

new development philosophy, which was put forward by Xi in 2015 and features innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

During the conference, the most important annual meeting on economic work in the country, Chinese leaders reviewed the country's economic performance over the past five years and mapped out plans for 2018.

This year's conference came after the CPC's twice-a-decade national congress in October, during which Xi Jinping Thought on

Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era was unveiled and listed as a part of the guiding ideology for the CPC in its amended Constitution.

**"High-quality development" is a key phrase of the conference. China's economy has transitioned from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development, said the statement.**

"High-quality development is the fundamental requirement for determining the development path, making economic

policies, and conducting macroeconomic regulation at present and in the period to come," it said.

China will further supply-side structural reform and adopt a prudent and neutral monetary policy and a proactive fiscal policy, it said.

The leaders have also defined "preventing and defusing major risks, targeted poverty alleviation and pollution control" as the "three tough battles" for the next three years, according to the statement.

(Xinhua News Agency)



### Second C919 plane tests mettle in maiden flight

The second prototype of the C919 aircraft, China's first domestically developed narrow-body passenger jet, takes off from Shanghai December 17. The original prototype's first long-haul test flight was in November.

(Xinhua photo)

## EDUCATION

# China scholarships awarded to Lao students

An awards ceremony for Chinese Ambassador Scholarships was held December 19, at the National University of Laos (NUOL) in Vientiane. 50 students with excellent academic records were awarded scholarships.

Speaking at the awards, Chinese Ambassador to Laos, Wang Wentian, said the Chinese Embassy supports NUOL and the development of education in Laos. In doing so, the country offers help to outstanding students, especially low-income pupils with good academic records so that they can fulfill their dreams.

The Chinese Embassy in Laos is willing to create more opportunities for Lao students to study in China and learn more about the country, Wang said.

The Chinese Ambassador also expressed his hope that Lao students will take the opportunity to realize their dreams and also promote the dreams of Laos, and thus contribute to the further nurturing of relations between the two countries.

President of the NUOL, Somsy Gnophanxay, for his part said the support of the Chinese embassy plays an important role in identifying and training those who will be involved in the future of Laos' socio-

economic development.

He said that the Chinese government values and cares about the development of education in Laos. For a long time, the Chinese embassy in Laos has been concerned with the development of universities and their students.

Somsy asked scholarship winners to study hard so as to become the backbone of national development of Laos. He also asked them to serve as inheritors of the tradition of Laos-China friendship.

At the scholarship awards ceremony, student representatives said they would follow the just-mentioned instructions and live up to the expectations of the university president and the Chinese ambassador.

Since its inception in 2014, Chinese Ambassador Scholarships have been awarded to a total of 183 outstanding students from NUOL over the past four years.

(CRI/Embassy in Laos)

## LMC

# Foundation of Lancang-Mekong vocational institute laid in Ruili, west Yunnan

Han Chengyuan  
Guanxi Ruiyi

The foundation-stone laying ceremony of the Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute, Yunnan Minzu University, was held in west Yunnan's border city of Ruili on the morning of December 17, 2017.

Representatives with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) China Secretariat, the Organizing Committee of China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, as well as diplomats and officials with China and the Mekong countries, witnessed the founda-

tion-stone laying.

Jointly built up by Yunnan Minzu University and the Ruili municipal government, the Lancang-Mekong institute has a planned area of around 20 hectares.

Falling into the category of a public vocational college that is eligible to offer undergraduate programs, the institute sits in core area of the Wanding economic zone in Ruili.

The institute also embraces the ideas of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

As a result, the Lancang-Mekong Alliance of Vocational



The foundation-stone laying ceremony of the Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute on December 17.

Education, which was first initiated January this year, was officially inaugurated in Kunming On November 24, with the Research Institute for Lancang-Mekong Vocational

Education and Industry Development formed.

The alliance aims to integrate vocational education resources of the six Lancang-Mekong countries.



For more information, please visit our website.

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# CHINA • YUNNAN



## CONNECTIVITY

### China, Thailand inaugurate construction of high-speed railway in Thailand

Thailand and China jointly inaugurated the construction of Thailand's first high-speed railway from Bangkok to northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima on Thursday.

Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang said in a congratulatory letter that the China-Thailand high-speed railway is a flagship project in jointly realizing the Belt and Road Initiative in the spirit of "wide consultation, joint construction and shared benefits."

The 253-km first phase of the railway links Bangkok with Nakhon Ratchasima province. China is responsible for design of the railway, supervision of construction and manufacturing of trains and

signal systems among others.

Once completed, the railway with a maximum speed of 250 km per hour will be the first high-speed railway of Thailand.

The planned second phase of the project will link Nakhon Ratchasima with Nong Khai on the border with Laos, which connects with the China-Laos railway in an artery railway linking Thailand, Laos and China.

Li said the project will contribute to infrastructure development and enhance connectivity in Thailand as well as in the region. He hoped both sides could cooperate to complete the first phase and push forward the



The ground-breaking of the China-Thailand high-speed railway on Dec. 21, 2017 (Xinhua photo)

second phase of the project, and connect the cross-border railway with the China-Laos railway as soon as possible.

The Chinese premier said the China-Thailand high-speed railway, as a new platform

for bilateral cooperation, will further promote pragmatic cooperation of win-win and mutual benefit between the two countries and their comprehensive, strategic, cooperative partnership. (Xinhua)

## NEIGHBOUR

### China, Laos vow to keep railway project free from graft

Chinese and Lao companies participating in a transnational railway project signed a pledge vowing against corruption December 20 at the friendship tunnel in southern Yunnan's Mengla County. The signing ceremony was billed as a "clean railway project".

The ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials from China and Laos, according to the China Railway Group, which is the leading company involved in the project.

Li Shulei, deputy secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline and Inspection, said the China-Laos Railway is a landmark in terms of the Belt and Road Initiative. Keeping the railway free from corruption is a shared responsibility for both China and Laos, which will surely benefit the people of both countries.

Soukhamphet Heuangbouthsy, vice president the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Inspection Committee, said that as signature initiative of friendly cooperation between China and Laos, the railway will turn the latter from a "landlocked country" into a "land-linked one". Such an accomplishment will bring great momentum to the deepening of economic and trade ties between China and Laos.

He added that the Lao side will strengthen Party discipline to ensure that the project abides by all related

rules and follows a specific code of conduct.

Wang Tongjun, deputy general manager of China Railway Group, said that anti-graft measures should be carried across the entire course of the railway project. That includes joint planning, inspection and evaluation periods, and the implementation of risk prevention and control mechanisms.

The companies said they will draft specific measures to stamp out malpractice in every phase of the project. This covers procurement and construction to operation management. Overseers will enhance the exchange of information and severely punish those found to take or offer bribes.

With a cost of 37.43 billion yuan-- 70 percent of it coming from China and the other 30 percent from Laos -- work on the China-Laos Railway began in December of last year. The 414-kilometre line is designed for trains running at up to 160 kilometres per hour.

Beginning at Kunming's South Railway Station, the line winds southward through Yuxi, Pu'er and Xishuangbanna in China, passing through MuangXay, LuangPrabang and VangVieng, and finally arrives in the Lao capital of Vientiane. A total of 32 stations are scheduled to be built along the route.

The China-Laos Railway is the first overseas route connecting the railroad network in China.

(Xinhua/ccdi.gov.cn)

## DISCOVERY

### More than 100 new species found in Mekong basin

Scientists have confirmed the discovery of a total of 115 new species in the Mekong basin after a lengthy vetting process, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). They include 11 amphibians, two fish, 11 reptiles, 88 plants and three mammals.

A Vietnamese 'crocodile lizard' and a Thai turtle found on sale in a local market are among the new species discovered in the ecologically diverse but gravely threatened basin last year. Researchers announced the find on December 19.

Each year, scientists announce the discovery of scores of new species in the region, an area including Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China's Yunnan Province.

There are fears that many more species could die out before they are found in a region whose jungle and river ecosystems are increasingly threatened by roads, dams and a thriving trade in illegal wildlife.

(Xinhua; The Nation)



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## CULTURE

### Nepali version of China•Yunnan launched

The Nepali version of the China•Yunnan new page was launched in Katmandu on Dec. 20, 2017, with its circulation going on throughout Nepal on the same day.



Jointly published by China's Yunnan Daily Press

Group and Nepalese Jana Aastha National Weekly, the Nepali version means the China•Yunnan new page now has presence in three South Asian countries, following its English versions published in Bangladesh and India.

By far, Yunnan Daily Press Group has launched 14 China•Yunnan news pages in six languages via partnerships with mainstream media in nine countries, including the United States, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Nepal.

As the biggest media group in southwest China's Yunnan Province, Yunnan Daily Press Group has been

committed to cooperations and people-to-people exchanges with South and Southeast Asian countries.

Kishor Shrestha, chairman of Nepal-China Media Forum said Nepal and China are not only close to each other geographically, but also old and good friends with a common goal. He hopes to promote the friendship of people from two countries via media cooperation.

With the history of 22 years, Jana Aastha National Weekly is the press of the biggest circulation in Nepal. Readers of the weekly cover heads of government, leaders of enterprises, and others.

By Liu Yanqin

## ECO-COOPERATION

### Yunnan, Luang Namtha eco-project underway

The China Yunnan-Laos Luang Namtha exchange and aid project concerning environmental protection was green-lit by the Luang-Namtha Provincial Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Yunnan Provincial Department of Environmental Protection. A Yunnan environment delegation visited Luang Namtha before hand at the invitation of the Lao side.

From December 12-15, the two sides summarized the details of the project

and held an assessment over the project concerning rural garbage treatment.

Staff members from both sides respectively briefed one another on the implementation of cooperative activities involving capacity building, pilot projects for community environmental protection and cooperation projects on cross-border biodiversity conservation.

After the project briefings were held and on-site inspection carried out, both sides announced their beliefs

that the project has been completed with positive results. All the initial goals have been met and valuable experience has been accumulated, they said.

The project laid a good foundation for in-depth environmental exchanges and future cooperation between China and Laos. Implementation of the project is in line with the MoU, agreement and project plan signed by both parties. Both sides agree that the project passed inspection.

(www.zhb.gov.cn)

## NEWS IN PICTURE

### Yunnan race car driver wins Golden Triangle title



On December 13, Zhu Zhijian, a 24-year-old man from south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Prefecture, won the racing championship with a time of 3:37:17, during the Lao leg of the 2017 "Belt and Road" International Rally.

Photo by Chen Chuangye