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

The construction of the long-awaited high-speed railway connecting Thailand and China started on December 21st.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a letter of congratulation, saying the China-Thailand Railway is a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative and will improve the level of regional infrastructure construction.

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



Honored guests attend the inauguration ceremony of Thailand's first high-speed railway in Pak Chong, Thailand (Photo by Xinhua/Li Mangmang)

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.

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.

(Compiled from Xinhua and China Daily)

From follower to leader: China emerges at high-tech frontier

China's transition from a country that follows the world's technological trends to one that sets them, is no longer a blueprint -- it's a reality.

After years focusing on innovation, China caught up fast. From artificial intelligence and genetic engineering, to mobile payments and bike-sharing, Chinese firms are pulling ahead of their rivals.

Silicon Valley has long been considered the most viable option for starting a business in the tech sector. Now, this is beginning to change. Known as "sea turtles," a growing number of overseas-educated Chinese

are returning to their home country, turning down opportunities in Silicon Valley to make a splash in China's emerging tech sector.

The reverse brain drain has benefited China's tech companies, such as Royole, a company founded in 2012 by "sea turtle" Liu Zihong, a Stanford graduate.

Two years after its founding, Royole rolled out one of its core products -- the world's thinnest bendable screens that if used on an iPad, would allow it to be folded into the size of an iPhone.

Valued at over three billion U.S. dollars, Royole has

become one of the world's fastest-growing tech "unicorns," new tech companies valued at over one billion dollars.

At the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which charts the course for the country's future development, innovation has been labeled as the primary driving force behind development.

China has worked to create an eco-system for innovation, including talent, investment, policy support and market environment, that fuels a cycle of innovative activity.

(Adapted from Xinhua)

Six countries jointly start Lancang-Mekong vocational education

Han Chengyu
Su Churan

As the bright red cloth opened, revealing the words Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute on a golden plaque, the scene broke into enthusiastic applause. It was not long ago, at the first round table of the Lancang-Mekong Vocational Education Alliance. The Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute's launch is a significant progress made by Yunnan Province, a frontier for Lancang-Mekong cooperation. It also started a new chapter of Lancang-Mekong vocational education cooperation.

Distinguishing features of the cooperative school

Mi Mi Aung, the deputy president of the Yangon Foreign Studies University of Myanmar



Students are listening to the lecture at Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute at Yunnan Minzu University (File Photo)

said: "In today's world, the development of nations depends not only on the richness of natural resources and economic prosperity, but also on the quality of human resources." In the Lancang-Mekong cooperation, educational cooperation is a bridge and link to enhance the communication, connection, under-

standing, and cooperation in policies, facilities, trade, finance and people. In the background of the development of Lancang-Mekong International Vocational Institute, the Lancang-Mekong six countries (China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) have great hopes for cooperation which benefits

people of different countries, and also have urgent demand for the high quality workers in the region.

With the strong support of China's Ministry of Education, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yunnan Provincial People's Government, Yunnan Minzu University established the Lancang-Mekong Vocational Institute in December, 2016, to focus on cultivating high quality applied talents related to the economic and social development needs of the Lancang-Mekong region.

Sharing and customization

Talking about the relevant cooperation and the future school model, "1+6+6+6+N" is a high-frequency phrase out of the mouth of the school head. The so-called "1+6+6+6+N", is to build

1 Lancang-Mekong vocational education base and Vocational Education Alliance, led by 6 countries' governments, and leading institutions of 6 countries, jointly form the Council by the 6 countries, with N industries, enterprises, colleges and research institutions involved in the school.

On the question of how to be more approachable in cooperation, the head of the school, Yin Shitang said: "In my opinion, the core of vocational education is to link it with industry. The next step of the Institute's academic setting must also be in line with the local industry. For example, in Ruili, there is Beijing Automotive Group Ruili Company, relevant industries have good prospects for development with a lots human resources demand, and so we may set up a major in automobile repair."

Secures the Kunming-Bangkok Passage

According to *China Border Police News*, the Lancang-Mekong Basin Countries Culture and Arts Festival in 2017 recently closed in Jinghong, Yunnan. Artists and tourists from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam actively attended the Festival. During the Festival, four land ports along the Kunming-Bangkok Great Passage in China, Laos and Thailand jointly launched a "three countries four checkpoints" international police cooperation mechanism to jointly deal with customs peak hours and all kinds of emergencies.

In recent years, with the opening of the Kunming-Bangkok international great passage to traffic, the function of connecting Mohan, Moding, Huisai Fourth Friendship Great Bridge and Chiang Khong, the four key land ports that connect China, Laos and Thailand is more significant. At the same time, due to the special geographical location near the Golden Triangle, border drug trafficking and smuggling have become more serious and have been a great challenge to border management. In July 2015, China's Mohan Border Checkpoint, Lao Moding

Police Checkpoint, Lao Huisai Fourth Friendship Bridge Policy checkpoint and Thailand Chiang Khong Immigrant Checkpoint jointly launched a "three countries and four checkpoints" international police cooperation mechanism. In conjunction with the fight against cross-border crime, it intends to facilitate entry and exit of tourists and vehicles to secure the Kunming-Bangkok international passage.

Since the Kunming-Bangkok International Passage opened to traffic in March 2008, it has shortened the travel time from Kunming to Vientiane by at least 7 hours. In particular, with the international police cooperation, it has reduced cross-border crime significantly, and both people and cars can be inspected promptly.

Once when Mohan Border Checkpoint received a call from a Chinese citizen who was illegally detained abroad, a cross-board rescue process with Moding Checkpoint was initiated immediately, and the detainee was successfully rescued within 12 hours.

(China Border Police News/Yang Xi)

Jan Dean Miller contributor of Yunnan mining

Since he was invited to Yunnan in 2009, professor Jan Dean Miller led a team to build an "Advanced Metallurgical Technology Joint Laboratory" to set up an international cooperation exchange platform and built a National Joint Research Center for the Ministry of Science and Technology. Seven outstanding engineers in Metallurgical engineering and 3 post-graduate and post-doctoral students were trained; and he also accepted more than 40 scholars and students from China to study and visit the Department of Metallurgy, University of Utah.

Jan Dean Miller is a worldwide recognized scientist in metallurgical engineering and mineral processing technology, once awarded the Robert Richard Award by the American Institute of Steel Engineers, the Van Duse Gold Medal and Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Colorado, and the University of Utah Outstanding Research Award and more than 20 other awards. He has also registered 30 patents.

He creatively applied three-dimensional CT technology, surface and frequency spectral analysis system

an atomic force microscope to mineral treatment and resource recovery process, which promoted the utilization of resources and energy conservation in the fields of low-grade minerals and refractory minerals in Yunnan Province.

He inspected almost all of Yunnan's large non-ferrous metal mines and smelting enterprises to give in-depth guidance. Professor Miller experienced a serious car accident when he was teaching in the Yunnan-Tibet area in July 2013. After recovery, he continued to visit and gave many lectures.

(Yunnan Daily)

Zhaotong: High-end rural tourism accelerates urban prosperity

Xie Yi

Recently, the foundation laying ceremony of a rural tourism development project was held in Yuhe Town, Zhenxiang County, Zhaotong City in north-east Yunnan Province. This project is the first project that has more than 200 million yuan investment in Zhaotong and it will provide the industrial support for the local

poverty alleviation.

Yuhe Town has a long history and beautiful natural scenery. It is a place that "cannot be recorded by eyes". It has been 2100 years since it was built in 135 BC. It is known as the "township of white wine" and "township of thrushes". In particular, its farming culture, wine culture, thrush culture, Red Culture, Educated Youth Culture and picturesque

natural scenery embrace each other, so that Yuhe becomes an hot investment land and entrepreneurial area. In recent years, the town has relied on the advantages of landscape resources, vigorously implementing a tourism strategy and is committed to creating a rural tourism brand of "tour in Yuhe".

When completed, a rural tourist attraction will be open to the world.

The first tunnel of China-Laos railway opens to traffic

Zhang Jianhua

Wangmen Village No.2 tunnel, constructed by Sinohydro Corporation Engineering Bureau 15 opened to traffic on December 12 and is the first tunnel in the China-Laos railway project opened to traffic.

Wangmen Village No.2 Tunnel is located in Vientiane Province and is 301 meters long. The geological

conditions are clay, fully weathered and strongly weathered mudstone and mudstone pinch sandstone with high safety risks and significant construction difficulty.

Since its inception in December 2016, with the strong support of both governments, the entire civil construction project has been progressing smoothly, and the tunnels, bridges and

roadbed projects have been fully implemented.

China-Laos Railway (Lao section) starts from the border with China in the north to Laos' capital Vientiane in the south. It is 414 kilometers long and was built using Chinese technical specifications and Chinese equipment with a design speed of 160 kilometers per hour. It is expected to open to traffic in December 2021.

AEO promotes the trade between Yunnan and Australia

Liu Ziyu
Zhu Xuemei

The Customs Administration of China has formally signed an AEO mutual recognition arrangement with the Australian Immigration and Border Protection Department. This will further enhance the safety and convenience of Yunnan's trade to Australia.

AEO means "Authorized

Economic Operator". It is a process advocated by the World Customs Organization to grant certificates to high level law abiding enterprises with a good credit rating, and good safety record, so these enterprises can be granted a preferential clearance.

From January to October 2017, a total of 29 Yunnan enterprises conducted import and export business

with Austria, valued at 2.6 billion yuan in total. Yunnan mainly exported chemical fertilizers, chemical products and tobacco to Austria and imported minerals, precious metals and wool products. China AEO enterprise exports to mutually recognized countries and regions, the inspection rate reduced 60% to 80%. The customs clearance time and cost decreases more than 50%.

Yunnan coffee exports to over 10 countries



Yunnan ethnic girls enjoyed the harvest of coffee cherries (File Photo)

Liu Ziyu
Wang Ziyi

According to Kunming Customs' Statistics, from January to October this year Yunnan exported 44,500 tons of coffee beans, valued at 1.27 billion yuan, ranking first among China's provinces and cities. The Kunming Integrated Free Trade Zone is becoming a new platform for Yunnan

coffee export.

Since acceptance by the State on May 12 to December 6 of this year, Customs officers in the Kunming Integrated Free Trade Zone have overseen 156 tickets for coffee exports, valued at 10.58 million US dollars in total, weighing 4,900 tons, and exported to over 10 countries including the United States, Russia, Germany and France.

Through an internet platform, enterprises within the Kunming Integrated Free Trade Zone can handle customs clearance in their own locations. Based on feedback from coffee bean export enterprises, this saves them travelling expenses of ten thousand to twenty thousand yuan per month, and about 500,000 yuan in printing and labor cost each year.

