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China releases green development index Yunnan ecological protection ranks No. 2

China National Bureau of Statistics website recently published the 2016 Bulletin of Annual Evaluation Results of Ecological Civilization Construction, and released the 2016 green development index for each province. This is the first time that China has announced such an Index. According to the Index, the top 10 are Beijing, Fujian, Zhejiang, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu and Yunnan.

The results show that Yunnan's green development index is 80.28. Based on the classification of the index, Yunnan's environmental quality index is 91.64, ranking 5th in China; and the ecological protection index is 75.79, ranking 2nd.

Based on the Ecological Civilization Construction Target Evaluation and Assessment Measures issued by the Office of the Communist Party of China and the State Council in 2016, China's provinces and cities will be evaluated annually and assessed every

five years. The assessment results will be used as an important component of the overall assessment of government leaders and cadres, when considering their rewards or punishments. The annual evaluation is carried out according to the Green Development Index process to generate a local Green Development Index. In August 2017, the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the Central Organization Department, for the first time completed the Ecological Civilization Construction Annual Assessment together with relevant departments. Carrying out the annual evaluation is an important guidance for improving economic and social development assessment processes, guiding various local departments to carry out new development ideas, to implement a scientific development view and accelerating green development and ecological civilization construction. (Yunnan Daily)



The local inhabitants are cleaning up the hydrophyte to maintain the quality of water in Cibi Lake, Dali of Yunnan (Photo provided by Xinhua)

Further reading:

Yunnan Dali: Ecological agriculture helps Erhai protection

In Yunnan Dali Wanjiao Town Gusheng Village, an eco-agricultural demonstration base is greening recently, newly planted winter rapeseeds

are growing well and farmers are busy in the field taking care of the seedlings.

In 2017, focusing on the construction of green food growing base, Wanjiao Town Gusheng Village has made every effort to push forward the construction of a demonstration site for green ecological agriculture. With a land transfer of 1200 mu, cultivating

green, ecological organic agricultural products as a green ecological planting base through "Company + base + household" model is developing green organic rapeseed oil and organic rice growing. By vigorously developing green eco-agriculture great efforts have been made to transform traditional agricultural production methods to effectively control agricultural non-point source pollution, to promote industry by ecological agriculture and help Erhai Lake protection with green development. (Yunnan Daily)

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New baby elephant found in Yunnan

A newborn Asian elephant has been found in Xishuangbanna nature reserve in Southwest China's Yunnan province.

The baby elephant and its mother were discovered the morning after an elephant inspector found a 15-cm baby elephant footprint and some bloodstains when he was monitoring a group of nearly 30 Asian elephants, the reserve administration said.

The calf and mother were both in good health and were recorded before roaming into forest in the reserve.

Asian elephants are China's national protection species. China has about 300 of the elephants, mostly in Yunnan. (Xinhua)

China to open doors wider to foreign investors

China will open its doors wider to foreign investors as the nation looks to achieve high-quality growth, with more policies coming up in areas such as the financial, manufacturing and services sectors, officials said.

The government will reduce restrictions on market access in some key areas in an orderly way, Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng said.

He said the ministry will guide provinces and cities involved in economic pilot programs as they revamp regulations to introduce a unified national negative list as scheduled for 2018.

Gao said other priorities for the ministry include optimizing the regional distribution of foreign investment and deepening institutional innovation in pilot free trade zones.

These efforts correspond with the goals of reform and opening-up mapped out by the Central Economic Work Conference. As part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era — the new economic

concept described by the president — opening-up will be "further expanded in scope and level" and the "concept, structure and layout and system of opening up" will be further expanded, according to the statement.

At the 19th CPC National Congress in October 2017, it was also emphasized that China will not shut its doors to the world and those doors will only open up more and more.

China's pledge to further promote opening-up comes at a time when it has seen another round of increased foreign direct investment in the last quarter of the year, as it shifts its focus to attract such investment in high-end manufacturing, services and green industries to transform its economy.

Foreign direct investment made by global companies on the Chinese mainland rose by 9.8 percent year-on-year to 803.62 billion yuan (\$122 billion) in the first 11 months in 2017, according to the Ministry of Commerce. (China Daily/ Wang Yanfei and Zhongnan)

Michael Fullen provides valuable experience to Yunnan



Michael Fullen provides precious experiences of water conservation for Yunnan universities (File Photo)

Chen Xiaobo

Professor Michael Fullen from the United Kingdom is a world renowned scientist in soil and water conservation, an overseas academician of Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and a tenured professor of School of Science and Engineering, Wolverhampton University, UK. He came to Yunnan for the first time in 1990 as a visiting professor at Yunnan Agricultural University.

Professor Fullen is one of the foreign experts who came to China soon after reform and opening-up. Over the past 20 years, with his active coordination and efforts, Yunnan Agricultural and Wolverhampton University have jointly declared a number of international cooperation projects, including the European Union, the Overseas Development Department of the British Council among others. The cumulative cost of the

projects exceeds 2.5 million euros. Five Chinese, two British, one Nepalese and one Malaysian doctoral student participated in joint research projects of the two schools, and all of them received a doctorate from the University of Wolverhampton. Five of the students completed their doctoral thesis under Professor Fullen's guidance.

He has visited China more than 30 times and has accumulatively worked in Yunnan for over two years. He has trained a large number of technological personnel in the field of soil and water conservation research in China. His arrival not only introduced advanced soil and water conservation technology into Yunnan Province, but also provided valuable experience for the development of Yunnan agriculture, and enhanced the competitiveness of Yunnan agricultural technology in the international community.

SCO sports and health summit forum held in Yunnan

Lou Ying

The 2017 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Sports and Health Industry Summit Forum was recently held in Yunnan. SCO Secretary-General Alimov attended the opening ceremony.

The Forum was upheld the "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, and respect

for diverse civilizations while seeking common development. Themed "focus on sports and health to create a better life", SCO country representatives and domestic experts and scholars were invited.

Keynote speeches and theme dialogues were conducted around the international marathon current status and future, healthy Silk Road and the expansion of the

new path for international cooperation, sports and health, financial capital, acceleration of sports and health industry integration, and conducting marathons without injury. Dialogue was also carried on around the theme of the development of the sports and health tries and building a platform of cooperation for SCO countries, domestic sports and major health industry leaders.



Swing with jazz masters

The seats in the Yunnan Economic Management Institute's Gymnasium were fully occupied during a 90 minute program, world Jazz masters brought wonderful performances and greeted the New Year together with thousands of teachers and students.

The World Jazz Masters Group is a new strength active in recent years at home and abroad in the music of a multi-cultural amalgamation led by Li Gaoyang, a winner of the Chinese Golden Melody Award "the First Outstanding Chinese Performer Award". The "Jazz New Year Concert" and the "World Jazz Masters Summit" launched by Li Gaoyang in 2014 have now become popular elegant brands. The Belt and Road Jazz campaign he launched on campus has toured colleges and universities in Beijing, Shenzhen, Zhengzhou and other cities.

The jazz musicians include Chinese jazz saxophone master Li Gaoyang, American jazz drum idol Adam Nussbaum, Danish piano prince Carl Winther, American trumpet master Timothy Hagans and Chinese bass player Hu Hao. The lineup can be called luxurious. (Li Qiuming)

Go canoeing in NW Yunnan

Li Rong

The roaring Nujiang (Salween) River rushes forward as long as more than 3,000 kilometers. The sharp elevation difference along the river in Yunnan forms the famed "Grand Canyon of the East". Now the river's Yunnan Province section has become a holy place for canoeing/rafting because of its spectacular shoals and lucid rapids.

From Dec. 27, 2017 to Jan. 1, 2018, the Lushui Tourism Promotion, also the second Yunnan Tourism Seasons Forum, was held in Lushui City, northwest Yunnan's Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture. During the promotion, a white-water rafting was also held as a sideline by the Yunnan Outdoor Sports Tourism Research Base.

"The Nujiang grand-canyon rafting route is located at the river section in Lushui City, with a length of 95 km and a fall of 206 meters. According to the American Canoe Association criteria, the average density and quality of the rapids and shoals have reached the world's top level," said Duan Lian, deputy director of Yunnan Outdoor Sports Tourism Research Base. Now the International Wildwater Canoeing Open Nujiang (Salween) River has been recognized as China's only 4-star event by the International Canoe Federation.

Also, the planned Nujiang River Sports Park will bring rafting enthusiasts a brand-new experience, and will be favored by water-sports lovers.

Kunming-Bangalore full-cargo air route opened

Hu Xiaorong

AA300-600 full-cargo aircraft loading 42 tons of high-end electronic products recently took off from Kunming Changshui International Airport. The Kunming to Bangalore full-cargo route has officially opened.

It is China's first non-stop full-cargo flight to Bangalore, India, and Uni-Top's fourth regular full-cargo flight to India from China. The medium-range full cargo A300-600 Airbus planes fly the route twice a week for now and will later be increased to five flights per week to meet market need.

Goods carried are high-end electronic products, mobile phone accessories and communication equipment, mainly delivered from Shanghai, Chengdu and Shenzhen and other cities. The flying distance is 3,203 kilometers, covered in 4 hours and 7 minutes. The route will further improve the layout of Uni-Top's cargo freight and will explore Kunming's advantages as China's hub to Southeast Asia, while at the same time improving the quality and efficiency of air cargo-transport between Kunming and Bangalore to accelerate the cultivation of Kunming Airport as an international hub.

Vietnam to run more freight trains to Yunnan

The Vietnam Railways Corporation said recently that it will increase the number of trains daily carrying cargoes between Vietnam's northern Hai Phong city and China's southwestern Yunnan province.

The number of daily freight trains will increase to three or four pairs (a pair includes one train running from Hai Phong to Yunnan, and the other running in the opposite direction) in the near future from the current two pairs.

It takes a train 29

hours, excluding time for customs procedures at border gates, to cover the Hai Phong-Yunnan rail line of 610 km.

At present, trains often carry zinc ores from Hai Phong to Yunnan, and fertilizers in the opposite direction, said the corporation.

In the first 11 months of 2017, Vietnam's railway industry served 8.8 million passengers, down 3.7 percent on-year, and 5 million tons of cargoes, up 7.3 percent, according to the country's General Statistics Office. (Xinhua)

'Love Heart Journey' started in Cambodia

China's medical team will join the Cambodian Ministry of Health to carry out a "Love Heart Journey". In 2018, Cambodian children with heart disease will receive free treatment.

According to the Cambodian Ministry of Health, surgeries will be done by Chinese Cardiology experts

in Phnom Penh Calmette Hospital. It is estimated that the Chinese medical personnel will treat at least 100 Cambodian children in the next three years. Also, the experts can go to hospitals in other provinces and cities. (China News.com/Huang Yaohui)

Lancang-Mekong countries set up joint law enforcement center in Kunming

A joint law enforcement center, founded by countries along the Lancang-Mekong River, started operation recently in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

The Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Center of Lancang-Mekong River is the first of its kind in the region, said a press release. The first secretary-general

Zheng Baigang is from China and his successors will be from the other five countries in the region by turns, the statement said.

The Lancang-Mekong River runs through China,

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, and serves as a natural bond that links the six countries together.

The center will enhance coordination, share

intelligence and organize joint operations among the six countries to contain cross-border crime, the statement said.

Since 2011, law enforcement agencies of the

six countries have pursued 65 joint patrols and four joint operations against drug trafficking, smashing 39,000 drug cases and rescuing 120 civilian vessels. (China.org.cn)