



CHINA • YUNNAN



PEOPLE

Phoumy: Doing border business with Chinese husband

At dawn, the daily hustle and bustle in south Yunnan's border town of Mohan begins, waking up a Lao woman named Phoumy Fengdaloun and her 60-day-old baby.

Phoumy owns a 60-square-metre store, which sells Lao specialties and Thai products to Chinese customers. The Lancang-Mekong Department Store is located on ASEAN Thoroughfare, a major road in Mohan.

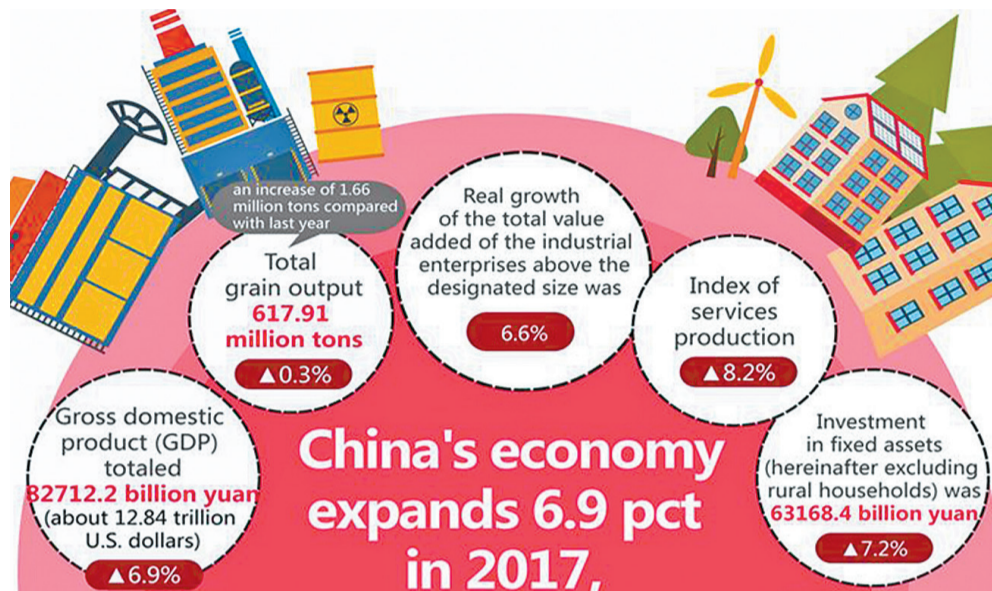
In 2003, border trade in Mohan began to rise. It was in that year when 23-year-old Phoumy started her cross-border business, setting up a Lao goods stall in Mohan. Then, Phoumy got to know Gao Lei, a local business man and they fell in love with each other. In 2006, the two got married in China and settled down.

"At first, business was not good enough, but it bettered later," said Phoumy. In 2008, they spent more than 300,000 yuan buying the store. Now, the China-Laos connectivity has increased and her business is booming, with popular Lao lotions sold to other Chinese provinces.

By Dai Zhenhua
(Yunnan Daily)

ECONOMY

China's GDP growth in 2017 reaches 6.9%: official data



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China

China's GDP in 2017 grew 6.9 percent year on year, beating the government's 6.5 percent growth target, the country's National Statistics Bureau announced on January 18.

GDP totaled 82.7 trillion yuan (\$13 trillion) in 2017, up from around 41.3 trillion yuan in 2010, when China first overtook Japan.

But it's not only the speed or quantity of growth that may make China a sustained engine for global economic growth. With policymakers reiterating the importance of "high quality growth," China's economy is entering a new era.

"Major macroeconomic

indicators all beat market expectations, pointing to economic stabilization," said Ning Jizhe, head of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

While exceeding market consensus of around 6.8 percent, the 6.9-percent growth rate in 2017 was also well above the official target of around 6.5 percent, and 6.7 percent in 2016.

Wang Hanfeng, an analyst with China International Capital Corporation, said that the pick-up signaled that China's economy has entered a new phase of development.

"The acceleration added to evidence that the economy passed a turning point in 2016

and continued upward on the back of industrial and consumption upgrades," Wang said.

Growth in the fourth quarter came in at 6.8 percent, unchanged from the rate seen in the third quarter, NBS data showed.

"Given these stronger-than-expected Q4 GDP data, we have decided to raise our 2018 growth forecast by 0.1 percentage point to 6.5 percent," it said.

New growth drivers are increasingly important for the economy, contributing more than 30 percent of growth and 70 percent of new jobs.

Xinhua, CGTN

NEIGHBOUR

'Border residents' roam freely between China and Laos

Asian elephants, a star animal living in southwest China's Yunnan province, are the only group of "border residents" who can freely come and go to China and Laos without passports, People's Daily reported on Tuesday.

Rangers recently found another two corridors for elephants migrating between China and Laos thanks to the joint efforts by the National Nature Reserve in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and three provinces in northern Laos.

In addition, the trails of Asian elephants and other rare species have been recorded by infrared cameras through many years' bilateral cooperation.

Since the cooperation mechanism was established in 2006, joint patrols have become routine, and the number of Asian elephants is rising, according to the observation. Roughly every elephant group has a baby and they stay at cer-

tain spots longer than before.

The positive changes cannot be separated from the efforts of the rangers, who are often at risk of elephant attacks and poisonous snake bites when patrolling in the reserve.

We are here protecting habitats for both human beings and elephants, said Li Zhongyun, a ranger in the reserve, adding that the 19th Party Congress report also mentioned that humans should live in harmony with nature.

However, the largest land animal on Earth also has brought bittersweet feelings to local farmers. Bananas were often ruined overnight after a herd of elephants march over them, resulting in casualties and property losses.

Xishuangbanna responded to the risk by rolling out an insurance trial scheme in 2010, arousing interest from Laos at the annual conference on cooperation and exchanges.

(People's Daily)

NEWS INPIC

Phayre's leaf monkey found in bulk in west Yunnan



More than 200 Phayre's leaf monkeys are recently discovered by local eco-conservation volunteers in west Yunnan's Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture.

Photo by Zheng Shanhe (Yunnan Daily)

SOCIETY

Chinese airlines allow inflight mobile phone use and wifi

On January 18, China Eastern Airlines and Hainan Airlines began to allow passengers to use portable electronic devices (PEDs), such as smartphones and tablets, but phones still have to be switched to airplane mode.

China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines announced they would allow mobile phone use on all their flights from January 19.

The permission came after the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC)

introduced January 16 new guidelines for the use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) According to the guideline, cabin crew can ask passengers to turn off any devices that interfere with the flight.

(China Daily, CGTN)



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BELT AND ROAD

Yunnan speeds up international connectivity



A Fuxing bullet train departs from Kunming for Shanghai on December 28, 2017.
Photo by Li Qiuming

At 8:14 am on December 28, 2017, the bullet train G1372 connecting Kunming and Shanghai slowly pulled out of the platform from Kunmingnan Railway Station. This marked the debut of the Fuxing electric multiple unit (EMU) train in Yunnan. It was

a special gift for the province on the high-speed rail's one-year anniversary. In recent years, Yunnan has sped up varied international connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative.

In terms of policy coordination, Yunnan gives full play to

its role as a major driver in the development of China-Indo China Peninsula Economic Corridor, the BCIM Economic Corridor and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

With regard to trade facilitation, Yunnan has taken the lead in China to pioneer the "3 in 1" trade facilitation mechanism across 25 international ports. As its trading partners cover South Asia, Southeast Asia and many other countries worldwide, Yunnan's foreign trade totaled 141.57 billion yuan (20.91 billion US dollars) between January and November 2017, up 24.2 percent year-on-year. Yunnan has also built 17 cooperative functional areas under seven categories and held four sessions of China-South Asia Expo.

The paid-in capital Yun-

nan attracted over the first 11 months of 2017 totaled 802.59 billion yuan, up 14.8 percent year-on-year. Total investment of projects reached 710.07 billion yuan, an increase of 15.4 percent over the same period last year. As of October 2017, there were more than 130 global 500 companies with established business presences in Yunnan.

Also, Yunnan has been promoting comprehensive financial reform along its borders and conducted people-to-people exchanges with its neighbouring countries in the tourism, education, science, technology, culture, health, sports, media, and think tank sectors over the years.

By Liu Ziyu
Han Chengyuan
(Yunnan Daily)