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Yunnan accelerates infrastructure construction

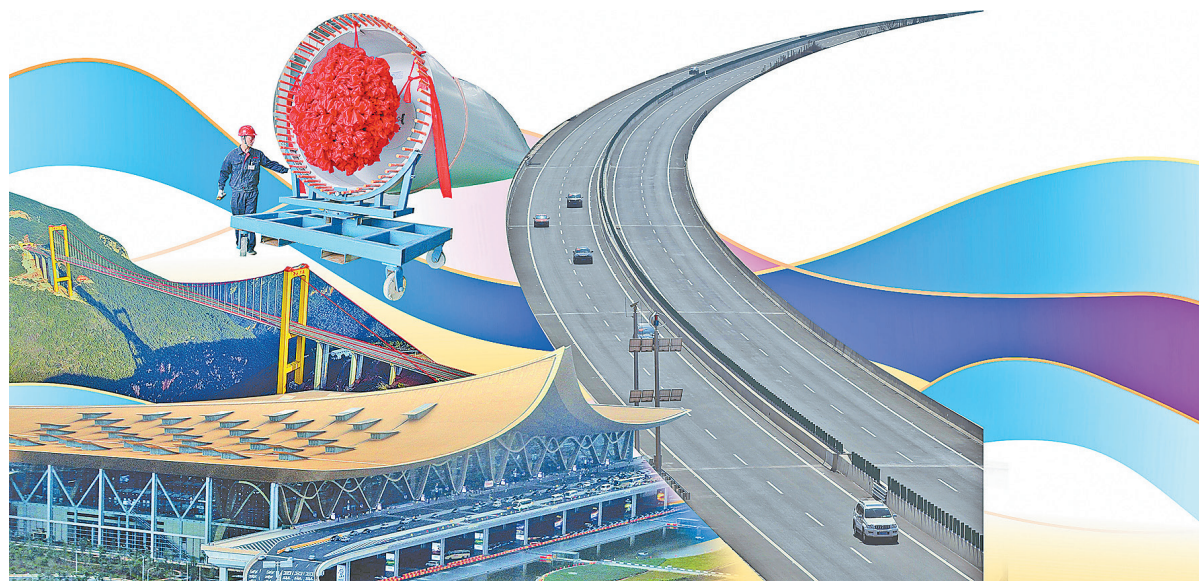
Li Chenghan

Editor's note:

In order to break a bottleneck in development, Yunnan launched a five-year infrastructure construction initiative by investing 1.6 trillion yuan to accelerate the construction of road networks, water transportation networks, aviation networks, internet and energy networks.

Road construction advances

In road construction, Yunnan has launched county-to-county highway project battle. Last year alone, 12 highways opened to traffic including Wuding-Yimen, Zhanyi-Huize, Qujingdong Ring Road, and Xiaomengyang-Mohan. Among the 82 projects included in the "13th five-year plan", seven projects have been completed and are open to traffic, including Pingyuanjie-Wenshan totaling 451 kilometers. Eight projects for a total of 538 kilometers were completed and opened to traffic by the end of 2017. Forty-two projects



The construction of comprehensive infrastructure in Yunnan is accelerating.

(Image designed by Zhao Hangwei)

totaling 3615 kilometers are under construction, with good progress in overall. In railway construction, thirteen projects including the China-Laos international channel Yuxi-Mohan railway, the China-Myanmar international channel Dali-Ruili railway, and the extension and improvement of the Guangnan-Dali railway are all in progress. More

than 20,000 builders work day and night to accelerate the construction of the China-Laos international channel Yuxi-Mohan railway. Last year, completed railway construction totaled 20.73 billion yuan investment, maintaining a good momentum to accelerate progress.

Investment in water conservancy accelerates

Since last year, Yun-

nan water network construction investment scale has reached record highs. From January to October 2017, Yunnan completed an investment of 57.011 billion yuan in water conservancy fixed assets, an increase of 14.6 billion yuan, or 34.46%. Yunnan Water Diversion Project, a significant provincial project, officially started in August 2017, putting the

construction of Yunnan Water network onto the fast track.

Aviation network develops

Yunnan Airport Group received 31.92 million passengers in 2017, but doubled those numbers by 2017, received 63 million passengers. Kunming Chuangshui International Airport received 45 million passengers in 2017.

In addition, the regional Airport aviation market has gradually and steadily grown, laying a solid foundation for Yunnan airports industry's vigorous development.

Energy net enlarges

In the energy network, the construction of the Wunonglong, Dahuaqiao, Lidi, Baihetan, and Wudongde hydropower stations are progressing well. The China-Myanmar natural gas pipeline Lijiang and Ruili branches have started. To promote green energy, Yunnan's solar energy, wind power, photovoltaic and other clean energy industry planning and investment is increasing.

Internet application expands

Yunnan Province has built a wide range of high-speed broadband networks with high performance. Optical cable is accessible in over 98% of administrative villages. Urban and administrative villages have full mobile 4G network coverage. Information services and applications continue to be enriched.

Why China's economy works

In 2017, Time magazine declared "China won" on its cover in both English and Chinese, labeling the country a giant catching up from behind in the global economic race.

In 2017, China's total economic volume exceeded 80 trillion yuan, with a growth rate of 6.9 percent. Its economy is still thriving among all major countries worldwide. About 13 million new urban jobs were created, with ten million rural residents lifted out of poverty. Such progress has added new momentum to the modernization of the country's economy.

In 2017, China's economy maintained growth within reasonable limits while improving stability. A number of key indicators hit new highs over recent years. **The country's annual GDP rose by 6.9 percent, which was the first time the growth rate was higher over the previous year since 2011.** This shows that China has halted its economic slowdown over the past several years. The number of new jobs created in China's cities totaled 13 million, with an unemployment rate of only 4.98 percent. The country's CPI rose 1.6 percent over the past year,

which was 0.4 percentage points down from that of the previous year but still better than expected.

Ning Jizhe, minister of China's National Bureau of Statistics, revealed that over the past year, China's economic output had increased by more than eight trillion yuan (1.2 trillion USD). This amount is equivalent to the fourteenth largest economy in the world in 2016. **China's contribution to world economic growth also rose dramatically, reaching 30 percent.**

As its total economy exceeded 80 trillion yuan, China also strived to improve its economic quality and efficiency, as well as the quality of its overall supply systems. Over the past year, a number of hi-tech industries also made remarkable achievements. China's intelligent manufacturing sector, which includes emerging strategic industries, the high-tech and equipment manufacturing industries, maintained a growth rate of over 10 percent. Online retail sales of commodities increased by 28 percent, and that of virtual goods grew even faster.

(Lu Yanan/People's Daily)

Chinese airlines allow in-flight mobile phone use



Passengers use mobile phones with in-flight wifi connections on board the flight HU7781 of Hainan Airlines, Jan. 18, 2018. China Eastern Airlines and Hainan Airlines began to allow passengers to use port-

able electronic devices (PED). Inflight wifi is available on 74 of China Eastern Airlines' aircraft, covering all long-range international routes and 166 domestic routes. Hainan Airlines has enabled inflight wifi on 17 of

its aircraft. Other Chinese airlines are also considering allowing mobile phone use. The permission comes after the Civil Aviation Administration of China asked that the ban be lifted in January.

(Xinhua)

AIB Invests in 100-percent electric rapid transit system in Bangalore

The Asian Infrastructure Bank's (AIB) Board of Directors has approved a US\$335 million loan for a 100-percent electric metro project that will reduce traffic and pollution and increase employment and mobility in India. The investment in the Bangalore Metro Rail Project, Reach 6 (R6), is AIB's first metro project and its first joint financing partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB). EIB is the project's lead financier with Euro 500 million in funding.

By expanding the city's metro system, the project will provide high-capacity north-south connectivity through the center of Bangalore—India's third most populated city with a population of 9.6 million. Primary beneficiaries will be the commuters who travel along the corridor, with residents and commercial establishments along the line as secondary beneficiaries.

(Xinhua)



"We're investing in this metro project because of its potential to greatly improve the mobility of commuters and further economic growth through better connectivity. The project's impact on the reduction of fuel consumption and traffic congestion will also help reduce local air pollution and noise and make Bangalore a more livable city. We look forward to continuing to review metro projects in India, and across Asia, that will support connectivity and introduce greener methods of transportation."

D.J. Pandian

Travel times for some journeys impacted by the lack of a metro system are expected to drop from two hours today to 15 minutes when the R6 line is completed.

"We're investing in this metro project because

of its potential to greatly improve the mobility of commuters and further economic growth through better connectivity," said AIB Vice President and Chief Investment Officer D.J. Pandian. "The project's impact on the reduction of fuel consumption and traffic congestion will also help reduce local air pollution and noise and make Bangalore a more livable city. We look forward to continuing to review metro projects in India, and across Asia, that will support connectivity and introduce greener methods of transportation."

In May 2016, AIB and EIB signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a framework of cooperation to conduct regular dialogues and explore joint infrastructure project financing. The Bangalore Metro Rail Project—R6 is the first project resulting from that framework.

(AIB official website)

Yunnan foreign trade increases by 19.9%

Liu Ziyu

According to Kunming Customs, Yunnan export volume last year reached 77.21 billion yuan, up by 1.5%. Meanwhile, imports of the province added up to 80.66 billion yuan, an increase of 45%.

ASEAN is Yunnan's biggest market for foreign trade. In 2017, the trade volume between Yunnan

and ASEAN reached 88.47 billion yuan, accounting for 56% of the province's foreign trade. Within ASEAN, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos are the top three trading partners of Yunnan.

In addition, the Yunnan-Latin America trade volume increased by 55.9%, while the provinces trade volumes with Saudi Arabia, Australia and India went up by 8 times, 53.7% and 20.5%.

Yunnan builds joint lab for renewable energy study in Laos

Recently, China and Laos have inaugurated a joint lab for study of renewable energy in Lao capital Vientiane, according to the Chinese Embassy in Laos.

The lab was jointly built by China's Yunnan Normal University and Lao Ministry of Science and Technology's Renewable Energy and New Material Research Institute with sponsorship of China's

Ministry of Science and Technology in facility and talent training.

The inauguration ceremony was held recently with the attendance of Chinese Ambassador to Laos Wang Wentian, Lao Minister of Science and Technology Boviengkham Vongdara, President of Yunnan Normal University Jiang Yongwen, among others.

(China.org.cn)

Rising tide of Chinese tourists visiting India

Figures released by India's Ministry of Tourism celebrated tourist arrivals for 2017 crossing the 10 million mark, showing an impressive growth of 15.6 percent over 2016. **What is most interesting in this is that China, which stood at 13th overall for India's inbound tourists in 2014, has moved six rungs up the ladder in just three years taking 8th position.**

Use of India's e-visas makes it more interesting. In 2017, e-visa usage marked a sharp 57 increase over 2016; this again shows China faring even better, emerging as the 5th largest user of India's e-visa facility.

There are multiple factors that can facilitate a rapid increase of Chinese tourists visiting India. According to the World Tourism Organization, China's outbound tourist numbers were expected to hit 100

million by 2020, but the number has been reached already. India is bound to receive its share in this growing number of China's outbound tourists.

China's post-1980s generations have grown up with Chinese television series "Journey to the West" romanticizing India as Tianzhu of ancient epics. Lately as well, there has been increasing consciousness about Buddhism and a stronger incline towards reviving links with Buddhist circuits in India and Nepal. Increasing numbers of Chinese visitors to India may then become goodwill ambassadors.

(Swarn Singh, professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and Visiting Professor at Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economies in Kunming. Adapted from China Plus)

Caesar Benedikt Schmidlin Helping improve the quality of Yunnan medicine

Dr. Caesar Benedikt Schmidlin, from Switzerland, is a Ph.D at the University of Bern and the Pharmaceutical Research Institute at the University of Basel in Switzerland, and has been an international quality director for Kunming Pharmaceutical Group since 2011.

Since he began working with Kunming Pharmaceutical Group Company LTD., he helped the company obtain Quality Management Standard (GMP) Certification for medicinal products from countries like Australia, Kenya, and Uganda; and passed the World Health Organization GMP audit, established and improved the quality management process and strengthened the on-site process management and quality



Caesar Benedikt Schmidlin concentrates himself on medical research. (File Photo)

core competitiveness construction. In order to improve the quality consciousness and quality management level of the Yunnan Pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Schmidlin organized 28 large-scale technical trainings, with 3,000 participants involved in pharmaceutical production enterprises, and quality related practitioners in Yunnan.

In 2013, Dr. Schmidlin conducted several professional trainings for Kunming Jida Pharmaceutical Company Ltd., Yunnan Licensed Pharmacist Center and Yunnan Pharmaceutical Supervision Bureau which were well received by industry practitioners. In the process of the internationalization preparation base project of Kunming Pharmaceu-

tical Group Co., Ltd., Dr. Schmidlin led a team and completed the user requirement standards for the preparation workshop, guided the conceptual design of the workshop and confirmed with WHO through discussion. In the process of project construction, civil engineering and equipment installation, commissioning and equipment confirmation, Dr. Schmidlin has provided technical support and professional guidance.

Dr. Schmidlin has made a fruitful contribution to the development of the Kunming Pharmaceutical Group and has played an active role in improving the ability of the relevant practitioners of pharmaceutical production quality in Yunnan Province.

(Chen Xiaobo)

Aamir Khan: Wish to cooperate with Chinese movie makers

Aamir Khan, an Indian movie star who will visit China to promote his new film, said in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency in Bombay that he was delighted to have an opportunity to visit China again and he was looking forward to working with the best Chinese filmmakers to film a feature movie with both backgrounds that will be loved by audiences from both sides.

Aamir Khan was born in Bombay in 1965 and is now a popular star in Bollywood. Although Indian films

have been relatively rare in China, at least four films starring Aamir Khan have entered Chinese cinemas, with pretty good box-office results and reviews. In particular the Dangle, released in 2017, had a box office which exceeded 1 billion yuan, setting a record for Indian films abroad.

The Secret Superstar is the latest work starring Aamir Khan, telling the story of a 14-year-old girl who breaks through discrimination and obstructions to pursue her dream in music.

(Xinhua/Zhang Xingjun)