



CHINA • YUNNAN



NEIGHBOR

China aids Laos in pest control

Four pest-control work groups from southwest China's Yunnan Provincial Department of Agriculture visited Laos in recent years. They investigated locust outbreaks in five northern provinces in the country.

During their visits, the work groups held 30 training sessions for Lao farmers and agricultural technicians, with locust control and prevention methods demonstrated across 300 hectares of outbreak areas.

They also donated locust-killing sprayers and pesticides to their Lao coun-

terparts. The 2.69-million-yuan donations were handed over in four batches.

Yunnan's aid to Laos began in 2015, when locust outbreaks were prevalent in Luang Prabang and other provinces in northern Laos. The scourge affected local agricultural production and people's livelihood.

Through bilateral efforts over the past several years, crop destruction by locusts among upland rice and maize crops in northern Laos have been brought under control.

(Farmers' Daily)

Xi, May push to advance Sino-British ties

China and Britain should enhance connection of development strategies and deepen cooperation in such areas as finance, nuclear power and investment, Chinese President Xi Jinping told visiting British Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday.

The two countries should design bilateral ties from a strategic and overall vision, continue to carry forward high-level dialogues in strategic, financial and cultural areas, and enhance exchanges between the legislatures, political parties and militaries of both sides, Xi said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with visiting British Prime Minister Theresa May in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 1, 2018.

Xinhua photo

The president called on the two countries to boost mutual understanding, re-

spect each other's core interests and major concerns, and properly handle sensitive

issues.

The two countries should explore cooperation in new industrial areas such as artificial intelligence, green energy, digital economy and shared economy, Xi said.

May welcomed China's investment in the UK, saying that the trade links between the two countries are growing.

"I have been pleased to bring a very large business delegation here who had a very successful visit," she said. May has been accompanied by leaders of over 50 British business and commercial organizations.

(China Daily/Abridged)

EXCHANGE

Phongsaly delegation visits Pu'er City

Khamchen Vongphosy, the governor of Phongsaly Province and secretary of the provincial committee of the LPRP, recently headed a delegation visiting southwest Yunnan's Pu'er City.

During the visit, Khamchen Vongphosy held talk with Wei Xing, secretary of the CPC Pu'er Municipal Committee.

Secretary Wei Xing said Pu'er is willing to deepen its exchanges and cooperation with Phongsaly in economy, tourism, education, and border security.

The governor said Phongsaly will actively enhance all-round cooperation with Pu'er in education, sci-tech, agriculture and others.

The six-day visit from December 30, 2017 to January 4, 2018 also brought the Lao official delegation to the Menglian county in Pu'er, where they are accompanied local officials, such as Pu'er vice mayor Chen Shijian.

The delegates also watched local ethnic performances, and visited a local historic administrative office, the Yunnan International Coffee Exchange, and the Menglian-Mengda border economic cooperation zone.

(Yunnan Economic Daily; Pu'er Daily)

NEWS IN PICTURE

Spring Festival travel rush begins across China



Passengers enter the Fuzhou Railway Station in east China on February 1. About 2.98 billion trips are expected to be made nationwide during the 2018 Spring Festival travel rush, known as the Chunyun, between February 1 and March 12.

Xinhua photo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yunnan railways gear up for festival travel rush

Yunnan railways are making preparations to ensure a smooth Spring Festival travel rush, according to a local press conference on January 31.

China Railway Kunming Group Co., Ltd. is expected to serve around 6.85 million passengers during the 2018 Spring Festival travel rush, known as the Chunyun, between February 1 and March 12.

The 6.85 million train trips represent a 5.0 percent growth year on year, partly thanks to the new high speed rails put into service one year ago.

Facing the upcoming travel rush, China Railway Kunming

Group Company will enhance its transportation capability.

136 high-speed trains, together with 125 slower trains, will be put into service to meet the passengers' need each day.

An additional 11 trains will be added to the festival travel rush, with 2 high-speed trains running between Kunming and Guangzhou. The other nine will further connect Kunming with Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing and Hainan.

The Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, falls on Feb. 16 this year.

By Li Hengqiang (Yunnan Gateway)

VOICE

Governor: Tour app helps Yunnan to develop smart tourism

"How shall we achieve the transformation and upgrading of our tourism industry? In practice, we feel that we must combine tourism with the Internet to develop smart tourism."

Ruan Chengfa, governor of Yunnan Province said at a press conference shortly after the First Session of the 13th Yunnan Provincial People's Congress.

Based on the application (app) of 'Tour in Yunnan on the phone', Yunnan will develop smart tourism to offer ease and ubiquitous quality service to tourists, said Ruan, adding more fine routes for drive tourists will be designed.

"Tour in Yunnan on the phone" is in line with the trend of informationization." Ruan explained the

app aims to make use of the Internet, big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and other technologies to develop the new type of smart tourism.

Yunnan is a major tourist destination in China. Last year, the province created the idea of 'Tour in Yunnan on the phone' app in a bid to promote the development of smart tourism.

The app will put into service soon. By then, tourists can make bookings, enjoy services, and lodge complaints through the official applet and WeChat before, during and after their tours.

'Tour in Yunnan on the phone' is in essence a tourism big data centre that guarantees centralized management, in-depth analysis

and effective application of tourism data.

Via the app, tourists can be admitted to attractions by QR-code or human facial recognition, pass through highway tollgates using remote payment methods, enjoy gender- and season-specific e-tour guides, make online settlement and receive electronic invoices to protect their legal rights and interests.

They can also book their parking spaces and locate nearby restaurants, toilets and other public facilities, pay for and deliver authentic and high quality tea products and other specialties online, and receive unconditional refunds.

By Li Shaoming (Yunnan Daily)

Pu'er holds specialty coffee expo

The First Pu'er International Specialty Coffee Expo was held in Pu'er City, China's largest coffee-growing region in southwest Yunnan, on January 29-31.

The professional and market-oriented expo represents an opportunity to experience the coffees of Yunnan Province and engage with international coffee-industry leaders, producers,

roasters, and baristas.

With a coffee growing area of 52,600 hectares, Pu'er produces more than half of China's coffee total. Most Pu'er coffee is exported to over 30 countries and regions, including the United States, Germany, France, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and others.

By Zhu Dongran (Yunnan Gateway)



Rural coffee growers harvest coffee beans at a Pu'er plantation on February 2.

Xinhua photo



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