



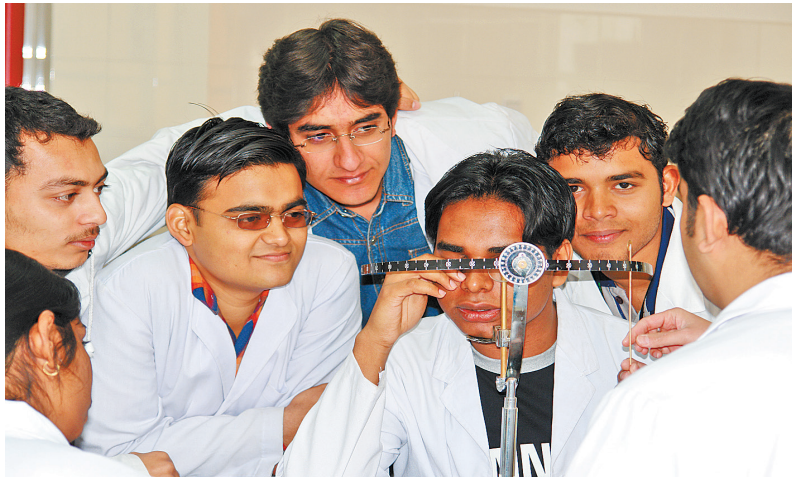
BELT AND ROAD

Yunnan's international students predominately South and Southeast Asian

In recent years, Yunnan Province, taking advantage of its regional advantages, has accelerated the opening up of its educational institutions to the outside world. This has helped attract a large number of students from South and Southeast Asia eager to pursue further studies.

Last year, the number of international students in Yunnan exceeded 18,000, ranking among top ten in the country. "The international influence of Yunnan's educational system, especially its influence in South and Southeast Asia, has been further strengthened," said Zhou Rong, director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education.

Yunnan is building itself into a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia. A clear majority of international students in the province are from South and Southeast Asian countries. In 2017 alone, more than 10,000 students from these



International students are studying in Dali University. Photo by Luo Rongchan

countries came to study in the province. Budida is an Indonesian girl. She studied tourism management at Southwest Forestry University. As China has increased tourism ties with ASEAN member states,

she readily seized the opportunity. Today, her travel agency in Indonesia cooperates with its counterparts in Yunnan, and her business covers all of Indonesia. "I hope to help both people experience different

cultures and better understand each other through the tourism industry," she said.

With the global craze for the Chinese language, Yunnan Province is intensifying its language promotion efforts to the international community. Up until now, the province has held "Chinese Bridge" language proficiency competition for foreign secondary students six years in a row and has set up 15 Confucius Institutes classrooms.

The enthusiasm for learning Chinese is running high in Belt and Road countries. And the study of Chinese is helping more and more students in South and Southeast Asian countries achieve their dreams. Gadding, a young man from Laos, is now studying Chinese in Yunnan. He said, "I hope to learn Chinese well and contribute to the cross-border eco-tourism industry between China and Laos."

(Xinhua)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belt and Road countries popular with Chinese tourists during Spring Festival

BY WU QIYU

According to a report on outbound tourism during the 2018 Chinese New Year released by China UnionPay on February 23, Spring Festival is becoming high season for global tourism. Chinese tourists are travelling to more destinations and paying more attention to the overall experience and quality of their trips. Belt and Road countries and regions are increasingly popular destinations.

Thanks to preferential policies and vigorous promotions, Belt and Road countries and regions are attracting a growing number of Chinese tourists. During the 2018 Chinese New Year, the number of Chinese tourists and their spending in these countries and regions increased by 16 percent over the same period last year.

Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are still the main tourist arrival cities for Belt and Road countries and regions, contributing more than 30 percent of tourism spending in these countries and regions during the 2018 Chinese New Year. In terms of destinations, Southeast Asian countries and regions are still favoured by Chinese people. Russia, the Czech Republic and other Eastern European countries also saw a rise in the number of Chinese tourists. (People's Daily Overseas Edition)

Helicopter tours get trendy in Kunming

BY ERIC WANG

During the just-concluded Spring Festival holiday, thousands of tourists experienced helicopter tours departing from Kunming's Haigneg Park, getting a bird's eye view of the Spring City. The special tours were organized by Kunming Fengxiang General Aviation Service, with each ten-minute flight costing 800 yuan per passenger.

More than 90 percent of the tourists come from other Chinese provinces outside of Yunnan. Many of the passengers were around 50-60 years old, with the eldest being 90.

Some international tourists visiting Kunming also joined this newly offered leisure activity from the lakeside park.

Similar helicopter tours are expected to be offered in other Yunnan localities in the near future, including Lijiang and Tengchong.



8,000 blooming peonies attract tourists

The seventh Tanhua Temple Peonies Exhibition kicked off on February 8 and will last to April 15. During the exhibition, more than 8,000 peonies in 30 species and 9 colors are being exhibited in different batches. Tourists flock to the temple to enjoy the blooming flowers and take photos. Photo by Chen Fei

COOPERATION

SSCAF joins hands with UN in post-disaster reconstruction of Bangladesh

BY LIU CHUNTAO

The China South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund(SSCAF) launched its first project in Bangladesh. The Fund joined hands with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the post-disaster reconstruction of Bangladesh, and a disaster relief material handover ceremony was held recently.

Mr. Mukherjee, the UNDP's representative in Bangladesh, praised China's

active participation in the South-South Cooperation Initiative, and also thanked China for supporting developing countries in carrying out post-disaster reconstruction and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The post-disaster reconstruction project is the first of its kind conducted jointly by the UNDP and China in Bangladesh. The project will help nearly 70,000 affected people from 13,910 families in five disaster-stricken areas.

In September 2015, China announced

the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund with an initial pledge of two billion U.S. dollars. In May 2017, China announced an additional pledge of one billion U.S. dollars. Currently, the fund is managed by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. It has become a special aid outlet through which the Chinese government supports other developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(Xinhua)

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

How do expats in Yunnan spend Spring Festival?

The number of expats in Yunnan, including tourists, doctors and teachers, has been on the rise as the province continues to open up to the outside world. During the just-concluded Spring Festival, many expats chose to stay in Yunnan. When we interviewed some of them, we found that they quite enjoyed their Chinese new year holiday.

Indian doctors spend an enjoyable Spring Festival in Yunnan

"I enjoyed using the Chinese yuan, met many friends and ate many different types of Chinese food. I enjoyed it all in China," said Pushpa, an Indian doctor at the Second Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University, on February 21 as we interviewed her and her colleague Shrawan.

Shrawan and Pushpa came from India to study at Kunming Medical University in 2012. After graduating last year, they both joined the Second Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University.

During Spring Festival, Pushpa was deeply impressed by a big dinner with Chinese friends and other expats in

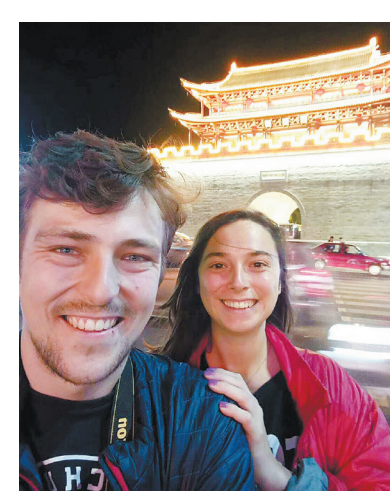
downtown Kunming. "There were a lot of people. It was a lively scene. We ate well and had a good time," said Pushpa.

Shrawan loves sports. He played basketball games and went sightseeing with friends during Spring Festival. "I went to Dianchi Lake for sightseeing and I played volleyball and basketball with my Chinese friends," said Shrawan. He has been studying and working in Kunming for six years, and he plans to bring what he has learned in Yunnan back to India next year.

Anglo-American lovers: Spring Festival in Yunnan is meaningful

Wyatt Gordon, a handsome young American man, has been teaching English in Kunming over the past few years. In January, he brought his British girlfriend Millie to Yunnan and they spent a very meaningful Spring Festival together.

Wyatt and Millie first travelled to Jiashui County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture in south Yunnan. The area's famed tourist attractions include Swallow Cave, a Confucius Temple and the Zhu Family Garden. "Millie and I are visiting Jiashui for sightseeing. We came here after a few days in Kunming," Wyatt



Gordon and Millie took a selfie in Jiashui Old Town.

said in a telephone interview. Wyatt and Millie were impressed by the sculptures and paintings in the Confucius Temple. In the Zhu Family Garden, Millie loved the pavilions and winding paths so much that she kept asking Wyatt to take pictures of her. They spent a happy and meaningful Spring Festival in Yunnan.

(Yunnan Gateway)

VOICE

The Chinese Dream's global significance and implications

BY WANG YIWEI

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, as the report to the 19th CPC National Congress pointed out. It means that the path, the theory, the system and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics have all continued to develop. This evolution has blazed a new trail for other developing countries to follow in order to achieve modernization. It offers a new option for other nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence. And it offers Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind.

China's expectations for the world also reflect the world's expectations for China. At present, various sides have both expectations and worries about the prospects for peace and development for mankind. Today, they are looking to China to express its positions and attitudes. **China vows to always contribute to the creation of world peace, global development and the safeguarding of the international order. The Chinese people are willing to work together with the people of other countries in opening up a beautiful future of greater prosperity and tranquillity for mankind.**

Knowing clearly the world's expectations for China, Chinese President Xi

Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past five years, with the joint efforts of all parties involved, the Belt and Road Initiative has been translated into both action and practice. It has become one of the biggest international cooperation platforms in the world, and one of the most popular international public programmes for good.

First, the Belt and Road Initiative is an all-around plan of opening-up for China in a new era. Second, it is a cooperative initiative for promoting a new type of globalization and global governance. Third, it is also a great undertaking that connects the Chinese dream and the dreams of the world while helping to build a community of shared future for mankind.

As both a world power and an ancient civilization, China must not only realize its own modernization but also help other developing countries to realize their own. China stresses its own characteristics and is ready to accept the characteristics of other countries. China also seeks its own prosperity as well as the sustainable development of all civilizations. This is the global significance and implication of the Chinese Dream's. (The author is vice president of the Institute of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China Renmin University.)

TOURISM

Yunnan tourism generates 19 billion yuan during Spring Festival



Tourists are feeding seagulls at Haigeng Dyke of Dianchi Lake, Kunming. (Xinhua)

Yunnan's tourism industry generated an income of 19.293 billion yuan – about three billion U.S. dollars – during the week-long Spring Festival. The total represents a year-on-year increase of 42.35 percent.

According to statistics released by Yunnan tourism authority on February 22, some 28.81 million trips were made across Yunnan, up 25.47 percent from last year.

22 major scenic areas in the province received more than 1.84 million trips, down 1.6 percent compared with the past year.

The province's airports handled 10,534 flights, transporting 1.31 million passengers. 1.94 million passengers chose to take trains and 318,000 buses were put into service during the travel rush, transporting 10.72 million passengers. (Yunnan Gateway)

CULTURE

Yunnan farmers' choir debut in New York and London

BY BAI YING

In Xiaoshuijing Miao Village, Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, there is a peasant choir that retains the Baroque singing style introduced by a Western missionary a century ago. During Spring Festival this year, the village's peasant choir went abroad for the first time, touring New York and London with Chinese conductor Yu Long.

"The villagers' singing method originated from the traditional bel canto, which has been passed down from generation to generation. The integration of Western music and traditional Chinese ethnic culture has produced a fantastic artistic phenomenon. The angelic voices of the Miao villagers have also been passed down through natural inheritance," said Yu Long.

The peasant choir, known as a mountain Baroque choir, has participated in various performances and

competitions in China since October 2003. From February 15 to March 1, as part of the 2018 Spring Festival Concert, they went abroad for the first time and performed in Zurich, New York and London. They sang a number of works side by side with the New York Philharmonic and the British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. The performance included Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and a Yunnan folk song called Xiaohe Tangshui, or The Flowing Stream.

"Through the Xiaoshuijing peasant choir's performances, we hope to introduce Chinese grassroots music and musicians to international audiences. We also hope that people all over the world can enjoy the auspiciousness of the Chinese New Year. The New York and British philharmonics, both world-famous orchestras, shared the stage with peasant musicians for the first time," Yu Long said.

(Xinhua)