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Lancang-Mekong Cooperation accelerates tourism development

BY LI HENGQIANG

"Lancang-Mekong Cooperation is great. We will definitely follow its footsteps." On January 18, 2018, eight days after the Phnom Penh Declaration of the Second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, in Lao Golden Triangle Economic Special Zone, Haozhi Manor Hotel opened. Zeng Guiming, the project manager and board director of Lao Jinwufu International Tourism and Transportation Trading Co., Ltd. and Thai Jinwufu International Tourism Co., Ltd, shared his opening speech with his friends.

Zeng Guiming has been exploring in the Southeast Asia tourism industry since 2002. He told the reporter that in the past, to tour in Lancang-Mekong River country, the route is relatively single, and generally are plane + bus combination. Now, tourists can choose air, highway (self-driving or self-driving after landing) and even water way to visit each Lancang-Mekong country.

"In the region, since the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation carried out by China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, the number of tourists to Southeast Asia significantly increased, and travel agencies are constantly developing more tourism routes." Zeng Guiming said that compared to the traditional city sightseeing tour, up to half a month self-driving trip across three or even four countries in the Lancang-Mekong region is not unusual. In the future, when the China-Thailand Railway opens to traffic, tourists choose the way of travel will be more diversified.

"Before the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, customs clearance at border crossings is cumbersome. Self-driving tour needed to be approved 15 working days in advance, not even including inspections on car and driver. Even after the clearance, visitors can only



Border tour between Yunnan and Myanmar becomes increasingly popular during holidays. (Photo by Yang Zheng)

visit the border area. But now, tourists can tour across the border with their ID. Thailand and Laos have launched joint projects to 'condense' the process into a magnetic card, which, while greatly simplifying the process, also prolongs the time of stay in the country." Zeng Guiming said.

"Laos' economy is underdeveloped, but its primitive style attracts tourists from all over the world." Zeng Guiming said that benefit from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, in the Lao Golden Triangle area, projects such as viewing three countries by air balloon, ATV all terrain car jungle off-road, Mekong River Prince river food tasting experiencing, and folk culture garden tour, have attracted more and more tourists. There are even not a small number of Chinese tourists from the north drive all the way down south to the Lancang-Mekong countries for tourism.

"One river connects six countries with their fates tightly linked. Yunnan can be very promising in tourism cooperation." Yunnan Province puts forward that it should give full play to its regional advantages in the Belt and Road construction and opening-up strategy, and to deepen the cooperation with its neighboring countries in various fields. "Let's go for it! This is a rare opportunity," he said happily.



Luang Prabang situated in northern Laos is the hot tourism destination for Yunnan travellers. (File Photo)

Further Reading:

Chinese tourists love Lancang-Mekong countries in holidays

BY ZHU HAI

During Chinese New Year holiday, China's tourists choose to set off from Yunnan to experience the Lancang-Mekong River basin countries as a main destination for border tour and cross-border tour, it becomes more convenient and popular. According to statistics, in the first six days of the Spring Festival holiday, Yunnan Province received 5.1969 million tourists, in which 56,900 tourists had a one-day border tour, with an average travel index of 50.34%.

Ren Haoming, a tourist from Kunming, spent the New Year's Eve with his friends in Thailand, he shared his photos of the sunset on Samui Island in the circle of his Friends and got a lot of praise. "My biggest impression of this trip is that travel from Yunnan to Southeast Asian countries is becoming more and more convenient." Ren Haoming loves travel, he told the reporter that the number of flights

between Yunnan and Southeast Asia are constantly increasing, especially the Mekong countries. Visa on landing offers more options for visa application, Alipay, WeChat and other payments are becoming more popular, hotel welcome letter, restaurant menu in Chinese... "Spend Spring Festival abroad can still feel the thick Chinese taste and Yunnan flavor," he said.

According to the Kunming Customs, from 15th to 19th of February, Hekou Customs supervised 33,642 people entered and existed the border, an increase of 14.46%; Mengla Customs supervised 25,606 people, inspected and released 5,747 vehicles crossed the border; Ruili Customs supervised 4,254 visitors had a one-day tour at the China-Myanmar border.

In Yunnan, totally 1547 aircrafts landed and took off, carried 187,200 passengers. 136 trains arrived in Kunming, carried 263.5 thousand passengers, with a traffic rate of 78.52% and 84.57% respectively.

Key words to understand China

China actively develops global partnership

China has actively developed global partnerships and expanded the convergence of interests with other countries. China will promote coordination and cooperation with other major countries and work to build a framework for major country relations featuring overall stability and balanced development. China will deepen relations with its neighbors in accordance with the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness and the policy of forging friendship and partnership with its neighbors. China will, guided by the principle of upholding justice while pursuing shared interests and the principle of sincerity, honesty, affinity, and good faith, work to strengthen solidarity and cooperation

with other developing countries. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has made a top-level design for China's diplomacy in the new era.

Chinese characteristic major power diplomacy is committed to promoting the construction of new types of international relations and building a dialogue without confrontation, a companion and non-aligned Global Partnership network. This is a summary of the historical experience of the Cold War marked by Alliance confrontation, exploring a new road of country-to-country interaction, which has played an increasingly important role in promoting world peace and stability.

(Economic Daily)

In pics



Every year, when the Lantern Festival comes on January 15th of Chinese lunar calendar, a 600-year-old beauty contest will be staged in Zhiju Village, central Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture where local girls display their self-embroidered costumes. During the festival, eye-catching items are everywhere from Yi girls' heads to feet. Hat, bodices, skirts, shoes, bags are all embroidered with colorful and distinctive patterns telling stories about natural phenomenon, animals, and people in love, etc. (Yunnan Daily)

Chinese enterprise develops rubber market in Southeast Asia

BY XINHUA/ LIU TONG

At 3:30 a.m., 27-year-old Lamuli gets up. Half an hour later, when he rides his motorbike to a rubber plantation a few kilometers away, the temperature in the early morning of Sabah in Malaysia is suitable for tapping.

Lamuli's job is to draw a machete across each of the 600 rubber trees to allow the latex to flow into cups. If the weather is good, he can finish his work within three hours.

The rubber plantation is located in Keningau where is about 150 kilometers away from the tourist city Kota Kinabalu. Here, there are more than 400 rubber workers like Lamuli. Each worker has an average of 1800 tree per day to work on, to completing a work

cycle in three days.

Lamuli had worked as an air conditioning repair technician in Kuala Lumpur 4 months ago before he started working for Jianningou. He earns 2,000 ringgit a month (1 US \$ 3.89 ringgit).

Malaysia was the world's third largest producer of natural rubber after Thailand and Indonesia, but in recent years, due to the continuous low price of natural rubber, a lot of rubber farmers switched to palm trees and other cash crops. Coupled with the Government's active development of rubber gloves industry and other downstream industries, fewer and fewer people are engaged in tapping businesses, and the rubber planting area has been reduced year by year.

However, the current downturn has not stopped Chinese Guangdong enter-

prise Guangken Rubber Group. Since 2008, Guangken Rubber cooperated with the local company, Polian Woods, and invested hundreds of millions of yuan to rent 30,000 hectares of land and has introduced Chinese nursery technology to develop natural rubber cultivation. Its rubber park is one of the largest natural rubber plantations in Malaysia.

Lai Xionghui is the general manager of the joint venture Guangken Rubber (Polian) Company Ltd. He said that Southeast Asia's unique climate conditions is very favorable for developing rubber industry, thus it has a high yield.

Now there are about 77,000 rubber trees ready for tapping in the plantation. Lai Xionghui said that the scale effect will reduce cost as more trees are avail-

able for tapping. The company plans to increase the number of rubber trees to 2 million in the next few years, and more tapping workers will be needed by then.

The rubber plantation in Keningau, Sabah is not the first project of Guangken Rubber in Southeast Asia. In recent years, the enterprise took advantage of the rubber price downturn and market integration opportunities to enter Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand, and is now one of the world's largest natural rubber industry chain enterprises.

Lai Xionghui said that the company plans to set up a rubber factory to process some high value added rubber products locally. "The most important thing is that the local people see that we are ready to invest here long-term."

Voice

"Beautiful" represents the direction of sustainable development

China is gradually winning the battle against blue skies and white clouds. The world's second-largest economy is taking strong steps to speed up the treatment of air pollution and emissions, step away from the growth pattern at the expense of the environment and create a more sustainable economic development model. In the fourth quarter of 2017, the average concentration of PM2.5 in 28 cities, such as Beijing and Tianjin, fell 34.3% compare with the previous year, a series of policies to accelerate the construction of ecological civilization in China were positively evaluated, Boomerang quoted a report.

Many foreign experts and scholars have said that China's ecological civilization construction has been promoted to a new height, China's green development road is more and more broad, and has a positive impact on global sustainable development.

"As the second largest economy in the world, China pursues green mountains and rivers by constantly accelerating the construction of ecological civilization, and releasing positive signals of changing the concept for development." Francois, a professor at Amsterdam Business School in the Netherlands, said that with the implementation of China's pollution control programs, the Chinese government has made more detailed plans to accelerate the construction of ecological civilization. "The Chinese government has made an unprecedented effort. I believe that China's green development dividend will continue to be released."

"China's achievements in the field of environmental protection fully reflect the efficiency of China's environmental policy formulation and implementation. Burderski, a professor at the University of Gdansk in Poland, was impressed by China's achievements in ecological governance. "20 years ago when I came to Beijing for the first time, I clearly remember the dust storms and dust weather. Now Beijing basically farewell to sandstorm

weather. Especially in recent years China's urban green space and forests are more and more obviously, and the environment is more pleasant, which is closely related to the government's strong promotion of ecological civilization construction."

"'Beautiful' represents the direction of sustainable development, which coincides with the 'Harmony' advocated in China since ancient times. Great efforts to promote ecological conservation and restore green mountains and rivers are making Chinese people return to the path of harmony with the nature." Mexican columnist and Chinese expert Albert Rodriguez noted that since the 18th Congress, Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought has made new development. He stands at the height of the China's sustainable development and the human being's civilization development, explicitly takes the ecological civilization as a new stage following agriculture and industrial civilization, and points out that the ecological civilization construction relates to the China's great rejuvenation and the realization of Chinese dream. Rodriguez stressed that China has added "beautiful" to the ambitious goal of building a socialist modern power. The new concept of "beauty" reflects China's efforts to pursue deeper goals beyond the rapid development, and the courage to sacrifice the pace of development in exchange for environmental quality improvement. The ecological concept reflects the wisdom and courage of Chinese leaders, which shall benefit the general people.

Songtan, director of the National Park Administration Office of Thai National Park and Wildlife Protection Department, said sincerely that accelerating the construction of ecological civilization embodies the Chinese government's attention to people's health and life quality. China's ecological civilization construction concept and experience provide a successful example for Thailand and the vast of number of developing countries.

(Abridged from People's Daily)

Green Industry

Yunnan artificially-cultivated boletus sold to the US



Artificially-cultivated boletus has been well developed in Yunnan Province. (File Photo)

As a kingdom of wild mushrooms, Yunnan boasts rich resources and good environment for cultivating high-end mushrooms which are consumed domestically and exported to overseas market.

According to the Yunnan Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, 176 kilograms of artificially-cultivated boletus with a value of 4,048 USD were recently exported to the U.S. It is the first time that Yunnan artificially-cultivated boletus is sold to the overseas market.

Boletus is warmly welcomed by western consumers for its rich healthy nutrients. Specifically, it contains ami-

no acid which can boosts immune system. It can be cooked in various ways and tastes delicious.

According to the Yunnan Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, artificially planting boletuses has remarkable merits compared with natural ones. Firstly, artificial cultivation ensures long-term supply throughout the whole year. Secondly, the strict planting techniques guarantee that the mushrooms are pesticide-free and flawless.

Now, Yunnan is drawing world attention for exporting quality agricultural products.

(Yunnan Daily)