



CHINA • YUNNAN



NEIGHBOR

CRM wins bid to supply rails to China-Laos line

China Railway Materials Company Limited (CRM) was recently recognized as the steel-rail supplier of the China-Laos Railway. This will include manufacturing sections of the 508-kilometre Chinese section of the line stretching from Yuxi to Mohan, as well as the 418-kilometre Lao section from Boten to Vientiane.

To be a good steel-rail supplier to the China-Laos line, CRM took Lao conditions on the ground into consideration. Based on its experience in Kenya, Argentina, Pakistan and Vietnam, the company selected a supply proposal focusing on easier access and lower costs among three proposed options. The selected proposal was accepted and recognized by experts from both countries.

The China-Laos Railway is a landmark project for the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as a showcase of China's global railway-building efforts. The line in China and Laos is the first overseas route connecting to the Chinese network that will benefit people in China and Laos, as well as folks in the Mekong region.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the project was held in December 2015.

(Economic Information Daily)

China sets 2018 GDP growth target at around 6.5 pct

China has set its GDP growth target at around 6.5 percent for 2018, unchanged from that for 2017, according to a government work report released Monday.

Given China's economic fundamentals and capacity for job creation, GDP growth of around 6.5 percent will enable China to achieve relatively full employment, according to the report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang Monday morning at the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

China aims to maintain inflation level at around 3 percent and create over 11 million new urban jobs. The



The first session of the 13th National People's Congress opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2018. (Xinhua photo)

surveyed urban unemployment rate is projected to stay within 5.5 percent, the registered urban jobless rate

within 4.5 percent, the report showed.

Chinese economy outperformed its annual growth

target by expanding 6.9 percent last year, picking up for the first time in seven years.

Although it has bid fare-

well to breakneck expansion, China, with a higher-quality growth, will continue its role of stabilizing the global economy by further opening up its market.

The country will completely open up its general manufacturing sector to foreign investors this year. Meanwhile, access to sectors like telecommunications, medical services, education, elderly care and new energy vehicles will also be expanded for foreign investment, according to Li.

China's rising middle-income group, with a population of around 400 million, show increasingly bigger appetite for imported products.

(Xinhua)

TRAVEL

Yunnan launches mobile app to better serve tourists



The launch meeting of "E-Travel in Yunnan" in Beijing

Yunnan Province has officially rolled out a travel ap-

plication called "E-Travel in Yunnan" on March 2.

"E-Travel in Yunnan" is a mobile-based app that serves as a one-stop shop where tourists can access fast, reliable and practical information and services.

Powered by Tencent, a leading provider of Internet services in China, the mobile application leverages artificial intelligence and the widespread use of mobile telecommunications.

By Wang Shixue

VOICE

"Beautiful" signals sustained development

"Beautiful" represents the direction of sustainable development. It coincides with the concept of 'harmony' advocated in Chinese philosophy since ancient times. The major actions to promote ecological protection and restore clear waters and green mountains are bringing Chinese people onto the path of man and nature living in harmony," said Albert Rodriguez, a Mexican columnist and expert on Chinese issues.

Albert noted that China used the word 'beautiful' when describing the goal of building itself into a great modern Socialist country. The word 'beautiful' reflects China's pursuit of a higher goal than rapid economic development. The ecological concept of sacrificing the speed of development for a cleaner environment shows the wisdom and courage of Chinese leaders and will surely benefit the general public.

Sunan Arunnopparat, director general of the Thai

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, said accelerating the construction of an ecological civilization shows the Chinese government's emphasis on people's health and overall quality of life. The concepts and experiences surrounding China's change of course is a successful example for Thailand and other developing countries.

"As the world's second largest economy, China is pursuing clear waters and green mountains. It is continuously accelerating the construction of an ecological civilization, releasing a positive signal of transformative development concepts and achieving green development," said Professor François at Amsterdam Business School. "The Chinese government's efforts are unprecedented. I believe the dividend of green development in China will continue to be paid out in the future."

(Adapted from a People's Daily report)

CONNECTIVITY

Yunnan issues ten-year visas to attract skilled international talents



Metha Wanapat, a Thai zoologist, receives Yunnan's first 10-year R visa. (Photo provided by YPAFEA)

On March 1, the Yunnan Provincial Administration

of Foreign Experts Affairs (YPAFEA) issued its

first foreign talent visa (R visa) to Metha Wanapat, a Thai zoologist. Starting from this month, southwest China's Yunnan will issue ten-year R visas for skilled international workers. This means Yunnan has eased visa applications for foreign professionals.

Metha Wanapat is a renowned zoologist in both Asia and Australia. Of the process, he said, "Acquiring Yunnan's first R visa, with the validity of ten years and multiple entries, is very exciting for me. The new system is very convenient, and I believe it will attract more

people to work in Yunnan."

The visa is valid for up to ten years with multiple entries -- 180-day stays for single entries -- according to Yunnan Provincial Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs. Spouses and minor children of the applicants will be given the same visa.

(Yunnan Gateway)



Editor: Wang Shixue
E-mail: 973659397@qq.com