



CHINA • YUNNAN



China to lift ten million out of poverty

China has cumulatively reduced its poor rural population by 68.53 million people

According to the *Report on the Work of the Government* delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at this year's "two sessions", China will step up targeted poverty alleviation. The goal is to further reduce the poor rural population by more than ten million in 2018, including 2.8 million people who are to be relocated from inhospitable areas.

By the end of 2017, China's rural poor population decreased by 12.89 million people and the poverty headcount ratio dropped by 1.4 points to 3.1 percent compared to the end of the previous year. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has cumulatively reduced its poor rural



Zhu Youyong, an NPC deputy from Yunnan and also an academian of Chinese Academy of Engineering, shows a potato in an interview during the "two sessions". The potato was planted by Yunnan villagers to get out of poverty.

Photo/Yunnan Daily

population by 68.53 million people and the population living in absolute poverty by more than two-thirds, thus achieving decisive progress through the country's pov-

erty alleviation efforts.

"As poverty alleviation becomes increasingly difficult, it will take more targeted measures to fulfil our goals of reducing the poor

population by ten million this year," said Wang Sangui, director of China Poverty Alleviation Research Institute at Renmin University of China. (Xinhua)

Further reading: Yunnan to get rid of poverty by 2020

"In pursuing high-quality social and economic development, our goal is that all poor population in rural Yunnan will be lifted out of poverty by 2020." Yunnan Party chief Chen Hao, who is also an NPC member, said during China's 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing.

To achieve the stated goals, Chen stressed targeted

poverty alleviation measures combining financial aid, literacy improvement, industrial development, collective resettlement, health-care programmes and the upgrading of derelict homes.

Since 2013, the number of those living below China's poverty line has dropped from 8.04 million to 2.79 million in Yunnan, with the overall incidence of poverty dropping from 21.7 percent to 7.5 percent, said Chen.

In the future, Yunnan will strive to develop the world's first-class 'clean energy' and 'green food' industries, and aims to be a world-class 'destination for healthy life'.

(Yunnan Daily)

KEY WORD TO UNDERSTAND CHINA

Two sessions

The "two sessions" is a colloquial term for the annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislative body, and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top political advisory body. Both are scheduled to convene in March normally.

All Chinese citizens above the age of 18 have the right to vote and run in an election of NPC deputies, which is normally held every five years. The exceptions are those who have been stripped of their political rights, such as convicted criminals. A deputy serves a term of five years.

(Beijing Review)

VOICE

Border areas in Yunnan to be livelier, brighter

At China's "two sessions", the government work report put forward by Prime Minister Li Keqiang proposed that in 2018, China will "strengthen the opening up of the western, inland and border areas and create new space for economic cooperation."

Headed by Li Jiang, a member of the CPPCC and Chair of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Yunnan members of the CPPCC jointly initiated the "proposal on enhancing the image of China's key border cities near Southeast Asia," and called for lower tariffs and other supporting policies for Ruili City, Hekou County and the Mohan border town, so as to effectively improve the image of China's key border cities near Southeast Asia, to give full play to the important supporting role of the cities along the border, and to promote the construction of the Belt and Road.

The Yunnan members of the CPPCC National Committee believe that Ruili, Hekou, and Mohan

in Yunnan are important nodes on the China-Myanmar, China-Vietnam, and China-Laos economic corridors. It is hoped that the Yunnan border highway projects will be included in the national plan to strengthen the infrastructure construction for interconnection and provide guarantees for the construction of economic corridors. This also aims to support key cities such as Ruili, Hekou, and Mohan in infrastructure construction, industry, finance and taxation policies, while enhancing the image of the cities and letting Yunnan better play its role as a regional hub.

The CPPCC Committee member He Qing called for the resumption of the China-Myanmar railway construction as soon as possible, the coordination in the Western Route project for the construction of the Trans-Asian Railway, and the construction plan for the Ruili-Mujie-Jiaopiao Railway, with one-time planning and step-by-step implementation.

By Cheng Sanjuan (Yunnan Daily)

NEWS IN PICTURE

Lancang-Mekong youth has exchange



Participants in the 13th Lancang-Mekong Youth Friendship Exchange Programme paid a special visit to the Yunnan Daily Press Group on March 17. The exchange is one of the activities created under the framework of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), which forms a new type of sub-regional cooperative mechanism. (Photo/Yunnan Daily)

PEOPLE

Li Lifeng: Yunnan Yi fashion designer

Li Lifeng, 40, was born in Zhiju Village, Yongren County in Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Here, the annual Costume Festival held by the local Yi ethnic minority community, has a history of more than 1,300 years.

When Li Lifeng got married in 2000, the flourishing cultural industry in China was bringing opportunities to her hometown. Villagers could not see the business prospects available in the embroidery industry at that time, but the local women were enthusiastic.

In 2006, the county es-



Li does the Yi embroidery. She established the Association of Yi Ethnic Embroidery. Li Lifeng moved to the county seat and became secretary-general of the association. From then on, she went from village to village to look for outstanding embroiderers to train other villagers, in the process building strength for the development of the Yi eth-

nic embroidery industry.

Seeing the business opportunities brought about by these changes, Li Lifeng and her friends co-founded a company, but they had to borrow money for registration and operation costs. Recent years have seen Li Lifeng's products exported to Europe and Southeast Asian countries. This year, she is also collaborating with Singaporean designers in exploring the Nepalese market.

"I hope the Yi ethnic costumes will someday find their way to the international stage," she said.

(Xinhua)

NEIGHBOUR

Laotian academian visits KUST

Former president of the National University of Laos (NUOL), Soukkongseng Xayaleuth, who is also member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, paid a visit to Kunming University of Science and Technology (KUST), on March 5. The Lao academian was received by KUST vice president Yang Bin.

"At present, more than 200 Lao students are enrolled at the Kunming university, with that number ranking first among all Chinese universities," said Yang Bin. The Confucius Institute, jointly organized by KUST and Souphanouvong University, has been approved by the Beijing-based Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban).

Thanking his hosts for their hospitality, Soukkongseng said that China attaches great importance to the China-Laos friendship. The China-Laos Railway, a project currently under construction, will greatly deepen economic ties between Yunnan and Laos, said Soukkongseng. He hoped KUST can play a greater role in creating a community of shared future for China and Laos.

(KUST)