



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## China takes the lead in mobile payments

When delivering his most recent Report on the Work of the Government, on March 5, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pointed out that “in terms of high-speed rail, e-commerce, mobile payments and the sharing economy, China is leading the world.” The report stated that rapidly emerging growth drivers are reshaping China’s economic model, are profoundly changing the way we live and work, and have become a new hallmark of China’s innovation-driven development.

Since the birth of Alipay in 2004, China’s mobile payment industry has created dozens of unique application scenarios through innovation and technology enhancement. In turn, these advancements



In a shopping mall of Bangkok, Thailand, a shop clerk scans the QR code of Alipay on a customer’s phone to finish the payment.

Photo/Xinhua

are bringing great convenience to the daily lives of all Chinese people. Moreover, the developments continue to drive the shared bicycles and other new industries, many of which are now global leaders and well ahead of their overseas rivals.

China’s mobile payment industry ranks first in the world in terms of market size. In 2017, the country’s third-party mobile payments amounted to about 100 trillion yuan, and are expected to continue high-speed growth in the future. According to

statistics compiled by world-renowned research company Ipsos, China’s mobile payments have a penetration rate of 77 percent, much higher than those of the United States, Europe and Japan.

“Mobile payments not only provide convenience, but also promote the development of small and micro enterprises. They have indeed played a very important role in promoting inclusive finance and economic and social development. Some of these functions cannot even be replaced by traditional finance,” explained He Qiang, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and a professor at Central University of Finance and Economics.

(People’s Daily)

### VOICE

## Belt and Road maintains sustained growth

The Belt and Road Initiative is blazing a new path for the further development of China and the world. With the construction continuously deepening, the Belt and Road economic and trade cooperation has achieved fruitful results.

**First, the scale of trade is growing.** In 2017, total imports and exports between China and Belt and Road countries reached 1.1 trillion U.S. dollars. **Second, the scope of related investment continues to expand. Third, large-scale projects were steadily advancing.** Railways, highways, ports and other infrastructure facilities are being completed one after another, energy and resource cooperation projects are gaining momentum, and a number of manufacturing projects have been put into operation. China has built 75 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in Belt and Road countries, with cumulative direct investment exceeding 60 billion U.S. dollars. The Belt and Road Initiative is

increasingly contributing to the development of world peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation and civility.

The development of new things never progresses without some setbacks. In response to the doubts raised by the outside world, Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward the Green Silk Road, a development path stressing high ethical standards and other concepts, which have enhanced the world’s confidence in the Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, the overall position of China’s goals has been clarified with facts.

**In the face of facts and opportunities, more and more Western countries such as the U.K. and France are actively participating in Belt and Road programmes.** The Belt and Road Initiative needs the participation of developed Western countries, and Western countries also need the Belt and Road Initiative.

By Wang Yiwei (senior researcher at Renmin University of China)

### CONNECTIVITY

## School for int’l journalism unveiled in KM

On March 9, Yunnan Daily Press Group and Yunnan Normal University jointly unveiled the School of International Journalism and Communication in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan province.

The two involved parties will complement each other by using their respective resources in journalism education. This will help further expand the education initiatives in the field of news communication, a discipline with highly practical requirements.

The school aims to cultivate journalists who can use both Chinese and the South and Southeast Asian languages in reporting. Cutting-edge technologies will be fully used to facilitate media convergence.

The school’s vision is to become a regional high-level institution of journalism and communication for South and Southeast Asia.

(Yunnan Daily)



For more information, please visit our website.

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### LMC

## Yunnan pushes ahead poverty relief with Mekong countries

Yunnan has supplied Myanmar with the technology needed for economic growth, while cooperating with other Mekong countries in breeding new crop varieties, training agricultural technicians and more.

While exporting its new agricultural technology to Mekong countries, Yunnan has also invited Mekong agricultural professionals to attend poverty-reduction seminars in recent years.



Mekong agricultural professionals attend a forum on Yunnan-featured modern agriculture in Kunming.

Photo/Yunnan Daily

### NEIGHBOUR

## Joint operations on Kunming-Bangkok highway effective

Since joint law-enforcement operations by Chinese, Lao and Thai police in 2015, cross-border crimes along the Kunming-Bangkok highway have been drastically reduced.

“The checks are fast and the highway is easy and safe,” said Zhang, an international bus driver frequently transporting cargo between China, Laos and Thailand.

The Kunming-Bangkok highway opened to traffic in March 2008, and over the ensuing years, four

cross border checkpoints -- Mohan and Boten near the China-Laos border, and Houayxay and Chiang Khong near the Laos-Thailand border -- have emerged as key junctures for international trade on the highway.

At the same time, the four check points are adjacent to the Golden Triangle, and cross-border criminal cases involving drug trafficking, smuggling and illegal crossings have surfaced. Such cases pose serious challenges to border management officials.

In July 2015, China, Laos and Thailand launched international policing efforts to jointly cope with emergencies. All cases were properly handled.

In one case, a Chinese national was illegally detained in Laos, and he called the Mohan border police for help. Using the cooperative policing mechanism, the Chinese border police contacted the Boten police and the victim was released within 12 hours.

By Yang Xi

### CULTURE

## Yunnan movie nominated during U.S. film festival

At New York City’s 7th Winter Film Awards International Film Festival, the Yunnan-produced film *A Roar of Wolf Troops* was nominated for the Best Picture and Best Actress awards.

At the film festival, *A Roar of Wolf Troops* was selected for its North American premiere by the organizing committee. It officially debuted there on February 25. American media reported on the film’s original story,

characters, the Zhuang ethnic group’s resistance against Japanese aggression and the legend of the medicinal plant Panaxnotoginseng. Wang Yong and other film crew members working on *A Roar of Wolf Troops* received three special interviews. In the end, the film was nominated for the Best Picture Award, and starring actress Xu Dongmei won the Best Actress nomination.

(Yunnan Daily)



A poster of the film *A Roar of Wolf Troops*

Photo by Li Yuechun