



CHINA • YUNNAN



NEIBOUR

China airlines help promote Lao destinations

China Eastern Airlines' Vientiane Representative Office and its travel agency partners have hosted a joint cooperation exchange to help promote visits to the Laos.

"The promotional activity enabled travel agencies from northern and eastern China to understand Laos' tourism resources, experience the atmosphere and attract tourists from these markets in support of Visit Laos Year 2018," Wan Li, the China Eastern Airlines Vientiane representative told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The organizers invited more than 20 Chinese travel agencies from Shandong, Shanghai and Beijing, who toured northern Lao ancient town Luang Prabang, scenic Vangvieng before arriving in Vientiane.

"The highlight of the tour was that participants have experienced Laos' cultural traditions, beautiful mountains and rivers, and relaxing leisure," said Wan.

The meeting also invited representatives from Lao government agencies as to enable the invited travel agencies to fully understand the regulations and procedures for entry into Laos.

The number of passengers passing through Vientiane airport increased by an annual average of 9 percent from the years 2000 to 2009.

(Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

First section of Sino-Thai railway in progression

Civil engineering work on the initial section of the Sino-Thai railway's first phase is progressing smoothly, said Thanin Somboon, Director General of the Department of Highways at the Ministry of Transport of Thailand on March 22.

Mr. Thanin said that China is responsible for the design of the high-speed railway project. Meanwhile, the Thai Department of Highways is mainly responsible for creating the line's embankment and other civil engineering works. China and Thailand are cooperating well in the construction of the first section, and the bilateral experience is expected to be applied to the construction of remaining portions of the project.

The kickoff ceremony for the first phase of the Sino-Thai Railway, the Bangkok-Nakhon Ratchasima section, was held on December 21 last year in Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima.

(Adapted from Xinhua)

Chinese nation opening 'wider and wider'

President Xi Jinping introduced on Tuesday powerful measures, including lowering tariffs on automobiles this year, to open the world's second-largest economy "wider and wider".

"We will take the initiative to expand imports," Xi said in the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia in the southern island province of Hainan.

The theme of this year's conference is "An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity".

China does not seek a trade surplus, Xi said, adding that the country would like to increase imports and achieve greater balance of international payments under

the current account.

"This year, we will significantly lower the import tariffs for automobiles and reduce import tariffs for some other products. We will import more products that are competitive and needed by our people," he said.

The first China International Import Expo planned in Shanghai in November will be not just another expo in an ordinary sense, but "a major policy initiative and commitment taken of our own accord to open up the Chinese market", he said.

China will significantly broaden market access and create a more attractive investment environment, Xi said.

"An investment environment is like air, and only fresh

air attracts more investment from the outside," he said.

China will continue to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights, Xi said, adding that it will provide the biggest boost to the Chinese economy's competitiveness.

In his speech, Xi reaffirmed China's commitment to deepening reforms and opening-up.

"China's reform and opening-up meets its people's aspiration for development, innovation and a better life. It also meets the global trend toward development, cooperation and peace," he said.

Over the past 40 years, China's GDP has averaged an annual growth rate of about 9.5 percent, Xi noted.



President Xi Jinping delivers the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia 2018 in Boao, Hainan province, on April 10.

Xinhua photo

To promote common prosperity, countries have no choice but to pursue greater connectivity and integrated development, Xi said.

"Human history shows that openness leads to progress, while seclusion leaves one behind," he said.

(China Daily)

NEWS IN PICTURE



Yunnan changes industrial drivers for growth

Workers manufacture high-end equipments at the Dianzhong New Area. To blaze a trail for leap-frog development, Yunnan province has made new breakthroughs in the development of intelligent terminals, new energy vehicles and other technology sectors. Tobacco and raw materials used to be key industries in Yunnan.

Photo by Li Qiuming (Yunnan Daily)

VOICE

Community with a shared future illuminates the world

At the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, Chinese President Xi Jinping once again declared to the world that China will push for building an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. In other words, let the sunshine of a community with a shared future for mankind illuminate the world.

The Chinese people have always tied their future closely to that of other people around the world. The Chinese people, upholding the great spirit of the Chinese nation, have always paid close attention and provided unselfish assistance to people who still live through war, turmoil, hun-

ger and poverty. This wish of the Chinese people is sincere. China will never pursue development at the expense of the interests of others. China's development does not pose a threat to any other country. China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansion.

The world we live in is full of both hope and challenges. No country can meet the challenges faced by mankind alone, and no country can turn itself into an isolated island. The people of all countries dream of living happy and beautiful lives, and building a community with a shared future for mankind is thus sensible.

(Abridged from People's Daily)

New development models boost villagers' income

"Last year I took the initiative to plant five mu of morels. I didn't expect that the income from them would be high, but I earned more than 60,000 yuan," Zhao Yonghua, a grower in Nuozhang Village, said with a big smile.

Nuozhang, located in Lincang City's Cangyuan County, is a small village with 38 poor households and 89 poor people. Last year, Nuozhang Village introduced two development models, "company plus village collective economic entity plus farmer households" and "party members plus farmer households". With the further adjustment of the agricultural production structure, as well as the rural economic structure, farmer incomes in the village are ris-

ing. Morels contain at least eight vitamins and are as nutritious as meat. "Last year our village decided to trial plant morels. Six people in three poor households joined us. Now those three households have been lifted out of poverty," Zha Si, Party Secretary of Nuozhang Village, said happily.

The village has 41 households and 168 farmers. They have planted more than 80 mu of morels, achieving an output of 3.51 tons and a total revenue of 960,000 yuan last year. The villagers earned 576,000 yuan, which is the equivalent of 14,000 yuan per household, while the village received 30,000 yuan.

(Yunnan Daily)

FOREIGNER IN YUNNAN

American Faraz grows fruit in Dali for 20 years



Faraz picks cherries.

Online photo

"I was born in Iran. I'm a U.S. citizen. And my home is in China," 60-year-old Faraz always introduces himself like this. Back to the year of 1997, in charge of the Asian business of an international fresh fruit trading company, Faraz first visited west Yunnan's Dali Bai Autonomous

Prefecture on business and the climate here caught his attention.

"With its different elevation, Dali is suitable for planting diverse kinds of fruits." Having this idea in mind, Faraz and his family moved to Dali two years later. And he tried to plant

avocado and raspberry at first, but failed. In 2005, he cooperated with local villagers in Midu County, Dali Prefecture and successfully planted about 10 acres of yellow lemons.

"Our goal is not to export cherries to other countries. With growing demands for high-quality food in China, I believe that safe, nutritious and tasty organic food will become more and more popular in the country," said Faraz.

(Yunnan Daily)



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