



CHINA • YUNNAN



NEIGHBOUR

China, Laos ink MoU on medicinal cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed here on April 17 between China and Laos on medicinal plants research cooperation, the Chinese embassy in Laos said.

The agreement was signed by Huang Luqi, executive vice president of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, and Gosorn Sorsulithane, vice president of Traditional Medicine Research Institute under Lao Public Health Ministry, the embassy told Xinhua.

According to the MoU, China and Laos will carry out a medicinal resource census in Laos, in order to fully tap the economic and medicinal values of Laos' special botanical resources. The two sides will also compile "Flora of Laos."

The two sides will jointly set up a traditional medicine research center, which will carry out comparative studies of Chinese and Lao medicinal plants, train Lao medicinal plant resources researchers.

At the signing ceremony, Lao Health Minister Bounkong Sihavong expressed the belief that Laos-China cooperation on traditional medicine will help Laos to uphold its traditional medicine and enhance medical service for Lao people.

(Xinhua)

ERADICATE POVERTY & ACHIEVE COMMON PROSPERITY

Poverty-stricken village finds key to prosperity

Although suitable for planting coffee, Xinzhai Village in western Yunnan was once in deep poverty. Thanks to its advantageous natural conditions and the strong leadership of the local government, the village now finds one key to prosperity is its position as the 'Number 1 Coffee Planting Village' in China.

Located in Yunnan's Baoshan City, Xinzhai Village sits in the Lujiangba Valley near the banks of the Nu River. With copious amounts of

sunshine and a long frost-free season, the Lujiangba Valley boasts good conditions for planting coffee and has been a main source of beans in Yunnan for some time. However, because of poor infrastructure and the lack of advanced coffee-planting methods, Xinzhai villagers were blocked from development in the past.

To promote the development of Xinzhai and lift poor people there out of poverty, the local government has improved infrastructures and sent



The picture shows the coffee plantation in Xinzhai Village.

skilled coffee-planting technicians to the village. Now, everyone is growing the same variety of coffee

using advanced planting and processing technology. It appears the villagers have found the key to

becoming rich. Besides planting coffee, they have also blazed another development path—tourism.

Locals are currently transforming the village into a tourist destination featuring local flavour. Now, there are various tourist spots, like the coffee museum and the coffee cultural plaza. Since 2015, the village has held several coffee-related festivals and sports events and has received an increasing number of tourists.

(People's Daily)



New Year of Dai ethnic group marked in Yunnan

On April 13, the Dai ethnic group in south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture ushered in the 1380 New Year according to their traditional calendar. They celebrated the annual happy occasion with water-sprinkling, fashion show and other activities. The Dai New Year, better known as the water-sprinkling festival in China, is also marked yearly in Yunnan's Kunming City and Dehong Prefecture.

(Xinhua photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yunnan gears up for 5th China-South Asia Expo

Preparatory and organizational works surrounding the 5th China-South Asia Expo, and the 25th China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair, were carried out in a firm and orderly manner, Yunnan governor Ruan Chengfa said on April 10.

Ruan made his comments during a teleconference held in Yunnan's capital city, Kunming. The call was broadcast live to subvenues across the province. "At present, preparations for the expo have entered the sprint-to-the-finish phase," said Ruan.

To make this year's expo a greater success, the

governor proposed that operators should adopt novel ideas, operational methods and accepted conference modes. By doing so, he explained, the expo will be more professional, market-oriented and full of smart digital services.

The governor also tell the organizers to show Yunnan's sincerity and opening up to the world by doing a good job in terms of international customs clearances, expo layout, reception and volunteering, so as to make the expo better serve Yunnan's socio-economic development.

(Yunnan Daily)

FOREIGNER IN YUNNAN

Malaysian Xiatian opens sushi restaurant in Kunming



Xiatian(Middle) poses for a photo with two customers.

Huang Xiatian, meaning 'summer', comes from Penang, Malaysia. She used to work for Dell as a white-collar worker, but she quit that job because of her love to Japanese sushi and the Spring City of Kunming.

On October 1, 2017, hav-

ing learned to prepare sushi, Xiatian started her vegetarian restaurant—Sushi Kitchen—on Wenhua Lane in Kunming.

Xiatian always uses the word "destiny" to explain why she came to Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan

province.

She used to receive a fat paycheck from Dell and lived a stable life. However, she likes challenges and is "destined" to pursue a more exciting life. There are always some turning points in our lives, and her turning point happened during a meal.

"I always wanted to find a job in another field. I was eating in an outlet of Sushi Kitchen in Penang one day when it occurred to me that I could join the restaurant. Then I quit my job and started as a dishwasher at Sushi Kitchen," Xiatian recalled. Was it a hot-headed decision? No. She started from the low-

est level and worked at the restaurant for two years.

When Sushi Kitchen, a vegetarian restaurant with six outlets in Malaysia, was considering a seventh outlet, Xiatian suddenly had an idea. "Why not China?" she suggested. She next chose to locate the outlet in Kunming, making the decision without hesitation.

"To make sure the food is authentic, we transport a lot of ingredients directly from Malaysia by air," Xiatian said. Some dishes are very special and require more than ten different kinds of natural spices. The business is thriving.

By Li Hengqiang
(Yunnan Gateway)

Yunnan speeds up build of aviation network

In a bid to accelerate the build-up in aviation infrastructure, the Yunnan Airport Group has planned to invest 3.485 billion yuan in civil aviation construction in 2018.

By the end of February, the group had completed a total of 245 million yuan in physical investment. The construction of key projects such as the renovation and expansion of the second phase of the Tengchong Airport and the Lanping General Airport is being accelerated.

Terminal 2 of the

Tengchong Airport covers an area of 22,000 square meters, designed to fully show the characteristics of Tengchong's geographical location in Southwest Yunnan. The terminal features natural air-conditioning and lighting, making the airport energy-saving.

(Yunnan Daily)



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