



CHINA • YUNNAN



NEIGHBOUR

Laotian and Bangladeshi seminars held in Kunming

The opening ceremonies for the 2018 Bangladesh Public Management Seminar and the 2018 Laos Primary and Secondary School Teachers Seminar, were recently held in Kunming. The seminars are sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and organized by the Yunnan International Economic and Technological Exchange Centre.

A total of 48 officials from Bangladesh and Laos attended. The training programmes invited experts and scholars from the Chinese government, universities and educational professionals to explain the achievements of China's economic development, as well as elucidate the experiences gained in the field of educational public management and research.

This year, 27 foreign aid training programmes will be sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, organized by the Yunnan International Economic and Technical Exchange Centre. The programmes are expected to train 631 participants.

The centre has trained 1,129 officials from 67 countries. The trainings covered trade, infrastructure, agriculture, and more.

(Yunnan Daily)

ERADICATE POVERTY & ACHIEVE COMMON PROSPERITY

Up and Out of Poverty goes digital in English and French

The English version, as well as the French edition of the book *Up and Out of Poverty*, has been translated and published by the Chinese Foreign Language Press. Copies became available to Chinese and foreign readers in digital form on April 9 on Amazon.cn, Over-

drive.com, Cnpereading.com, and Zhangyue.com.

Up and Out of Poverty is authored by Chinese President Xi Jinping. It is a collection of 29 speeches and research reports Xi wrote when he served as secretary of the Ningde Prefectural Committee of the Communist

Party of China (CPC) between 1988 and 1990. It also contains ten valuable photos. In the book's passages, Xi considers methods to shake off poverty and promote economic development in east Fujian Province. He also proposes a series of systems, concepts, opinions

and methods to address major social and economic problems. These ideas cover economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress and Party building. The book is insightful, approachable and of high theoretical value.

The paperback edi-

tion of the book *Up and Out of Poverty* was translated into English and French and published by the Foreign Language Press. Since its release in August 2017, the it has received extensive attention and praise from the international community.

(Xinhua)



Sinkhole: Amazing sights plus mysterious facts

Nature never fails to amaze us with its fascinating phenomena like sinkholes. And the six spectacular karst sinkholes which are located in Wude Town, northeast Yunnan's Zhenxiong County are a typical case.

The sinkholes, which take up about 600 mu

(about 40 hectares), are found 51 kilometers west of the Zhenxiong county seat. The holes are mostly cylindrical in shape. The biggest of them has a diameter of about 600 meters and an average depth of 120 meters. It is home to 32 folks leading an idyllic life.

It is odd that echo in the big hole can last as long as 20 seconds, in contrasting to the existing eight-second record in the world. Aslo, visitors said the cell phone signal disappears at the hole top but becomes very strong when you reach its bottom.

(Xinhua photo)

VOICE

China calls for less tariffs, more imports

Chinese President Xi Jinping recently told the Boao Forum for Asia that China will significantly lower import tariffs for vehicles and reduce import tariffs for some other products this year.

Xi's speech was highly valued by several experts, particularly his proposal to create a more attractive investment environment, reduce tariffs and expand imports.

Professor Liu Baocheng, lecturer at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said Xi's speech is a regeneration of China's opening-up policy, and Xi is providing the world with new perspectives.

"All through the speech, China has delivered a message to the world that China has a commitment to the WTO," said Liu.

Laurence Brahm, founding director of Himalayan Consensus, believes the speech indicates that China will take on more global leadership by continuing opening-up. He pointed out that China is well prepared to take on global leadership because of its opening-up policy.

Brahm went on to assert that protectionism has again become a growing trend across the world. Brexit and US President Donald Trump's trade policies are a reflection of this trend.

China, however, is committed to maintain its goal of opening up to the world, and contributing to globalization, which is beneficial to mankind. Therefore, the global community is happy to see that China has taken on global leadership in the new era.

(Abridged from CGTN)

CONNECTIVITY

Railway brings positive changes to north Laos



The Luang Prabang railway bridge under construction by China Railway No.8 Engineering Group Co., Ltd. (CREC8) over Mekong River in northern Laos. (Xinhua photo)

In northern and central Laos, mountains seem to reign the area where population is scarce. There was almost nothing but primeval forests and traces of traditional cultivation ways left by mountainous residents.

However, since the beginning of construction of China-Laos railway, the area has been witnessing massive changes. The most obvious change brought about by the construction of the China-Laos railway is the new roads running

through wild forests in northern Laos.

In Muangxay-Luang Prabang area in northern Laos, the 1801 provincial road used to be a narrow, steep and bumpy dirt road curving around slopes. After being included in the construction of China-Laos railway, the China Railway International Group set up a special maintenance team to widen the road and decrease slopes. Now the road is either covered with sand stone, or blacktopped.

The construction section of China Railway No.8 Engineering Group Co., Ltd. (CREC8) is located on Laos' northern Luang Prabang area along the Mekong river, some

220 km north of capital Vientiane.

The Mekong River runs around the area, creating a peninsula surrounded by water and mountain. There had been no power supply in the area, thus living and production conditions were quite hard.

Thanks to the Chinese construction team, the area was officially connected to electricity grid in July, 2017. The "No Man's Land" has now entered into the "power era".

China-Laos railway starts from the Mohan-Moten border area between the two countries, running over 400 km to Lao capital Vientiane.

(Adapted from Xinhua)

CULTURE

Ethnic music awarded at American film festival

Sun Bird Mother, a Zhuang ethnic musical piece presented by southeast Yunnan's Xichou County, has won the award of Best Original Film Song at the 2018 Universe Multicultural Film Festival (UMFF) in the American city of Los Angeles on April 9.

40 original musical works from 28 countries completed during the 2018 UMFF, and eight pieces from six countries survived the first round of selection by film and art juries. More than 1,000 films from 43 nations were presented to

this year's festival.

The *Sun Bird Mother* is originally an ancient myth of the Zhuang ethnic group in Xichou, from which local beliefs and rituals are derived. Named after the Zhuang myth, the awarded Yunnan music is made up of seven songs.

(Yunnan Net)



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