



Chinese courts will continue to 'respect, abide by IP rules'

Providing equal protection 'has never changed'

BY WANG MINGJIE

Chinese courts will continue to uphold legal protections while handling foreign-related intellectual property cases to further improve technological innovations, officials from the nation's top court said on April 18.

"We've paid attention to the recent Sino-US trade frictions, but our attitude—providing equal legal protection to each party in a dispute, no matter where it is from—has

never changed," said Song Xiaoming, chief judge of IP division of the Supreme People's Court.

"All Chinese courts will continue to respect and strictly abide by IP-related international conventions and rules to ensure each owner of IP rights will be fully protected," he told after a news conference on IP case hearings.

The proportion of IP cases involving overseas interests annually has been as high as 20 percent since 2015 and is increasing, according to the top court

Most such cases involve patents

and trademarks and are related to the US, "and IP disputes about business secrets have become frequent recently", he said.

In some cases, both parties were foreign companies based in China, "which also showed our legal protection of IP rights has earned their trust", he added.

Last year, Chinese courts accepted 237,242 new IP cases, up 33.5 percent year-on-year, and 225,678 cases were concluded, an increase of 31.4 percent, according to the top court.

Chinese courts also have given

more serious punishment to IP violators, said Tao Kaiyuan, the top court's vice-president specializing in hearing IP cases.

"We've strengthened IP protection by increasing compensation for people whose IP rights were harmed because we've come to a greater realization that legal protection is the best way to safeguard technological innovations," she said.

In February, for example, the top court ordered a company in Shandong province to pay 10 million yuan (\$1.6 million)

in compensation—instead of the 3 million yuan set out in the original ruling—to the Beijing branch of Chinese juice producer Huiyuan Group. The ruling said the Shandong company had seriously harmed Huiyuan's trademark rights.

A judicial institution for handling cross-border IP disputes has been set up in 15 cities since 2017, including Nanjing in Jiangsu province and Wuhan in Hubei province, to improve the quality of IP case hearings, Tao added.

(China Daily)

RELIEVE POVERTY AND ACHIEVE COMMON PROSPERITY

Poor villages in Yunnan have access to electric power

BY JI ZHEPENG

In this high and cold mountainous area, 3,060 metres above the sea level, one feels able to touch the clouds. The locals call this Yi minority town "a stronghold in the clouds". It is actually part of Niuji Township in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province.

In the past, the 36 households here relied on solar power alone, an option that simply did not work on rainy days. In December 2016, a six-kilometre-long power line was stretched to the village through the dense surrounding forest, ensuring 24-hour power for the villagers for the first time.

In recent years, electric power authorities in Yunnan have accelerated the transformation of rural power grids. Many related measures, such as moving people to small towns and centralised villages, building motor-pumped wells, and bringing power to poor villages like the one in Niuji Township, have helped to improve the living standards of people living in the province's rural areas.

More than 110 people in 36 households live in the Yi ethnic settlement mentioned above. Houses are scattered across the mountain slopes. Due to the poor transportation infrastructure and the harsh climate, villagers used to be almost completely cut off from the amenities of modern life.

In 2013, the villagers began to use solar panels, which could basically provide electricity for lighting and televisions. However, according to Lu Wenlong, head of the Yi ethnic settlement, each household was allowed only one electric lamp. When rainy or snowy weather lasted for three to four days, the village's solar power would run out.

Poverty alleviation requires not only electricity, but also a stable power supply. In 2016, with the help of a poverty alleviation team of the Provincial Party Committee Publicity

Department and the Power Supply Company of Eryuan County, both the north and south Yi ethnic settlements in Futian Village were given a new power grid. Now, the villagers can use washing machines and watch television regardless of the weather, and a recently built cell phone tower has enabled them to use mobile phones.

Roads and electric power are necessary conditions for lifting poor villages out of poverty. Today, when night falls, street lights illuminate Dulongjiang Township in Yunnan's Nujiang Autonomous Prefecture. In 2014, China Southern Power Grid invested more than 30 million yuan to build a 20-kilovolt power grid for the township. Now the villagers no longer need to worry that an instable power supply might damage their electrical appliances with surges. Also, new developments include the creation of a catering industry and future eco-tourism possibilities.

According to Xue Wu, Party secretary and chairman of the Yunnan Branch of China Southern Power Grid, during the "12th Five-Year Plan" period, the company cumulatively invested 16 billion yuan to upgrade rural power grids in Yunnan. Specifically, this was done in contiguous areas of poverty, and helped Weixi County, Dongchuan District and Ximeng County with poverty alleviation efforts.

Xue Wu said that in 2018, the Yunnan Branch will invest a further 3.77 billion yuan to continuously improve rural power infrastructure in 84 poor counties. China Southern will invest 1.594 billion yuan for power grid construction, production and marketing technology innovations and other poverty alleviation projects. These efforts will be carried out in 27 extremely poor counties, ensuring all poor villages will have access to electric power. (Xinhua)

AGRICULTURE



Yunnan Province is an important flower-planting base in China. For local people, flowers, especially roses, are not only ornamental, but also edible. Among all the edible flowers in Yunnan, roses are the favorite among local people. Here, villagers process edible roses in Bajie subdistrict of Anning City, southwest China's Yunnan Province. In the city, planting area of edible roses has reached 10,000 mu (about 667 hectares). (CNS)

INVESTMENT

Nepal welcomes Chinese FDI to boost growth

BY MAHENDRA SUBEDI

As China's economy expands rapidly, its investment in neighbouring countries, especially those in South Asia, is also on the rise. Chinese investments have greatly benefited countries such as Nepal.

In Nepal, almost everyone agrees the country is benefiting from China's rapid rise. China has pledged five times more foreign direct investment in Nepal than India, says a recent report by Nepal's central bank. Indian scholars and diplomats, however, cannot digest these facts nor can they accept the victory of the left alliance in the November-December election. In contrast, Chinese investors and scholars seem elated by the election result.

In the last 40 months, China

has pledged 70 billion rupees (\$661.63 million) in more than a dozen mega projects in Nepal, exceeding India's FDI commitment. The largest chunk of China's pledge is in the cement industry. But Chinese investment in hotels, restaurants, infrastructure, energy and manufacturing, too, has been remarkable, with Kaligandaki Upper and Upper Trishuli 3A hydropower projects, Outer Ring Road in Kathmandu and Pokhara International Airport being some of the mega projects being developed by China.

Above all, China has asked Nepal to establish an infrastructure development bank with 100 billion rupees, promising 20 percent share to Nepal. Welcoming the Chinese investments, Nepalese diplomat and economist Bishnu Hari

Nepal said it is high time Nepal utilized Chinese assistance and investment to accelerate its economic development.

The Belt and Road Initiative, along with the broader vision of building a community of shared future for humankind, is an ambitious yet realistic approach to correct the imbalances in international relations and improve the world order. And Chinese President Xi Jinping's policy of developing friendly relations with neighbors and his emphasis on win-win cooperation and sustainable and harmonious development to build a community of shared future for humankind will certainly boost overseas Chinese investments, especially in countries such as Nepal.

(China Daily, the author is a Nepalese journalist)

CULTURE

Ancient tea groves likely to be listed as world heritage

BY WANG SHIXUE

A seminar involving more than 30 world-heritage experts was recently held in southwest Yunnan's Lancang County, discussing further conservation efforts and heritage status applications for the ancient tea groves on the Jingmai Mountain in the county. **They aim to make the tea woods a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.**

The Jingmai Mountain highlights the ever-lasting eco-ethnic and wisdom of local folks. They understand, respect and make good use the nature. The ancient tea groves there could be listed as a cultural landscape heritage because it showcases harmony between the environment and human beings in agriculture production, said Chen Yaohua, a professor at Peking University.

"The sites concerning agriculture just account for 3.2% among the total world heritages," echoed Professor Du Xiaofan, director of the Center for Land and Cultural Resources Research at Fudan Uni-

versity.

Currently, the Longjing tea garden near the West Lake in east China's Hangzhou is the only tea site listed among the cultural heritages, added Du Xiaofan. **"So the Jingmai tea groves will enrich the heritage categories."**

To further preserve the tea groves, the shabby houses of local ethnic folks need to be renovated, while maintaining their original architectural style cultural landscape," a worker with the preservation



A villager in Jingmai Mountain is making tea. Online photo

EXCHANGE

Chinese Ambassador meets with Bangladeshi information minister

On April 18, the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Zhang Zuo, met with Bangladeshi Information Minister, Hasanul Haq Inu. Mr. Zhang Zuo recalled previous cooperative efforts between China and Bangladesh in the field of news media. The ambassador expressed gratitude to Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu for his support over the years, and spoke with him about further cooperation opportunities between the two countries, as well as Bangladesh's further integration into the Belt and Road Initiative.

The ambassador said friendship that derives from close contact between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. In recent years, people from Bangladesh media outlets have frequently visited and received training in China. They accurately understand the current status of China's social development, and have played a positive role in establishing the image of China as an enterprising, amicable and people-friendly

entity in the hearts of the Bangladeshi people. The ambassador also mentioned that China International Radio (CRI), which set up a Bengali-language channel in 1969, is preparing to establish a larger presence in Bangladesh. The goal is to cooperate further with Bangladesh media, so that Belt and Road Initiative economic and trade options, cultural exchanges and inter-civilisation dialogues between the two countries can continue to deepen.

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu promises to fully support CRI in establishing a reporter station in Bangladesh. He hopes to strengthen media cooperation and exchanges in the fields of film and television translation, film festivals, on-line television and other areas. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Zhang Zuo presented to Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu with a copy of the second volume of the book *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*. (From website of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh)

China International Import Expo promotion held in Bangladesh

BY LIU CHUNTAO

Promotional activities connected to the China International Import Expo (CIIE), sponsored by the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh, were held in Dhaka recently. Representatives from Chinese-funded enterprises in Bangladesh, Bangladeshi government officials and media members attended the promotion.

Li Guangjun, commercial counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh, said that China is the world's first developing coun-

try to hold an import expo. It will not only provide new opportunities for other countries to expand their exports to China, he said, but will also set up a platform to develop international trade and seek business cooperation. It shows China's sincere desire to open up markets to the world, and also demonstrates China's willingness to promote economic globalization as a major power.

The first CIIE is scheduled to be held in Shanghai, November 5-10.

(Xinhua)

TOURISM

Hani terraced fields awarded Guinness World Record



A panoramic view of Samaba terraced fields. Online photo

BY LI HENGQIANG

The Guinness World Records named the Samaba terraced fields in southeast Yunnan's Honghe County the biggest contiguous Hani terraced fields in China on 21st April.

Honghe County is under the jurisdiction of Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture where the magnificent and renowned Hani terraced fields was inscribed into the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage in 2013. And the Samaba terraced

fields are part of the world heritage.

Samaba means wide fields in Hani language. There is a local Hani saying that people will never know the magnificence of terraced fields until they see the fields in Samaba. The Samaba terraced fields range from 600 meters to 1,800 meters above the sea level. There are over 4,300 continuous terraces between the lower edge of the forest and the valley floor. In different seasons, the Samaba terraced fields presents different views.

Airport digital library gives momentum to "reading everywhere"

BY WANG HUAN

April 23 marks the 23rd World Book Day. To bring special experience to passengers at Kunming Changshui International Airport, Kunming Guandu Library "moves" a digital bookshelf to international departure terminal in the airport.

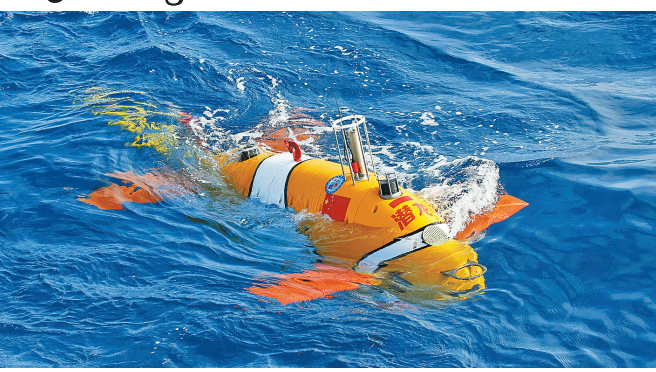
Scan the QR code on the screens of the book reading machines by smart phones, passengers can have access to more

than 3,000 digital books and 1,000 journals, which cover a wide range of themes including world-famous masterpiece, natural science, geography, philosophy and culture. Each month, around 150 books will be updated in order to meet the readers' favors.

The move is giving momentum to the trend of reading everywhere. Mr. Zhang, a frequent flyer said that the digital library in the airport really helps passengers to make full use of the waiting time.

MADE IN CHINA

China's unmanned submersible Qianlong III dives for second sea test



China's unmanned submersible Qianlong III ascends from its second dive back to the Chinese research vessel Dayang Yihao (Ocean No. 1), on April 22, 2018. The submersible, diving for its second sea test, entered

the 3,850-meter-deep sea area and traveled 156.82 km during the nearly 43-hour voyage from April 21 to 22. The test was one of two sea trials planned for Qianlong-III to evaluate its overall performance. (Xinhua)