



COOPERATION

Yunnan and Bangladesh to increase tourism ties

BY LIU ZIYU & HAN CHENGYUAN

The Fifth Yunnan-Bangladesh Cooperation Dialogue, co-sponsored by the Development Research Centre of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government (YDRC), and the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, was held April 26 in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province. Attending representatives carried out in-depth exchanges on the theme of "Promoting Tourism Cooperation between Yunnan and Bangladesh".

said Li Jian, deputy director of YDRC. Bangladesh is known as a "state of rivers and ponds", and Yunnan also abounds in tourism resources. There is huge potential for tourism cooperation between them. But how can tourists travel freely between Yunnan's mountains and the waters of Bangladesh's? Infrastructure improvement was the answer given by many attending representatives.

Recent years have witnessed some progress in terms of Yunnan-Bangladesh transport infrastructure connectivity. Yunnan has launched both passenger and cargo flights from Kunming to Dhaka. At present, the province is building five highways and three waterways to connect with neighbouring countries. The five highways will lead to Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Bangladesh (via Myanmar).

Tourism cooperation is not just about convenient transport. "In recent years, Bangladesh has identified the tourism industry

as a priority area for development," said Abu Zayed Mohammad, a professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies. Rural tourism, agro-tourism and other local sectors are very popular. A growing number of international tourists come to Bangladesh to experience traditional medicine, healthy tourism, sports tourism, community tourism and other emerging forms of tourism, he added.

Calls for talent support

"Bangladesh travel agencies provide hospitality and tour guiding training, but the overall practical skill level is still short of demand," said Shafiqat Munir, a research fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies. With electronic information technology reaching every corner of life, tourist demand for related services is also increasing. Because of this, Bangladeshi tourism professionals are in urgent need of corresponding training.

"We can provide support through

our traditional undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral systems, and we can also provide research support in terms of environmental protection, cultural inheritance, poverty alleviation through tourism, marketing and product development," said Zhao Shuhong, Dean of the Department of Hospitality at Yunnan University's School of Business Administration and Tourism Management. Duan Tao, Dean of the Academy of Commerce of Yunnan Province, suggested that Yunnan and Bangladesh should establish a joint think-tank to improve tourism sector research regarding culture and other areas. Actively studying big data and training high-level industry leaders is also a priority.

At the dialogue meetings, representatives from both sides reached consensus on jointly promoting distance education and training, running colleges and universities, cultivating tourism professionals, and increasing bilateral tourism development and people-to-people exchanges.

ALLEVIATE POVERTY FOR COMMON PROSPERITY

Lahu people introduced to modern life

BY ZHOU LIANG

There are seventeen Lahu households in Manban, a settlement in Menghai County in Yunnan Province's Xishuangbanna Prefecture. In the past, the villagers did not dare to try new things. They planted corn but did not bother to take care of it. They also sold tea trees left by their ancestors at a low price in order to buy alcohol.

No one should be left behind on China's way to prosperity. But how could the government leaders at county and prefectural levels accomplish the tough task of lifting the Lahu people out of poverty?

The government spent 3.16 million yuan building houses, new roads and water and electrical facilities. The new settlement is located on the other side of the valley.

Relocation, however, could not solve all problems. A bigger task is to now help them integrate into modern life. Thus, Menghai County sent four officials into the mountains.

In late December 2015, Luo Zhihua, an official at the Menghai County Agricultural Science Bureau, who is in his fifties, came to Manban as the leader of the poverty alleviation team.

But in the beginning, the local villagers were reluctant to cooperate with them. The members of the poverty alleviation team, after many discussions, finally came up with an idea — to offer free haircuts. The idea worked and the villagers came. Seeing their new hairstyles in the mirror, they couldn't help laughing and began to communicate with the members of the poverty alleviation team.

The Lahu people in Manban must be motivated to lift themselves out of poverty. "They aspire to nothing, so they

lack the motivation. We try to introduce the villagers to a new way of living," said Luo Zhihua.

The poverty alleviation team organized the local Lahu people to participate in ethnic festivals and other activities, and guided them to communicate with people outside of their old mountain villages. The villagers gradually became less "timid". This year, a Lahu couple left the mountain to pick spring tea for others and earned nearly 10,000 yuan in less than a month. Such a thing had never before happened in the village.

Zhaipei is in his twenties, can read and is an able person in the village. He attended the Vocational High School of Menghai County and learned to repair motorcycles. "I'll repair motorcycles in the future to earn more money," Zhaipei said.

Under the leadership of the poverty alleviation team, the villagers increased their rice acreage to six hectares and corn acreage to over 80 hectares last year, thus achieving self-sufficiency in terms of grain. The village introduced rare tree species including sandal wood and Phoebe boumei. Now the villagers can grow and sell tea to the tea factory according to an agreement.

For the first time, there are more than a dozen smart phones in Manban. The villagers have learned to use voice calling on WeChat. The sound systems, refrigerators and other home appliances have entered many households for the first time as well. The villagers can use the bathroom at home and take a shower after a day's work.

"The per capita income has exceeded 3,000 yuan, and I believe they will be lifted out of poverty," Luo Zhihua said hopefully. (Xinhua)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sierra Leone journalists visit YDPG

BY WANG HUAN

Thirty-two people participating in the "2018 Seminar for Media Officials and Journalists from Sierra Leone", visited Yunnan Daily Press Group (YDPG) on May 8 for professional exchanges.

The chief of Yunnan Daily Press Group explained the company's profile, especially the situation surrounding the group's international communication and cooperative efforts. Moves to integrate traditional media and new media, as well as results of work with other countries were also discussed.

Mr. Austin Allan Thomas, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Awoko Newspaper, was amazed that the news about their visit appeared on the group's new media platform and website in less than half an hour. He hoped to learn from the group's model of convergence media during the visit.

At the meeting, media officials and reporters from Sierra Leone conducted in-depth discussions with the group leaders on issues such as the new media operations, newspaper printing technology, deploying of foreign correspondents and the transformation of traditional media.

300-year-old Banyan tree listed among China's most beautiful

BY WANG SHIXUE

A 300-year-old banyan tree in west Yunnan's Yingjiang County was recently selected as one of China's most beautiful ancient trees, together with 84 other tree species nationwide.

Based on detailed survey and selection, the shortlist was issued by the National Afforestation Committee of China and the Chinese Society of Forestry.

With a maximum height of 40 meters, the tree bears more than 100 sub-trunks derived from aerial roots, and it covers 0.3 hectare of land as a whole.

Standing in a subtropical rainforest near the Laodaonong village, which is around 30 kilometers away from the Yingjiang county seat, the banyan tree is recognized by botanists as China's biggest alpine *Ficus altissima* ever discovered.

Bordering Myanmar in the west, Yingjiang falls under the jurisdiction of Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, where lush, verdant banyan trees are worshiped by local Dai folks.

PHOTO NEWS



Pingtan Impression debuts in Kunming

Pingtan Impression, a performance art show by famed Yunnan artist Yang Liping, was first staged in central Yunnan's Kunming City on May 3. In the coming two years, 150 touring performances of the art show will be given in different parts of China, as well as in the neighboring countries. Pingtan lies off the east coast of Fujian province, and the art show presents openness, inclusiveness, and harmonious coexistence between man and the sea in Pingtan. (Yunnan Daily)

ECONOMY

China's economy to grow 6.7% in 2018

A recent report issued by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) forecast a 6.7 percent growth to the Chinese economy in 2018, saying there would be no "hard landing".

Issued in Beijing on May 14, the report said that China's economy will remain stable with relatively fast growth, optimized economic structure and steady progress of employment.

The report believes that China will see a growing ratio of the service sector in its economy, a steady growth in consumption, stable trade surpluses and a rise in household income.

China's economy has become more competent in resisting external impacts as the country has entered high-quality economic development. With the maturing of the government's economic regulation, the growth in each quarter is not likely to fluctuate a huge amount.

The report pointed out that further recovery of the global economy has resulted in the growth of total demand, and China's stable economic performance with good momentum for growth will keep serving as solid support to its foreign trade.

In addition, China's enterprises, which are actively joining emerging industries of strategic importance, will help China export more high value products.

It is predicted that, given stable US dollars and RMB, Chinese exports priced in dollars will achieve a 9.5-percent growth to nearly \$2.5 trillion in 2018. (people.cn)

START-UP

"Milk girl" becomes big grower

BY LI XIUCHUN

He Hongmei is an intelligent Naxi woman from in northwest Yunnan's Lijiang. Recently, she sold 300,000 Paris polyphylla Smith var. yunnanensis seedlings, which she grew over many years. She sold them to more than 60 households in six villages of Tai'an Township in Yulong Naxi Autonomous County, indicating that the former "milk girl" has become a big grower of medicinal herbs.

In 2001, upon graduating from the Food Science Department at Southwest University for Nationalities, He Hongmei

came to Lijiang Ecological Milk Company Limited and became a "milk girl". In a little more than two years, she was promoted from a laboratory technician to general manager.

The ecological milk company—the first and only milk producer in Lijiang—has helped nearly 2,000 households become rich from raising dairy cows. While doing well in her career, however, the "milk girl" thought of "job-hopping".

In 2008, He Hongmei established Lijiang Shengtai Agricultural Development Company Limited. Two years later, the company leased more than 60 hectares

of mountainous land beside for planting and breeding Paris polyphylla Smith var. yunnanensis.

Paris polyphylla Smith var. yunnanensis has a long growth cycle. Cultivating it requires a large capital investment and strict planting regimen. In the past few years, He Hongmei worked diligently at her farm more than 2,800 metres above sea level. She sought cooperation with multiple parties and overcame many technological difficulties.

Last year, her company achieved revenue of more than two million yuan from sales of Paris polyphylla Smith var. yunnanensis. Just selling the seedlings brought in more than 1.3 million yuan.

Adopting the operation model of "company plus base plus farmers", He Hongmei helped farmers in surrounding areas to increase their incomes as well. "A dozen local villagers work at the base all year round," said He Hongmei. More people are needed at the base during the busy season. Last year, labour costs alone exceeded 300,000 yuan, and she spent more than 200,000 yuan buying manure to use as fertiliser. In addition, she provided field training for more than 60 households in Tai'an Township.



He Hongmei is checking mushrooms she grows. Photo by Li Xiuchun

ART

Performance art "on the clouds"



Artists are performing art in Lijiang. Online photo

BY LIU ZIYU

The 2018 "On the Clouds—International Live Art Festival" was held in China's southwestern Lijiang City from May 11 to May 12. Artists from China, Bangladesh, Japan, Nepal, Thailand and South Korea worked on-site at the foot of the Yulong Snow-capped Mountain.

The "On the Clouds" art festival aims to explore the customs of the local Naxi people through diverse perspective of different artists who were overwhelmed by the natural scenery and culture of Lijiang.

"This is my first visit to Yunnan. The environment is very good, and the event is so interesting and gives me a lot of surprises. The rivers and lakes are unique in Lijiang, and I learned a lot about the

Naxi Dongba culture," said Yumi, an artist from South Korea. "My work is about the harmony between human and nature in Lijiang which reminds me of my hometown," added Yumi.

"There is a section of the Ancient Tea Horse Road and I like it very much. My work is inspired by the legend of the Yulong Snow Mountain," said Thai artist AOrNOpawan.

Since 2009, the "On the Clouds" Art Festival has been successfully held five times and attracted more than 60 artists from China and other countries. He Libin, the curator of the festival said that through its Dongba culture and snowy scenery, Lijiang provides a good space for the performance art. "We hope that more art events may contribute to the spread of Dongba culture."

TOURISM

Yunnan: "Paradise" for photographers

BY CHEN CHUANGYE

"Colourful tourism resources make Yunnan a paradise for photographers," said Huang Daxiang, founder of the Yunnan Provincial Travel Photography Association. He added that Yunnan's unique natural scenery and ethnic customs are attracting a growing number of tourists and photographers.

More and more tourists are coming to Yunnan to take pictures in recent years. The discovery and development of many famous tourist attractions in the province is largely attributable to photographers. "For example, the Red Land in Dongchuan, the terraced rice fields in Yuanyang, and the canola flowers of Luoping have

become known to the outside world thanks to the unique perspectives of photographers," Huang Daxiang said.

Many photographers are turning their cameras to the abundant animal and plant resources in the province, and the nature photographer Sun Xiaohong is one of them. In early May, he came from Beijing to Nabang Town in Yingjiang County. "I've come to Yingjiang to photograph two newly discovered bird species," he said. Like bird lovers and photographers, local villagers also have a strong sense of gain. The development of bird-watching and ecological tourism has increased their annual per capita income from less than 2,000 yuan to 30,000 yuan in just a few years.