The 2018 Laos’ National Economic Development Planning and Strategy Training Workshop was opened in Vientiane on June 19. At the workshop, teachers from China will offer a 21-day training to Laotian trainees.

Khenthong Sisouvang, vice president of the Laos-China Cooperation Commission, said June 19 that the Lao people need the support of the Chinese Union Central Committee in their youth work.

Training in the relevant sectors which China has been deploying to Laos has contributed to Laos’ development, he said.

This is the first time a training workshop of this kind has been held in Laos, and the workshop matches the development reality in nowadays Laos, Khengthong said.

The Laotian trainees will attentively join the courses, actively exchange ideas with teachers, and make full use of what they learn at the workshop in their future work.

(Xinhua)

**Laos appreciates China’s support**

A Lao Youth Union leader said Tuesday, a fifth group of Chinese young volunteers to Laos has arrived in the country and will offer a six-month service in education, medical care, sports and communications, etc.

The volunteers come from China’s Shanghais city, from sectors of radio broadcasting, Chinese language teaching to healthcare, computer, and sports. They will be deployed to the Lao central youth league, Mahosot Hospital, the National Radio Station, schools, and communications.

At a team handing-over ceremony held in here on Tuesday, Nuvannaxay Souvanvixay, chief of the office of the Lao Youth Union Central Committee, expressed his gratitude to the support of the Chinese government and cooperative work. In the past years, Chinese volunteers have contributed greatly to the work of Lao relevant sectors with their selfless work.

(Xinhua)

**Main work of longest bridge along China-Laos railway completes**

Photo taken on June 14, 2018 shows piers of the Nam Khone super major bridge in Vientiane, Laos. China Railway No.2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) has completed the main construction work of the longest bridge along the China-Laos railway.

(Xinhua/Qin Xiaoming)

**POVERTY ELIMINATION FOR COMMON PROSPERITY**

Villagers relocated to new houses

It is early summer. At the resettlement site of Dapingdi Village in Binhuan County, Yunnan Province, the newly-built folk houses are neatly spaced-out and the roads are clean and tidy. The courtyards, flowers and fences form a beautiful scene under the blue sky and white clouds.

“After living in the new house for more than half a year, I still feel as if I were in a dream,” Li Shujun told us reporters. In Dongsheng Village, where Li Shujun used to live in, it took villagers three or four hours to get to the county seat. Goods were transported by horses or man power, children spent two hours on road to and from school, and health care was even less available. Having moved out of this inhospitable place, the villagers are now living a better life.

According to Luo Ruizhen, who was also relocated, the government has turned some hillsides fields into arable land for the villagers to use. Each of them receives around 1,300 square meters land to meet their living needs, and the photovoltaic power project brings in 3,000 yuan for each household every year.

“A total of 98 houses holds and 358 people have been relocated here. Most of them used to live in the poor, chilly mountainous areas along the Jinsha River. They have been relocated, on average, 100 kilometres away from their original dwellings,” said Wang Cunming, director of the Binhuan County Resettlement Bureau.

According to Chen Yunyi, deputy mayor of Binhuan County, the county has used housing construction and poverty alleviation funds to build new houses and rebuild dilapidated housing for 6,800 households, 22,800 people, in rural areas. In addition, 920 households, or 3,586 people, have been relocated from inhospitable areas to twenty-four poverty-alleviation resettlement sites.

(Yunnan Daily)

**Main work of longest bridge along China-Laos railway completes**

The 5th China-South Asia Expo opened June 14 in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, themed “Integrating into the Belt and Road Initiative, Promoting Win-Win Cooperation.”

More than 3,800 companies from 87 countries and regions, with the week-long exposition, with over 40 percent attending enterprises from overseas. The exposition features 19 exhibition halls with around 8,500 booths covering an area of 190,000 square meters.

Sonexay Sithaphome, Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, was among the few distinguished guests who were invited to attend the expo opening and deliver a speech.

After the opening, a total of 266 contracts were signed at the Fifth China-South Asia Expo. Deals were concluded in sectors of green energy, green food and tourism, according to the provincial bureau of foreign trade.

Contractual values of 104 projects exceeded 1 billion yuan ($136 million) each, including a tourist resort construction project in Kunming, with its signed investment value up to 43 billion yuan. International contracts were also signed, involving parties from Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, among other countries and regions.

Featurfed expo halls focus on fields including advanced manufacturing, food and consumer goods, health products, and medicines as well as agricultural products. Exhibition zones were established specifically for Afghanistan, the country of honor, and Myanmar, the guest country.

In the ensuing days open for the public, the two Southeast Asian Pavilions were packed with visitors, together with other 17 pavilions set up at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention & Exhibition Center.

A series of events were also be held simultaneously with the expo. As the Belt and Road Initiative progresses, Yunnan is building itself into a pivot in China’s new round of opening up, according to the expo organizer.

(Xinhua, Yunnan Daily)

**5th China-South Asia Expo held in Yunnan**

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(Xinhua, Yunnan Daily)

**Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Ma Zhaoxu said June 13 that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is China’s Initiative, but the opportunities and fruits that it presents belong to the whole world.**

At a high-level symposium, which was jointly sponsored by the Chinese mission to the United Nations, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme, the Chinese envoy said BRI aims to synergize the development strategies of various countries, strengthen international cooperation for shared prosperity in Asia, Europe and beyond, and jointly build a community of shared future for mankind.

In the fall of 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The initiative is guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint development and shared benefits. The Belt and Road Initiative has five priorities: policy connectivity, infrastructure connectivity, trade connectivity, financial connectivity, and people-to-people connectivity, Ma explained.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development 2015 set out 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, charting the course for international development cooperation. The core of the agenda is to realize common development and prosperity for all through a stronger global partnership, he said.

The BRI and the 2030 Agenda resonate with and reinforce each other, Ma said, adding that together, they promote the cause of international cooperation for development.

Anchored in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, both are committed to multilateralism and international peace and development, Ma said. The BRI follows the principles of joint consultation, joint development and shared benefits, and advocates openness and inclusiveness.

(Xinhua)