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Xi's thought on diplomacy offers wisdom for shared future

A blueprint for China's diplomacy, outlined at a high-level meeting last week, highlighted the drive to realize national rejuvenation and to promote human progress.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's address at the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs, held in Beijing on June 22 and 23, not only summarized the achievements and experiences in China's diplomacy since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in late 2012, but also clearly defined "thought on

the diplomacy of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era."

In his speech, Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, listed 10 principles that the country's diplomacy should uphold, with clarification on political guidance, historical missions, major diplomatic ideas, strategic plans and direction of development.

An essential part of "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era," the

principles can be regarded as the achievements made by the CPC Central Committee with Xi at the core in theoretical and practical innovations in diplomacy.

According to the principles, China will "advance major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics to fulfill the mission of realizing national rejuvenation" and "take preserving world peace and pursuing common development as the purpose to promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity."

In his speech, Xi said the period between the 19th

and the 20th CPC National Congress was "a historic juncture" for realizing China's two centenary goals.

The country's development and more active role in global governance will bring positive changes. At the meeting, China pledged to "forge ahead with the Belt and Road Initiative under the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, follow the path of peaceful development on the basis of mutual respect and win-win cooperation, develop global partnerships while advancing the diplomatic agenda,

and lead the reform of the global governance system with the concept of fairness and justice."

China's diplomatic ideas have gained increasing acknowledgment in the international community. A community with a shared future for humanity and the Belt and Road Initiative have been incorporated in United Nations documents.

The new ideas have been backed up by concrete diplomatic moves. With the Boao Forum for Asia conference hailing reform and opening-up and the SCO summit focusing on revital-

izing the Shanghai Spirit, China will host another two major international events this year -- the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit to focus on the Belt and Road Initiative, and the China International Import Expo for further market opening.

A new chapter of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics will be opened, with China in its best ever period of development in modern times and the world undergoing profound and unprecedented changes.

(Xinhua)

Indian teacher enjoys living in Yunnan



"Both China and India are promising countries. We should carry out more exchanges. Yunnan is close to India. In organizing exchange programmes, I hope Chinese students can go to India. I will also bring Indian students to Yunnan so that they can learn about China's achievements in social and economic development."



Benjamin travels in Yunnan (Photo provided by Benjamin)

"I came on a shared bicycle. OFO and Didi are so convenient!" said Benjamin Kuo. "Yunnan and other provinces are developing rapidly. Every foreigner living here can feel it."

Few people can tell that Benjamin is from India just by his skin colour and accent. "My father is Indian, and my mother is from Guangzhou, so I'm a Chinese-Indian person," he said with a grin.

Benjamin came to Yunnan province in late 2012. Now he teaches business English at the Haiyuan Campus at Yunnan Normal University. He has witnessed the development of the province over the past few years. As a university teacher,

Benjamin hopes to promote exchanges between China and India. "Both China and India are promising countries. We should carry out more exchanges. Yunnan is close to India. In organizing exchange programmes, I hope Chinese students can go to India. I will also bring Indian students to Yunnan so that they can learn about China's achievements in social and economic development. In this way, the two peoples can better understand each other."

When the interview was over, Benjamin took out his mobile phone to hail a taxi. "China's reform and opening up has benefited everyone. I enjoy living in Yunnan", he said.

(Li Hengqiang)

Fuxian Lake safe again for 'picky' fish

More than 500,000 schizothorax taliensis were released lately in the crystal clean Fuxian Lake, a plateau rift lake stretching out through Chengjiang, Jiangchuan and Huangning Counties in central Yunnan's Yuxi City.

Schizothorax taliensis, dubbed as the "elf of the jade pool", is a unique species of fish living in Fuxian Lake. They have slender body and strong reproductive capacity. Usually, the fish can grow to 20 centimeters long. In the 1970s, schizothorax taliensis

was almost on the verge of extinction due to overfishing and invasion of alien species.

In recent years, Yuxi City has made tremendous efforts to protect the Fuxian Lake and the schizothorax taliensis. Among them, the annual release of the schizothorax taliensis is an important measure. Now, Fuxian Lake has become one of the Grade I freshwater lakes in China, which enables Schizothorax taliensis, the "picky" fish to live safely.

(Wang Huan)



Some 300 people gathered for an event marking the third anniversary of the founding of the India-China Yoga College (ICYC) at Yunnan Minzu University in southwest China's Yunnan Province, to celebrate the 4th International Yoga Day. (Photo provided by Yunnan Minzu University)

Starbucks opens first coffee origin store in Yunnan



Customers at newly open Starbucks store in Pu'er, Yunnan (Photo provided by staff)

On June 21, Starbucks opened its first coffee origin store in Pu'er, a city in southwest Yunnan province famed for its eponymous fermented tea.

The store aims to

creating the experience of "bean to cup", while presenting the idea of "the first ten feet" and "the last ten feet". It is regarded as another measure after Starbucks opened its local farmer support

center in Pu'er 6 years ago.

The store in Pu'er will supply high-quality Arabica coffee beans from around the world all year, including the one named "South of the Clouds" blend which includes beans from Yunnan planters and is a wonderful offering by Starbucks' baking masters. What is better, "single-origin Yunnan" will be offered in the store. It is Starbucks' first single-origin coffee from China.

Since Starbucks lunched its famer support center in 2012, it has been helping local Yunnan growers increase the yield and go global market. At present, there have been 1,678 coffee

1678 estates have been certified by C.A.F.E Practice in Yunnan

fee estates certified by C.A.F.E Practices in Yunnan where coffee cultivation areas are over 16,000 hectares, and nearly 17,000 coffee farmers have been trained.

Starbucks has also joined hands with the Pu'er City Government to build Pu'er into a key origin for the world's high-quality coffee.

(Wang Huan)

Yunnan villagers go nuts for Australian nuts

Li Zhizhong may not be able to locate Australia on a map, but he is a master at cultivating Australian macadamia nuts.

Li, 63, has devoted more than a decade of his life to the two hectares of macadamias he grows in Mengzhi Village in southwest China's Yunnan Province. The village is among the largest production areas of macadamias in China thanks to locals who brought the Australian seedlings there more than 20 years ago.

"We used to grow corn and potatoes in the mountains, but we did not make much money," Li recalled. "With macadamias, we all became rich."

Currently, about 133,333 hectares of macadamias have been grown in the city of Lincang, where more than 170,000 farming households are engaged in the business, according to official statistics.

In the 1990s, local officials established Mengzhi as a pilot area in the county to grow macadamias, but villagers were reluctant to switch to the exotic crop.

"Most villagers were suspicious about the seedlings because they basically knew nothing about the nuts," Li said.

Only one man named Bi Jiayu was willing to give them a try, Li said.

"He read a magazine about the environment needed to grow macadamias and about

the nuts' high market value," Li said. "He said the county's climate was perfect for growing the nut trees."

Bi then went to the county government and asked for 100 seedlings.

"He spent days choosing the right place, growing and fertilizing the seedlings, and experts sent by the government often came to help," Li said. "He also frequented bookstores in the county to learn more about his crops."

In 2001, Bi's fields produced the first batch of macadamias. Production climbed year after year, with each hectare of the nuts generating up to 240,000 yuan (37,471 U.S. dollars) annually.

The exotic nuts truly transformed the fortunes in the county. Take Li for example. Growing the nuts has allowed him to buy a car worth 130,000 yuan and a house priced at more than 400,000 yuan.

"I paid in full for both my car and my house," Li said.

In the village next to Mengzhi, resident Yang Wenzhu can make about 500,000 yuan a year growing macadamias. Yang calls his newly bought house the "nut house" and his car the "nut car" because they were bought thanks to the booming nut industry.

"The industry has not only beautified the mountains in our hometown, but also improved our livelihood," Li said.

(China.org.cn)



Bi Jiayu toils in his macadamia tree field. (Photo by China.org.cn)

China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum provides wisdom for cooperation

The sixth China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum ended on June 15th in Kunming, Yunnan Province. At the closing ceremony, the "initiative on establishing a network mechanism for China-South and Southeast Asian Think Tanks" was signed. Opening ceremony for the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor Think Tank Cooperation network and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism think tank cooperation network were also held.

During the two-day forum, more than 300 experts and scholars from 18 countries including Myanmar, India, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Asian Development Bank and international organizations gathered in Kunming and provided their suggestions and contributed their wisdoms focusing on the theme of Working together to build

a community of shared future for humanity and deepening the practical cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asia in the new era.

The China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum is one of the important events of China-South Asia Expo. Over the past six years, its popularity and influence has been expanding and has become an important platform for exchanges and cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asian countries.

There were five topics in the forum. On the topic of "promoting the construction of China-South and Southeast Asia Economic Corridors", many scholars believed that due to the special geographical locations, conditions, long history and cultural origins and strong economic complementarity, all parties should take

effective measures to further promote the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indo-China Peninsular Economic Corridor. On the topic of "Building a community of shared future for China-South and Southeast Asian countries", scholars from India believed that China and India can draw nutrients from a long history of civilization to cultivate Asian culture and shared Asian values.

On "Constructing China-South and Southeast Asia New International Relations", scholars from China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Afghanistan and other countries pointed out that the "Belt and Road" is not only a way of cooperation between China and the countries along the road for win-win, but also the construction of new

relations between China and South and Southeast Asian countries, which will benefit all countries and lead the new direction of international relations. On the topic of the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road Construction", experts believed that it is necessary to strengthen maritime transport corridor and infrastructure construction to form a more open international economic cooperation zone. On the topic of "China and South and Southeast Asian Countries Talent Cooperation Mechanism Construction", some scholars said that a talent cooperation think tank alliance can be established. Scholars from Southeast Asia said that China and South and Southeast Asian countries could actively carry out cooperation in the field of talent information, training, technical exchanges and human

resources development, a among which the cooperation mechanism of cultivating young talents should be placed in an important position.

At the Forum, Chinese and foreign experts and scholars further identified the important role Yunnan Province is playing and the contribution it made to the construction of a shared community for China-South and Southeast Asian countries. They generally believe that located at the linkage of China and South and Southeast Asian mainland, Yunnan is an important province involving the construction of the Belt and Road.

Some scholars suggested that more "Yunnan Elements" can be injected in the construction of building a community of shared future with its neighbor countries.

Sai Mauk Kham, the Ex-vice president of Myanmar, thought that the construction of the "China-

Myanmar Ruili-Muse Economic Cooperation Zone" has brought more practical benefits to the two peoples. Muse is Myanmar's largest port for economic and trade. He hoped that the think tank can focus on Muse Port to further excavate its potential.

The scholars from India suggested that Yunnan Province get to know more about the Northeastern India and pay more attention to the cooperation with the Northeastern states of India, including Manipur, and to make people-to-people exchanges and cooperation especially in education, a priority area for cooperation between the two sides. Now, India and Yunnan can develop specific cooperation programs to help colleges and universities to establish a regular communication and exchange mechanism.

(Li Hongfeng)

Unique wedding custom (5): Bai people: Brides get pinched for blessings

On the wedding day of Bai people, traditional musical band will be invited and local delicacies like cakes and sweet dumplings will be prepared and rice wine is also indispensable.

During the wedding ceremony, the most surprising is that as the bride enters the groom's house, an elderly man will take a stick of incense and circles around groom's eyes. Before the couple realizes it, a handful of pop rice will

be scattered onto their faces. This is called "burning the eyebrows and throwing pop rice". For the bride, the biggest "trouble" is from the children participating in the wedding ceremony. As she arrives at the groom's home, the children will swarm up to pinch her with their hands. Bai people consider the pinching as blessings, so even if it hurts, the bride can't get angry.

(Daguan Weekly/Liu Jiatong)



The wedding ceremony of Bai people (Photo by Liu Jiatong)