



CHINA • YUNNAN



National dance exhibition held in Yunnan



Ling Jing is staged at the culture show on July 16 in Kunming. Photo/Yunnan Daily

The 12th China National Dance Exhibition was held from July 11 to 22 in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

The 11-day event presented audiences 80 performances and 5 dance dramas, which were selected out of 671 dance programs and 37 dance dramas from provinces and cultural institutions

nationwide. With seven Yunnan dance programs short-listed, the exhibition aims to showcase the fruitful results of modern Chinese dance development.

On July 16, the third show of the National Dance Exhibition was staged at Yunnan Arts University. Among the 16 outstanding dances that feature the Han,

Mongolian, Yi and Tibetan ethnic cultures, three were presented by Yunnan Province: *Nie Er*, *Luo Yin* (the Luo impression) and *Ling Jing* (the soul garden).

The solo dance *Nie Er* was selected by the Yunnan Song and Dance Theater and starred by the young dancer Yuan Zhiping. The dance begins with the resurrection

of a Nie Er sculpture, showcasing Nie Er's excellence and reshaping his image with music and body languages.

Luo Yin is a group dance derived from the gourd-pipe dancing of the Hualuo people, a branch of the Yi ethnic group in southeast Yunnan's Wenshan Prefecture. During festivals, a senior of the Hualuo people would raise a high-footed umbrella, leading the females to have a circle dance. The moves are simple, clear and tidy, bearing the charm of primitive dancing.

With the theme of eco-protection, *Ling Jing* is a group dance by Yunnan Arts University. Fusing traditional Hani artistic elements into modern choreography, the dance tells the story of the Hani people who, seeing the palm trees and silver pheasants dying from environmental pollution, began their eco-protection.

(Yunnan Gateway)

CONNECTIVITY

Sino-Lao railway project drives full steam ahead

Construction of the China-Laos railway is gathering steam, as a main bridge over the Mekong River has been completed, said executives of construction giant China Railway Engineering Corp.

The rail project, which will connect Southwest China with Laos by 2021, is part of the two countries' efforts to promote interconnectivity.

The rail line starts from the Mohan-Moten border area between the two countries, running over 414.33 kilometers, more than 62.7 percent of which will run over bridges and through tunnels. The construction of the bridges and tunnels is considered one of the decisive factors in whether the rail project will be built on schedule.

Language barriers, bad traffic conditions in the deep mountains and

woods, and difficult living conditions were also obstacles that Zhou Xiaoxia, project manager of China Railway No 5 Engineering Group, faced when he started his work.

Facing these difficulties, Zhou and his team went deep into the woods to measure the route and prepare for the construction. "The China-Laos railway is one of the important routes that connects the two countries together," Zhou said. "It's a huge honor to be part of this project."

The project is not just a rail line, but represents the Lao people's faith in China, Zhou said. "The quality of the railway represents the image of China. We need to apply the same high standards as we use for the bullet train to the China-Laos railway," he said.

(China Daily)

POVERTY RELIEF

Papermaking turned into lucrative industry

The handmade paper produced by Dai people in Mangtuan Village, located in southwest Yunnan's Lincang, enjoys remarkable fame. Today, the traditional method of cotton-paper making is well inherited and there are still around 120 villagers evolved in this workmanship.

Mangtuan is known as the "No. 1 Dai Paper-making Village in China". According to historical records, handmade paper of Dai people in the village has existed for around 600 years.

On August 8, 2011, the village found the handmade paper cooperative to keep the authentic way of traditional papermaking, and 62 households are involved.

The cooperative provides members with seedlings of paper mulberries, instruments of papermaking, skill trainings, service of buying and selling. By exploring the market while producing and selling the paper in an organized and planned way, the cooperative has turned the paper making into a lucrative industry for villagers.

In 2017, the villagers made 1.5 million piece of paper and achieved sales revenue of 4 million yuan. (Yunnan Daily)

China rolls out "river chief" scheme

China has rolled out its river chief scheme nationwide ahead of schedule amid efforts to combat water pollution, a senior official said July 17.

The deployment was six months ahead of the country's plan to introduce the system nationwide by the end of 2018.

China started the scheme in December 2016, when the top leadership decided to assign each waterway in the

country a specific steward, or "river chief."

River chiefs are responsible for resource protection, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration. They will be held accountable for environmental damage in bodies of water under their supervision.

As of the end of June, more than 1.06 million river chiefs have been appointed

at various levels nationwide, and six mechanisms have been set up to facilitate their work, Minister of Water Resources E Jingping told a press conference.

Under the scheme, the country will better tackle problems such as illegal sand mining, solid waste contamination, and water pollution, according to E.

(Xinhua)

40th ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

Dounan: From small village to largest fresh-cut flower market in Asia



The busy scene of the market

Photo by Huang Zhechun

From four p.m. to the small hours next day, flowers are transported here from all directions to be traded before they are shipped on to other places at home and abroad.

Every day, the Dounan flower market in Kunming, Yunnan Province receives

20,000 to 30,000 traders and more than 1,600 varieties of flowers. The market maintains a daily trading volume of 16.5 million bouquets of flowers worth 12.94 million yuan.

It took more than 30 years for Dounan to grow from an obscure village on the south

bank of Dianchi Lake to the largest fresh-cut flower trading market in Asia. In 1988, Hua Mingsheng, a 24-year-old villager from Dounan made a bold attempt: he set aside 0.1 mu of his contracted land to grow gladiola flowers.

The village set up a 12-mu flower trading market in 1994. The 2001 Shanghai Grand World Guinness Headquarters recognized Dounan Flower Market as the largest fresh-cut flower trading market in China.

In 2017, the market achieved a fresh-cut flower transaction total worth of 5.355 billion yuan. Now Dounan is the largest fresh flower trading centre in Asia. (Yunnan Daily)



Bridge piers are being built across the Nujiang River in Yunnan, as part of the China-Myanmar railway project. Xinhua photo

CULTURE

Yunnan cultural expo to be held in Kunming

The Creative Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo 2018 will be held from August 9 to 13 at the Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Centre, according to a recent news briefing.

This year, the Kunming Pavilion will focus on the integration of culture and technology. A "culture plus technology" experience zone will be set up for key cultural and technological companies to showcase their innovative virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality products.

In addition, ethnic cultural programmes with local characteristics will best aged, and key cultural exporters will be invited

to present their new offerings, sell their products and carry out business negotiations. The Munich's Oktoberfest - Kunming Tour will also add flavour to YCIE.

The Creative Children's Pavilion will be comprised of a 2,000-square-metre children's amusement area, a 1,000-square-metre children's education area and a 1,000-square-metre children's creative living area.

(Yunnan Daily)



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