



CHINA • YUNNAN



Airport brings Yunnan closer to the world

In 2013, China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, calling for more cooperation in connectivity and aiming at achieving win-win outcomes.

Five years on, steady progress and tremendous changes have taken place in various areas including the air transportation.

The Kunming Changshui International Airport is a primary airport serving Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan province. Since it was put into operation in 2012, it has become a gateway from China to South and Southeast Asia and a hub for



Passengers enter Kunming through Changshui International Airport. Photo by Yang Zheng

many airways such as China Eastern Airlines, Lucky Air, Ruili Airlines, Thai Airways and Lao airways.

According to statistics, the airport handled 23 million passengers

and 210 thousand tons of cargo in 2017, up by 5.2 percent and 9.6 percent respectively on a year-over-year basis. The airline companies operate 350 flight routes from

the airport, 76 of which are international routes connecting destinations in South and Southeast Asia and other regions.

As more flight routes are opened and the regional connectivity is strengthened, Yunnan has been brought closer to the world. Its organic produce such as matsutake, flowers, and vegetables are transported from the Kunming Changshui International Airport to more foreign markets. And more and more overseas tourists fly to Yunnan to enjoy its cultural and natural beauty.

(Yunnan Daily)

VOICE

Belt and Road Initiative five years later

2018 marks five years of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Kazakhstan in 2013. Since then, the BRI has become a centerpiece of China's foreign policy. This endeavor consists of five key components, namely infrastructure development, strengthening political cooperation, uninterrupted trade ties, financial integration and people-to-people exchanges.

One would argue, why has BRI become a cornerstone of China's foreign policy? Why is China so committed to invest billions of dollars for this grand initiative? The significance of BRI needs to be understood in the context of President Xi's "China Dream" that is rejuvenation of a China that is prosperous and well engaged with the international society.

Over the past five years, the BRI has started to become a reality. During these five years, numerous infrastructure development projects - building high-speed railways and roads for connectivity - have been initiated in countries involved in BRI routes. Since the start of BRI, hundreds of freight trains have made trips to different cities in

Europe. Under BRI, China and Thailand have jointly initiated a high-speed railway project from Bangkok to Northeastern Province of Nakhon Ratchasima to improve transportation infrastructure. There are several other infrastructure projects in other South East Asian countries.

BRI's recognition is growing both within and outside China. According to Center for Strategic and International Studies, from 2014 to 2017, the awareness of BRI has tripled in international arena. The best example of BRI's recognition is through China's successful hosting of the BRI summit in 2017 which was attended by almost 30 world leaders and representatives from nearly 110 countries. One could argue that the BRI has brought a spectacular opportunity to the region of Belt and Road countries to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty and under-development. BRI has brought great opportunity for the developing countries especially landlocked countries in Central Asia to connect with other markets through this endeavor.

(By Asif Amin, a doctoral candidate at School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University in Changchun, China.)

NEIGHBOR

Chinese, Lao doctors provide free surgery

Chinese and Lao ophthalmologists are providing free cataract surgery in Vientiane from August 20-25 to help poor people regain their eyesight.

The launch of the project was attended by a member of the Yunnan Friendship Foundation for NGO Network for International Exchanges, Mr Cheng Yungchun, Deputy Director of the Healthcare and Rehabilitation Department, Ministry of Health, Dr Bouakhan Phakhothoung, and medical staff from the Hospital of Yunnan province, China.

The cataract surgery is being performed under the Sino-Laos cataract project supported by the Foundation. Specialists will remove cataracts from about 100 elderly people this week.

The Chinese team is supporting the project by providing equipment for the surgery, which will be performed at Mahosot Hospital.

The procedures are being carried out in line with the Lao government's and China's obligations through their cooperation in the health sector to provide the highest attainable standard of health for Lao people. The initiative, called Bright Journey, is funded by the Chinese government.

(Vientiane Times)

Wetland forms excellent egret habitat



Picture taken by a Yunnan Daily reporter at dawn shows an egret inhabits the wetland near the Dianchi Lake in Kunming. Thanks to local eco-conservation efforts, the recent years have seen increase of the wetland area around the Dianchi Lake, where lush vegetation formed an excellent habitat for egrets and other wild species. Photo by Zhang Tong

CONNECTIVITY

29 national patents accelerate construction of China-Laos railway

Up to now, drilling of the Xinping Tunnel on the China-Laos Railway (the Yunnan section) has progressed to 3,750 meters, with more than 1,500 people working on different planes.

Faced with the complicated geological conditions, the Chinese and Lao build-

ers have carried out specific projects on tech-innovation and technical research.

Among the projects, a total of 29 research results gained Chinese national patents and were put into practice to speed up the railway construction.

(yn.people.cn)



Interior of the Xinping Tunnel in Yunnan Online photo

INDUSTRY

Flower bloom on Valentine's Day



Shoppers examine flowers at florists in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province. Photo by Yang Zheng

For every 10 flowers sold on August 17, Chinese Valentine's Day, at least seven were from Dounan, a suburb of Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, with prices determined by a live auction.

From 3 pm until late at night, the 900-seat trading hall was filled during the auction for

cut flowers at the Kunming International Flora Auction Trading Center (KIFA) in Dounan, one of the largest of its kind in Asia.

Yuan Fuwang, a florist, kept a close eye on the trading screen where deals are made between flickers of numbers. Dealers either sigh or shout over the

prices, waiting anxiously to sell their carefully planted beauties.

"I couldn't be more concentrated. A deal is made every four seconds," Yuan said.

On Chinese Valentine's Day, around 48 million flowers worth more than 47 million yuan (\$6.8 million) were sold through KIFA.

More than 500 kinds of around 10 million radiant beauties are on their way to cities across China as well as foreign countries such as Myanmar, Laos, Russia, and Australia.

(China Daily)



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