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China, ASEAN committed to advancing trade



Visitors are interacting with high-tech products during China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China (Photo by Lu Boan/Xinhua)

On September 12, 15th China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Expo opened in the south China city of Nanning, putting fresh impetus into regional trade at a time when the anti-globalization sentiment in many parts of the world has imposed threats to regional economic integration.

Over the past 14 years, the expo has boosted China-ASEAN trade. China has expanded its exports of electronic products, construction materials, power equipment, con-

struction machines, as well as technology in new energy, high-speed trains, and agriculture, to ASEAN member states. The bloc's food, daily goods, and bulk commodities are favored by Chinese buyers.

At this year's expo, officials, executives, and businesspeople from China and Southeast Asia voiced their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the multi-lateral trade regime as well as opposition to unilateral protectionist measures taken by some countries.

"Relations between China and ASEAN have

stood the test of time and become the most successful and dynamic example of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation," Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng said at the opening ceremony of the expo.

China has been the largest trading partner of ASEAN for 9 consecutive years and ASEAN has been the 3rd largest trade partner of China for 7 consecutive years, according to Han.

Han said China is willing to make full use of platforms such as the upcoming China International Import Expo and

China-ASEAN Expo to expand imports from ASEAN member states and encourage bilateral investment.

"China is willing to promote the implementation of the upgraded China-ASEAN FTA and accelerate the negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes," Han said.

Han's proposal to promote trade and investment was echoed by senior officials from the ASEAN member states. (Xinhua)

BRI will lead to global economic boom



One of the most impressive parts of the BRI, is that it aspires to be a peaceful expansion between nations of open trade

Trade between all the countries proposed in the BRI (Belt Road Initiative) is possible today. But the BRI will make trade more efficient through newly built roads, railways, and shipping ports. The proposed infrastructure is through mutual agreement, not through threats of military intervention. If a country does not want to participate, they can simply refuse. It is their decision.

Having been born in the US (in 1954) and having lived there all but the past year, the BRI reminds me of the Interstate Highway System that was instigated by President Eisenhower in the 1950s.

It's true the Interstate Highway System only connected states that constitute the US and not a multitude of sovereign countries, but it greatly expanded trade between the states. It also provided tens of thousands of jobs during the decades it took to build it and opened up the country for more tourism and exploring by the common man.

Could the BRI eventually become sort of an Interstate Highway System

for the continents and countries of Europe, Africa, and Asia? Nobody can predict the future but it seems like a possibility. In the near term the BRI seems to consist primarily of railways and shipping lanes but there appears to be highways being built alongside in many cases. In the expansion of the US railways were often built before highways were built alongside them. Besides, railways can be more efficient ways for people to travel than by motor car. Either way, the BRI would open up more travel and tourism as a result of its primary purpose of trade in the near term.

One of the most impressive parts of the BRI, is that it aspires to be a peaceful expansion between nations of open trade. China is spearheading the project with the assistance of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The AIIB is also an economic endeavor of financial cooperation among most, if not all, the countries involved with the planning of the BRI.

Opening cooperative trade routes could not have come at a better time for China and the rest of Asia, Europe, and Africa. The result will be a massive infrastructure program that will span most of Asia, parts of Europe and parts of Africa to will enable free trade across these three continents.

(Robert McKymond, who has retired as electrical engineer in the US, is now living in China. Abridged from China Daily)

Successful commissioning of Kunming branch line of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline

On August 30, diesel oil from Anning Initial Station of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline arrived at Kunming Terminal Station after a 32-hour extraordinary journey, marking the successful commissioning of Kunming Branch Line of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline. It also signifies the completion of the "three trunks & one branch" pipe-

line network of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline Project, enabling transportation of multiple oil products such as gasoline, diesel and aviation kerosene, greatly improving the assured capacity of product oil supply in Yunnan Province.

Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline, one of the supporting facilities of China-Myanmar Crude Oil Pipeline

Project and Yunnan Refinery, is a pipeline network consisting of three trunk lines. With a total length of about 1,000km and annual transmission capacity of 7.21 million tons, it is expected to transmit the product oil of imported crude oil after being processed in Yunnan Petrochemical Co., Ltd.

(Zhu Dan and Huang Zhechun)



Photo shows China's first domestically-built polar research vessel and icebreaker "Xuelong 2" in Shanghai, east China, Sept. 10, 2018. "Xuelong 2" was launched on Monday in Shanghai. (Xinhua/Liu Shipping)

Intangible cultural heritages bring visiting foreigners closer to Yunnan



Expats are showing their artworks of Yunnan intangible cultural heritages (Online Photo)

Yunnan is a province blessed with diverse ethnic cultures. Up to now, Yunnan has 105 state-level intangible cultural heritage programs and 450 provincial-level ones. Following the explanation of the staff members in the base, all of the group members discovered the process of hand-made papers, geometric principles in tie-dyeing and craftsmanship of potteries.

Yunnan is also known as the "hometown of tea in China". And during the visit to the base, the expats enjoyed different kinds of tea planted in various areas of Yunnan. Some of them said that they felt great as they can discover the beauty of traditional art forms of Yunnan and they had understand more about Yunnan in a special and intimate way. (Yunnan Gateway)

Recently, a group of 44 foreigners from the US, Malaysia, Indonesia and so on came into closer contact with Yunnan intangible cultural heritages. They gathered at a demonstration base of Yun-

nan intangible cultural heritages and spent the whole day learning and experiencing cultural protection projects such as tie-dyeing, bamboo weaving, hand-made paper and pottery making.

Diqing inheritor (2): Lobsang Tashi sees bright future for his metal handicrafts



Lobsang Tashi is making a hammer (Photo by Li Wenjun)

Three hammers, with hand imprints on the handles, have been kept at the house of Lobsang Tashi for more than 600 years.

"This imprint here is the evidence of the development of the traditional technique from generation to generation," Lobsang Tashi said proudly while stroking the hammers in the showcase.

Lobsang Tashi, 55, is the 14th-generation inher-

itor of traditional metal casting technique. He was among the first batch of provincial inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and also a provincial master of art and crafts in Yunnan.

Lobsang Tashi specializes in metal manufacturing: 5 of his works have been collected by Chinese National Museum of Ethnology; To get a Tibetan knife forged by him, you

have to order in advance and wait for years; Silver ornaments he made are favored by numerous tourists.

Based on fine Tibetan casting craftsmanship passed down for generations, Lobsang Tashi has promoted overseas the unique intangible cultural heritage.

Lobsang Tashi's factory lies in Deqin County, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. There, workers were processing accessories, while Lobsang was finalizing the design of tags for 12 zodiac signs.

When it comes to appraising events on Tibetan culture, he will surely be invited to. "Tiring indeed, but such businesses are all worth my efforts," said Lobsang.

The most worthy doing, for Lobsang Tashi, is to pass down the fine craftsmanship in Tibetan culture. With the support from local cultural authorities and institutions, he has set up a protection and study center for Tibetan metal techniques in the Deqin county seat.

His works are well-accepted and loved by many. (Xiong Yan, Chu Donghua, Zhang Ruogu)

Kunming connects to Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong HSR

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed railway will be put into operation on September 23, according to news released by the China Railway Guangzhou Group. And Kunming, as one of the stations on the line, will be connected to Hongkong.

The 141-km Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Railway, including 26-km in Hong Kong, with more than 40 stations, is a key part of the national high-speed railway network.

The sale of tickets began at 8 a.m. on September 10. According to the news released, the travel time from Kunming(Kunmingnan Railway Station) to Hong Kong(West Kowloon Station) will be 7.5 hours and the price of the second-class seat is 750.5RMB.



Passenger is showing the ticket for the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed railway (Photo from Xinhua)

Tips: For advance ticketing arrangement, travelers can go to www.12306.cn (mainland China) or www.mtr.com.hk/high-speed (Hong Kong, China)

Tel: 86-12306 (mainland China) or 852-21200888 (Kong Kong, China)

The ticket information can be seen in the stations as well.

(Li Hengqiang)

China's Haier inks pact to set up second industrial park in India

Chinese leading home appliances brand Haier announced signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of India's northern state Uttar Pradesh, to set up its second industrial park.

Under the agreement, Haier will set up its industrial park in the state over the next 4 years in 2 phases.

The new industrial park, to come up nearly 30 miles away from New Delhi in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida area, is expected to begin operations by 2020.

This new investment is expected to create almost 4,000 new direct employment opportunities and over 10,000 indirect jobs.

The investment is aimed at scaling up the production capacity of Haier products across categories like refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and LED panels.

The expansion will serve as an opportunity



for vendors and original equipment manufacturers, bringing about an expanded business with increased local production and lesser imports of products.

With this Haier has strengthened its commitment towards the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative to boost local manufacturing.

The MoU was signed between Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Haier vice-president (global appliances) Song Yujun.

The new plant will have an annual production capacity of 2 million refrigerators, 1 million air conditioners, 1 million washing machines and 1

million LED TVs.

Speaking on the occasion, Song said that he was optimistic about Haier's growth in India.

"India is a dynamic and important market for the Haier Group. Setting up the new manufacturing unit will not only help us build a better presence in the country, but will also enable us to innovate more for our Indian customers with solutions that complement their evolving lifestyles," he said.

Eric Braganza, president of Haier India, said, "in line with our commitment to the central government's 'Make in India' initiative, we are delighted to announce the second industrial park in the country."

Haier India initiated manufacturing of refrigerators in India in 2007 at its factory in Ranjangaon in south-western city of Pune, which was further expanded into the company's first industrial park in India. (Xinhua)

Yunnan receives more tourists in this summer

With the summer vacation coming to an end, the faculties and students set off back to school. And Yunnan witnessed a growth in the number of tourists during the vacation.

According to statistics, Kunming Changshui International airport handled 8.34 million passengers and 75,503 tons of cargo from July to August, up by 8 percent and 6 percent respectively on a year-over-year basis.

In terms of the railway, the Kunming Bureau of China Railway Corporation

(CRC) said that during the summer vacation about 12 million trips were made by railway passengers, up by 28.8 percent year-on-year. And about 5.9 million trips were made by high speed railway passengers.

Due to the convenient transportation, pleasant weather and picturesque scenery, many tourist destinations across Yunnan, especially those in the western part of the province like Dali and Chuxiong, receives far more visitors than before. (Yunnan Gateway)

Story of Xichou (3): Land of lucid waters and lush mountains



Clean and beautiful scenery of Xichou, southeast Yunnan (Photo by Lei Tongsu)

Faced with severe stony desertification, the people in Xichou have deep understandings of the philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets"

Starting from the first attempt in Muzhe Village in 1990, they have never stopped fighting against the difficult living conditions. They have created a successful model in the comprehensive treatment of rocky desertification, turning the land into a green ecological home.

Entering the demonstration area of the Improvement Project of Medium- and Low-yielding Farmlands

in Banggu Township, we were surprised by the eye-catching views. The roads are linked as nets and the pools are connected.

8 years ago, this rocky desertification area began to revive. Local people picked up electric drills, drove excavators and shouldered carrying poles, turning the 897.8 acres dry land into fertile land.

According to statistics, Xichou has treated more than 140 square kilometers of rocky desertification and built more than 16,474 acres of terraced fields.

(Xu Tiyi and Zhang Denghai)