



CHINA • YUNNAN



BELT AND ROAD

Yunnan achieves win-win situation with neighbouring countries

As Yunnan province opens its doors wider to the outside world, it is providing more opportunities for neighbouring countries to board the express train of China's economic development. While these changes take place, Yunnan is intensifying its own development momentum and improving its own development qualities. The result is the achievement of a win-win situation among all involved parties.

Following the fifth China-South Asia Expo in June, Cambodian-grown jasmine rice began being sold by the 20 Zhijia convenience store chain in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan province.

Together, Cambodian rice



Yunnan doctors made diagnosis for Lao cataract patients.

Phobo by Wu Ping

coming to the Chinese market and fresh flowers going to South and Southeast Asia, epitomize China's opening up and cooperation with neighbouring countries. As this opening up and cooperation

deepens, foreign goods such as Myanmar jade, Sri Lankan gems and Indian blue crabs have made their ways into the homes of Chinese shoppers.

Yunnan is becoming an increasingly important point in

China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia. Statistics show that the province's import and export volume grew from 104 million US dollars in 1978, to 23.39 billion US dollars in 2017. Nearly 60 percent of that increase was generated by trade with South and Southeast Asian countries.

Additionally, several railways that are currently under construction or in the planning stages depart from Kunming. Those lines connect China with Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and other countries. Ever more densely populated air, road and water transport networks are helping to improve China's connectivity with South and Southeast Asia. (Xinhua)

COOPERATION

China and Myanmar sign Kyauk Phyu agreement

On November 8th, representatives from China and Myanmar signed a framework agreement at the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. The cooperative measure concerns the construction of a deep-water port at Kyauk Phyu.

The Myanmar Minister of Commerce, Dr. Than Myint, said the signing of the framework agreement indicates the project's first step towards success, and both parties will continue to discuss and sign a follow-up agreement.

The Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, Hong Liang, explained that the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone is an important supporting project for the China-Myanmar economic corridor. Both are of great significance to Myanmar's future economic development. He expects and believes that with the joint efforts of China and Myanmar, the project will be successful and bring benefits to the people of Myanmar.

A Myanmar company, jointly invested in by both countries, will develop and operate the Kyauk Phyu deep-water port project. The Chinese party will hold 70 percent of the shares, while the Myanmar party controlling the other 30 percent. The Myanmar party's shares will first be held by the Kyauk Phyu administration, which will transfer 15 percent of the equity to a government-designated entity when conditions are ripe. (Xinhua)

ECO



Harmony between the wintering black-headed seagulls and citizens is well-known in Kunming. Feeding seagulls are favored by the locals and tourists. Here a tourist is feeding the gulls while posing for a photo. As its eco environment improves, Kunming is attracting more wintering birds. This year is the 34th year of black-headed seagulls to winter in Kunming. (Xinhua)

HI-TECH

China's BeiDou navigation system to serve B&R countries

The BeiDou system opened to China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. When the system is completed in 2020, it will be the fourth largest global satellite navigation system after the U.S. GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

As one of the core providers of global navigation services, the BeiDou system hopes to cooperate with other global satellite systems, providing free research and being used in rescue services around the world. It has been recognized by the International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

"The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System has been



On Nov. 19, China sent twin BeiDou navigation satellites into space in Xichang Satellite Launch Center. Xinhua to 9.

So far, China has launched 17 BeiDou-3 satellites. Two more BeiDou-3 satellites are planned to be sent into space by the end of this year. By that time, the primary system of BeiDou-3 will be ready to expand services to countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. (Xinhua)

POVERTY RELIEF

Ethnic village gets lift from new crops

Yu Shaogui and his neighbors were once discouraged by their village's location. But now the situation has changed dramatically, thanks to China's opening-up policy and the rapid growth of a new port built adjacent to the community.

Yu, 37, is from Kou'an New Village, a native Lisu ethnic enclave in the town of Houqiao in Yunnan province's Tengchong city. The community lies along the China-Myanmar border and next to Houqiao port, now a national-level trading port.

The area is mountainous and local farmers have limited arable land, Yu said. Over the years, residents depended on limited agricultural incomes. Lacking confidence in their skills, few dared to venture out to look for jobs in cities.

However, the growth of border trade and enhancement of traffic has greatly benefitted their lives in recent years.

Better connections with the outside world allowed the villagers to advance their agricultural skills. They introduced new economic crops, such as caoguo, a ginger-like plant, to replace the traditional crops of corn and rice.

"Today, every family in our village is growing caoguo, and it has become the major income source for us," Yu said. "Our incomes are growing fast, too." Caoguo is used both as a seasoning and an herbal medicine.

According to Cai Wenhui,

the village Party chief, the entire village grows more than 200 hectares of caoguo, and villagers can earn around 8,000 yuan (\$1,150) per year growing it.

Meanwhile, the villagers have also been growing other things, such as tea-oil and walnut trees, in recent years.

Last year, the average income reached almost 10,000 yuan, which puts them above the poverty line by local standards.

Since 2016, a new policy has allowed people from several villages along the border to participate in cross-border trade.

Each resident is given a daily tax-free quota for goods in certain categories, including bananas and bamboo, from neighboring Myanmar states, so long as the goods' value is less than 8,000 yuan.

The villagers gradually organized themselves to share their quotas, so that they can sell a truckload of goods and reduce transportation costs.

According to Cai, last year, more than 900 villagers out of a population of 1,700, joined the business. Some of them have learned to speak a bit of the Myanmar language to communicate better.

This year, the scale of border trade in our village is expected to reach 5 million yuan. The policy is helpful for increasing villagers' incomes and eliminating poverty.

(China Daily)

TOURISM

Laos tour by 100 Yunnan people kicked off

On November 10th, the Laos tour by 100 Yunnan people officially began. Khamphone Vongsanty, consul general of Laos in Kunming, attended the launch ceremony and delivered a speech.

In the morning, 118 tourists took a flight from Kunming to Laos for a four-night and five-day tour.

According to an official from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, this year is called the Year of Laos Tourism. The associated event is designed to better promote the abundant tourism resources and products in Laos and Yunnan, as well as increase exchange

visits between China and Laos. By building a resource and information sharing platform, the tourism markets of both countries will expand and seek mutual benefits and win-win situations. This tour will cover the cities of Vientiane, Vang Vieng and Luang Prabang. An executive at Kunming China International Travel Service said that the company will send more tourists to Laos in the future. (Liu Ziyu)



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