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BEAUTIFUL YUNNAN

Beautiful Yunnan in the eyes of Thai girl



Blessed with favorable weather, colorful ethnic culture and mouth-watering delicacies, southwest China's Yunnan Province is frequently visited by a lot of foreign friends. Some of them even stay and live in the province after visiting, witnessing its rapid development.

Nana is a Thai girl from Chiang Mai who has lived in Kunming for 10 years. She's now a hip-hop teacher in the city. Nana likes the weather, clean street and hospitable people of Kunming. She said that Kunming is becoming more and more internationalized and she's amazed by the development of the city. She has also been to other cities of China, but still takes Kunming as home to her.

By Wei Ranran

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Rural tourism helps fight poverty in Lufeng County

Located in the center of Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Lufeng County was once a less-developed area. By giving full play to its resource superiorities in recent years, the locals have become better off and the county is enjoying new prospects.

Depending on the location advantages and rich land resources, villagers in Lufeng's Tuguan Township are encouraged to plant peach trees. Besides selling peaches, they also hold a Peach Cultural and Tourism Festival every year, which has drawn tens of thousands of tourists from other cities and prefectures of Yunnan.

With the help of the World Dinosaur Valley scenic spot, Lufeng developed a tourism village featuring local delicacies, folk culture and sightseeing tours. Villagers sell specialties like preserved meat, free-range chickens, honey and walnuts as souvenirs. In nine months, more than 40 groups and 9,600 visitors have paid study tours to the village.

To lift more people out of poverty, a number of scientific and technical corporations and biotechnology companies have been introduced to the county to set up branches in an agricultural industry park. Many families have become raw material suppliers for these companies which also provide jobs for the locals.



Book of Xi's remarks on Belt and Road Initiative published

A compilation of remarks by Chinese President Xi Jinping on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) over the past five years has been published by the Central Party Literature Press.

The book contains 42 articles drawn from the speeches and public remarks made by Xi, beginning with a speech he delivered at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan, in September 2013 calling for jointly building the Silk Road

Economic Belt, and ending with the one he delivered at the opening ceremony of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in July 2018.

The book, with about 130,000 Chinese characters, was compiled by the Institute of Party History and Literature of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

The BRI, first proposed by Xi, has received warm

responses from the international community, especially the countries along the BRI routes. Jointly pursuing the BRI is becoming a Chinese solution for the country to participate in global opening-up and cooperation, improve global economic governance, push for common development and prosperity of the world and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

(Xinhua)

IN PICS

60,000 ears of corns add happiness to Chinese lunar New Year



"The big red lantern means good luck in China and corn symbolizes the harvest. With the approach of The Spring Festival, Dagan Commercial City is decorated in a new way to provide a good shopping environment for local people," a person in charge said so. Recently, when passing by Qingfeng Street in Dagan Commercial City, citizens are attracted by corn and lanterns hanging on the wall and stop to take photos. It is reported that 60,000 ears of corns are used to decorate Qingfeng Street for an agricultural art display, which not only imply the joy of harvest but also enable Kunming people to closely experience the agricultural culture.

Photo by Yang Zheng

40 YEARS REFORM AND OPENING-UP

President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand: Reform and opening up is a great initiative unique to China

"Reform and opening up is a great initiative unique to China." This is the general comment on China's reform and opening up by Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, president of Thailand's legislative assembly. He expressed full confidence that China's opening up will bring more opportunities for Thai-China cooperation.

"I visited China 35 years ago and have come back many times since then. It can be said that I have witnessed the tremendous changes brought to China by its reform and opening-up policy over the past 40 years," said Pornpetch Wichitcholchai.

"I am impressed in at least three ways by the great changes brought about by China's reform and opening up. The first is that it has brought about a leap forward in China's economic development and greatly improved the living standards of Chinese people, especially in helping a large number of Chinese out of poverty. Second, China has made remarkable achievements in infrastructure development. The construction of roads and

railways has greatly improved the convenience for travelling and strengthened connectivity across the country. Third, China's high-tech development has yielded fruitful results."

Pornpetch Wichitcholchai believes that economic and trade exchanges between China and Thailand foster the development and changes of China's high and new technologies. For example, Chinese people like jasmine rice from Thailand while Thai people like high-quality mechanical and electrical products. "When I was

a child, most of the radios and televisions of Thai families were imported from Germany and other European countries, and later from Japan and South Korea. I believe that we will import more and more from China in the future." Now many departments and households in Thailand import smart monitoring systems from China. The development of high and new technology not only promotes China's own economy, but also results in important export products.

(Compile from cankaoxiaoxi)



Workers from Yunnan Construction and Incestmant company are busy with new project.

Photo by YDPG

LMC

LMC could play bigger role in regional river protection, development

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) could play a bigger role in the protection and development of the Lancang-Mekong river, Cambodian experts and officials said in recent interviews with Xinhua.

Te Navuth, secretary general of the Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC), said that for Cambodia, the main concerns over the Lancang-Mekong river's protection are climate change, natural disasters, irrigation and hydropower development in the basin, rising social demands and expectations for livelihoods, and water, food and energy security.

The official said the LMC mechanism could play a bigger role to address those challenges and Cambodia is committed to cooperation within the platform.

Navuth said the Lancang-Mekong river offers development opportunities and cooperation for mainstream and tributary hydropower, irrigation, fisheries, navigation, flood and drought management, tourism and environment.

However, there remain significant challenges such as rapid economic and population growth, increased demand for water, food and energy, urbanization, industrialization, the loss of environmental assets, wetlands and natural fisheries, deforestation, floods and droughts and risks to biodiversity and people's livelihoods, he said.

Navuth said overall wetland areas are decreasing in the region, principally as a result of land use changes prompted by the economic development of

the region.

Meanwhile, capture fisheries are under threat with a variety of pressures increasing substantially in recent decades in Cambodia and across all mainstream zones of the Lower Mekong Basin, said Navuth.

Seng Teak, country director of WWF Cambodia, said the transboundary nature of the Mekong river implies the importance of a cross-border or integrated river basin approach to govern and manage the river and its resources.

Seng Teak said since the Mekong river and its values and resources are shared, it is necessary to have a functioning regional coordination mechanism to govern and coordinate important decision-making as well as a joint body for sustainable use and management.

"LMC can be an effective and functioning coordination mechanism if it helps to ensure the right balance between economic development and conservation of the river's ecosystems and the benefits it provides," he said.

"In our view, LMC countries should undertake comprehensive assessments of natural capital and the full range of ecosystem services and benefits provided by the entire Mekong River, mapping out properly valued benefits - both monetary and non-monetary - so that we have the necessary information available to help key decision-makers meet their social, economic and environmental goals," he added.

(Compiled from Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Construction continues on China-Laos railway



Workers are celebrating the first 1,000-kilometer tunnel on China-Laos railway holing through in last Nov.

Photo by Xinhua

Construction of the China-Laos railway linking Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and Southwest China's Yunnan province, has improved the lives of Lao people along the railway.

Song Wei, head of a small village near the major bridges crossing the Mekong River along the railway, said incomes have been on the rise since construction began.

"After the China Railway No.8 Engineering Group came, they helped us build roads and hired villagers to work on the construction site," he said. Song himself has opened a restaurant to serve construction workers and passersby.

The villagers used to make a living through agriculture and river shipping, with an annual per capita income of about \$200.

Constructors built a pioneer road of more than 100 kilometers, linking the village to Luang Prabang, a city in Laos.

Some villagers have bought motorcycles or small trucks since the road was built, Song said.

Song is planning to open a resort, given that more tourists are expected to visit after the railway opens.

The China-Laos railway measures 414 kilometers in length, and is considered a key connectivity project in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The operating speed of trains on the route is designed to be 160 kilometers per hour. The railway is expected to be fully operational by December 2021.

"When the railway opens, I will take the first train to visit relatives and friends in Vientiane with my family," Song said.

After the China-Laos railway comes into service, the journey from Mohan in Yunnan province to Vientiane will take three hours, while currently it takes about 16 hours by car.

(China Daily)