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Big data shows B&R cooperation yields win-win results

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held successfully in May 2017. Thanks to joint efforts from all parties, the Belt and Road (B&R) construction has yielded fruitful achievements.

The Big Data Report on Trade Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative 2018, compiled by the national big data center of B&R Initiative under the State Information Center and the Dalian Infobank Co., was released officially on May 6.

Tong Youjun, director of the B&R foreign trade big data research center and chairman of Dalian Infobank Co., made an analysis on the report.

China's foreign trade with countries along the B&R routes has seen rapid growth, with import growth exceeding export growth for the first time. In 2017, the total import and export volume of China and the B&R countries reached 1440.32

billion U.S. dollars, up 13.4 percent year on year, which was 5.9 percentage points higher than China's overall foreign trade growth rate, and accounting for 36.2 percent of the country's total import and export trade volume.

In terms of countries, China's trade volume with Asia and Oceania accounted for more than 50 percent, of which China's trade with Central Asia saw the fastest growth. The Republic of Korea (ROK), Vietnam, Malaysia, India and Russia ranked the top five by foreign trade volume with China.

In terms of domestic regions, east China saw the total value of imports and

exports in 2017 with the B&R countries accounted for nearly 80 percent of China's foreign trade with those countries. Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong and Shanghai were the top five by foreign trade with the B&R countries last year.

In terms of commodity structure, mechanical and electrical products were the key commodities that China exported to the B&R countries, while electrical machinery and mineral fuels belonged to the key commodities that China imported from those countries.

In terms of trade body, private enterprises were the main forces, while

state-owned enterprises' trade volume with the B&R countries saw a sharp increase. In 2017, the total imports and exports volume between China's private enterprises and their counterparts in the B&R countries stood at 619.98 billion U.S. dollars, accounting for 43.0 percent of China's total trade volume with those countries. State-owned enterprises saw the growth of imports and exports volume with the B&R countries grow the fastest, up 24.5 percent from that in 2016.

By Zhang Yuan

Further reading:
The Belt and Road Fo-

rum for International Cooperation was held successfully in May 2017. Thanks to joint efforts from all parties, the Belt and Road (B&R) construction has yielded fruitful achievements.

The concept of "extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits" upheld by the B&R has gained widely recognition in the global arena. The B&R Initiative has shown promising future.

By far, China has signed 103 cooperation agreements with 88 countries and international organizations under the B&R Initiative. Of the 279 items in the outcome list released at the B&R Forum for International

Cooperation held last year, 255 have been converted into normalized work and 24 have been advanced in an orderly way.

Statistics show that more than 8,000 China-Europe freight trains have been dispatched to 14 European countries and 42 cities. Goods traded between China and related countries have exceeded 5 trillion U.S. dollars. Silk Road Fund has supported 19 B&R projects involving 80 billion U.S. dollars. China has signed cultural agreements with over 60 countries under the International Coalition for Green Development on the B&R. (Xinhua Silk Road Information Service)

SCIENCE

China launches maritime silk road satellite data service

A maritime silk road satellite data service center has opened in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian Province, according to the website of State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

The data service center, providing standard data products, value-added products and satellite remote sensing application system,

will be widely used in areas including land, forestry, environmental protection, water resources, agriculture, disaster alleviation, weather and oceans.

By the end of 2018, the center had been able to receive, store, process and distribute real-time remote sensing data from 26 domestic satellites.

(Xinhua)

CULTURE

Yunnan lady collects 600-plus pieces of Qipao in 20 years

With an impressive collection of more than 600 pieces of Qipao (or cheongsam), a stylish traditional Chinese dress for ladies, Jin Mei from Kunming, Yunnan Province enjoys a widespread reputation in the collection circle.

When Jin Mei was a child, she once saw photos of her grandmother and mother wearing Qipao and became immediately fascinated by the elegance of the dress. Later, she studied in Yunnan University as a postgraduate major in museum studies, which had laid foundation for her future collection.

In twenty years, Jin Mei has spent more than one million yuan in collecting Qipao, the oldest of which has a history of 100 years. She is increasingly well-known in the circle and visited by thousands of artists and collectors from all over the world. She even held a Qipao show in Kunming. As her collection continues to grow, Jin Mei began to consider how to pass on the Qipao art.

In 2016, Jin Mei quit her job and set up a study institute in Songming County of Kunming. She also opened a workshop at the foot of the city's West Mountain, in which eight dressmakers engage in making Qipao in traditional ways and restore its classic charm.

From the "Travel in Yunnan" app

Jiaozi Snow Mountain, a winter gem in Yunnan



Jiaozi Snow Mountain, which is 4,247 meters high in altitude and 120 kilometers away from Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, draws tourists from around the country for its gorgeous winter scenery, especially after a snowfall. The name jiaozi, which literally means "sedan chair", was inspired by the mountain's shape, as it resembles a traditional bridal sedan chair.

Lijiang honored as China Charm Tourism City



Lijiang, Southwest China's Yunnan province, was named "China Charm Tourism City" at the grand ceremony for the 2018 China Lijiang NetEase Attitude City and the NetEase Global City Partner Conference held on Jan 11 in Lijiang. Judges stated that Lijiang embodies the wisdom of ancient civilizations and of people of all ethnicities. Its greatness lies in its harmonious mixture of natural and manmade beauty. Lijiang has 20 A-level tourist sites, of which five are 5A-level and seven are 4A-level. In recent years, Lijiang has been strengthening order and supervision within its tourism market in an attempt to improve the quality and level of tourism services in the city.

Lijiang currently has a complete tourism industry that involves food, housing, travel, shopping and entertainment, making it an extremely attractive destination for tourists in Yunnan and across China. The Snow Mountain Academy lecture series of the Old Town of Lijiang, submitted by Lijiang, was awarded the City Attitude Political Energy Award. In addition, Yulong Snow Mountain Scenic Area, the InterContinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort and the tourism development committee of Lijiang won the awards for Most Popular Scenic Spot in Yunnan, Best Yunnan Hotel and Yunnan Development Contribution, respectively. (Chinadaily)

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. (Czxlvly wechat account)

COOPERATION

Yunnan foreign trade up by 24.7% in 2018

Yunnan's foreign trade volume in 2018 amounted to 197.3 billion yuan (around 29.22 billion U.S. dollars), a year-on-year increase of 24.7%.

According to Kunming Customs, Yunnan export value last year reached 84.77 billion yuan, up by 9.4%. Meanwhile, imports of the province added up to 112.53 billion yuan, an increase of 39.3%.

In 2018, the trade volume between Yunnan and ASEAN accounted for 46.1% of the province's foreign trade. Within ASEAN, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand are major trading partners

of Yunnan.

Crude oil imports greatly increased the province's trade volume with Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other Middle-East countries.

The provincial trade with the U.S. reached 4.96 billion yuan, an increase of 15%.

And trade between Yunnan and the Belt and Road countries recorded a 30.3% growth in 2018, with a total value of 133.16 billion yuan. These countries accounted for a 67.5% lion's market share in the province's foreign trade.

Yunnan mainly exported produce, elec-



A motor workshop of Ruli Yinxiang Industrial Group near the China-Myanmar border.

tromechanical products, fertilizers and labor-intensive products, while importing crude oil, natural gas, metal minerals, sulfur and others from its trading partners. (By Liu Ziyu)

60,000 ears of corns add happiness to Chinese 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)

EXCHANGES

Yoga school to expand training across China

The China-India Yoga College plans to expand its training beyond Kunming, the capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, as yoga gains popularity in China as a healthy lifestyle choice.

The college opened its first branch on Dec 24 at Yunnan University in the city of Lijiang as part of its nationwide partnership with universities.

A total of 50 branches will be set up to boost yoga education and teacher training, according to Chen Luyan, dean of the China-India Yoga College.

Nearly 100 yoga teaching and training centers will also be built to provide teacher training courses, yoga workshops and non-profit courses, according to Chen.

The China-India Yoga College recruits undergraduates and postgraduates at Yunnan Minzu University. It was founded in June 2015 as part of a China-India cultural exchange program. (By Caozinan)



Students in Yunnan Minzu University are training yoga.

China-Myanmar Culture Week opened in Myanmar

In order to deepen traditional friendship between China and Myanmar and strengthen cultural exchanges between the two countries, a culture-week activities were held in Naypyidaw, Yangon, Mandalay and other cities on January 16 to 20, 2019.

The event focused on the theme of "renewing paukpaw friendship and building a new silk road together", including a series of cultural exchange activities such as the 2019 China-Myanmar Spring Festival Gala, exhibition of "pursing a better life - China's achievements in poverty alleviation, China TV show, China-Myanmar Media Tea Party, China-Myanmar profound paukpaw friendship photos, calligraphy and painting exhibition, and Yunnan Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition and so on.

Paukpaw is translated

from Myanmar language and means compatriot. Myanmar-friends use the word "paukpaw" to describe the friendship between the two countries as fraternal as brotherhood. In those years, Premier Zhou Enlai visited Myanmar nine times and planted two sweet osmanthus together with U Ba Swe, Myanmar's Prime Minister at that time, symbolizing an everlasting friendship between China and Myanmar. Now both trees are in full bloom.

Zhao Jin, member of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and Ling Li, deputy director of China's Foreign Promotion Bureau of The State Council Information Office, as well as heads of media which with strong communication and influence from China and Myanmar attended the event. (By YDPG)

