

Student exchange builds future Sino-US relations

A one-week student exchange program that aims to encourage mutual understanding between China and the United States kicked off in Beijing recently.

The Chinese-American fellowship, launched in 2007 by Tsinghua University, Peking University and Harvard University, has attracted 30 students from 12 top universities in both countries to develop a deeper insight into Chinese culture and social development.

The participants will visit China's Ministry of Education and leading enterprises like Baidu Inc. as well as communicating with manufacturing groups at Tsinghua University, and taking part in an educational symposium. There will also be cultural aspects to the program, such as roundtable dialogues on Chinese film as well as visiting museums and discovering the charm of the hutongs and tasting Chinese cuisine.

Wu Wei, deputy secretary general of All-China Youth Federation says friendly exchanges between the young people from China and the US is the basis of future partnership and cooperation between the two countries. He says he hopes that the younger generation could build a sound relationship with their counterparts across the Pacific Ocean using their providence, courage and intelligence.

The topic of this year's event is New Era, New Power, and the key word is innovation. At the opening ceremony, representatives from leading Chinese enterprises like Tencent shared their experience in innovating in different fields.

(Xing Wen / China Daily)

Highlights of 'Travel in Yunnan' app

Travel in Yunnan app is a digital platform integrating tourism resources of southwest China's Yunnan Province to better serve travelers to the province. On Oct. 2, the developer company released the highlights of the 8 core functions of the app.

Home page: With the idea of promoting immersive and smart tourism, the home page of the app was divided into 3 levels (province, cities and scenic areas) to provide better experience before, during and after the visit.

Facial recognition and smart guide: To enter scenic spots more quickly, tourists just need to upload a selfie to the app, and they can enter scenic spots through facial recognition system within one second. They can also check and be navigated to scenic spots, hotels, restrooms, parking areas and

restaurants through "Travel in Yunnan".

Credit and complain system: The app aims to give assistance to form a tourism credit system which combines evaluations from government, professional institutions and tourists. Dishonest enterprises will be kicked out from the app. Meanwhile, visitors can complain via means of online channel, voice message and call making and will be responded within 24 hours.

Slow TV: Tens of thousands of cameras were installed in 90% of A-level scenic areas in 16 cities and prefectures. Travelers can view the real-time scenes before arriving.

Routes recommendation: The app can analyze hot destinations and interests of tourists to recommend various routes that fit the demands of different



Ethnic girl welcomes tourists in Kunming Changshui International Airport, the capital city of Yunnan (Photo provided by "Travel in Yunnan" app)

travelers.

AI identification: By scanning with the app, tourists can learn about 6,000 species of common flowers and scenes of 1,100 AAAA and AAAAA scenic areas across the province.

Smart transportation: For users who uploads their license plate numbers on the app, they can pass the toll station in a non-stopping way within 1,600 milliseconds. Besides, tourists can learn about the number of

parking spots around scenic areas before arrival.

Talents platform: "Travel in Yunnan" app is also a platform to provide service for talents from tourism industry. The app will play a positive role in exchanging information and ideas, integrating resources, promoting tourism products and safeguarding rights and interests of individuals in tourism industry.

(Compiled from Yunnan Daily)

BRI will lead to global economic boom

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

Tonghai vegetables nourish neighboring countries

Located in central Yunnan's Yuxi city, Tonghai County has gained fame from vegetables plantation. In August, the Tonghai vegetable-growing area near Qilu Lake presents a unique view.

"The Chinese Vegetable Industry Conference was held here last year, contributing a lot to Tonghai's reputation." Local vegetable grower Shen Jianmeng was chatting with his fellow farmers.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, Tonghai vegetables have been sold to the international market in the neighboring countries. From January to June this year, the export value of Tonghai produces reached 476 million US dollars, a year-on-year increase of 41 percent.

Last year, 47 companies in the county grew 7,933 hectares of vegetables. Around 70 percent of the arable land in Tonghai was turned into vegetable bases.

Shen Jianmeng started growing vegetables in 1990s. "Now sprinklers are installed in the field for irrigation," said Shen. "And local authorities either inspect our vegetable bases or train us in agro-technologies every year."

In the cold-chain logistics center of the Tonghai High-Land Produces Company, workers were unloading cabbages from trucks for cold storage. "The center usually deals with around 250 metric tons of vegetables per day, with the daily maximum of 450 tons," said the company head Yang Wei.

Currently, 11 Tonghai agro-companies have direct sales outlets in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and others. Yang Wei said his company has already set up the Cambodia branch in 2014 and built a cold storage, where vegetables transported to Cambodia via Chinese fridge trucks can be kept longer.

(Liu Ziyu)

Yunnan develops elderly care industry



The picture shows Dianchi International Health Care and Elderly Care Resort in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan (Photo by Zhang Xia)

The ninth day of the ninth month of the Chinese lunar calendar is a traditional Chinese festival, the Double Ninth Festival, which falls on Oct 17 this year. It is also known as a day for respecting the elderly.

In Chinese culture, nine has long been regarded as the number of yang, making the day of the festival one of two yang numbers, while "chong" in Chinese means double - thus creating the name of the festival, Chongyang.

Traditional customs of the festival include reaching a community they live, Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan mountain peak, wearing dog-

wood, eating double ninth cake and enjoying chrysanthemum.

In Southwest China's Yunnan Province, elderly people celebrated the festival in various ways. Some communities prepared cakes and presented dances and songs for them.

At present, Yunnan Province is vigorously developing its recreational and healthy elderly care industry, aiming at promoting the formation of an industry cluster district with Yunnan's characteristics and influence and creating a world-class healthy living destination.

(Compilation)



Elderly people celebrate the Double Ninth Festival in the community they live, Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan (Photo by Yang Zheng)

Successful Commissioning of Kunming Branch Line of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline

Recently, 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" pipeline 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 3 trunk lines. The cooperation between 2 countries is expected to improve infrastructures in Myanmar and to accelerate the urbanization.

(Zhu Dan and Huang Zhechun)

Diqing inheritor (1) : Tireless singer of King Gesar

"Why is your hair half-combed, why is your face half-washed, and why do you have black and white hands?" The 53-year-old He Jinmei was singing beautifully, facing the sun and standing squarely.

Whenever she sang the Epic of King Gesar, the listeners would be visibly moved, be it a native or a visitor from afar.

The Epic of King Gesar is one of the world's great epics, as significant for Tibetans as the Odyssey and Iliad for the ancient Greeks. In history, the epic used to be widely spread in Tibetan regions from mouth to mouth.

But now the epic has become

an endangered cultural heritage in northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and only a few inheritors can sing King Gesar.

"At the age of 14, I began to sing King Gesar. The story moved me a lot and I fell in love with it. For decades, I've been learning the epic from the master; and now I can sing all 52 episodes." He Jinmei said passionately, smiling.

Jinmei said: "Fewer and fewer Local Tibetans listened



He Jinmei is singing, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, northwest Yunnan Province (Photo by Li Wenjun)

to King Gesar's epic, so I am quite anxious. The master is now in his 70s, and he isn't in good health. I'm still nagging, trying to learn from him as much as possible."

As women's director of the

Tacheng Village Committee, He Jinmei even promotes the epic in public. "Come on! Let me sing you a heroic story." Jinmei often says at the end of villagers' meetings.

(Zhang Ruogu, Xiong Yan, Chu Donghua and Li Wenjun)