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## KEY WORDS TO UNDERSTAND CHINA

### Reform and Opening Up

The process of reform and opening up was propelled by a new awakening of the CPC. It has been key to making China what it is today, and will be essential to realizing the Two Centennial Goals and national renewal.

It is an on-going process with no end point. The process that ushered in a new historical period was initiated in 1978 when the 11th CPC Central Committee held its third plenary session. Aimed at dismantling the economic straitjacket and unlocking growth potential, the reform program put China on the path to modernization and prosperity.

(CHINA.ORG.CN)

## CULTURE

### YN film to compete in the UMFF

The Yunnan film "The Soul of Dance", which reflects the culture of the Zhuang ethnic minority, has been selected to compete for the Best Short Film Award in the Universe Multicultural Film Festival (UMFF).

Located in Xichou County of Wenshan Zhuang Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province, the Tanggu Village is mostly resided by the Zhuang people. The 8-minute-long film showcases their splendid ethnic songs and dances.

(YUNNAN DAILY)

## HSR

### Sino-Thai railway cooperation project progressing smoothly

BY XINHUA/ YANG ZHOU

Thanin Somboon, Director of the Highways Department of the Ministry of Transport of Thailand, said on March 22 at the construction site of the Sino-Thai Railway Cooperation Project in Pak Chong County, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thai-



A model of China's Fuxing bullet train is seen during the Rail Asia Expo & RISE Symposium 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, on March 29.

(Xinhua/ Yang Zhou)

## BELT AND ROAD

# YUFE promotes cooperation with Thailand

BY LIU ZIYU & HAN CHENGYUAN

For Yunnan University of Finance and Economics (YUFE), this year is an important year for its international school, as its overseas education program, together with Bangkok Business School, will welcome its first graduates.

At the end of 2013 the Bangkok Business School, which was established by the Yunnan University of Finance and Economics and Thailand's Rangsit University, was approved by the Ministry of Education of China and the Ministry of Education of Thailand. It is Yunnan's first academic education institution to open overseas. Bangkok Business School began enrollment in 2014 and currently has 120 students.

Bangkok Business School shares facilities with Rangsit University, with both institutions jointly formulating training programs. YUFE assigns high-level teachers to Thailand to undertake core curriculum teaching in various professional personnel training programs. According to Zhang Honglie, dean of the Yunnan University of Finance and Economics Bangkok Business School and vice president of the International Business School, YUFE's overseas education and the

establishment of academic education are projects to further implement the education "going out" initiative. They also represent an innovative way to serve and integrate the Belt and Road Initiative.

Zhang Honglie said that with the deepening of China's reform and opening up, its economic development experience has become the focus of the world's attention. Bangkok Business School provides a systematic Chinese financial and economic education for foreign students from various countries. At the same time, it arranges for students to study for a period of time at the Kunming Campus. Students can gain a deeper understanding of China's economic and social development. People trained in this way not only understand China but also understand the actual situation in their respective countries, and are sought after in the job market. Bangkok Business School also participated in the GMS e-commerce research and social service training program, which was well received by the enterprises.

Completing the operation of the Bangkok Business School and promoting the establishment of

## ERADICATE POVERTY & ACHIEVE COMMON PROSPERITY

# Yunnan pushes ahead poverty relief with Mekong countries

BY HU XIAORONG

Yunnan is the Chinese province leading the way in pioneering poverty-reduction efforts with the neighbouring Mekong countries. It has done a good job in supplying Myanmar with the technology needed for economic growth. It has also shared its poverty-reduction experiences with other Mekong countries, stated a press release from a Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) seminar held in Kunming on March 21.

Undertaken by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in Yunnan (IPRCY), "China's technical assistance to Myanmar" initiative is one of the 100 poverty-reduction projects proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the High Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation. It focuses on the build-up of rural infrastructure, public services, livelihood improvement projects, capacity enhancement, and rural management in accordance with local conditions.

The project has already been officially launched. Yunnan has set up a joint project-management office with Myanmar's related departments



Mekong agricultural professionals attend a forum on Yunnan-featured modern agriculture in Kunming. (Photo by Yunnan Daily)

and sent work teams to the country to explain Yunnan's successful poverty-reduction experience and practices. This is done to increase the poverty-reduction capabilities of relevant Myanmar governmental departments.

Yunnan has also given full play to its geographic advantages in terms of international poverty alleviation. The province is cooperating with other

Mekong countries in developing superior industries, breeding new crop varieties, training agricultural technicians and trading agricultural products.

While exporting its new agricultural technology and new crop varieties to the Mekong countries, Yunnan has also invited agricultural professionals from neighbouring countries to attend related training

seminars.

Through the implementation of a wide range of projects and practical poverty reduction measures based on agricultural cooperation, the border areas along the Mekong River have seen steady economic and social progress. Because of these efforts, social stability is enhanced, cross-border drug trafficking is being eliminated and the incomes of local farmers increased.

**In the future, Yunnan will continue its leading role in international cooperation on poverty reduction, while also reinforcing traditional friendships with Mekong countries. This will spur increased economic activity, personnel exchanges, and deepened cooperation in the fight to reduce poverty.**

Also, the province will further explore new ideas, new mechanisms and new approaches in poverty reduction. Yunnan will serve as a bridge for poverty alleviation so as to better share with the Mekong countries the achievements of China's economic and social development.

### Laos steps up cooperation with GMS countries for rail connectivity

BY XINHUA

Laos continues to cooperate with its neighboring countries for sustainable railway connectivity in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) while pursuing its dream to transform the country from landlocked to land-linked, the local daily Vientiane Times reported.

The director general of the Planning and Cooperation Department under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Laos, Sengdarith Kattignasack, made the comments during the GMS Association Board of Directors General Meeting in the Lao capital Vientiane.

He added that the Lao government's policy is to transform the country into a transit transport service provider within the

region through land links.

First is the under-construction railway from the China-Laos border to Vientiane which is over 400 km long. The railway is now some 30 percent complete and has a construction deadline of December, 2021.

The Vientiane-Thakhaek-Mugia-Tan Up-Vung Ang Railway Project, which will be 555 km long extending to central Vietnam, and a spur line of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link, has undergone a feasibility study financed by a grant from South Korea.

The planned Savanna-khet-Laobao Railway, running to the Vietnamese border for a distance of 220 km, is now in the feasibility study stage.



International students are enjoying living and studying in Bangkok Business School. (File Photo)

the China-Australia Joint Business School are the main tasks for YUFE in internationalization for this year.

According to previous reportings, in recent years, Yunnan Province, taking advantage of its regional advantages, has accelerated the opening up of its educational institutions to the outside world. This has helped attract a large number of students from South and Southeast Asia eager to pursue further

studies.

**In 2017, the number of international students in Yunnan exceeded 18,000, ranking among top ten in the country.**

"The international influence of Yunnan's educational system, especially its influence in South and Southeast Asia, has been further strengthened," said Zhou Rong, director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education.

## VOICE

### China's poverty reduction is 'On the right path'

This year, at China's 'Two Sessions' (the annual meeting of the National People's Congress and the Chinese Peoples' Political Consultative Conference), poverty alleviation was one of the topics that attracted much attention. China has proposed the goal of poverty alleviation for the current poverty-stricken rural population by 2020. Despite the arduous task of eliminating poverty, the international community believes that the Chinese government's goal is pragmatic and the plan is feasible. China's poverty reduction efforts are "taking the right path," and its achievements will inspire other countries to advance on the road to poverty reduction.

The "Indian Express" reported that the Chinese government is people-centered and has made remarkable achievements. It has succeeded in lifting tens of millions of people out of hunger and poverty, which many countries with similar experiences have failed to do.

Nabil Zaki, spokesman for the Egyptian National Unity Group Party, said that as China comprehensively deepens reforms, poverty reduction will become an important breakthrough to improve people's livelihoods. At the same time, China's experience also has global significance. Many countries are studying and learning from China.

Sumuh Chatayah, a senior researcher at the British Overseas Development Institute, said that the development of poverty reduction in China has two major advantages: the economy has maintained a relatively rapid growth rate, and poverty reduction measures can obtain sufficient funding; the political system is stable and conducive to the country's sustained and stable development and implementation of poverty reduction policies. China's poverty reduction has achieved tremendous success. Its experience has set a good example for other countries in the world.

Li Renliang, an expert on international issues at the National Development Administration School in Thailand, said that the achievements made in China's poverty reduction program fully embody the "people-oriented" concept of governing the country. At the current speed, by 2020, China's absolute poverty will surely be history. The successful experience of precise and accurate poverty alleviation in China is worthy of Thailand's reference.

(XIN HUA)

## IN PICS

### Back to Kunming's old times in Qianwang Street



Qianwang Street is located in the downtown of Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province. It is one of the city's most historic streets with well-preserved architecture. Qianwang Street used to be the business center of old Kunming, where banks, stalls and hostels thrived. More recently, it has been given a new look, but still manages to retain its old style.

In addition, Yunnan tea museum in the Qianwang street, is considered to be a must-visit place for tourists.

(YUNNAN DAILY)