



YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP



FOCUS

China, ASEAN committed to advancing trade



Visitors are interacting with high-tech products during China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China (Photo by Lu Boan/ Xinhua)

On September 12, the 15th China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Expo opened in the south China city of Nanning, putting fresh impetus into regional trade at a time when anti-globalization sentiment

in many parts of the world has imposed threats to regional economic integration.

Over the past 14 years, the expo has boosted China-ASEAN trade. China has expanded its exports of electronic products, construction

materials, power equipment, construction machines, as well as technology in new energy, high-speed trains, and agriculture, to the ASEAN member states. The bloc's food, daily goods, and bulk commodities are favored by Chinese buyers.

At this year's expo, officials, executives, and businesspeople from China and Southeast Asia voiced their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the multilateral trade regime as well as opposition to unilateral protectionist measures taken by some countries.

"Relations between China and ASEAN have stood the test of time and become the most successful and dynamic example of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation," Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng said at the opening ceremony of the expo.

China has been the largest

trading partner of ASEAN for 9 consecutive years and ASEAN has been the 3rd largest trade partner of China for 7 consecutive years, according to Han.

Han said China is willing to make full use of platforms such as the upcoming China International Import Expo and China-ASEAN Expo to expand imports from ASEAN member states and encourage bilateral investment.

"China is willing to promote the implementation of the upgraded China-ASEAN FTA and accelerate the negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes," Han said.

Han's proposal to promote trade and investment was echoed by senior officials from the ASEAN member states.

(Xinhua)

INTERVIEW

Friendship based on mutual understanding : Nitivadee Manitkul

BY CHEN CHUANGYE
CAI MENG

On August 20, Ms. Nitivadee Manitkul, the Royal Thai Consul-General in Kunming, was interviewed by *Mekong River* magazine. This was her first interview with Chinese media following the two months of her arrival in Kunming.

In the previous months, Nitivadee visited Kunming, Dali, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna and said, "Yunnan is a very lucky province blessed by the nature."

When learned that Yunnan is being built into the most beautiful province in China, Nitivadee said that she was very optimistic about Yunnan's efforts. "In my mind, there are three reasons to think that Yunnan is the most beautiful. One is that Yunnan has a very good climate with summer not too hot and winter not too cold; Second, Yunnan has a very rich culture of ethnic minorities; Third, Yunnan has very rich tourism resources. The mountains, rivers and lakes, grasslands and flowers are all very beautiful."

She said, "I recently visited Xishuangbanna and found that there are similarities between Dai and Thai costumes and there are also many similarities between Dai and Thai languages. Those discoveries made me feel comfortable."

Quick customs clearance at Mohan port, Thai poultry products imported from Guanlei port, Jinghong Dam is protecting

the aquatic environment while creating economic benefits and her experience in Mandiu Village, were all very worthwhile, she said. "I will go to Xishuangbanna again if I have a chance."

Thailand has long been the top destination for tourists from Yunnan, where more than 590,000 people visited in 2017. "As a Consul-General, my responsibility is not only to attract more people from Yunnan to Thailand but also to encourage Thai people to visit Yunnan." Nitivadee said that Thailand and Yunnan enjoy extensive cooperation in tourism. "Thailand has a lot of second-tier tourism cities and ancient cultural capitals under development, especially the roadside stalls we are launching in Thailand, which are safe, cheap and tasty, and worth trying."

The friendship between the two countries is based on mutual understanding. To this, Nitivadee has her own plans. "Next, I will consider organizing Thai young virtue ambassadors to communicate with Yunnan." Nitivadee attaches great importance to the interaction between the younger generations in Thailand and Yunnan in the fields of culture and sports. She noted that the Thai students in Yunnan are the best witnesses to the friendship between Thailand and Yunnan.

INHERITOR

Diqing inheritor (1) Tireless singer of King Gesar



He Jinmei is singing the *King Gesar*, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, northwest Yunnan (Photo by Li Wenjun)

"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, whether natives or visitors 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 by word of mouth.

But now the epic has become an endangered cultural heritage in northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and only a few people can sing *King Gesar*.

"In Diqing, I am the only one

who can sing the full epic in addition to my master. I'll go on singing so that the King's story can be passed down from generation to generation," she added.

Jinmei's master is He Mingyuan, national inheritor of the world-class intangible cultural heritage project of *King Gesar*. For Jinmei, Mingyuan is both her teacher and a senior whom she trusts and relies on.

Jinmei smiled: "Fewer and fewer Local Tibetans listened to the *Epic of King Gesar*, 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."

To save this heavily-endangered art, He Jinmei and He Mingyuan are now teaching their own offspring, trying to get more people engaged in tradition.

(Yunnan Gateway)

COOPERATION

China and Myanmar signed MOU

He Lifeng, director of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, and U Soe Win, Minister of Finance of Myanmar, on behalf of the two governments, respectively, signed a memorandum of understanding between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on jointly building the China-Myanmar economic corridor on September 9. Before signing the memorandum, Director He Lifeng and Minister U Soe Win had a brief exchange on implementing the consensus of leaders of the two countries to promote the construction of China-Myanmar economic corridor.

In order to implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on jointly building the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, officials of the two countries jointly chaired the first meeting of the China-Myanmar economic corridor joint committee in Beijing on September 11.

The two sides held in-depth consultations and reached broad consensus on the early harvest program of the joint committee on the concepts and principles of China-Myanmar economic corridor cooperation to promote major cooperation projects. Both sides agreed to establish a special working group on 12 key areas for cooperation, including planning for development, capacity and investment, transportation, energy, agriculture, frontier economic cooperation zone, digital Silk Road, ecological environment, tourism, financial information and local cooperation.

(National Development and Reform Commission)

IN PICS



The construction of the tied arch on the Bailong Bridge has recently come to an end in west Yunnan's Weishan County. The bridge is a key project on the 202-km Dali-Lincang railway. With an investment of 15.53 billion yuan, the Dali-Lincang railway is expected to improve the province's connectivity with Myanmar and other neighboring countries. (Photo by Yang Zheng)

TOURISM

'Travel in Yunnan' app to be officially released in October



Tourists are welcomed by ethnic group in Yunnan (Photo by Zhou Can)

On August 27, the "Travel in Yunnan" app launched its latest version 1.7.0. Its core functions of homepage, live broadcasting, maps, guides and more were updated and optimized to create an immersive smart travel experience.

Based on the three dimensions of spatial and temporal operation, the new app optimized the destination function to help non-targeted users

make a wish list and help targeted users locate their destinations faster and more accurately.

On the basis of its original functions, the map navigation is added to search facilities such as parking lots, restrooms and ticket offices in scenic areas and navigation can be initiated with one button.

The project "Travel in Yunnan

with A mobile Phone" has laid a QR code in key scenic spots in Yunnan. By using the "Travel in Yunnan" app or WeChat, people can open the little program and visit scenic spots in Yunnan.

Extended Reading:

Ruan Chengfa, Governor of Yunnan Province stressed that Yunnan needs to work hard to ensure a high quality on-line operation of "Travel in Yunnan with a mobile phone".

Ruan Chengfa said that through constant development, the "Travel in Yunnan" app has been updated and iterated, with various functions being significantly improved. He stressed that Yunnan Travel is a valuable asset resulting from years of development as an important platform to display the province's beautiful mountains, rivers, scenery and colorful ethnic cultures.

(Yunnan Daily)