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Cooperation between YN, South and Southeast Asia: Pragmatic achievements made

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Editor's note:

On the morning of December 25th, 2017, a cargo plane took off from Kunming Changshui International Airport, launching the first non-stop full cargo from China to Bangalore, India. The improved accessibility has promoted the development of Sino-Indian economic trade and culture exchanges. As a result, Yunnan is more closely linked to South Asia.

"The Belt and Road - Colorful Yunnan" International Car Rally Convoy arrived in Vang Vieng, Laos on December 26th, 2017. The reporter has talked to the local tour guide and railway builders from Yunnan, and learned that their common hope is to complete the railway construction and share a common prosperity. As a result, the ties between Yunnan and Southeast Asia are closer.

At present, Yunnan Province actively serves and integrates into China's national development strategy, to accelerate the construction of a comprehensive

sive infrastructure network, to cooperate with South and Southeast Asia in economic and trade, science and education, finance, humanities and other areas, in order to share the benefits of interconnectedness with people from neighboring countries.

Focusing on the Master Plan and Layout of the Belt and Road Initiative, Yunnan Province gives full play to its geographical advantage, resource advantage and opening advantage, to accelerate the construction of a hub for South and Southeast Asia with positive results being achieved. By means of policy connectivity, infrastructure connectivity, trade connectivity, financial connectivity and people-to-people connectivity with a process being set up for promoting cooperation with its neighboring countries.

Policy Connectivity

Yunnan gave full play to its role in the construction of the China-Indo-China Peninsular Economic Corridor, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation by constantly increasing



Foreign traders had close communications with Yunnan traders during China-South Asia Expo which was held in Kunming. (File Photo)

cooperation with Northern Vietnam, Northern Laos and Northern Thailand, having established 11 dual and multi-lateral cooperation processes with 9 countries.

Infrastructure Connectivity

As of October 2017, Yunnan expressways extend 4,471 kilometers, and its railway operation mileage covers 3,650 kilometers.

The Shanghai-Kunming High-Speed rail and Yunnan-Guangxi Railway are open to traffic. Construction of highways, railways, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, optical cables and other infrastructure connecting China with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar is accelerating.

Trade Connectivity

Yunnan Province took

the lead in the implementation of convenient customs clearance to facilitate a "three-in-one card" model, and opened 25 international ports to speed up the formation of convenient port access and logistics systems with its neighboring countries, with trading partners from South and Southeast Asia and many countries and regions all over the world.

From January to November 2017, the export and import total in Yunnan was 14.157 million yuan (2.091 million US dollars), up 24.2% from the same period last year. The Province has built 7 major categories with 17 open and cooperation regions. By October 2017, 130 of the world's top 500 and China's top 500 enterprises had settled in Yunnan.

Financial Connectivity

Yunnan has reformed its border finance in depth. As of October 2017, its RMB business covers 82 countries and regions, its banking institutions established cross-border clearing channels with 884 overseas banks and established a Cross-border Financial Center and a Cross-border Clearing Center.

People-to-people Connectivity

Yunnan has exchanges with different countries in areas such as of tourism, education, science and technology, culture, health, sports, media, think tanks, and cooperates with government and non-government organizations at all levels to deepen the links between peoples.

The 2nd Volume of Governance publishes over 10 million copies

As of January 12th 2018, more than 10 million copies of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II)* had been published worldwide, providing the international community with the best reading of contemporary China and the Chinese Communist Party.

Xi Jinping: The Governance of China (Volume II) included Xi's 99 speeches, talks, interviews, notes, and letters from August 18, 2014 to September 29, 2017, arranged in 17 topics, reflecting the develop-

ment and main contents of Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics, fully embodying China's wisdom and the program of the Chinese Communist Party to promote the construction of a community of shared future for all mankind, contributing to the cause of human peace and development.

In addition to the published Chinese and English versions, the book will also be available in other languages to readers in different countries.

(Xinhua)

China's scientific and technological innovation explodes

The report given to the 19th CPC National Congress, summarized the country's achievements over the past five years, and pointed out that "through devoting great energy to implementing innovation-driven development strategies, we have seen much accomplished towards making China a country of innovators." It can be said that since the 18th CPC National Congress, China's scientific and technological sectors have entered an explosive phase, and that China is changing the global pattern of scientific and technological innovation.

In 2017, according to the latest data released by China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the number of applications for invention patents in China reached 1,382,000, a year-on-year increase of 14.2 percent. Such a number ranks first in the world for the seventh consecutive year. The number of international patent applications received over the same period was

51,000, a year-on-year increase of 12.5 percent, overtaking Japan and raising China to second place in the world. China possessed 1.136 million invention patents, approaching the United States (1.386 million invention patents in 2016) and Japan (1.644 million invention patents in 2016). On average, out of every 10,000 Chinese people, 9.8 own invention patents.

Data show that in 2010, China owned a total of 228,000 invention patents and the number of invention patents per 10,000 people stood at 1.7. By 2017, the two indicators rose nearly six times to 1.356 million and 9.8, respectively. The unprecedented and explosive growth indicates China has become a powerhouse in terms of global intellectual property.

(Hu Angang, director of the Institute of National Conditions at Tsinghua University, adapted from People's Daily Overseas Edition)

China to provide green channel for foreign talent

China's National Foreign Experts Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security, recently released the Implementation Measures for Foreign Talents Visa Process, which will provide a green channel for foreign talents.

It was made clear in the Implementation Measures to further expand the scope of talent visas granting, those who meet the requirements for foreign high-end talents in accordance with the

Classification of Work with Foreigners in China (trial), and in line with the "High-tech deficiency" and market demand-oriented scientists, technology leaders, international entrepreneurs, professionals and highly skilled personnel, all are high-level and urgently needed talent for China's economic and social development, and they can apply for a talent visa. To further relax the validity period and duration of a visa with confirmed qualified foreign talents

by a provincial, regional and municipal Foreign Experts Bureau they can be granted a 5-year or 10-year multiple-entry visa with a 180-day valid for each stay. Their spouses and minor children will also be granted the same valid period multiple entry visas. Further improving the efficiency of visa application and adopting a wholly online process, inspection and approval of an application will be done in a timely manner.

(Xinhua/Ye Haoming)

Yunnan agricultural products are sold in over 100 countries

Qu Shuning

From January to November 2017, the export volume of agricultural products in Yunnan Province was 2.162 million tons with an export value of 3.909 billion US dollars, growth of 0.8%. Agricultural foreign investment and cooperation is growing rapidly, and the development of export-oriented agriculture has achieved remarkable results.

In recent years, Yunnan Province has promoted

foreign trade in agricultural products by actively encouraging and supporting plateau characteristics agricultural products to "go out" to achieve sustained rapid growth of agricultural exports and show the trend of increasing in both quality and price. It ranks at the top in China's western provinces for many years. Yunnan agricultural export products include vegetables, fruits, tobacco, coffee, spice oils, tea, and cut flowers, accounting for 80% of the total export

amount. Its export market is dominated by Asia and Europe, mainly sold in over 100 countries and regions including Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Germany and Japan.

There are 130 Yunnan enterprises invested in overseas in agriculture, ranking first in China, with total investment amounting to 796 million US dollars. Foreign investment in agriculture is mainly concentrated in Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

French architect makes Deqin her second hometown



Estelle (R) usually shares her food with guests in her dwelling. (File Photo)

What is nostalgia? Perhaps you lead a wandering life and don't know where to be nostalgic. But a French architect has made Deqin County in Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture her second hometown.

Estelle is an architect from France. Six years ago, she came to Yujie Village, a remote Tibetan town in Deqin. She immediately fell in love with the traditional houses there. She rented an old-fashioned Tibetan mud-brick house on a hillside for 30 years. It became her new home.

After several years of work, her mud-brick house became an attraction in the village. The five rooms, each distinctive in their own way, retain the characteristics of old Tibetan dwellings.

Estelle used to live at the foot of the Alps in southern France. When she came to Yujie six years ago, she was surprised to find warm people living in a secluded settlement amidst the snow-capped mountains. The setting reminded her of the areas south of the Yangtze River. She loved the land and its idyllic beauty so much that she sold all her belongings in France and rented the traditional Tibetan three-storey mud-brick house in the village.

She has turned the old house into a warm and pleasing dwelling. The walls are plastered with local clay and wheat stalks that do not peel off easily. Estelle does not see the old house as an inn for making money, but she regards it as her home instead. (Diqing Daily)

China and Laos promote bio conservation Wild elephants fall in love with Xishuangbanna

Walk into the deep jungle along the quiet path in the Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, you will see floating butterflies, winding streams, and surprises everywhere. "Look, here are traces of elephants that just passed through. Their footprints are fresh." A staff member pointed to the front and said, "This road is one of the newly discovered passages for Asian elephants." China and Laos launched a joint protection and survey program for cross-border Asian elephants, and two more elephant migration corridors were discovered.

On the border of Yunnan Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture with Laos, there live a special group of "citizens" who can freely access both countries without a passport, they are Asian elephants known as "star species".

The Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, in cooperation with the Lao Agriculture and Forestry Department in the three northern provinces have been carrying out cross-border monitoring and protection since 2006. In 2009, for further co-



An increasing number of Asian elephants are seen in Yunnan (Photo by Yang Zheng)

operation, the two sides established a Cross-border bio-diversity conservation area of 54,000 hectares at Xishuangbanna Shangyong in China and South Tak Namin Laos. In 2012, the two sides signed a joint protection agreement to throughout protect the China-Laos Cross-border Biodiversity Joint Protection Zone. Over the past few years, the two sides have worked together to track the trajectory of cross-border Asian elephants and other rare wildlife by using infrared cameras, and finally have a basic knowledge of the cross-border travel routes of Asian elephants.

Since the establishment of the initial cooperation process in 2006, China and Laos have held annual bilateral cooperation and exchanges meeting to carry out joint patrols. However, the patrol is not an easy job.

"A raised trunk, erect ears, a lifted tail... when an elephant does these things, it means it's going to attack and you need to run quickly." Wang Lifan, director of Shangyongzi Conservation and Protection, told a story of encountering an elephant during a patrol in the protected area. "The jungle is full of vines. I saw a stout pillar and thought it was

a tree, but it turned out to be an elephant. Our patrol team retreated immediately."

Deepening of cooperation on cross-border bio-conservation has made the concept of green environmental protection a point of common understanding between the two countries. "From observations, Asian elephants are increasing in number and stay longer. Moreover, the number of rare animals such as Indian bison, hornbills, polyplectron and tragulus kanchil in the same region has also increased.

(People's Daily/ Zhang Fan and Li Maoyin)

Terraced agriculture makes Hani villagers rich

Xinjie Town Dayutang Village, Yuanyang County, Honghe Prefecture of Yunnan Province has a pleasant pastoral style, similar to its surrounding villages. A demonstration base for rice and fishery mixed cultivation is located here, which provides useful exploration for the development of high efficiency agriculture with characteristics in the terrace area.

In the terrace field of 260 mu developed by the Yuanyang County Hushan Zhongchuang Agriculture Development Company, Hongyang No.3 and other red rice are growing together with snails, loaches, fish and ducks in the field to form a vertical biological system, which is starting to take shape.

In recent years, Yuanyang County promoted the rice-fish-duck farming pattern in the terrace area. Now, the county has invested more than 20 million yuan in 7 towns including Xinjie, directly helping 27,000 households to increase their output value from less than 2,000 yuan to more than 10,000 yuan per mu, and achieved a comprehensive benefit of "One water with three crops, and one field with more harvests".

Now, standards for red rice growing are established, and its sales channels are developed. Through e-commerce, it can soar higher and further. So far, Yuanyang has attracted 7 e-commerce sellers including Tmall and Taobao, to sell their red rice and related products online.



Red rice, a particular product of Honghe terraced field, has greatly increased the income of local people. (File Photo)