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Powering up India with solar cooperation

Chinese solar photovoltaic or PV panel manufacturer Zshine Solar has nailed a 300-megawatt module supply agreement with India renewable energy developer ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited, responding to growing market demand in India.

This is another bilateral agreement reached since the last year's cooperation between Zshine Solar and several well-known Indian companies, said Li Qian, president of sales and marketing of the company.

Zshine Solar will provide ACME with a variety of PV power output solutions including graphene-coated PV modules, also known as self-cleaning PV modules,

1500-volt modules and decentralized junction box, all of which will be shipped this month and are expected to be delivered by the end of August, she said.

India's PV market has prospered and attracted the attention of the global market, thanks to the vigorous promotion of the government.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency or IRENA, India's new solar power generation in 2017 reached 9,628 mW, compared with 4,251 mW in 2016 and exceeded the markets of North America, Europe and Japan.

In the face of the huge market opportunity and relatively favorable gov-

ernment taxation, Chinese PV companies, including Zshine Solar, Longi Solar and Trina Solar, are competing with each other to invest in India's PV market. They have all invested in the Indian market in recent years.

India is already China's biggest export market for solar products by sales value. During 2017, China's exports accounted for 24 percent of India's solar products.

The cooperation with ACME, the biggest independent power generator in India, is a win-win as "we can provide them with the most-advanced photovoltaic manufacturing technology and professional service from China, ensuring a professional

technological support for the country's photovoltaic power stations", said Li.

According to Wang Dong, technical and quality general manager of Zshine Solar, the key to continuous success in the solar power sector lies in manufacturing innovation and technology.

Seeding a next generation of technology, identifying promising technologies and scaling them up are of essence, he said.

Founded in 1988, the Jiangsu province-based Zshine Solar was jointly developed with the University of Science and Technology of China. It has come up with a series of independently developed graphene-coated PV modules, which allow light



Prospective clients from India visit the company's factory in East China's Jiangsu province. (Photo from China Daily)

to pass through more easily and thus convert more light into electricity. (China Daily/ Zheng Xin)

Poverty reduction 'most remarkable fruits' in China

Successfully lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty is the most remarkable fruits China made during its 40 years' reform and opening-up. **Australia's former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has said.**

Rudd made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the 2018 Penn Wharton China Summit in April.

He said he felt fortunate to witness China's profound changes from a poor country to the world's second largest economy.

The fact that China

has successfully elevated more than 700 million people out of poverty in the past four decades, Rudd said, is an achievement that should be recognized and thumbed up.

"Poverty alleviation is easy to say, but very difficult to do," Rudd said, "This is the most remarkable achievement of China's reform and opening-up. Chinese people have every reason to be proud of it."

As regards the current U.S.-China trade disputes, Rudd said the United States proposed tariff sanction against China is not just about

their trade deficits, but also a reflection of America's anxiety over China's role as a rising economic and technological power.

Trade war, however, has no winners, Rudd said.

"It is easy to start, very difficult to end, better not start it," Rudd said, "I hope the United States and China could solve their disputes through negotiation."

A trade war between the top two largest economies in the world will be destructive to both China and the United States, and overall, to the global growth, he said.

(Xinhua)

Further Reading:

Facts, figures show China-India economic ties

Economic ties between China and India have become closer in recent years. The two economies are highly complementary and have good potential for increased cooperation. The following are some facts and figures about China-India trade and investment.

-- Bilateral trade reached a record high of 84.4 billion U.S. dollars last year, up 20.3 percent from 2016, the fastest growth for five years.

-- China has become the largest trading partner of India, with imports rising by more than 40 percent in 2017.

-- Bilateral trade in Q1 hit 22.1 billion U.S. dollars, up 15.4 percent year on year.

-- Chinese and Indian businesses signed 101 trade agreements in March, with a total contract value of 2.4 billion U.S. dollars.

-- Chinese investment in India added up to more than 8 billion

U.S. dollars by the end of 2017, with India an important destination for infrastructure cooperation and investment.

-- Indian investment in China has grown by an average of 18.5 percent during the past three years.

-- Chinese smartphone brands are popular in India. Xiaomi has a market share of 27 percent and shipped nearly 8.2 million units in Q4 of 2017.

-- China and India are home to over 35 percent of the world's people, and contribute about 20 percent of global GDP.

(Xinhua)



In recent years, flocks of blue-tailed bee-eaters (merops philippinus) are constantly observed in Qiaojia County, northeast Yunnan Province. According to the local forestry bureau, there are more than 30,000 blue-tailed bee-eaters inhabiting and breeding in the county this year. They often come in lunar March and leave in June.

(Photo by Lan Yushou)

Chinese development endeavors in Ethiopia win acclaim



A local employee works at Huajian factory, south of Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, 2016. (Xinhua/Michael Tewelde)

Ethiopian experts and officials have voiced support for Chinese development endeavors in Ethiopia, saying they are important to Ethiopia's economic ambitions.

Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, an economic adviser to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), said in an interview with Xinhua that Chinese-funded and built infrastructure projects in Ethiopia and the rest of Africa are "both timely and important."

"Infrastructure is the mainstay of any economy. Unless you have roads, railways, airports, and energy production, the economy will suffer," Costantinos said.

With regards to the Ethio-Djibouti railway, built by Chinese companies to connect Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa to the port of Djibouti, Costantinos affirmed that it would highly benefit landlocked Ethiopia.

"We have expected a lot from this railway and it will help Ethiopia's growing economy that demands a growing import from

abroad and export to the rest of the world," he said, adding that "the investment will not only help the transport of goods but also transport of people among Ethiopians and with the people of Djibouti."

The expert's view has been shared by other Ethiopian government officials, who believed the Chinese infrastructure projects would facilitate Ethiopia's export transportation demands.

Ahmed Shide, Ethiopian Minister of Government Communications Affairs Office (GCAO), told Xinhua that China has not only become Ethiopia's top economic partner but a model for Ethiopia's economic ambitions.

Shide said having seen China's success in having an efficient infrastructure to facilitate exports from industrial parks, Ethiopia is building a "development belt" to copy the Chinese success story.

The "development belt" will see Ethiopia build industrial parks located along the path of existing or under-construction rail lines to speedily transport products made in industrial

parks to ports in neighboring Djibouti.

According to the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), Chinese companies, with close to 379 projects that were either operational or under implementation during the past five years, are on top of Ethiopia's investment landscape both in terms of number and capital.

Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister, Workneh Gebeyehu, who called for strengthening the socioeconomic partnership between Ethiopia and China recently, also said that the ties between the two countries has shown consistent upward trajectory over the past years.

Gebeyehu said the relationship between Ethiopia and China "has grown to an excellent level, where the two countries enjoy a comprehensive cooperation and partnership."

The newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Tan Jian also said the partnership between Ethiopia and China could be seen as a role model for the South-South cooperation.

"The relationship between Ethiopia and China is based on comprehensive, strategic and cooperative partnership in all areas and at all levels," Tan said in an interview with Xinhua. Tan also stressed cooperation in human resource development and science and technology.

"The bond between the two peoples is very important and it should be the foundation for the relationship between China and Ethiopia," Tan said. (Xinhua/Habtamu Liben)

Eco-program drives poverty reduction

Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province of southwest China has been known for the country's highest poverty incidence of 38.14%. Located in the core area of the world natural heritage "Three Parallel Mighty Rivers", Nujiang is known as a "pearl in the kingdom of animals and plants" and a "world gene bank" with rich forestry and ecological resources.

Gaobudeng villager group is located at Xiaolong village, Lanping County. In this small mountain village of the Lisu People, there are many new houses and concrete paths between the green trees.

In the 1980s, the mountain forests were delegated to households. Excessive deforestation made mudslides commonplace.

At the beginning of the 1990s, under the proposal of the CPC member Yu

Guohua and others, a mass village meeting was convened to divide the forest into two functional parts, one for preservation and reforestation, the other for grazing and firewood. Two rangers had been hired to patrol the preservation areas.

The deforestation had been effectively controlled. On the other hand, the program to return farmland to forest was also carried out. At present, the forest coverage rate in Nujiang reached 75.31%, providing an annual value of ecological services of 120,482 billion yuan.

Ren Zhizhong, director general of the Forestry Department of Yunnan Province, said that the current agricultural policy has nourished the mountains of Nujiang, and helped local people get out of poverty.

In 2009, Nujiang started the national and provincial public welfare forest compensation pilot. The

second phase of the pilot kicked off in 2011, covering some 188,000 hectares of public welfare forest, acquiring a cumulative compensation of around 300 million yuan, and directly benefiting 310,000 people who living in poverty.

For a long time, the villagers of Gaobudeng had been relying on traditional crops such as corn and rice for bare subsistence.

After more than 10 years, the walnut and prickly ash trees have grown into forests and begin to bear fruit. The village also became richer and richer. Last year, the average per capita net income of villagers reached 6,000 yuan, about half of which came from the economic forest.

An organic green late mango base of 60,000 mu by 2020 and over 30 certified demonstration bases will be built in contiguous scale.

(People's Daily/ Gu Zhongyang and Wang Hao)

Kunming-Thailand festival marks 10 years

A 5-day Kunming-Thailand Festival opened in Kunming May 11. Cultural shows, tourism spotlight and featured products from Thailand were highlights of the festival.

According to Wijayane Surapolbhichet, the Acting Consul-General of the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Kunming, this year marked the 10th anniversary of the festival held in Kunming. The theme "Four Colors of the Thai Festival over Ten Years" indicated the four major cultures in northern, central, southern and northeastern Thailand, as well as the Thailand 4.0 Policy that emphasizes innovation-driven development.

Wijayane Surapolbhichet also told reporter that over the past decade, the Kunming-Thailand Festival had played an important role in promoting two-way trade, tourist visits, cultural and people-to-

people exchanges between Thailand and Yunnan. It is expected that it would continue to facilitate the interface of the national strategies of the two countries and enhance regional development in the years to come.

65 Thai businesses participated the exhibition of the event. Many exhibitors were old friends of Kunming. "I love China and Kunming. This is my fourth time to attend Thai Festival. Tom Yam Gong sauce is always our best-selling product," said Ms. Ingkarat, who runs a Thai food company and restaurant in Bangkok. There was always a great crowd of customers before her booth.

In front of the booth selling honey from central Thailand, Prapai hung a picture of herself with her customers in Kunming. "I can sell more than 300 cans of honey every year on the festival," she said happily.

(Wang Huan)



Thai exhibitor sells the Thai sauces in the exhibition in Kunming. (Photo by Chen Chuangye)

Yunnan brands feature green vitality

The first International Forum for Development of Chinese Brands was held in Shanghai from May 10 to 12. Attending enterprises included 68 companies, together with 600 selected well-known brands to showcase the latest achievements of these Chinese brands. **Brands from Yunnan featuring "world-class green energy, green food and healthy life destination" became a highlight of the event.**

The theme of Yunnan Pavilion is distinct, demonstrating the independent brands of some 10 local group companies, such as Yunnan

Energy Investment, Yunnan Aluminum, Yunnan Precious Metal, Yunnan Baiyao Pharmaceutical, Tae and Dianhong, as well as four innovation-based small and medium enterprises, such as Miyulu and Longrun. From the first, second and tertiary industries respectively, these businesses reflect the latest achievements of the implementation of Yunnan's brand strategy in recent years.

Yunnan had made a lot of preparation for the event. Zhou Manfu, deputy general manager of Investment Management Center of Yunnan Energy

Investment Group, said that the group looked forward to improving the image and influence of its brand through the event, and establishing itself as a multinational group with a competitive edge in the field of energy industry.

At present, Yunnan has more than 210,000 registered trademarks, 120 national well-known trademarks and 178 brands with geographical indications, ranking among the top ones in western China. The province also tops the country with 23 national famous brand demonstration zones.

(Zhu Dan)

Unique wedding custom (1)

Dai people: Love gets nourished beside fireplace

Yunnan's diverse living environment and cultural deposits have contributed to the evolution of a great variety of marriage customs. From marriage customs of various ethnic groups, we can feel the charm of Yunnan ethnic culture. This time, we introduce the Dai wedding custom.

In Jingmai Mountain in southwest Yunnan, Dai people keep a tradition that a hole of finger size is especially left in the floorslab in the room of girls. When a girl is old enough for getting into a relationship, the young man who falls in love with the girl will cover his head with the bed sheet prepared by his parents and come to the downstairs of the girl's room quietly, and wake up her by putting a stick into



The newlywed couple of Dai people in Yunnan. (Photo by Luo Weiqi)

the hole. By hearing the voice, the girl can recognize the young man who knocks at the floorslab. At that time, whether the girl loves the young man or not, she needs to get up, make a fire at the fireplace and invite the young man to sit aside the fireplace.

On the morning of the

wedding day, the groom's family will invite dozens of young males to go with them to the bride's family with gifts.

Dai people believe that only after the thread-fasting ceremony can two persons be a couple.

(Daguan Weekly/Yang Xiujie)