



# CHINA • YUNNAN



**BELT AND ROAD**

## Cross-border medical cooperation benefits more Laotian people

“How are you feeling today?” “I feel much better.” This brief dialogue happened in a ward at the Department of Thoracic Surgery of Xishuangbanna People’s Hospital between a Chinese nurse named Yi Yingchun and a Laotian patient.

The patient comes from Namtha Province in Laos. He broke the third through ninth right breastbones in an accident. Given his critical condition, he was directly transferred from a hospital in Namtha to Xishuangbanna People’s Hospital through a bilateral medical cooperation agreement. “Here, the doctors and nurses are highly skilled. They made special arrangements so that we



Chinese doctors are checking the Laotian patient's condition. Photo provided by Xishuangbanna People's Hospital

can have a two-bed room. They pay close attention to my brother’s condition, and now he feels much bet-

ter. I’m really grateful to the doctors and nurses,” said the elder brother of the patient.

In November 2014, Xishuangbanna People’s Hospital signed medical cooperation agreements with five Laotian provincial hospitals in Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Bokeo and Phongsaly. Since then, the hospital has treated nearly 10,000 Laotian patients.

In 2012, the Xishuangbanna hospital learned of the intention of Namtha Province for medical cooperation. Based on the experience of building a “community” of medical and

health services with Peking University People’s Hospital, the hospital decided to carry out cross-border medical cooperative efforts with Namtha Province in Laos.

In November 2014, the hospital signed medical cooperation agreements with five provincial hospitals in northern Laos. Over the past four years, cross-border medical cooperation between Laos and Xishuangbanna People’s Hospital has continuously enriched its content, and is benefitting an increasing number of Laotian people. ( Yao Chengheng)

**COOPERATION**

## China-Myanmar Economic Corridor MOU Signed

“On September 9, on behalf of their respective countries, the Director of China’s National Development and Reform Commission, He Lifeng, and the Myanmar Minister of Planning and Finance, U Kyaw Win, signed the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Union of Myanmar for Jointly Building the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor* (CMEC).

On September 11 in Beijing, to implement the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Myanmar’s State Counselor, Aung San Suu Kyi, on the building of the CMEC, officials from both countries attended the first meeting of the CMEC Joint Committee.

Both parties carried out in-depth consultations and reached broad consensus on a number of issues. These included the concepts and principles of CMEC cooperation, the working mechanism of the Joint Committee, early harvest projects, cooperative planning, and the implementation of major cooperation projects. The two sides agreed to set up special work groups for 12 major areas of cooperation. These are development planning, production capacity and investment, transportation, energy, agriculture, economic border cooperation, the digital Silk Road, ecosystems, tourism, finance, information and local cooperation. The two sides will rely on the working mechanism of the Joint Committee to connect their development strategies, as well as to plan and promote pragmatic cooperation across various fields.

**CONNECTIVITY**

## High-speed rail to reduce Kunming-Hong Kong train ride to 7.5 hours

On September 10 at 8am, train tickets for the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail(HSR) began to be sold across mainland China and Hong Kong. On September 23, the high-speed rail’s Hong Kong section will go into operation and connect the mainland with Hong Kong. Passengers will also be able to travel directly from Kunming to Hong Kong. A train ride from Kunming South Railway Station to Kowloon West Railway Station will last 7.5 hours, and a second-class ticket will cost 750.5 yuan.

As an important part of China’s high-speed rail network, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail has a total length of 141 kilometres. This includes 115 kilometres in mainland China and 26 kilometres in Hong Kong. Upon going into operation, the line will be connected with more than 40 stations in Kunming, Beijing, Shanghai, Shijiazhuang, Zhengzhou, Wu-

han, Changsha, Hangzhou, Nanchang, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Shantou, Guiyang, Guilin and other cities.

Yunnan Province boasts 232 state-level scenic areas and is rich in tourism resources. The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail will bring more tourists to the province and further promote its tourism industry.

With its unique location advantages, Yunnan is a vital passage connecting China with South and Southeast Asia, as well as an important node of the Trans-Asian railway. As the province’s high-speed rail network continues to improve and the China-Laos railway advances steadily, Yunnan is becoming an international transportation hub. This will effectively promote policies, infrastructure, trade, finances and people-to-people connectivity between Yunnan and South and Southeast Asian countries. All of these will help to build the province into a pivot of China’s opening up to South and Southeast Asia. (Cao Jie)



A passenger is showing her ticket. (Xinhua)

**TOURISM**

## Local products sell well on “Travel in Yunnan” app

Yunnan Province continues to promote the sales of Pu’er tea, coffee and other regional products on its “Travel in Yunnan” app. This is done in order to meet tourist demand for smart shopping services. The app will further move towards an “e-commerce” model and introduce local products to more people.

So far, 15 Pu’er tea products have been added to the app’s shopping function. They cover the three core production areas of Pu’er, Xishuangbanna and Lincang. The app platform strictly controls the selection of enterprises and commodities. To ensure the quality of all products, only honest enterprises with good brand reputations are accepted. A Pu’er tea expert group is responsible for screening all submitted products, and



Checking the products Photo by Wang Huan

in addition, the platform has introduced a third-party testing organization to conduct random inspections of commodities. This is to ensure all warehoused products meet national foodstuff inspection standards. To guarantee the rights and interests of online consumers, once there are

complaints or return and refund rates of any product exceed a certain point, credit ratings of the concerned enterprises will be reduced. When an enterprise’s credit rating fall below a specified limit, the platform will remove its products from digital shelves. (Wang Huan)

**CULTURE**

## Lobsang Tashi sees bright future for his handicrafts

Three hammers, with hand imprints on the handles, have been kept at the house of Lobsang Tashi for more than 600 years.

“This imprint here is the evidence of the development of the traditional technique from generation to generation,” Lobsang Tashi said proudly while stroking the hammers in the showcase.

Lobsang Tashi, 55, is the 14th-generation inheritor of traditional metal casting technique in northwest Yunnan’s Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. He was among the first batch of provincial inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and also a provincial master of art and crafts in Yunnan.

Five of Lobsang Tashi’s works have been collected by



Lobsang Tashi is making the works. Photo by Li Wenjun

Chinese National Museum of Ethnology. To get a Tibetan knife forged by him, one has to order in advance and wait for years. And Lobsang Tashi has promoted overseas the unique intangible cultural heritage.

The most worthy doing, for Lobsang Tashi, is to pass down the fine craftsmanship in Tibetan culture. With the support

from local cultural authorities and institutions, he has set up a protection and study center for Tibetan metal techniques in the Deqin county seat.

Lobsang Tashi takes the family inheritance seriously. He’s going to pass down the craftsmanship to the next generation. (Xiong Yan, Chu Donghua, Zhuang Ruogu)



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