



CHINA • YUNNAN



BELT AND ROAD

China builds four bridges in disaster-stricken southern Laos

On September 26, a handover and investiture ceremony was held at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Laos. The occasion commemorated four bridges built in the disaster-stricken Attapeu area in southern Laos. The spans were built by the Laos-China Railway Company and other participating com-

panies in the construction of China-Laos Railway from both countries.

Lao Prime Minister Thongloun issued an order of commendation in recognition of the contributions of the Laos-China Railway Company, the China Railway Second Bureau and the Power Construction Corporation of China for fixing the damaged bridges.

Bounchan Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport in Laos, presented medals to representatives of the three companies.

On July 23rd, the auxiliary dam of an under construction reservoir in Attapeu collapsed and caused major loss of life and property. The Laos-China Railway Company and the China-Laos Railway

Joint Party Working Committee actively responded to emergency calls from the Lao government. The China-Laos Railway construction units not only donated money and materials to the disaster-stricken area, but also exerted their respective advantages to assist in repairing the four damaged bridges leading into the Attapeu area. (Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Confucius Institute trains technicians for Sino-Thai Railway

As the Sino-Thai Railway project continues to progress, there is a growing demand for Chinese-speaking railway technicians. To meet this demand, the Confucius Institute at Khon Kaen University has launched a special Chinese training programme.

“The Sino-Thai High-speed Railway requires a number of Chinese-speaking technicians. Following the plan of the Thai Ministry of Education, and in response to the demands of the Belt and Road Initiative, we have launched the high-speed rail Chinese language training programme,” said Hu Lin, Chinese president of the Confucius Institute at Khon Kaen University.

In August 2015, the Confucius Institute, the Vocational Technical Committee of the Thai Ministry of Education and the Hubei Provincial Department of Education signed an agreement outlining how the Confucius Institute will offer a Chinese language training programme for students in Thai vocational colleges. Additionally, the institute will recommend outstanding students to study railway technology at vocational colleges in China. To date, the Confucius Institute has sent three groups of Thai college students to China, and a fourth group will be selected soon.

The president of the Ban Phai Industrial Community College of Education in Khon Kaen praised the project, saying, “Our cooperation with the Confucius Institute at Khon Kaen University is very timely. Our students could not have such opportunities without these Chinese efforts.” (Xinhua)

TRAVEL

“Travel in Yunnan” app officially launched



Tourists are posing photos when experiencing “Travel in Yunnan” app. Photo by Shu Wen

The “Travel in Yunnan” app was officially launched on October 1 after four months of trial operation.

The app is now available in mobile phone app stores. Setting up it, tourists can learn about the travel resources in Yunnan’s 16 cities and prefectures, while using functions like thermodynamic chart of scenic spots, facial recognition for

admission to scenic spots, unconscious payment, slow TV, voice guide and toilet map. In addition, they can also use the app to complain at any time about the services received during their stay in Yunnan. Feedbacks will be given in 24 hours.

During the week-long National Day holiday, offline activities were held in five scenic spots across Yunnan to promote the “Travel in Yunnan” app. These destinations are the Kunming Horticultural Expo Garden, Dali Ancient Town, Dali Three Pagodas, Lijiang Ancient Town and Xishuangbanna Manting Park.

Boutique souvenirs were presented to tourists if they participated in these offline activities, downloaded the “Travel in Yunnan” app and completed some mini tasks. Starting from October 1, the app operator has been calling for excellent short videos shot by tourists across the province, and the deadline is October 16.

Making the “eating, living, traveling, shopping and recreating” more digitalized, the “Travel in Yunnan” app aims to solve tourists’ pain points and provide better experience for them. (Li Hengqiang)

COOPERATION

China-Laos medical model to expand further into Southeast Asia

In recent years, increasingly diversified cross-border medical exchanges between Xishuangbanna People’s Hospital (XPH) and the country of Laos are benefiting more and more people.

XPH has trained its nurses and doctors to speak Lao so that they can more easily communicate with their patients. The hospital has also established a relevant cooperative mechanism. It has conducted various forms of cooperation with medical institutions in Laos, including joint rescue training, clinically applicable skills training and academic educational initiatives.

The Lao Ministry of Health (MOH) has recognized these efforts. In late March, the MOH commended Liu Pinghua, Shu



Government of Luang Namtha province presented awards to XPH doctors. Photo provided by XPP

Yun, Yu Erbi, Yu Wangjian and other medical staff from XPH for their outstanding contributions to healthcare services in the country. While receiving the award, Shu Yun said, “I understand that the honour belongs not only to the few of us, but also to all those who have contributed to China-Laos medical cooperation.”

In the future, XPH will

not only send more medical teams to Laos, but will also set up branch hospitals in Southeast Asian countries and help Laos train their own medical workers. In addition, XPH will continuously launch new projects and expand the model developed in Laos into other Southeast Asian countries to benefit more people. (Yao Chengcheng)

ECO

Solving human-elephant conflict



Tourists feed wild Asian elephants in Xishuangbanna Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Center. Photo by Dai Zhenghua

[Editor’s note] Today, as the number of wild elephants continues to decrease across the world, Asian elephants have found a long-lost paradise in Southwest China. Their numbers show both recovery and growth. The rescue of Asian elephants is an ongoing endeavour in China. In this issue, we will relate another story of how wild Asian elephants are being protected in China.

Due to illegal hunting, habitat loss and other factors, the number of wild Asian elephants has decreased rapidly since the 19th century. Because of this threat, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has put them on the list of endangered species.

In China, Asian elephants are also listed as first-class national protected wild animals and therefore are strictly protected by law. According to statistics provided by the Chinese Ministry of Forestry, with strict protection measures, the number of wild Asian elephants in Yunnan province has increased from around 180 30 years ago to about 300 today.

As the number of wild elephants has increased, their ranges have grown as well. They frequently visit farmland and villages, which has had an impact on the people living in such places. Over the past two decades, according to monitoring data, the activities of wild elephants in Yunnan Province have expanded from 14 townships in three counties to 26 townships in eight counties. To alleviate losses

caused by wild elephants, and in an effort to lessen human-elephant conflict, the province has taken multiple innovative measures. These actions include establishing a wild elephant monitoring and early warning network, as well as purchasing wild elephant damage insurance for local farmers.

In Xishuangbanna, a nature reserve of more than one million mu was established recently to protect the tropical rain forest and provide enough space for Asian elephants and other wild animals to live unmolested. Many people have moved away from the villages to make room for elephants.

In Pu’er, the local government set up a “wild elephant canteen”. In a nearly 4,000-mu area where elephants commonly visit, bananas, brown reeds and other plants are grown for these animals to consume. This measure has reduced cases of elephants destroying farmland.

In recent years, the Chinese government has also strengthened cooperation with neighbouring countries to protect wild elephants. Since 2009, China and Laos have established a cross-border biodiversity conservation area with a total area of about 2,000 square kilometres. The two countries have also carried out population surveys, patrols and personnel training concerning the protection of wild elephants. (Xinhua)



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