



# CHINA · YUNNAN



## BELT AND ROAD

### CIIE boosts protection of IPR

The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) is making a concerted effort to ensure the protection of intellectual property rights and deal with commercial disputes during the event.

The event organizer, the China International Import Expo Bureau, has set up a center for IPR protection, where professionals from relevant departments have been invited to offer on-site consultation and services to participants.

Wang Bingnan, vice-minister of commerce, said the expo attaches great importance to IPR protection because it is a platform for the release of new technologies and products, and it aims to create a fair trading environment and effectively safeguard



Robots exhibited in the expo

(Xinhua)

the interests of all parties.

According to the bureau, specific measures include a work plan for IPR protection during the expo, optimizing regulations on the exhibits and strengthening inspection. Local government departments have also formulated guide-

lines related to the issue and pushed forward measures to crack down on violations.

The move symbolizes China's decades-long effort to improve IPR protection. The government has made the task a priority and says the measures it has taken have proved

effective.

The country ranked 17th in terms of the "most innovative economies" in the annual Global Innovation Index released in July by the World Intellectual Property Organization and Cornell University in the United States. Last year, China moved up to second place in terms of international patent applications, with about 51,000 applications submitted.

According to the Peterson Institute of International Economics in Washington, China's payments of licensing fees and royalties for the use of foreign technology recorded a fourfold increase in the past decade, reaching \$28.6 billion last year, ranking fourth in the world.

(China Daily)

## COOPERATION

### Lancang-Mekong countries deepen water resource cooperation

Representatives from six Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) countries passed an initiative on November 2 to enhance cooperation on water resources during a forum held in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

The Kunming Initiative came at the conclusion of the first Mekong-Lancang Water Resources Cooperation Forum, which aims to facilitate dialogue on water policy, technology exchanges and experience sharing among LMC countries.

**The two-day forum discussed topics including sustainable development, utilization and protection of water resources, flood and drought management and knowledge sharing on trans-boundary river management.**

**The initiative called for joint actions to tackle challenges facing the six countries, including the increasing demands for water, flood and drought, degradation of aquatic eco-system, water pollution and climate change.**

It said LMC countries will endeavor to deepen cooperation through policy dialogues, technical exchanges, experience sharing, joint research and capacity building to address water-related challenges.

The initiative also called for more investment from member countries on the construction of water infrastructure and proposing capacity cooperation to make the countries more capable of

coping with future water challenges and climate change risks.

"Mekong countries and China are natural partners," said Tian Xuebin, vice minister of China's Ministry of Water Resources, calling for all-around cooperation on water resources toward sustainable development and common prosperity of the Lancang-Mekong River Basin.

The initiative will strengthen cooperation and increase capacity for trans-boundary water resources management, contributing to all countries, especially in the area of flood and drought mitigation and management under climate change phenomena, according to Wijarn Simachaya, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand.

The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation is a sub-regional cooperation mechanism jointly established by Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Originating from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China, the river is called the Lancang River in China and the Mekong River when it flows through the other five countries before emptying into the sea.

Priority areas under the mechanism include connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, agriculture and poverty reduction.

(Xinhua)

## TOURISM

### China starts exporting petroleum to Laos

With over 64 ton diesel, handed over from PetroChina to a Lao company at Laos-China border, the first export of Chinese refined oil to Lao market was made on October 31.

PetroChina International (Yunnan) Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of PetroChina group, has been studying and preparing for two years to reach the Lao fuel market since 2016.

With the aims to expand its petroleum products sales in southeastern Asia and to seek new routes to market, the PetroChina company with its Lao partner undertook thorough researches in demands, market access, custom clearance and transportation, etc.

Finally, the first tanks of Chinese refined oil products, loaded in Kunming of China's Yunnan province and travelling for over 700 km, arrived at the importer's depot in Boten, the Laos-China border town, over 370 km north of Lao capital Vientiane.

Chindasack Nhotmanhkhong, director of the Nationwide Trading Petroleum Public Company of Laos (NTP), the importer, told that the deal done is meaningful, since it will enrich Laos with one more petroleum importing source and route.

(Xinhua)

## EVENT



The fifth World Internet Conference was opened on November 7 in Wuzhen of eastern China's Zhejiang Province. It is themed "creating a digital world for mutual trust and collective governance — toward a community with a shared future in cyberspace". More than 1,500 governmental delegates, international organization representatives, leading internet entrepreneurs and experts all around the globe participated in the event. Here a visitor experiences the virtual reality during the "Light of Internet" Expo at conference. (Xinhua)

## CONNECTIVITY

### First 1,000-kilometer tunnel on China-Laos railway holing through

On October 28th, the first 1,000-meter tunnel on the China-Laos Railway was bored through. The constructor of the tunnel is the Fifth Bureau (Group) Corporation of China Railway.

The tunnel is located in Luang Namtha in northern Laos. It is 1,158 meters long and its construction started on June 3rd, 2017. According to Zhou Xiaoxia, commander of the first contract section of the China-Laos Railway, inside the tunnel were mainly soft rocks, which posed a great challenge for construction organization and safety management.

The China-Laos Railway runs from Boten port in



Xinhua

the north to the Lao capital of Vientiane in the south. It has a total length of 414 kilometres, more than 60 percent of which are bridges and tunnels. In particular, the tunnels will cover nearly 158

kilometres. The railway is designed for a speed of 160 kilometres per hour. Its construction started in December 2016 and will complete in five years.

(Xinhua)

## ECO

### Spring City shows hospitality for black-headed gulls

This year's first batch of black-headed gulls arrived in Kunming on October 8th. To better protect them, the municipal forestry bureau held a work conference on October 26 and announced that nearly 30 tonnes of bird feed is at the ready for black-headed gulls. So far, more than 1,000 black-headed gulls have arrived in the Spring City, as Kunming is known to the

world. The black-headed gulls have come to winter in Kunming for 34 consecutive years.

(Yang Zheng)



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