



CHINA • YUNNAN



BELT AND ROAD

Xi unveils China's opening-up measures

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a number of measures on November 5, including lowered tariffs and eased market access, intended to promote common growth and build an open global economy.

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the first China International Import Expo, in Shanghai, Xi introduced China's plan

to boost economic openness and called on the world to promote free trade and facilitate investment.

Xi predicted that China's imports of goods and services would exceed \$30 trillion and \$10 trillion, respectively, in the next 15 years, in step with the increasing demand of Chinese people in pursuing a better life.

China's initiative to expand imports is not make-

shift, but a long-term plan to embrace the world and the future while promoting common development, Xi said. Businesspeople around the world are welcome to share the development opportunities of the market in China, which has a huge population of 1.3 billion, Xi added.

China is taking solid steps to expand financial

opening-up, continue to advance opening-up in the service sector and deepen opening-up in agriculture, mining and manufacturing. The country also will accelerate the opening-up process in sectors including telecommunications, education, medical treatment and culture, Xi said. "China will not stop its effort to pursue higher-quality opening-up!

China will not stop its effort to pursue an open world economy!" Xi said.

He called economic globalization an irreversible historical trend that provides strong momentum for world economic development.

Xi said a fully optimistic attitude is justified toward the prospects of China's economic development despite the challenges of rising

uncertainties and some companies' business difficulties.

The expo shows China's innovative ideas and actions to support the multilateral trading system and promote free trade, Xi said. Before the opening ceremony, he met with foreign entrepreneurs and said that China will continue to provide a good environment for global investors. (Xinhua)

TOURISM

Thailand to attract Chinese tourists with better tourism environment

In 2019, the Thailand-China Tourism Year, Thailand will hold a series of events and attract Chinese tourists with more effective safety measures and better services.

On November 1st, the director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand told Chinese media that Thailand is preparing a series of major tourism events to attract Chinese tourists, including the Chinese New Year celebrations in downtown Bangkok, the Michelin Food Festival in Phuket and the Thailand Tour of the Lancang-Mekong Cultural Tourism Friendship Motorcade.

In 2018, according to the director, the number of Chinese tourists to Thailand increased by 25 percent year-on-year in the first half, but decreased by 9 percent in the third quarter, and is expected to decrease by 15 percent in the fourth quarter. He said that the decrease is mainly due to the shipwreck in Phuket in July and the security guards' assault of Chinese tourists at the Bangkok Airport in September hurt the feelings of Chinese tourists.

He said that Thailand is aware of the safety risks and inadequate services in its tourism industry. Thailand is considering free visas on arrival for Chinese tourists. It will make arrangements for Chinese tourists to fill in immigration cards so as to reduce language barriers upon entry.

Thailand will also enhance safety measures for Chinese tourists, strengthen traffic safety, strictly implement the service life limit for tourism vehicles and regulate the rental of tourist vehicles. (Xinhua)

EXPO

Yunnan to build everlasting China-South Asia Expo



On the afternoon of November 6th, the Yunnan delegation to the China International Import Expo held a promotion at the Shanghai National Convention and Exhibition Centre. The promotion, held with the theme "Exhibition and Trading Centre for Commodities from South Asia and Southeast Asia and Everlasting China-South Asia Expo", drew the attention of the world. In particular, several hundred participants from South and Southeast Asian countries, as well as other provinces in China, showed intense interest in joining hands with Yunnan to create win-

win cooperation.

According to Zhao Ruijun, director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce, the province will set up special pavilions in the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre for an everlasting China-South Asia Expo. The pavilions will help to showcase commodities from South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as function as a trading centre. The products will primarily highlight the national image and featured commodities of participating countries.

Photo by Zhou Can

This new project will be located at the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will focus on the national images, featured commodities and investment projects of 18 South and Southeast Asian countries. The dedicated space will function to facilitate international trade, build new sales channels for companies and act as hub for the organisation of overseas exhibition tours and sales promotions.

(Xinhua)

EXCHANGE

ASEAN and South Asia tourism officials participate in Chinese tour guiding competition



Competitors in the talent show.

Photo by Li Ziyu

On November 1st, closing ceremonies were held for two events, the 2018 China-ASEAN and South Asia Tourism Management Talents Training, and the Chinese Tour Guiding

Competition for Foreigners. These were held at Yunnan Tourism Vocational College. Tirawat Tassara, a Thai trainee, won the Best Style Award and the Best Talent Award.

The Best Chinese Tour Guide Award went to NGUYEN DANHPHUONG, a Vietnamese trainee.

The competitors consisted of 26 participants from the 2018 China-ASEAN and South Asia Tourism Management Talents Training. Having stood out in the preliminary competition, the ten finalists went on to compete in the tour guide competition as well as a talent show.

The training programme attracted more than 90 participants from eight countries. These included Laos, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam. (Liu Ziyu)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Amomum tsao-ko lifts valley people out of poverty

Yaping Village is tucked away in Gaoligong Mountains. It belongs to Lumadeng Township, Fugong County, Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province. In the past, the villagers grew corn to eke out their livelihoods.

The corn, golden as it was, did not make the valley people rich. Instead, it intensified soil erosion and increased the likelihood of landslides, mudslides and other geological disasters. No matter how hard they worked, the villagers could not shake off the trappings of persistent poverty.

Then China launched a strategy of targeted poverty alleviation, and the battle to end poverty is now in full swing. A large number of officials came to help people in the valley find new ways of making money.

The poverty alleviation officials brought Amomum tsao-ko seedlings. They convened a meeting and told the villagers that the government offered subsidies for them to grow Amomum tsao-ko—a ginger-like plant known in English by the transliterated Chinese name "caoguo".

Cultivation of the plant would bring in more money to the region. After the meeting, however, most of the villagers kept tending their corn fields.

Since the villagers were unwilling to act, Party members took the lead. The Amomum tsao-ko growers received not only government subsidies, but also were taught new growing techniques. After the first harvest, the Amomum tsao-ko farmers earned five times more than those cultivating corn, when measured by unit of acreage.

Serious changes have tak-

en place in the village. Corn acreage has decreased, villagers have begun to eat rice instead of corn, everyone now has three meals a day when they used to only have two, and sturdy concrete buildings have replaced old-fashioned houses that were shared by both people and animals.

Jie Qiuye was a big corn grower in the village. In the past, by growing corn all year round, his six-person family earned only 8,000 yuan a year. He was one of the last villagers to start growing Amomumtsao-ko. Now his family grows 50 mu of Amomum tsao-ko. Although not all the plants have fruited, his family earned more than 48,000 yuan last year.

The village cooperatives purchase Amomum tsao-ko fruits from Yaping Village and other nearby towns so that the villagers can earn more. Today, besides 12,500 mu of Amomum tsao-ko, Yaping Village also grows 10,000 mu of *Coptis chinensis*, 300 mu of *Paris polyphylla* and 1,000 mu of tea.

(Xinhua)



A farmer is washing caoguo.

Photo by Gong Xia



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Yunnan Express:
english.yunnan.cn

Editor: Zu Hongbing
E-mail: 249582138@qq.com