



CHINA • YUNNAN



BELT AND ROAD

LMC could play bigger role in regional river protection, development

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) could play a bigger role in the protection and development of the Lancang-Mekong river, Cambodian experts and officials said in recent interviews with Xinhua.

Te Navuth, secretary general of the Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC), said that for Cambodia, the main concerns over the Lancang-Mekong river's protection are climate change, natural disasters, irrigation and hydropower development in the basin, rising social

demands and expectations for livelihoods, and water, food and energy security.

The official said the LMC mechanism could play a bigger role to address those challenges and Cambodia is committed to cooperation within the platform.

Navuth said the Lancang-Mekong river offers development opportunities and cooperation for mainstream and tributary hydropower, irrigation, fisheries, navigation, flood and drought management, tourism and environment.

However, there remain

significant challenges such as rapid economic and population growth, increased demand for water, food and energy, urbanization, industrialization, the loss of environmental assets, wetlands and natural fisheries, deforestation, floods and droughts and risks to biodiversity and people's livelihoods, he said.

Seng Teak, country director of WWF Cambodia, said the transboundary nature of the Mekong river implies the importance of a cross-border or integrated river basin approach to

govern and manage the river and its resources.

"In our view, LMC countries should undertake comprehensive assessments of natural capital and the full range of ecosystem services and benefits provided by the entire Mekong River, mapping out properly valued benefits—both monetary and no-monetary—so that we have the necessary information available to help key decision-makers meet their social, economic and environmental goals," he added. (Xinhua)

CULTURE

Three Yunnan cultural relics draw public attention

The China Central Television recently released the second season of *National Treasure*, a large-scale programme on cultural relics. Among the 27 national treasures, three cultural artefacts collected by the Yunnan Provincial Museum received extensive attention. They are the violin owned by Nie Er, the bronze shell container carved with four oxen with a gilt rider on horseback, and the gilt silver Garuda inlaid with pearls dating back to the Kingdom of Dali.

The shell container is a bronze object unique to the ancient Dian Kingdom. It was usually used to store shells, which once served as the currency in ancient times. The bronze shell container shows four sinewy oxen and a man sitting astride a big horse. Just like a silent history book, it reflects the life and beliefs of the ancient Yunnan people.

Nie Er, a native of Yunnan, was a famous Chinese musician and composer. In 1935, when the Chinese nation was in a most dangerous situation, he created *March of the Volunteers* on his violin. The song later became the national anthem of the People's Republic of China.

Garuda, the golden-winged bird, is part of the beliefs of the ancient Dali people. Legend has it that the bird once helped the locals harness floods. Because of this, people consider it as their guardian. Today, 1,629 river chiefs and lake chiefs in Dali are likened to Garuda because of their contributions to environmental protection. (Li Yuechun)

FESTIVAL

Yunnan people preparing for Spring Festival



Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year, falls in early February this year. With this traditional festival around the corner, Yunnan people begin to shop for couplets, lanterns and other festive goods. Yunnan specialties are also popular with consumers. Here citizens are writing Spring Festival couplets in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province.

Photo by Zhou Can

CONNECTIVITY

Bridge on Chinese section of China-Laos railway closed smoothly



the closing of the bridge.

On January 16th, the Lixinzhai Extra-large Bridge on Yuxi-Mohan Railway was smoothly closed. It is the first four-line extra-large bridge along the Chinese section of the China-Laos Railway. Its closure

marks another breakthrough in the construction of the cross-border rail line.

The Lixinzhai Extra-large Bridge is located in Yuanjiang County, Yunnan Province. It has a total length of 952.8 meters. The

longest of its 24 spans is 80 meters long. Its highest pier stands at 71.9 meters tall, and its deepest foundation pylon is sunk 60 meters into the ground. Over more than two years, China Railway Tunnel Group has made meticulous efforts to ensure the construction quality and progress.

The Yuxi-Mohan Railway lies between Yuxi of Yunnan in the north and Mohan Port on the China-Laos border in the south. It extends 508 kilometres to connect with the Lao section of the China-Laos Railway. When completed, will allow the passenger train to run at a speed 160 kilometers per hour. (Yu Hong)

EXCHANGE

China-Myanmar Cultural Week held in Myanmar



Myanmar visitors on the Chinese poverty alleviation achievement exhibition.

Photo by Li Qiuming

From January 16th to 20th, the **China-Myanmar Cultural Week** is held in Mandalay and Yangon. During the Week, a series of activities were in Myanmar, including a new year book sale, a Chinese culinary culture experiencing programme, a Chinese poverty alleviation achievement exhibition, a China-Myanmar cultural exchange exhibition, a new year tea party for Chinese and Myanmar media and a new year gala themed on "paukphaw" friendship.

The new year book sale featured the Myanmar language version of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, as well as *Up and Out of Poverty*. It also promoted and exhibited excellent Chinese books on politics, economy, culture and history. The book sale opens a window through which Myanmar

people can get a holistic and rational understanding of China. The Chinese culinary culture experiencing programme and the China-Myanmar cultural exchange exhibition offer a variety of famous Yunnan snacks to tickle the taste buds of local visitors. At the new year tea party, the representatives from Chinese and Myanmar media sampled Yunnan tea and renewed the "paukphaw" friendship between the two countries. The media leadership on both sides agreed that media have played an important role in China-Myanmar communication, and they should further strengthen cooperation to serve the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and carry forward the "paukphaw" friendship.

(Staff Reporters)

ECHO WALL

MARA refutes false reports on migrant workers returning home

On its website, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) refuted the false reports by some overseas media that a large number of migrant workers are returning home because of lack of job opportunities or unemployment.

According to Guang Defu, a spokesperson for MARA, a large number of migrant workers are returning home not because they lost their jobs or cannot find good jobs in cities, but in the context of mass entrepreneurship and innovation as well as the steady development of agriculture and rural areas. Not just migrant workers, but some urban people are also starting businesses in the countryside. This phenomenon shows that rural areas promise great potential for starting businesses and making innovations, and many people have come to the countryside out of their own choices. While some

migrant workers are still working in cities, other migrant workers and college students are returning to rural areas to start businesses and make innovations. Such a two-way flow of resources and factors of production between urban and rural areas is rational and benign. People must look at this phenomenon from a positive perspective. It is a disregard of facts to describe returning migrant workers as unemployed people. And it cannot be ruled out that some people are doing this simply to tarnish the image of Chinese economy. (JMedia)



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