CHINA·YUNNAN

CHINA'S NATIONAL TWO SESSIONS

What are major media concerns for Yunnan?

On March 7, the Yunnan delegation attending the second session of the 13th National People's Congress met with 93 reporters from 48 domestic and international media outlets. So what are the major media concerns for Yunnan in 2019? In this issue, we preview the most pressing questions and find their answers to provide you with a new perspective on the province.

The upper photo is a panoramic view of the Day Open to Media of Yunnan delegation. The left one shows a journalist raised questions during the event.

Photo by Lei Tongsu

Development

Xinhua News Agency: *What are the highlights of Yunnan's leap-forward development over the past four years?*

Chen Hao, Secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee: In the past four years since Chinese President Xi Jinping's inspection tour in Yunnan in 2015, we have achieved economic development by leaps and bounds.

We have further enhanced our comprehensive economic strength. From 2014 to 2018, the province's GDP increased from 1,286.567 billion yuan to 1,788.112 billion yuan, an average annual increase of 8.9 percent. Meanwhile, our economic output climbed from the 24th place up to 20th place in the country.

We have further improved our infrastructure as well. From 2014 to 2018, the number of counties accessible by expressways in our province increased from 59 to 82, and the total railway mileage in Yunnan province reached 3,856 kilometres, including 1,026 kilometres of high-speed rail. The province now operates 15 airports, with air routes connecting Kunming with the capitals of all Southeast Asian countries. We have extended the energy network to cover urban and rural areas, built a number of large and medium-sized reservoirs, expanded Internet access across the province, and accelerated the construction of our logistics network.

We have further promoted industrial transformation and upgrading. We have deepened supply-side structural reforms and made remarkable achievements in the eight key industries: biomedicine and health, tourism culture, electronic information, modern logistics, modern high-altitude agriculture, new materials, advanced equipment manufacturing, food and consumer goods manufacturing. We also maintain strong momentum in building Yunnan into a world-class destination for the green energy, green food and healthy life sectors. We have continuously optimized the industrial, economic and energy structure in Yunnan.

We have brought reforms and opening up to a new stage. From 2015 to 2018, we have cumulatively introduced 3,270.555 billion yuan from outside the province, and increased the number of the world's top 500 companies in our province to 114. We have continuously optimized our business environment, improved the order of the tourism market, and advanced the reform of our power grid system.

We have further raised the living standards of people from all ethnic groups. From 2015 to 2018, we lifted 4.77 million people and 48 counties out of poverty, and made steady progress in ensuring people's access to childcare, education, employment, medical services, elder care, housing and social assistance programmes.

We have strengthened the construction of an ecological civilization. Yunnan's forest coverage has increased from 58.7 percent to 60.3 percent. We rank second in the country in terms of forest area, cover and stock. We have made fresh achievements in the protection and treatment of nine plateau lakes, including Erhai Lake, Dianchi Lake and Fuxian Lake.

Eco-protection

People's Daily: *What achievements has Yunnan made in protecting and treating Erhai Lake? What are the difficulties? What are your next steps?*

Ruan Chengfa, Governor of Yunnan Province: In the past four years, we have worked conscientiously to treat and protect Erhai Lake in west Yunnan's Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. The water quality in Erhai Lake has begun to improve. In 2018, the water in Erhai Lake was classified as Class II for seven months and Class III for five months, marking the best cumulative water quality since 2015. Because of this, positive changes are taking place in the lake ecosystem.

In the protection and treatment of Erhai Lake, we must make three determinations. First, we must be determined to stop developing Dali at the cost of Erhai Lake. Instead, we must improve investment mechanisms and drive Dali's socioeconomic development through the protection of Erhai Lake. Second, we must be determined to expand the core protection area of Erhai Lake and ensure its ecological space. Third, we must be determined to transform the development model and seek eco-friendly answers. We must drastically promote revolutionary changes in terms of both production and people's lifestyle across the lake basin, and briskly develop smart tourism, digital agriculture and ecological agriculture.

Poverty alleviation

China Central Television: *As the focus of the poverty alleviation programmes, how will Yunnan ensure that it can win the battle against poverty by 2020 together with the rest of China?*

Chen Hao, Secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee: Since the 18th CPC National Congress, we have firmly implemented the basic strategy of targeted poverty reduction and elimination, and achieved remarkable results in the battle against poverty. From 2013 to 2018, we have lifted 7.07 million people out of poverty. In 2017, 15 counties were removed from the list of poor counties. In 2018, we helped 1.51 million people shake off poverty and eliminated poverty from 2,298 villages. Additionally, 33 counties applied to be removed from the list of poor counties. Dulong, Jinuo and De'ang, three ethnic groups that have small populations and have evolved directly from a primitive society to a socialist one, have been lifted out of poverty as a whole, marking a significant milestone in Yunnan's history of poverty alleviation and development. However, our province still has 1.81 million poor people, 40 poor counties and 3,434 poor villages. We will continue to give priority to areas of extreme poverty when allocating related alleviation funds, formulating poverty alleviation policies and carrying out poverty alleviation programmes. We will continue to be resolute in winning the battle against poverty. By 2020, our province will make history by lifting the people of all ethnic groups out of poverty and reaching the level of moderate prosperity in all respects together with the whole country.

Tourism revolution

China Daily: *How will Yunnan carry the tourism revolution through to the end? What new features will be added to project of "Yunnan at Your Fingertips"?*

Ruan Chengfa, Governor of Yunnan Province: Through rigorous measures, we have achieved overwhelming momentum concerning the rectification and improvement of the order in our tourism market. In 2018, the national tourism complaint platform received 780 complaints from Yunnan, down by 53 percent year-on-year, a move that saw Yunnan go from sixth place to 21st place on the list of most complained-of provinces in the country. In the same year, both the number of tourists to Yunnan province and the tourism revenue increased by more than 20 percent from the previous year. Next, we will further rectify and upgrade the tourism market to attract more overseas tourists with high-end, featured and smart services.

So far, we have achieved initial results concerning smart tourism. This is represented by "Yunnan at Your Fingertips". The smart phone app "Travel in Yunnan" has two ends. At the tourist end, we will further optimize the services and take the lead to accommodate the 5G network. Meanwhile, we will give priority to the government end this year. Only by improving government services can we ensure a rewarding tourist experience.

(Yunnan Daily)

COOPERATION

LM week launched in Yunnan

The 2019 Yunnan Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Series and Lancang-Mekong Week was launched at the Kunming-based Yunnan University on March 18.

This year, the Lancang-Mekong Week will see forums, performances and exhibitions held to mark the third anniversary of the launch of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism.

More than 200 representatives from in-Kunming consulates, local governments, universities and companies attended the launching ceremony, including Lao consul general Khamphone Vongsanty, Myanmar consul general U Soe Paing, Cambodian consul general Lem Puthviro, and Malaysian consul general Faizal Bin Shani.

The Lancang-Mekong Week came into being at the second leaders' meeting on Lancang-Mekong cooperation held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in January 2018, when leaders from the six countries agreed to set the week starting from March 23 each year as the "Lancang-Mekong Week".

This year's Lancang-Mekong Week will last from March 18 to 24. Following the launching, more than 30 related events will be held in succession within 2019.

(Wang Shixue)

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Happy every day!

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