



OPENING UP

# Xi: China to boost its opening-up

President also announces plan to raise imports, expand foreign financial access

BY ZHANG YUNBI

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a slew of major measures on April 10 that China will adopt to boost its opening-up, including the country's plan to significantly lower the import tariffs for vehicles and some other products.

China will significantly broaden market access and create a more attractive investment environment, Xi said in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference held in

the southern island province of Hainan.

The country also will strengthen intellectual property protection and take the initiative to expand imports, he said.

China will accelerate the opening-up of the insurance industry, ease restrictions on the establishment of foreign financial institutions in China and expand their business scope, Xi said.

**On manufacturing, he noted China has basically opened up this sector with a small number of exceptions on automobiles, ships and aircraft,**

and "these industries are now in a position to open up".

China will reduce as soon as possible limits on foreign investment in those industries, automobiles in particular, Xi said.

To improve the investment environment for foreign investors, China will finish the review of the negative list for foreign investment in the first six months of this year, Xi said.

China also will seek faster progress toward joining the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, he said.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's starting its reform and opening-up.

Over the past 40 years, China's GDP has averaged an annual growth rate of around 9.5 percent in comparable prices, Xi noted.

**"Today, the Chinese people can say with great pride that reform and opening-up, China's second revolution if you like, has not only profoundly changed the country but also greatly influenced the whole world," Xi said.**

Those actions meet its people's aspiration for development, innovation and a better life, and

also meet the global trend toward development, cooperation and peace, Xi said.

Xi warned that a Cold War mentality and zero-sum thinking are increasingly out of date, and putting oneself on a pedestal or trying to immune oneself from adverse developments will lead to nowhere.

Founded in 2001, the forum has become a high-end platform for dialogues among political, business leaders and senior think tanks about key issues in Asia, and this year's annual conference has more than 2,000 attendees. (China Daily)

CULTURE

## Indian movie *Hindi Medium* releases in China

The Indian movie *Hindi Medium* was scheduled to be released in China on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and posters and trailers were published. The film is directed by Irrfan Khan and Saba Qamar, and tells a story about an Indian parents' tossing experience of choosing school for their kid.

Today, Indian movies become a new highlight in the Chinese movie market. The movie *Hindi Medium* has just set off a wave of watching and social concerns in India,

is expected to continue this popularity.

*Hindi Medium* is a comedy-drama film which portrays the lives of families with school-age children with school-selection anxiety. The film caused a sensational boom and social discussions when it was released in India. It finally came to the fore and threw down the Mysterious Superstar released the same period in India and won two best prizes in Best Picture and Best Actor.

(Xinhua)



The seventh Hunting God Festival was recently held in Jiuxiang Township in central Yunnan's Yiliang County. There, Yi people danced an ancient dance to pay tribute to their Hunting God. According to historical records, the Hunting God Festival has been celebrated for hundreds of years. During the festival, the local Yi people held solemn ceremonies to worship the Hunting God, the God of Fire and the Mizhi totem. They also pray for a good harvest, good fortune and good health in the coming year. Photo by Chen Fei

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

## Malaysian woman Xiatian and her sushi restaurant in Kunming



Xiatian (Middle) poses for a photo with two customers.

Photo by Li Hengqiang

BY LI HENGQIANG

Huang Xiatian, meaning "summer", comes from Penang, Malaysia. She used to work for Dell as a white-collar worker, but she quit that job because of her love of Japanese sushi and the Spring City of Kunming.

On October 1, 2017, having learned to prepare sushi, Xiatian started her vegetarian restaurant—Sushi Kitchen—on Wenhua Lane in Kunming.

Xiatian always uses the word "destiny" to explain why she came to Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province.

She used to receive a fat paycheck from Dell and lived a stable life. However, she likes challenges and is "destined" to pursue a more exciting life. There are always some turning points in our lives, and her turning point happened during a meal.

"I always wanted to find a job in another field. I was eating in an outlet of Sushi Kitchen in Penang one day when it occurred to me that I could join the restaurant. Then I quit my job and started as a dishwasher at Sushi Kitchen," Xiatian recalled. Was it a hot-headed decision? No. She started from the lowest level and worked at the restaurant for two years.

When Sushi Kitchen, a vegetarian restaurant with six outlets in Malaysia, was considering a

seventh outlet, Xiatian suddenly had an idea. "Why not China?" she suggested. She next chose to locate the outlet in Kunming, making the decision without hesitation.

Xiatian had worked as a volunteer in Lijiang. Once, she had a lay-over in Kunming and was deeply impressed by the city.

She came to Kunming alone and began to prepare to open her Sushi Kitchen in a foreign country. On October 1, 2017, she went into business.

"To make sure the food is authentic, we transport a lot of ingredients directly from Malaysia by air," Xiatian said. "Some dishes are very special and require more than ten different kinds of natural spices. We always use choice ingredients and provide customers with the best combinations. All dishes are prepared after the customers order."

"Some customers take buses for more than an hour to dine here. Some of them walk here on cold days. A Zen master from Yuanlong Temple comes here every so often and gives us tea leaves," Xiatian said, listing off her frequent customers with a smile. "The guitar and books on the first floor and the piano on the second floor were also given to us by our customers."

When asked why she chose Kunming, she thought for a while and said, "It is beautiful here. I can live a comfortable life, and people are friendly."

BELT AND ROAD

## CAS helps extend green Belt and Road to Bangladesh

BY LIU CHUNTAO

A delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), led by Director Bai Chunli, visited Bangladesh March 27 to 29. CAS representatives hope to extend the so-called "Green" Belt and Road to Bangladesh by strengthening cooperative ties between the two countries in the field of ecological protection.

In an interview with our reporter, Bai Chunli said that the CAS will strengthen cooperation with Bangladesh in terms of environmental governance and personnel training.

TALENT ATTRACTION

## Yunnan's talent attraction program hailed by foreign experts

BY WANG SHIXUE

The implementing details for the "Thousand Talents Program" of Yunnan Province were issued recently. Also known as the Yunnan Recruitment Program of Global Experts, the project is highly regarded by quite a few foreign experts working in Yunnan. They observed that the program provides strong financial support for bringing in talented individuals, which shows the province's high priority of opening up, as well as its determination to attract skilled foreign workers.

As a high-end talents introduction program, the "Thousand Talents Program" will undoubtedly provide job opportunities for international applicants while benefiting local companies and industries. This, in turn, will help the overall development of Yunnan, said Zeng Xianfang, general manager of Yuxi Zeru Biotechnology Company. Zeng comes from the United States. Beginning his work in Yunnan in 2016, Zeng Xianfang has been listed as a high-end foreign expert.

"Agriculture is of special

importance to Yunnan. The "Thousand Talents Program" identifies modern agriculture as a key development area, which will help blaze new fields of study for researchers and better put into practice their research achievements." Li Dongxuan, an agricultural expert from South Korea, currently conducts rice research at Yunnan Agricultural University. He has been working in Yunnan for more than ten years and won various scientific awards given to foreign experts.

"The program reflects strong talent awareness in Yunnan

Province," said Yang Hongyi. He taught at Bath Spa University in the United Kingdom for more than 20 years, and now works at Southwest Forestry University in Kunming. Yang believes that through the implementation of the "Thousand Talents Program", a new overseas talent development system will be created. At the same time, the programme will also have a positive impact on Yunnan in building innovative talent teams and optimizing the environment for future development. (Yunnan Daily)

ronment Research Centre also signed a cooperation agreement with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), with the purpose of strengthening cooperative research and personnel training in the fields of environmental pollution and drinking water safety.

In recent years, CAS has implemented an international programme to cultivate scientific and technologically skilled workers for Belt and Road countries. At present, more than 100 Bangladeshi people, mostly doctoral candidates, are studying at various CAS institutes.

(Xinhua)



A foreigner (Right) is sharing the technology of planting red pear trees with a grower in central Yunnan's Anning City. Online photo

VOICE

## Protectionism is not the solution to the war on trade: Leslie Maasdorp

"I am a trade specialist myself. I don't think a trade war would benefit anyone," said Leslie Maasdorp, the vice president of the New Development Bank which was established by the BRICS states

He was commenting on predictions that a trade war would result from the decision of US President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on up to 60 billion US dollars of imports from China and place restrictions on Chinese investments in the United States.

Analysts say the move could be a direct challenge to the WTO (World Trade Organization) and even create obstacles to the established rules-based international trade order.

Maasdorp believes Trump's latest move is fundamentally incompatible with the WTO. He noted that China has called on WTO members to unite and prevent the United States from

"wrecking" the organization with tariff actions.

Maasdorp insisted that the international community is still the safeguard of the international trade system. "There is no question that globalization and trade opening has benefited the world," he said. "The world is better off today with a global trading system that is based on rules."

Maasdorp emphasized that economies should solve grievances through negotiation within the established multilateral framework. "A trade war would not benefit anyone — not China or the US. It would not benefit any of the large economies," he said.

"Because the multilateral system has been established after the World War Two, the World Trade Organization emerged. So I think that is an appropriate forum to negotiate and define the new rules of the game." (CGTN)

## Yunnan accelerates aviation network construction

BY HU XIAORONG

This year, Yunnan accelerates aviation network infrastructure construction. Yunnan Airport Group plans to invest 3.485 billion yuan in civil aviation construction within this year. By the end of February, it had completed a total of 245 million yuan in physical investment. The construction of key projects such as the renovation and expansion of the second phase

of Tengchong Airport and the Lanping General Airport is being accelerated.

Tengchong Airport Terminal 2 has an area of 22,000 square meters designed to fully reveal the characteristics of Tengchong's geographical location in Southwest Yunnan. It features natural air-conditioning and lighting, thus it has become another green energy-saving and environmentally-friendly airport in Yunnan province.

CULTURE

## Zu's family embroidery: Art on fingertips



Zu Yulan (Right) is teaching a trainee how to embroider.

Photo by Zhou Can

BY ZU HONGBING

As the founder of Zu's family embroidery, Zu Yulan has uncommon artistic attainments and exquisite skills. She is capable of endowing patterns and images with life in her embroidery works.

Born in Yunnan, Zu Yulan is the founder of the Zu's family embroidery. Because of her natural gift and diligence, she has made a lot of achievement in the craft. When she was 18 years old, Zu Yulan began to learn Guangdong embroidery from Master Zhuo Meitao. Later, out of her love for embroidery and her pursuit of improving skills, she learned Suzhou embroidery, Hunan embroidery and Sichuan embroidery, which, together with the Guangdong embroidery, are regarded as the Four Famous Chinese Embroideries.

After years of practice and exploration, Zu Yulan created the Zu's family embroidery, while integrating skills of the Four Famous Chinese Embroideries with those of Yunnan ethnic embroideries. The Zu's family embroidery is also regarded

as the "3D embroidery" which features more lifelike images and patterns. Whether the patterns are mountains and rivers or beasts and birds, Zu Yulan is capable of endowing them with life on the basis her uncommon artistic attainment and exquisite skills.

The "One Hundred Horses" is one of her representative works, the completion of which took her one year and four months. It is 3.25 meters long and 0.45 meters wide. In the work, every horse has its unique color and poses differently. Totally, it consists of more than 4,000 different colors.

Once, a Taiwan businessman offered 3.8 million Yuan to buy the "One Hundred Horses", but Zu was reluctant to sell.

In 2009, Zu Yulan established the "Zu's Family Embroidery Art Center" which aims to provide a platform for those who want to learn embroidery. Since its inception, the center has trained more than 2,000 people. And Zu has already been listed as one of the representative inheritors of Yunnan provincial intangible cultural heritage.