



40th ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

"Golden bridge in the air" connects Yunnan with the world

BY HU XIAORONG

Editor's note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Four decades of great practice have proved that the implementation of these reforms has been key to determining the fate of contemporary China, and a source of vitality for the country's development and progress. Since China's reform and opening up, one of the sectors of Yunnan province that has witnessed the most remarkable changes is airport construction.

It is an early summer morning in the misty Jingmai Mountain, and peals of laughter can be heard from the "Jingmai People" homestay hotel. Sitting around

the fireplace in the courtyard are tourists from all over the country.

Ms. Huang from Beijing said, "Ten years ago, I fell in love with Jingmai Mountain on my first visit here. However, due to poor transportation and the lengthy journey to get here, I couldn't afford frequent visits. Several months ago, Jingmai Mountain became accessible by air, I 'flew' here at the first opportunity. And this is my third visit this year."

In 2012, the Kunming Changshui International Airport replaced the old airport overnight and smoothly went into operation, removing the infrastructure constraints that have long hampered the development of civil aviation in Yunnan province. With Lugu Airport, Cangyuan Airport and



Lijiang Airport in northwest Yunnan Photo by Hu Xiaorong

Lancang Airport opened for use in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, the Yunnan Airport Group has achieved a miracle in the development of Yunnan civil aviation.

Tengchong Airport, launched in 2009, is a typical example of the integrated development of aviation and tourism in Yunnan province.

Thanks to this airport, Tengchong has seen rapid growth in tourism and greatly boosted its economic and social development. Last year, Tengchong's social fixed asset investment reached 20.115 billion yuan, and the city earned fiscal revenue of 2.398 billion yuan, growing by 7 fold and 3.6 fold over the

course of 2009, respectively. The city's tourism revenue has increased from 1.62 billion yuan in 2009 to 15.11 billion yuan in 2017, an average annual increase of more than 15 percent.

Yunnan province currently operates 15 high-grade civil aviation airports, ranking first in China. It is a province with rich aviation resources and integrated management of its airports. As of the first quarter this year, the province has opened 424 air routes, including 353 domestic routes, 67 international routes and 4 regional routes. Kunming Changshui Airport is now connected with 32 airports in South and Southeast Asia by 235 flights per week, which puts it in a leading position among all Chinese airports.

BELT AND ROAD

Pakistan's Gwadar Port accelerates development

BY LIU TIAN

Gwadar is located in southwest Pakistan and is one of the country's most underdeveloped regions. However, the city has great potential for development. Extending into the Arabian Sea, Gwadar not only abounds in fishery resources, but also because of its unique geographic situation, poses a natural deepwater port.

On my recent visit to the city, however, I was impressed by what I saw in the downtown area—rows of buildings are under construction or that have recently been completed, and newly applied tiles shining brightly in the sunlight.

Abdul Gaphal came to Gwadar in 2008 to run a little shop and a small restaurant. He told me that the city has undergone great changes in the past two years. "Just a few customers visited my shop and restaurant in the past, so I knocked off early every day. Now, my restaurant has more than 200 customers on an ordinary day! I earn more and my shop always stays open," said Gaphal.

Gwadar Port officially went into construction in 2002. In the years that followed, however, the port's development almost ceased and the city's economy lacked improvement. The situation did not change until 2013, when China and Pakistan agreed on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project. In 2015, the two sides decided to carry out the "one plus four" cooperative strategy. This involves construction of the economic corridor as the centre piece of the port, with energy, transport infrastructure and industrial

cooperation set as related priorities. Now construction of the economic corridor has achieved great progress, bringing with it greater opportunities for development.

"When we first came, the equipment in the area basically could not be used," said Hu Yaozong, deputy general manager of Gwadar Port Free Zone Company Limited. "Now Gwadar Port has fully restored its operational capacity. It is capable of handling container ships, bulk materials, general cargo and mixed cargo. Loading and unloading efficiency has greatly improved."

Gwadar Free Zone sits next to the port is also developing rapidly. A year and a half ago, it was still a wasteland. Today it has attracted more than 20 Chinese and Pakistani companies. These include banks, insurance companies, financial leasing companies and logistics companies. Direct investment in the zone now amounts to three billion yuan, and the annual output value is expected to exceed five billion yuan when the zone goes into full operation.

In recent years, Gwadar's population has increased from 80,000 to about 130,000. The number of mobile phone users in the area has risen from 100,000 to more than 200,000. Gwadar airport used to be serviced by just one flight every week, but now a fully occupied flight arrives in the city on a daily basis. In the past, cargo ships occasionally called at Gwadar Port, while now the port operates its own shipping routes and receives a new liner every week. In 2017 alone, Gwadar Port received about 3,000 business visits. (Xinhua)

TRAVEL



Shishan Hill, also known as the "Sleeping Beauty", is a popular scenic spot in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan. It is located on the west bank of the Dianchi Lake, the largest fresh lake in Yunnan. The photo taken by Yunnan Daily cameraman a few days ago shows the "Sleeping Beauty" at twilight. Photo by Sun Xiaoyun

VOICE

China redoubles efforts toward 'Beautiful China' by 2035

BY RABI SANKAR BOSU

The 8th National Conference on Environmental Protection concluded in Beijing on May 19, 2018, declaring China's "toughest-ever" combat against air, water and soil pollution toward a "Beautiful China" by 2035.

It is worth mentioning that China has been playing an important part in boosting the globalization of green development. Hailing China's ecological renewal model, Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) remarked on May 18: "I think environmental changes in China for the last five years has been the fastest in human history, very

amazing and positive." Undoubtedly, American President Trump's retreat from the Paris Climate Agreement put China 'in the driver's seat' in the fight against climate change. It is important to note here that the basic framework for "ecological civilization," a development priority made by Chinese President Xi Jinping, took shape at the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. In 2015, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council expounded opinions on accelerating the promotion of ecological progress which are considered to be the prime guideline in the field of ecological and environmental protection in China.

As "Beautiful China Initiative" is part of a global mission

of building a beautiful earth, during the two-day meeting, President Xi showcased the leadership's determination with clear goals saying that the "ecological environment is a crucial political and social issue that relates to the mission of the Communist Party of China and people's livelihoods." However, it needs to be pointed out that although China is on the road of building an ecological civilization with green development concepts, it has a bigger role to promote and guide the establishment of a fair and reasonable global climate governance system that promotes win-win cooperation. (Secretary, New Horizon Radio Listeners' Club, based in West Bengal, India)

YUNNAN WEDDING CUSTOM

Achang people: Three-meter-long chopsticks "trouble" grooms

BY DUAN JIANXIN

Editor's note: Yunnan's diverse living environment and cultural deposits have contributed to the evolution of a great variety of marriage customs. From marriage customs of various ethnic groups, we can feel the charm of Yunnan culture. Today, we introduce you to the Achang wedding custom.

In the Achang wedding tradition, the bride's families and friends try to embarrass the groom with many "troubles". Among them, the three-meter long chopsticks, which the groom are required to use to pick up food for the bride's families and friends, are very special.

Many local young males of Achang people get to know females at markets. In the past, there were no advanced communications tools and Achang people sang songs in antiphonal style as a way of emotional exchange and love expression. The tradition lasts till now.

On the wedding day, they prepare many delicious dishes. At the wedding banquet, the groom will face challenges. This is an important rite of the Achang wedding ceremony. The bridegroom will be given a pair of three-meter-long chopsticks decorated with red paper. With corns, luffas and passion fruits tied hanging on the end, the chopsticks weighs up to 15kg (approximately 33 pounds). However, the groom has to use the chopsticks to pick up food into the bowls of the bride's families. To

ease the challenge, the groom can give gifts to the bride's relatives and friends to get some weights removed from the chopsticks.

With the help of his men, the groom carries the chopsticks on his shoulder and gingerly tries to pick up food with the tips of the chopsticks. This is a process of difficulties. If his personality of endurance and diligence impress the bride's parents, they will nod to him out of appreciation. (Daguan Weekly)



The groom is using the long chopsticks. Photo by Meng Zhigang

CULTURE

Kunming microfilm wins award at int'l film festival



A photo of the whole cast Online photo

At the 8th Miami Film Festival, Golden Lighthouse Awards and Chinese Film Summit, *Sahuapo*, a poverty alleviation microfilm produced in Xundian in Kunming, stood out from more than 1,000 entries and won the Best Director Award for Microfilms.

Sahuapo began production in Liushao Township of

Xundian County on December 3, 2017. It tells the story of a university student who became a village official and helped lift villagers out of poverty. The whole cast is made up of local ethnic minority people and during the microfilm they speak their own language, lending ethnic authenticity to the microfilm.

POVERTY ELIMINATION FOR COMMON PROSPERITY

Relocating from inhospitable areas to new houses

BY GUAN YUSHU

It is early summer. At the resettlement site of Dapingdi Village in Binchuan County, Yunnan Province, the newly-built folk houses are neatly spaced-out and the roads are clean and tidy. The courtyards, flowers and fences form a beautiful scene under the blue sky and white clouds.

"After living in the new house for more than half a year, I still feel as if I were in a dream," Li Shujun told our reporters. In Dongsheng Village, where Li Shujun used to live, it took villagers three or four hours to get to the county seat. Goods were transported by horses or man power, children spent two hours on road to and from school, and health care was even less available. Having moved out of this inhospitable place, the villagers are now living a better life.

According to Luo Ruzhen, who was also relocated, the government has turned some hillside fields into arable land to divide between the villagers. Each of them receives two mu of land to meet their living needs, and the photovoltaic power generation project brings in 3,000 yuan for each household every year.

"A total of 98 households and 358 people have been relocated here. Most of them used to live in the poor, chilly mountainous areas along the Jinsha River. They have been relocated, on average, 100 kilometres away from their original dwellings," said Wang Cunming, director of the Binchuan County Immigration Bureau. After relocation, measures must be taken to ensure that the relocated families can settle permanently and start

to earn money. To this end, the county has taken both short-term and long-term measures to develop local industries. Villagers grow pomegranates while leasing the land to Yunfu Company for 800 yuan per mu to inter-plant spring onions. This has increased income and job opportunities for poor households. At the same time, a 330-kilowatt photovoltaic power station has been built using the 10-mu land at the resettlement site, and the collectively-owned integrated agricultural economy also brings in income for villagers.

Binchuan County belongs to the mid-subtropical low-latitude plateau monsoon climate zone. With dry winters and wet summers, and the abundant solar resources are ideal for developing the photovoltaic power-generation industry. "The photovoltaic project will drive the scientific cultivation of nearly 10,000 mu of farmland, and promote efficient use of the land. The 'agriculture-solar complementary' demonstration project integrates tourism, training, sight-seeing and planting, and will ensure poor households can increase their income and ultimately shake off poverty," said Wang Cunming.

According to Chen Yunji, deputy mayor of Binchuan County, the county has used housing construction and poverty alleviation funds to build new houses and rebuild dilapidated housing for 6,800 households, 22,800 people, in rural areas. In addition, 920 households, or 3,586 people, have been relocated from inhospitable areas to twenty-four poverty-alleviation resettlement sites. Not a single household still lives in a dilapidated house.

EXCHANGE

Seminar opens for Mekong media officials, journalists

新闻官员及媒体记者培训项目
Seminar for Media Officials and Journalists from Mekong Countries



Opening ceremony of the Seminar Photo by Zhu Dongran

BY WANG SHIXUE

The First Seminar for Media Officials and Journalists from Mekong Countries kicked off in Kunming, Yunnan Province on June 12, with the theme of "one river, one family".

Hosted by Yunnan Daily Press Group (YDPG), the nine-day training seminar drew in 17 media delegates from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the coming days, the seminar participants will, together with the YDPG reporters, take Chinese high-speed trains, witness the 5th China-South Asia Exposition, visit southwest Yunnan's Lincang, and exchange extensively in Kunming and Lincang.

VISA

South Africa visa application center set up in Kunming

BY DONG YUHONG

Chinese citizens can apply for visas to more than ten European countries and Canada in Kunming, Yunnan. The South Africa visa application centre has been recently set up to facilitate visa application for people in Kunming and neighbouring cities.

Currently, Chinese citizens can apply in Kunming for visas

to Austria, Finland, Greece, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Malta, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, the United Kingdom, Canada and South Africa. Kunming is actively working for the establishment of more visa application centers so people can apply for visas to other African and South American countries in the city.