



## China and South Asia jointly heading for brighter future

**Editor's note:** The 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo opened on June 14 and concluded on June 20 in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan province. With the theme of "Integrating into the Belt and Road Initiative Promoting win-win cooperation", the week-long expo and its relevant activities attracted participants from 87 countries, regions and international organizations, and achieved fruitful results in many fields. Through exhibitions, conferences and forums, this year's Expo has successfully created win-win business opportunities and built platforms for cooperation between China and South Asian countries. Here we present you wonderful stories and photos about the expo, hoping to help you better understand the China-South Asia Expo and the closer ties between China and South Asian countries.

### Yunnan to play key role in China-S Asia ties

BY LI YINGQING and YANG NAN

As China's relations with south Asian countries become closer, Southwest China's Yunnan province can help enhance regional cooperation for shared benefits under the Belt and Road Initiative, according to Hu Chunhua, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a vice-premier of China.

rapidly in recent years.

In 2017, trading volume between China and South Asia reached \$126.8 billion, up 31.7 percent from 2013. In addition, total exports from South Asian countries to China rose by 30.7 percent as China boosts trade ties with the region, according to Hu.

Gao Yan, vice-minister of commerce of China, said South Asia is where the sea and land routes meet along the Belt and Road, and it is an important partner of the initiative.

As of April, the accumulated direct investment from China in South Asia exceeded

\$11.8 billion, making it one of the most important sources of foreign investment for South Asian countries, Gao said.

"China is willing to strengthen its dialogue and connection with South Asia, bridging industries with competitive advantages in China with regional demand," said Gao, who hopes the cooperation can enter a new phase that is both dynamic and efficient.

With the theme of Integrating into the Belt and Road Initiative, Promoting Win-Win Cooperation, the weeklong expo showcases 3,825 companies in 19 exhibition halls, of which more than 40 percent



Three South Asian businessmen gave thumbs-ups at the opening ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo. (Yunnan Daily)

come from overseas. A series of concurrent events will also take place, including the 25th China Kunming Import and Export Fair and the first China-South Asia Cooperation Forum.

Afghanistan is the theme country of the fifth CSA Expo. Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq, the

country's second deputy chief executive officer, said China plays a pivotal role in South and East Asia, and all parties involved can take significant steps toward economic development by sharing their experiences and achievements with each other. (China Daily)

### VOICE

## SCO and BRICS: Bridges to a shared future

The 18<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao is an event that proves the Eurasian region has been the most dynamic in the world for the past two decades. Even with all the geopolitical complexity, SCO member countries have assumed their responsibilities in seeking integrated solutions to common problems.

When SCO was founded by its six initial members in June 2001, the organization anticipated what would become the main focus of the international agenda after September 11 in that same year: the fight against terrorism. But it also included fighting extremism and separatism as other types of threats to regional security and stability. SCO has been successful in these areas.

Because of the national needs of its members and international circumstances, SCO has gradually expanded its agenda. The perception that economic development contributes to reducing threats to peace is not new, but the approach of strategically integrating the two goals gains its own dimension in the context of SCO. The admission of India and Pakistan into the organization at the Astana

Summit in 2017, comply with this dual imperative. The SCO is gradually coalescing objectives and being fused into a larger undertaking of transformation of the reality of Asia and, potentially, the world.

Given this scenario, BRICS, as a multilateral political forum, and the New Development Bank, as an international organization, since they have three SCO member countries (China, Russia, and India), should be more actively involved in this large Asian network of formal and informal initiatives of cooperation. It means that, Brazil and South Africa, through BRICS, would have a legitimacy to participate more actively in Asian international relations. By doing so, both countries will be able to expand their diplomatic skills and affinities with Asian countries, learning to act faster and more effectively in a world where countries and organizations in Asia will define the new contours of the world's future. SCO is one of the pillars of this new global reality. (By Evandro Menezes de Carvalho, director of the Center for Brazil-China Studies at FGV, Brazil; First published by China Daily)

### 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM & OPENING UP

## China's reform and opening up benefits everyone

BY WANG SHIXUE

"I came on a shared bicycle. OFO and Didi are so convenient!" said Benjamin. "Yunnan and other provinces are developing rapidly. Every foreigner living here can feel it."

Few people can tell that Benjamin is from India just by his skin colour and accent. "My father is Indian, and my mother is from Guangzhou, so I'm a Chinese-Indian person," he said with a grin.

Benjamin came to Yunnan province in late 2012. Now he teaches business English at the Haiyuan Campus at Yunnan Normal University. He has witnessed the development of the province over the past few years. "Yunnan has been developing rapidly. The construction of high-speed railways, highways, airports and other infrastructure facilities are all going well," Benjamin said excitedly. "My friends

and I like to travel in Yunnan province. You can go almost everywhere by highway. I especially love small villages in the province. Whenever we go, villagers share with us their best things. Everyone is so hospitable here." As a university teacher, Benjamin hopes to promote exchanges between China and India. "Both China and India are promising countries. We should carry out more exchanges. Yunnan is close to India. In organizing exchange programmes, I hope Chinese students can go to India. I will also bring Indian students to Yunnan so that they can learn about China's achievements in social and economic development. In this way, the two peoples can better understand each other." When the interview was over, Benjamin took out his mobile phone to hail a taxi. "China's reform and opening up has benefited everyone. I enjoy living in Yunnan", he said.

### POVERTY ELIMINATION FOR COMMON PROSPERITY

## Bingdao: Tea farmers embark on new journey

BY LI HENGQIANG

Although every household in Bingdao Village now can easily afford fancy cars, they are considering more about further development of the local tea industry.

Bingdao Village is located in southwest Yunnan's Shuangjiang County. Before 2003, nobody came to the village to buy tea leaves even at the price of one for a kilo due to rugged road conditions. However, blessed with rare ancient tea trees of hundreds of years old, the tea brand of Bingdao becomes more powerful year by year and its price has now become the most important wind indicator of those of high-end pu'er tea. Currently, as local people become rich, buying a fancy car is very easy for them. But they are

considering more about the further development of the village.

Villagers said that they are grateful to their ancestors for leaving these ancient tea trees for them. But besides selling tea leaves, they value the long-term development in the future. They have now begun to afforest the mountain slopes and create better environment for their descendants. In the meantime, more youngsters working in cities have come back to the village and work as tea growers. They use their marketing knowledge to make contributions to bettering the brand recognition and enriching cultural connotation of Bingdao tea. In the future, the villagers are planning to build Bingdao into a health tourism destination with local flavors, providing better tea culture experience for visitors.

## China, South Asia join hands in Belt and Road Initiative

BY CHU DONGHUA and ZU HONGBING

Since 2004, eight SAARC member states—namely India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan—have been seeking shared benefits through extensive consultation and joint contribution with China through the 13<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Business Forum, a sideline of the 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo.

At the time as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's reform and opening up, this year's forum defined its theme as "Shaping Future Together—Industrial Cooperation of Mutual Opening". The attendees carried out heated discussions on the state of the world, the economy, opening up, cooperation, the future and younger generations. Each made their positive voices heard.

"We've made great progress in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative since it was first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. Therefore, we're looking forward to further promoting connectivity and regional economic integration. I'm convinced that this forum will mark a milestone in the building of the Belt and Road," said Ismail Ghazanfar, vice chairman of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, when he presided over the forum.

The South Asian sub-continent is hopeful and promising. The region is expected to become a new growth centre for Asia and the world. Growth there is expected to provide China with opportunities for industrial cooperation, setting up joint ventures and making investments, said Ruwan Edirisiringe, chairman of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and chairman of the Sri Lankan Chamber of Commerce

and Industry.

All opinions point in the same direction—mutual understanding, common development, win-win cooperation and improving people's well-being.

In 2017, the trade volume between China and South Asian countries reached 126.8 billion U.S. dollars, including a trade volume of 587 million U.S. dollars between Yunnan province and South Asian countries. This regional cooperation has brought all involved countries a stronger sense of fulfillment.

"Indian SMEs can help Chinese SMEs in the use of information technology, in production and inventory management. Meanwhile, Chinese SMEs can share technological progress with their Indian counterparts. Bangladesh can exert its advantages concerning skilled workers in the garment industry. In short, South Asian countries and China can achieve common progress," said Ganesh Gupta, chairman of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations.

"We invite Chinese entrepreneurs to Bangladesh. You may consider transferring your industries to our country. We can provide favourable policies, sound infrastructure, a skilled labour force and a growing market," said Mozumdar, CEO of Bangladesh Identifying Agents' Association.

"We need to shape the future through further cultural exchanges and get young people involved in our enterprises. To achieve this goal, China and South Asian countries should increase exchanges and cooperation projects," said Bhawani Rana, president of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He hopes that the sharing of experience and views through the forum and other platforms will promote industrial cooperation and economic integration.



During the 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo, the 2018 China—South and Southeast Asia Cultural Week was also held. Folk artists from China, India, Bangladesh and Nepal presented a feast of art to the audience. Here a Bangladesh sculptor and his works attracted the attention of many visitors to the expo. Photo by Yang Zheng

## Yunnan pavilion features high-tech, green development

BY WANG SHIXUE

The 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition and the 25<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair opened in Kunming, Yunnan Province on June 14, with 19 pavilions covering an exhibition area of 190,000 square meters.

Among them, the Yunnan pavilion is characterized by clean energy, green food, and healthy

lifestyles.

special areas were designated in the pavilion to show green-food processing, consumer goods manufacturing, bio-pharmaceuticals, general health, modern agriculture, and tourism resources.

The VR simulation flight, unmanned aerial vehicles, all-terrain cars, zero-emission trucks and China-Laos industrial garden are among the high-tech products

that drew much attention from the professional buyers. Themed "Integrating into the Belt and Road Initiative and Promoting Win-win Cooperation", the expo has around 8,500 standard booths set up at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention & Exhibition Center. Over 40 percent of the booths are rented by foreign exhibitors from 87 countries.

## CSA Expo brings more opportunities for exhibitors

BY LIU ZIYU and LI HENGQIANG

More than 3,800 companies from 87 countries and regions attended the week-long 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo (CSA Expo) and the 25<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair held in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province. With 40 percent of them from overseas, the enterprises hope to find more partners through this international platform.

As the Theme Country of the 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo, Afghanistan brought dozens of items including carpets, jewelry, handicrafts and saffron flowers. Products on display in the pavilions of Myanmar, the Country of Honor this year, include agricultural products, food, timber, handicrafts and jade. The exhibitors said that they are all optimistic about the Chinese market and looking forward to a good business.

Indonesian businessman



A businessman is showing his wooden painting. (Yunnan Daily)

Johnny Tjik Zahar first took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-South Asia Expo in 2014. It was a success as his products were sold out. "I just intended to investigate the market, and the sales performance was unexpectedly great." From then on, Johnny comes to Kunming to attend the exhibition every June.

Hossein, an Iranian carpet dealer has participated in the exhibition for six to seven years. He said that the expo is attractive and his carpets are always popular. This year, he has brought carpets that meet the preferences of young customers, hoping to find new business opportunities.

In addition to exhibitors involved in for many times, the China-South Asia Expo has seen participations of many new comers every year. The Netherlands, Denmark, Kyrgyzstan and Syria participated in the exhibition this year for the first time.



The 13th China-South Asia Business Forum is becoming influential after having been held for 13 sessions. It has built a bridge for communication between businessmen from China and SAARC. Photo by Zu Hongbing