



BELT AND ROAD

BRI is the path to prosperity and peace

In these days of world-changing and, dare I say, world-threatening times, it's comforting to know somewhere in the world there are countries doing their utmost to achieve something other than death, destruction, self-aggrandizement and domination. The Belt and Road Initiative, led by the People's Republic of China, is like a breath of fresh air to a drowning man. For many years the domination of Western finance and industry has brought wealth and good living to that part of the world — often at the expense of others, who have been powerless, held back and unable to join in with the good times. Loans for infrastructure improvements have only been granted with heavy conditions attached, and with the aim of putting the recipient into heavy debt. But when financing Belt and Road projects, China always adheres to an economic benefit-oriented approach, provides loans based on the actual conditions of the recipient country, supports project construction and avoids creating new debt risks or fiscal burdens for the host.

With this project, there is light at the end of the tunnel for underdeveloped countries, and the prospects for peace and prosperity for many, instead of a select few, is on the horizon.

You may ask, as a Westerner why do I feel so positive about the idea? Why should I support something that could be seen as a threat to my way of life, my economic prospects? The answer is simple for me. Many people in the so-called West and in Europe do not benefit so much at the moment. There is great wealth, but it's great wealth for the few. A projected new railway would only be built if vast amounts of profit could be taken from its building and its operation. The new railway from Addis Ababa to the port in Djibouti has been laid down to give desperately needed access to markets. Certainly, China will benefit from this and other projects, but so will the people of both Ethiopia and Djibouti. That's the brilliance of it — the projects of the BRI are mutually beneficial.

But prosperity and better living standards for so many people are not



Attendants check the tickets of passengers on a train running on the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway which was built by Chinese companies. (Xinhua)

the only benefits from this initiative. The greatest benefit to all involved will be peace and goodwill, brought about from the mutual trade and cultural understanding of the countries taking part. When we trade with each other, we talk to each other, we work with each other and we understand each other. We all benefit, and so there is a greater chance that peace will prevail.

The financial result of this initiative will be increased trade and wealth for all. If there is a political result, it will be peace and security from war. All are achievable with the Belt and Road Initiative.

(The author is Chris Dodd, a retired depot manager of a railway company in Derbyshire, England and a member of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. China Daily)

STORY OF KICHOU

Xichou: Land of lucid waters and lush mountains

Faced with severe stony desertification, the people in Xichou have deep understandings of the philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets". Starting from the first attempt in Muzhe Village in 1990, Xichou people have never stopped fighting against the difficult living conditions. They have created a successful model in the comprehensive treatment of rocky desertification, turning the land into a green ecological home.

Entering the demonstration area of the Improvement Project of Medium- and Low-yielding Farmlands in Banggu Township, we were surprised by the eye-catching views. The roads are linked as nets and the pools are connected.

Eight years ago, this rocky desertification area began to revive. Local people picked up electric drills, drove excavators and shouldered carrying poles, turning the 897.8 acres of dry land into fertile land. "Our family had 0.66 acres of barren land. After the improvement, we turned it into a terraced land of more than 60 acres," Li Youneng, a local villager said happily when talking about the benefits of the comprehensive treatment of rocky desertification.

According to statistics, Xichou has treated more than 140 square kilometers of rocky desertification and built more than 16,474 acres of terraced fields. (Yunnan Daily)

ENERGY



Yunnan Province is vigorously developing its leisure and health industries, while also augmenting the "migrant bird" tourism and the retirement industry. Now, a retirement industry cluster area featuring with the province's characteristics has come into being. The photo here shows that elders were introduced to a retirement project during the 2017 Kunming International Health and Retirement Expo. File photo by Yangzheng

TOURISM

"Travel in Yunnan" app to be officially released in October

BY WANG HUAN

Yunnan will ensure a high-quality online operation of "Tour Yunnan with a mobile phone" to be officially launched in October 1, according to news released in a meeting recently held in Xishuangbanna in southern part of the province.

On August 27th, when the app "Travel in Yunnan" (V1.7.0) was

released, users noticed that its core functions such as homepage, live broadcast, map and navigation were improved to create an immersive smart travel experience.

The app's homepage is improved from the dimensions of space, time and operation. The destination function now helps unintentional users learn about Yunnan and intentional users locate

destinations more quickly and accurately.

In addition to the original features, the map and navigation function allows users to search for parking lots, toilets, ticket offices and other facilities in the scenic spot with one click.

Now, the shopping section of "Travel in Yunnan" app has launched 15 products of Pu'er tea, and the online products are sold and provided exclusively.

CULTURE

He Jinmei: Singer of Tibetan "Epic of King Gesar"

BY XIONG YAN

"Why is your hair half-combed, why is your face half-washed, and why do you have black and white hands?" The 53-year-old He Jinmei was singing beautifully, facing the sun and standing squarely.

Whenever she sang the *Epic of King Gesar*, the listeners would be visibly moved, be it a native or a visitor from afar.

The Epic of King Gesar is one of the world's great epics, as significant for Tibetans as the *Odyssey* and *Iliad* for the ancient Greeks. In history, the epic used to be widely spread in Tibetan regions from mouth to mouth.

But now the epic has become an endangered cultural heritage in northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and only a few inheritors can sing King Gesar.

"At the age of 14, I began to sing *King Gesar*. The story moved me a lot and I fell in love with it. For decades, I've been learning the epic from the master, and now I can sing all 52 episodes." He Jinmei said passionately, smiling. "In Diqing, I am the only one who



He Jinmei was singing the *Epic*. Photo by Li Wenjun

can sing the full epic in addition to my master. I'll go on singing so that the King's story can be passed down from generation to generation," she added.

Jinmei's master is He Mingyuan, national inheritor of the world-class intangible cultural heritage project of King Gesar. For Jinmei, Mingyuan is both her teacher and a senior whom she trusts and relies on.

To learn the epic, Jinmei almost devoted all her leisure time. "Over the past decades, I have been singing,

but finished it only in recent years. The epic covers more than 50 episodes in ten plus tunes, said Jinmei.

At the lively Reba dancing nearby, He Jinmei recalled she used to be good at the dancing like most Tibetans in Tacheng, but now what she wants to do is to be the inheritor of the King Gesar epic.

To save this heavily endangered art, He Jinmei and He Mingyuan are now teaching their own offspring, trying to get more people engaged in tradition.

VOICE

China provides a variety of development opportunities for Africa

"More than 1.3 billion Chinese people, together with more than 1.2 billion African people, are pursuing a shared future. We respect Africa, love Africa and support Africa. We follow a "five-no" approach in our relations with Africa. This policy includes: no interference in African countries' pursuit of development paths that fit their national conditions, no interference in African countries' internal affairs, no imposition of our will on African countries, no attachment of political strings to assistance given to Africa, and no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation arrangements with Africa. We hope this 'five-no' approach could apply to other countries as they deal with matters regarding Africa."

The "five-no" approach was originally proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. It takes from and further develops the five principles of peaceful coexistence. It has answered some questions of the times, and started a journey into the future and reflects the distinctive features of China-Africa relations in a new era. Therefore, it is widely hailed by China's African friends.

In the eyes of the African Union's rotating current chairman and Rwandan President Paul Kagame, China is a "respectable partner". "The Africa-China relations are based on equality, mutual respect

and commitment to a common happiness. Our increasingly stronger ties with China do not come at the expense of others."

For African countries, the "five-no" approach is a just rebuke to some in the West who hold the absurd theory that the China-African cooperation relations are neo-colonialism.

"There is no trace of neo-colonialism in China-Africa cooperative efforts," South African President Ramafusa said. He pointed out that China is cooperating with African countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect. Such win-win cooperation endeavors are welcomed by African countries.

"China has never colonized Africa. Now China is our largest trading partner. When China provides us with a variety of development opportunities, where are the finger-pointing Western countries?" said Zimbabwean Ambassador to China, Paul Chikawa. He dismissed the false accusations made by Western countries, saying China is a much bigger economy than Zimbabwe. "But whenever we encounter problems, China always helps us work out solutions and cooperates with us as equals."

Namibian President Hage Geingob also believes that China has always treated African countries equally. "China is a sincere partner and a friend of Africa. The African people oppose unfounded accusations leveled against of China." (People's Daily Overseas Edition)

EXCHANGE

Bangladesh-China youth camp kicks off in Kunming



Campers present gifts to Yunnan University. Photo by Guanxi Ruyi

BY GUANXI RUYI

On September 4th, the opening ceremony of the 2018 Bangladesh-China Youth Camp was held in Kunming. The 158 campers were divided into four groups: the Embassy Group, the North-South University Group, the Dhaka University Group and the Shanto-Mariam Confucius Classroom Group. They are engaged in an exchange programme at Yunnan University in southwest China's Yunnan Province from September 2nd to 16th.

During the opening ceremony, some representatives of Bangladeshi students gave speeches, and while others performed traditional Bangladeshi dances, Chinese kungfu and Chinese songs. The leaders of Yunnan University also unveiled the scholarship programmes and new admission policies for students.

The camp is jointly sponsored by the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban). Overall organization was conducted by Yunnan University. Last year, the two-week even introduced 144 campers to the charming traditional cultures of Yunnan.

"My name is Limu. I love Yunnan very much. I love its mild weather and natural beauty," said Maria Sultana Limu, a freshman of the CRI-SMF Confucius classroom. This is not the first time she has been to China. Her father is Chinese and her mother is Bangladeshi. She has

been studying Chinese for a year, and her pronunciation is very good. She hopes to learn more about the history and culture of Yunnan. "Many Bangladeshi people are studying Chinese. I hope to teach Chinese in my country, but at present my biggest aspiration is to come to China and attain a university education."

Yunnan Province and Bangladesh are close to each other and have been to maintain good relations. In 2005, Kunming and Chittagong became sister cities. Since then, people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation efforts between Yunnan and Bangladesh have been on the rise.

According to Zhang Li, deputy president of Yunnan University, the university has been maintaining a friendly relationship with Bangladeshi universities for many years. Both sides have carried out in-depth cooperation in establishing the construction of Confucius Institutes, and promoting the arts, geosciences and, as well as environmental and water resources protection. "During this event, I hope that Bangladeshi students will fall in love with the Chinese language and our country. We also welcome you to study at our university with open arms," said Zhang Li.

The campers will also go to Jianshui County of Honghe Prefecture to further experience the Chinese culture and understand the concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

EXPO

Yunnan makes a hit at int'l trade, investment fair

BY HAN CHENGYUAN

As the province of honor, Yunnan has drawn wide attention at the 20th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) from Sept. 8 to 11, with contracts worth 7.4 billion dollars signed between the Yunnan delegation and its business partners.

Nearly 1,200 Yunnan delegates from 16 cities and prefectures, 14 provincial institutions, 23 industrial parks and 200 enterprises and business organizations joined the fair in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province.

The 1,000 plus Yunnan pavilion features eight key industries, focusing on three planned world-class industries of "green food", "clean energy" and "destination for healthy living".

The CIFIT is a global investment promotion platform. This year, 16 pavilions were set within a total exhibition area of 130,000, with concurrent forums drawing in 120,000 business elites from 110 countries and regions.