雲南日報
YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP
云南日报报业集团
NO. 191

CHINA · YUNNAN

zuyndaily@163.com
yunnangateway.com

theindependent | FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2018

BUSINESS

Doing business in China becomes easier, reports say

China's business environment has significantly improved, as results from two recent reports showed.

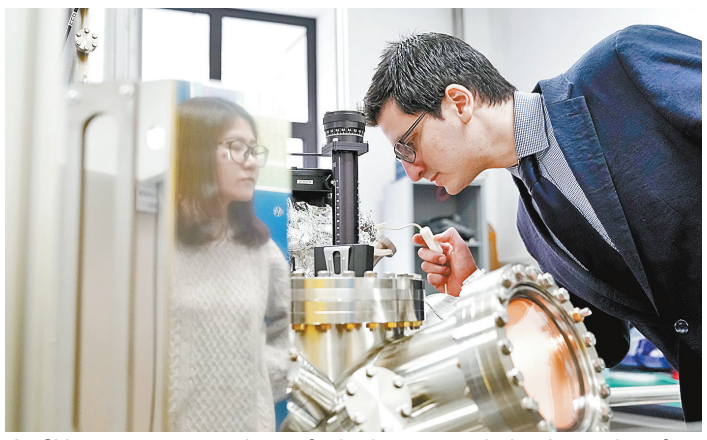
According to Shanghai Securities News, citing a report issued by the Academy of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade on November 29, nearly 90 percent of 4,000 enterprises that participated in a survey felt it had become easier to do business in China over the past three years. As for this year, the surveyed firms, including private-owned, State-owned and foreign-owned companies across the country's 25 provinces and regions, were satisfied with the business environment in China, scoring 4.17 against the total five, up from 3.85 in 2016.

Noticeably, enterprises in central areas, wholly foreign-owned enterprises and hi-tech enterprises gave their highest-scored feedbacks.

At the end of October, World Bank's report also endorsed China's reform efforts to better its business environment for small and medium enterprises. As Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform report showed, China, the only economy from East Asia and the Pacific to join this year's top 10 improvers, jumped more than 30 spots to its highest ever ranking — 46th place in the annual global rankings.

And the report highlighted China's progress in areas, including starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, though dealing with construction permits in China still ranks at 121, with 20 procedures in order to obtain all permits and authorization to build a warehouse here, compared with an average of 15 procedures in East Asia and Pacific region.

"China has made rapid progress in improving its business climate for domestic small and medium enterprises in the past year. This progress, which now puts China among the top 50 economies in the world, signals the value the government places on nurturing entrepreneurship and private enterprise," said Bert Hofman, World Bank country director for China.



As China attracts more and more foreign investments, it also draws talents from different countries to work in the country. Here the photo shows a German professor(right), who is hired by China Academy of Sciences, works in the lab. **(Xinhua)**

Yu Haiyan, deputy inspector of development research department at China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, told Shanghai Securities News that to create a business environment that is market-driven, law-based and up to international standards is still an important task for China at present and days ahead.

The State Council, China's cabinet, decided on Nov.28 to set up a system for evaluating the business environment in China that is comparable internationally, aligned with World Bank standards and reflects Chinese features, with criteria covering areas of immediate concern to market entities, such as ease of opening a business, construction licensing, access to electricity and credit, paying taxes and the protection of intellectual property rights.

And relevant authorities and departments will be encouraged to come up with more measures for bettering the business climate.

Chinese government will eliminate all limits that go beyond the official negative list for foreign investment by the end of March next year, Tang Wenhong, an official with the Ministry of Commerce, said earlier, adding that the revision of two guidance catalogues for foreign investment will also be finished by the time.

(China Daily)

VOICE

China making great contributions to global prosperity

After four decades of reform and opening up, China has developed in a way that benefits the world.

Over the past 40 years, China insisted on opening its doors to the outside world, increasing the total import and export of goods by 198 times and the total value of its transferred services by more than 147 times. Today, China has become the world's largest trader of goods, the largest tourism market and a major trade partner to more than 130 countries.

Over the past 40 years, China has demonstrated its responsibility as a major power in opening up to the outside world. It has actively participated in global economic governance, supported the maturation of developing countries, maintained a high contribution rate to the world's economic growth and made its own responses to the Asian financial crisis and the global financial crisis. China has contributed its wisdom and strength to promoting the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

With the implementation of a new round of tax reduction measures begun on November 1, China's total tariff level has dropped to 7.5 percent. This rate is is lower than that of most developing countries, and more than fulfils China's associated commitments to the World Trade Organization. China has released a new foreign investment negative list and opened its doors wider in the fields of finance, automobiles, aircraft and ships. According to a World Bank report, China's business environment ranking has improved by more than 30 rungs last year, making it one of the most improved in terms of business environment. China will always be a stable source of power for the world's economic growth, as well as a vital market in which other countries can expand their business opportunities. China maintains the conditions and confidence.

China's development cannot be separated from that of the entire world, while global prosperity is also strongly linked to China. China will continue to deepen its reforms in an all-around way, comprehensively expand its commitment to opening up, promote the building of an open global economy and promote the building of a community of shared future for mankind. The Chinese people will not only create new and greater miracles, but will also make new and greater contributions to the common prosperity of the world.

(People's Daily)

CULTURE

Traditional Tibetan bathing listed as UNESCO heritage

Traditional Tibetan bathing for health and healing was added to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list on Wednesday.

The entry—officially listed as "Lum Medicinal Bathing of Sowa Rigpa: Knowledge and practices concerning life, health and illness prevention and treatment among the Tibetan people in China"—was added to the list during the 13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Port Louis, Mauritius.

The committee said in its decision that the element "underlines the importance of traditional knowledge concerning nature and the universe and offers a positive example of the sustainable relationship between humans and their environment".

In the Tibetan language, the word lum refers to the traditional knowledge and practices of bathing in natural hot springs, herbal water or steam to adjust the balance of body and mind, ensure health and treat illness. Sowa Rigpa refers to traditional Tibetan medicine.

According to the bid document submitted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the theory behind medicinal bathing is based on five elements: sa (earth), chu (water), me (fire), lung (wind) and namkha (space).

Its practitioners include farmers, herdsmen and urban residents, with the manpa (physician), lum jorkhan (pharmacist) and manyok (assistant) having different responsibilities in the practice. It also embodies traditional Tibetan astrology, rituals, religions and many other aspects of daily life.

As the main component of traditional Tibetan medicine, the bathing practice is widely transmitted in the Tibet autonomous region, as well as among the Tibetan populations in Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu provinces.

(China Daily)

SPORTS

A competitor is crossing the finishing line. **Photo by Chen Fei**

2018 SCO international marathon held in Kunming

BY WANG SHIXUE

The 2018 SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) Kunming International Marathon was held December 2 in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province.Also a cooperation with Yunnan Salt Industry, the event saw 20,000 participants from 51 countries compete in the full marathon, half-marathon, health run and parent-child events.

In men's full marathon, Ethiopian runners won all the top three titles: Belay Olkeba Jene (two hours, 20 minutes and 49 seconds); Chala Bekele Begna (two hours, 20 minutes and 56 seconds); and Tela Hagos Gebremeskel (two hours, 21 minutes and 8 seconds). Of them, Belay Olkeba Jene broke the record of the event.

In women's full marathon, first place went to Ethiopian athlete Getiso Tsehay Gebre with a time of two hours 35 minutes, followed by Kenyan runner Rodah Jepkorir Tarui (2:39:57) and Kyrgyz runner Maslova Daria (2:40:57).

The 2018 SCO Kunming International Marathon is the third running of the event since its inception in 2016. The competition has become a major platform for cultural exchanges among SCO member states.

During the marathon, volunteers, medical workers, security guards stood ready to provide runners with supporting services.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Luorong villagers: Lucid waters and lush mountains are our rice bowl

A photo of Pudacuo National Park **Photo by Lan Fang**

Arong, 50, lives in the Pudacuo National Park in Luorong Village, Jiantang Township, Shangri-La City, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. Like other villagers here, Arong still follows the traditional way of farming and grazing.

The Pudacuo National Park is home to streams, lakes, wetlands, forests, meadows, valleys and a variety of rare animals and plants. It covers an area of 602 square kilometers with an average elevation of 3,500 meters.

Luorong Village was not always like this. There used to be no highways here. Due to the cold and changeable weather, the villagers could not be adequately fed by growing barley and potatoes. To support themselves, some villagers hunted and cut trees for timbres and firewood.

"We did not get along with the forestry officials," said Arong. In 1998, Diqing Prefecture announced the ban on cutting of natural forests. Many villagers did not understand the policy. When the forestry officials and rangers talked to them about ecological protection, the villagers thought that they were preventing them from supporting their families.

Later, Shudu Lake and Bita Lake became tourist attractions and brought about business opportunities. Some villagers began to offer horse rides and sell food and barbecues to make money. Tourism also increased wastes and the horses damaged the surface vegetation, greatly affecting the ecological systems.

Starting 2006, according to Tang Hua, director of the Pudacuo National Park Administration, the local government began the attempt to build a national park and set up a strictly protected zone, an ecological conservation zone, a recreation and exhibition zone and a traditional utilization zone.

"We must stop the projects that damaged the environment, but we must also take into account the people's livelihoods," said Ding Wendong, head of the Preservation Section of the Pudacuo National Park Administration. Starting 2008, the operating company of the national park began to give money to the surrounding villages for ecological compensation. The compensation contracts are signed every five years. The ecological compensation fund was nearly 10 million yuan per year for the first round and about 20 million yuan for the second round. So far, the ecological compensation funds have reached 150 million yuan. **(Xinhua)**

ECO

Black-necked cranes wintering in Yunnan's Dashanbao hits record high

Photo by Zhou Can

As of November 23, according to the monitoring data of Yunnan Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve Administration, a record number of 1,623 black-necked cranes have come to winter this year.

Black-necked cranes are as rare as giant pandas, and are one of only 15 global species of crane that live in high altitudes throughout their lives. Most of the birds are distributed in China, where they are categorized as a first-class protected animal.

In recent years, the nature reserve has introduced multiple measures to expand the size of its wetlands, improve existing ecosystems and raise people's awareness about protecting black-necked cranes. This year, the migration peak arrived about half a month earlier than in years past. The number of black-necked cranes increased by five or six hundred over the same period previous year.

The peak migration period of black-necked cranes will continue until early December and their numbers will stablise by the end of the month. Most of the black-necked cranes will winter here and leave next spring. **(Xinhua)**

40th ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

China has done the right thing

Former Singapore Prime Minister Goh hails results of China's reform and opening-up

When Goh Chok Tong made his first trip to China in 1971, he described the experience as like "going to an alien country".

Singapore's emeritus senior minister and the man who succeeded Lee Kuan Yew to become the country's second prime minister (1990-2004) said, "China was a totally different country back then." He described how it took three to four days to get from Singapore to Beijing in the past.

"You flew from Singapore to Hong Kong, stayed overnight. Then took a train to Guangzhou where you also stayed overnight, before flying to Beijing if the weather permitted," he said.

He described how men and women wore Mao suits, how workers were assigned places of work, and bicycles ... bicycles everywhere. Cities were run down and the people poor.

Since Deng Xiaoping introduced his reforms 40 years ago, the opening-up of China has had "a big impact on the world, positively", Goh said.

"Men and women wear the latest fashions and cars have replaced bicycles. Cosmetic sales flourish. People now travel freely in search of jobs, motivated by profit and wages rather than being bound to assigned places of work. Social habits have changed."

In terms of education, Goh said the biggest change has been in the large number of students now going overseas to study.

"English is now more widely spoken. Admission to university is now based on academic merit rather than ideology," he said.

> "Since Deng Xiaoping introduced his reforms 40 years ago, the opening-up of China has had 'a big impact on the world, positively'.
>
> Goh Chok Tong

"This has raised the standard of education, intellectual discourse and research."

He said in diplomacy, China is now more active and has a presence in "all parts of the world". **(Compiled from China Daily)**