



GREEN ECONOMY

## Green economy growing fast in Yunnan

After the first car from the Beiqi NEV factory in Kunming rolled off the production line in late 2018, the JMC NEV plant finished installing its general assembly line in March 2019, the first plateau automobile laboratory in China enters the commissioning and operational stages, Yunnan's annual NEV production capacity has reached 100,000 vehicles. Such events signal the province's green energy industry is ushering in an era of explosive growth.

Last year, the Yunnan government proposed to focus more keenly on green energy, green food and the building of a healthy lifestyle destination to transform its development



In Sojen Automobile in west Yunnan's Dali, robots are assembling new energy vehicles. Photo by Yang Zheng

model. It is quickly shifting from industrial development to green development.

The province is speeding up the transformation of its steel and cement industries, among others. In 2018, Yun-

nan eliminated its backward iron making capacity by 1.07 million tonnes, its steel making capacity by 3.5 million tonnes, and its coal production capacity by 14.66 million tons. A total of 14 state-level

green factories were also built, while a number of hydropowered silicon and aluminium projects began construction.

Yunnan is changing its development pattern. By 2020, according to Li Qin, chief engineer at the Yunnan Provincial Energy Bureau, the energy sector will become the province's first pillar industry.

Intelligent manufacturing is also picking up speed. Here, 12 intelligent manufacturing projects—including an intelligent workshop creating single crystal silicon rods, a production line making modern shield tunnelling machines, and a smart parking system—have been put

into production. Another eight intelligent manufacturing projects are also under construction. Additionally, biomedicine, high-end equipment manufacturing, new materials, electronic information and other emerging industries are booming. Yunnan's digital economy is ascendant. A series of smart phone applets are also making travel, government affairs and shopping more convenient.

In 2018, Yunnan achieved rapid development in terms of GDP growth and other economic indicators. The province's leap-frog development is already unstoppable.

(Text translated from Xinhua; Photos from Yunnan Daily)

BELT AND ROAD

## China's neighbouring countries embracing huge development opportunities

Under the framework of Belt and Road cooperation, economic and trade exchanges between Southeast Asian countries and China are growing. For example the connection between Qinzhou in south China's Guangxi province, and Kuantan in Malaysia, has led to the creation of two industrial parks. Such interactions have promoted the industrial development of both China and Malaysia. These cooperative efforts are bringing economic and trade exchanges between the two countries to higher levels.

As president of the Malaysian-Chinese Friendship Association in Sabah, Malaysia, I have some personal reflections on the role of the Belt and Road Initiative in promoting mutual understanding among the people.

In March 2015, I was invited to participate in the annual Bo'ao Forum for Asia conference. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech in which he interpreted the profound connotations of the Belt and Road Initiative.

In April 2018, I once again visited the beautiful island of Hainan to attend the Bo'ao Forum. Shortly after the end of the forum, China announced a visa-free entry policy for residents of 59 countries in Hainan province. I was excited by this good news, and convinced that visa facilitation could greatly promote communication among the people.

Malaysia has also bene-



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fitted from infrastructure connectivity. Since the Belt and Road Initiative was first proposed, Sabah has established direct air routes with nearly ten cities in China. Today, China is already the largest source of tourists for Sabah. This infrastructure connectivity has promoted the progress and development of local hotels, restaurants and other industries.

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(People's Daily; Hu Yishan currently acts as senior researcher at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and is a chief advisor at the Malaysia Pacific Research Centre)

ECHO WALL

## Chinese foreign ministry: 5G not exclusive to one country

Fifth generation (5G) technology is not exclusive to one or few countries, but a result of exchange and cooperation among various countries, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said on February 19.

His comments form China's official response to allegations on the security of Chinese tech companies' products and equipment, including Huawei.

According to a BBC report, the United States is campaigning its allies to exclude Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from delivering 5G.

The technology is one that the international tech community is striving toward, Geng said at a daily press conference.

The global industry chain, supply chain and value chain of 5G are highly integrated and cannot be separated, or it will impact multilateral cooperation, damage the open and inclusive market, and undermine international rules of fairness, justice and non-discrimination, he said.

China will strengthen communication and cooperation with all parties in science and



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Spokesman of Chinese FM

technology field, including 5G, Geng said.

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China will continue upholding the principles of joint consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, and work with all parties to grasp the opportunities brought by technological revolution for mutual benefit, he said. (China.org.cn)

ODE TO 70 YEARS

## Living standards greatly improved since 1949



The photo shows that in a Kunming's super market people were selecting their goods before this year's Spring Festival. Photo by Zhou Can

**Editor's note:** The year 2019 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. Starting from this issue, we will publish a column called "Ode to 70 years" to help you understand

the earth-shaking changes that have taken place in New China.

Since the founding of New China in 1949, the living standards of Chinese people have greatly improved. With the substantial increase in people's income, urban and rural residents are shifting from food and clothing-oriented consumption to pleasure and de-

velopment-oriented consumption. In China, the Engel coefficient (the proportion of food expenditures to total expenditures) of urban and rural residents dropped from 63.9 percent in 1978 to 29.3 percent in 2017. The sharp fall indicates that the consumption level and structure of people's lives has improved remarkably.

TOURISM

## "Internet plus" helps upgrade Yunnan tourism

BY WANG HUAN

727 smart toilets were used for 28 million times, 158,000 drivers applied no-contact payment function at express highway toll gates, all of the received 3,500 complaints were settled, more than 30,000 tourism enterprises were put under digital integrity supervision... In 2018, through the development and operation of "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" project, Yunnan Province has pushed forward the smart tourism development and achieved a lot in restructuring and upgrading its tourism industry.

In recent years, to accord with the new development trends of tourism, Yunnan has made great efforts to offer better tourism service and experience. In 2017, the province launched the "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" project, which is the first provincial-level holistic tourism service and management platform. As the project's early-stage achievement, the "Travel in Yunnan" app was put online on October 1, 2018. Right now, the app has 1.5 million registered users. It also has become the largest scenic spot live broadcast platform, the most comprehensive geological information platform, the quickest complaint settlement platform, and the platform with the most digital guide services in

the country.

By using the "Travel in Yunnan" app, Miss Li entered the Dali Chongsheng Temple Scenic Spot in less than one minute. She booked the admission ticket on the app, and uploaded her headshot photo in advance, and entered the scenic spot via facial recognition. "It really saves time," she said. Right now, the smart ticket checking system has been applied to 91 scenic spots in Yunnan, which are graded AAA and above.

"Through the 'Yunnan at Your Fingertips', we can find whatever help we need before, during and after the travel in Yunnan," said Su Cen, a Chinese writer. Before the travel, tourists can choose the routes, book hotels, learn about featured delicacies and watch live videos about scenic spots; During the trip, they can use the AI image recognition function, scan QR

code to get introduction to the scenic spots, find toilets, book travel services, rent cars, use no-contact payment; after it, they can apply for digital invoice and make credit evaluation on travel service providers.

Through "Internet +Management", a closed-loop tourism management system has been formed. The "Yunnan at Your Fingertips" project consists of one tourism big data center, and two platforms which are the comprehensive tourism service platform and the comprehensive tourism management platform. The "One Center and Two Platforms" can meet the demand of quick settlement of complaints. They are connected to the tourism credit system, digital contracting system and digital invoice system. Over last year, all 3,500 complaints were settled and 95% of them were handled in 24 hours.



Tourists show their use of "Travel in Yunnan" app in Dali ancient town. Photo by Yang Zheng

POVERTY ALIEVIATION

## 10 years: Diqing millionaire builds a road to common prosperity



Sina Dingzhu and the road he built (Xinhua)

BY ZHANG FAN

When I first met Sina Dingzhu face-to-face on February 5, he was back with his mother to their hometown—Bala Village in the Balagezong Grand Canyon, Shangri-la City, northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

Dozens of years ago, Bala was an unreachable place since there was no road to it. To change the condition, Sina Dingzhu paid all he had earned and built a road to Bala in ten years.

When he was 40 years old, Sina Dingzhu earned 40 million yuan by doing business. He then decided to build a road to Bala. But he faced insurmountable difficulties because the planned route was 35 kilometers long and passed through other three villages.

Dingzhu invited left after they knew the difficulties, and local villagers also showed their misunderstanding. But these didn't weaken his determination.

In September 2004, Sina Dingzhu started the construction of the road. He worked in the valley and paid his attention to every detail in the planning, calling for tenders and construction.

Happiness is always achieved through hard work. Though the construction was stopped and restarted for many times, Sina Dingzhu never lost his confidence. After ten years, a road was finally built to Bala, reducing the travel time to Shanghai-la by car to one hour. Since then, the beautiful Balagezong Grand Canyon has been unveiled to tourists who has brought more and more wealth to local villagers.

CULTURE

## The taste of happiness



Members in a Yunnan family cheer during the Spring Festival reunion dinner. Photo from Daguang Weekly

For every Chinese family, the reunion dinner on New Year's Eve is the most important meal. As a highlight of Spring Festival celebrations, it reflects the attachment to family of Chinese people. With China's socioeconomic development over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the family reunion dinner on New Year's Eve is now more about "affection" than "food".

The New Year's Eve dinner dates back to ancient times in China. Legend has it that a monster named Nian ('year' in Chinese) would come out on New Year's Eve to wreak havoc. Therefore, families would gather together to worship their ancestors and pray for blessings. They also set off firecrackers to scare away Nian. After that, they closed the doors and windows of their homes to

eat a dinner and ushered in the New Year. Later, this practice evolved into the Chinese New Year celebration. Today, Chinese people no longer believe in the legend of the monster Nian, but the custom of eating a reunion dinner on New Year's Eve has been passed down from generation to generation.

China is a huge country, so people in different places have developed different cuisines. For example, people in the north love jiaozi (dumplings), while people in the south like to eat nian'gao (rice cakes). Despite their different eating habits, people want to express their good wishes for the next year with food. The yearly reunion dinner reflects the Chinese tradition of venerating family, which brings people closer. (Staff reporters)