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ECHO

China welcomes like-minded countries to attend 2nd BRIF

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference on April 3, 2019 to answer question about the second BRIF.

Q: The US said it will not send a high-level delegation to China to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) this month. What's your comment on that and do you have any understanding as to why?

A: Thank you for your keen interest in China's foreign affairs. You seem always busy worrying for us. I have noted relevant reports from the media. If this is the decision of the US, they are better suited to answering your question.

The Belt and Road Initiative is an

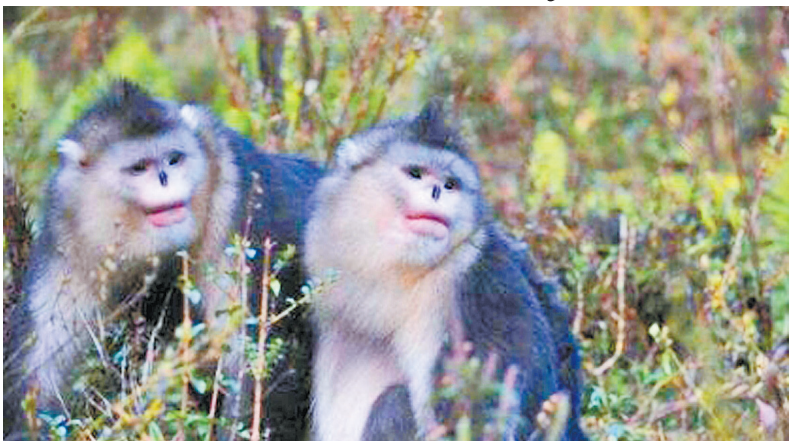
open, inclusive and transparent initiative for economic cooperation. Following the principle of consultation and contribution for shared benefits, we welcome like-minded countries to participate in the BRI for win-win outcomes.

Preparations for the second BRIF are well underway. So far, representatives from over 100 countries including nearly 40 foreign leaders have confirmed their attendance. As the host, China has every confidence of the success of this event. We will work with all parties for more concrete outcomes of the BRI cooperation that benefit people of all countries.

(News source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China)

IN PICS

New baby joins monkey family in Weixi County



Recent online pictures show a Yunnan snub-nosed monkey family in the Tacheng national park in Weixi County, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, has a new monkey baby.

With local eco-improvement in recent years, the number of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys in the Tacheng forest park has increased to 58 in 7 families.

CONNECTIVITY

China-Laos Railway employs more than 32000 Lao people

A 32-metre-long, 134-tonne T beam was erected recently to the top of the piers of Ganlanba Bridge of Yuxi-Mohan Railway, marking the beginning of work on the first long-bridge pavement of the China-Laos Railway in China. This is the first bridge paving in China's section of the China-Laos railway, laying a foundation for the whole line.

Ganlanba Bridge is located in Jinghong city, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. The bridge is 3.5 kilometres long with 103 piers. Building of the bridge started in September 2016 and it is now in the process of paving. The paving will take three months and is expected to be completed by the end of June this year. Also, 107 holes and 214 pieces of T beams will be built.

The bridge crosses fields, fish ponds, and banana and rubber plantations, from east to west, crossing the centre of Ganlanba. In order to reduce land occupation to effectively protect the local ecological environment, and to form a beautiful scenic line with mountains and rivers for tourism, the railway construction is mostly in the form of bridges.

During the construction of the bridge, drilling machines were unable to drill holes in the sand layer, and this was largely due to uneven hardness of the stratum. The

builders finally adopted bentonite and caustic soda to mix mud and to prevent the wall from collapsing to ensure a smooth construction.

The China-Laos Railway is the first international railway directly connecting to China's railway network. The Chinese side is the main investor and it is constructed adopting Chinese technical standards and using Chinese equipment after the Belt and Road was initiated. The railway will be 1,000 kilometres long. Once completed and open to traffic, it will only take about three hours from Kunming to Jinghong and expect to arrive in Vientiane overnight.

"If the China-Laos railway can go into operation quickly, it will benefit both the Chinese and Lao peoples. It will promote our economic and trade exchanges, and we will be able to travel to Vientiane, Kunming, Jinghong and other places faster," said a local resident in Laos.

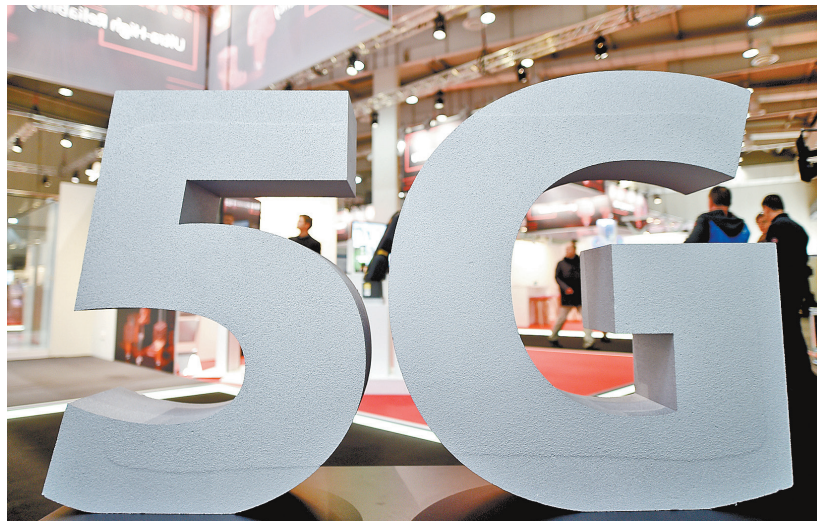
Incomplete statistics show that the China-Laos Railway has cumulatively employed more than 32,000 Lao people, and is currently employing 4,300-plus Lao people. The railway construction has also directly promoted the development of building materials, electricity, agriculture, animal husbandry, services and logistics industries in Laos.

(Comprehensive report)

China's digital economy reached 31 trillion yuan

China's digital economy had reached 31 trillion yuan by the end of last year, accounting for one-third of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), a responsible person from the Cyberspace Administration of China said on April 2 in Beijing. In the future, China will make full efforts to promote the construction of a digital China by strengthening core technologies to making breakthroughs, optimizing and upgrading infrastructure, and vigorously developing digital economy.

At the press conference held by the Information Office of China's State Council on the same day, Yang Xiaowei, deputy director of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said that at present, China's digital network infrastructure construction, digital economy development, e-government information services and other aspects have made positive progress. By the end of last year, China's total length of optical cables reached 43.58 million kilometers, 4G network coverage continued to expand, and total number of 4G users reached 1.17 billion, breakthroughs were made in the development of 5G core technologies and in the formulation of standards, and IPv6 scale deployment was accelerated. By the end of last year, China's digital economy had reached 31 trillion yuan, accounting for one-third of the country's GDP, according to estimates by relevant agencies. The Beidou-3 basic system has been completed



A logo of the upcoming mobile standard 5G is pictured at the Hanover trade fair, in Hanover. (Photo by Xinhua)

and provides global services, which are available to countries and regions including those along the Belt and Road.

In addition, international cooperation in digital economic has yielded fruitful results. China took the lead in putting forward the G20 digital economy development and cooperation initiative and the Belt and Road digital economy international cooperation initiative which has been landed and implemented. Information infrastructure construction and sharing and e-government development have also achieved remarkable results.

In terms of industrial digitalization, key enterprises in key indus-

tries in China have also accelerated the layout of industrial Internet. According to Wang Xinzhe, chief economist of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, the effect of the platform enabling enterprises has been preliminarily shown.

The preliminary understanding is that the average number of industrial device connections on the Internet platforms of key industrial enterprises reached 590,000, the average number of industrial apps exceeded 1,500, and the average number of registered households exceeded 500,000. The average revenue of platform-related business in 2018 is about 500 million yuan.

Some enterprises actually reduce research and development costs by more than 30%, increase production efficiency by more than 10%, and achieve energy conservation and emission reduction of more than 10%. At the same time, a number of innovative platform-based solutions have been formed, and commercial applications have been realized in light industry, steel, petrochemicals and electronics.

Looking ahead, Yang Xiaowei, deputy director of the Cyberspace Administration of China said that China will fully promote digital China's construction from six aspects including strengthening core technology breakthroughs, optimizing and upgrading information infrastructure, and developing the digital economy to strengthen core technology breakthroughs, focus on complementing shortcomings, further enhance independent innovation capabilities, strengthen the advanced layout of strategic cutting-edge technologies, and accelerate the transformation of innovation results; To promote the construction of a new generation of information infrastructure, improve the network supply capacity, further improve the 5G commercial preparation, and promote the IPv6 process throughout the network; To further promote digital industrialization and industrial digitalization, and accelerate the integration of digital economy and real economy.

By Li Wenting (CRI)

Tencent to hold Global Digital Ecology Conference in Kunming in May

On March 29th, a press conference in Beijing announced that Kunming is going to stage the 2019 Yunnan International Smart Tourism Conference and the Tencent Global Digital Ecology Conference from

May 21st to 23rd.

The Tencent Global Digital Ecology Conference will consist of a main summit, a sub-forum and a digital ecology exhibition. The conference will start in Kunming

and expand to other cities across the country to boost the digital economy.

The 2019 Yunnan International Smart Tourism Conference will be held on May 21st with the theme

of "Smart Life, Better life". It will introduce the construction of Digital Yunnan, share the trend and best practices of smart tourism, and release the world's latest results of smart tourism. (Wang Huan)

REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

China tops the world in expressway



Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th 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. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 years" to help you understand the great changes that have taken place in New China.

Since the founding of New China, the country has made great progress in its road construction. By the end of 2017, China's expressway mileage had reached 136,500 kilometres, ranking first in the world. Picture shows the expressway in Luoping county of Wenshan Prefecture in southeast Yunnan.

Photo by Li Wensheng

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Thank you for your long-term support.

To provide better services and publish more news on the "Belt and Road" Initiative for you, we beg if you can offer your precious advices for us, including what kind of news you are mostly interested in about the "Belt and Road", how to make these news more attractive from your point of view and others.

It is highly appreciated if you could kindly send your precious advices to our email address: 1292930589@qq.com.

Again, please accept our sincere thanks.

Happy every day!

Editors' Room
China·Yunnan
news page

China-Thai education cooperates closely

"At the beginning I was just curious about the country. When I visited Thailand, I found it had a very high happiness index. Studying in Thailand strengthened my practical abilities," says Yunnan girl Li Anan, who studied at Kasem Bundit University in Thailand. Recalling her studies and life in Thailand, she said she had gained a lot.

In recent years, with increasing economic and trade relations between Yunnan and Thailand, educational exchanges and cooperation between the two sides have become increasingly frequent.

The Confucius Institute of Chiangmai University, jointly established by Yunnan Normal University and Chiangmai University, opened on

December 18, 2006. Its Institute of Chiangmai University mainly caters to northern Thailand, offering Chinese language courses, promoting Chinese culture, and providing HSK Chinese proficiency test. By 2018, the Confucius Institute at Chiangmai University had two Confucius classrooms and several teaching centres, as well as 14 HSK subtest centres, 4 community cultural exhibition centres and 12 Chinese book corners.

Together with well-known universities in northern Thailand, the Confucius Institute actively provides Chinese-language courses for schools, communities, companies, enterprises and government departments.

In 2010, the Forestry School of Southwest Forestry University joined hands with Kasetsart University in Thailand on student exchanges. The school's forestry major sets the direction of forestry with double foreign languages. In addition to studying forestry professional courses, students also study English and Thai languages. Students can go to the Forestry School of Kasetsart University for the fifth semester. Up to now, Southwest Forestry University has sent around 200 people to study in Thailand.

Kasetsart University has also sent two groups of students to attend short-term training at Southwest Forestry University each year. Up to now, more

than 150 students have come to Yunnan to study. In addition, the two sides are currently jointly training and guiding three graduate students. Driven by the cooperation, 10 students from Southwest Forestry University now work in Thailand.

Last June, the third Yunnan-Thailand Education Cooperation Exchange Conference was held in Kunming. At the event, the Yunnan-Thailand University Alliance nameplate was unveiled. Yunnan and Thai universities agreed to cooperate in the disciplines of linguistics, tourism and health services, medicine and health, agriculture, and digital technology.

By Liu Ziyu

Yunnan's trade with Mekong River countries tops \$12.8 billion in 2018

The trade revenue between southwest China's Yunnan province and countries along the Mekong River exceeded US\$12.8 billion last year.

The trade volume saw a year-on-year increase of 7.28 percent.

Li Jiming, with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation China Secretariat, said Yunnan has natural geographical advantages in cooperating with countries along the Mekong River, adding that cooperation in recent years has been improving, and exchanges are easier.

Yunnan has more than 30 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation activities planned for 2019, including a variety of seminars and forums.

(Yunnangateway.com)



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