



BELT AND ROAD

International press comments positively:

The Belt and Road Initiative is a success

On April 27th, the curtain falls on the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and the positive comments from the international press show that the world is full of expectations for the Belt and Road Initiative.

"This year's Forum sends a clear message: more and more friends and partners will join in Belt and Road cooperation, and the cooperation will enjoy higher quality and brighter prospects." Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks at the press conference of the forum resonated with many foreign media.

The specific measures for promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation drew intense attention from major foreign media. Reuters noted

President Xi Jinping's proposal to be guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, act in the spirit of multilateralism, pursue cooperation through consultation and keep all participants motivated. China has also pledged to enter into negotiation with more countries to conclude high-standard free trade agreements, and strengthen cooperation in customs, taxation and audit oversight by setting up the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism.

"China's Belt and Road Initiative has attracted many core EU countries such as Italy, and the ancient Silk Road is quickly reviving." Neue Zürcher Zeitung also commented that China



Experts expressed their need to know more about the Belt and Road Initiative during the European Business Forum opened on May 6. (Xinhua) is Switzerland's largest trading partner in Asia, and the Belt and Road Initiative is without doubt good for the country's economic development.

"As China promises to open the Belt and Road to more inter-

national and private investors, Western business centres led by London are waiting in line to participate in Belt and Road projects," *Financial Times* reported on its website. *The Hindu* pointed out on its

website that the global influence of China's Belt and Road Initiative marks the arrival of a new, Asian-led order, and India cannot afford to exclude itself from this new order.

"The Belt and Road Initiative is a success. The well-functioning infrastructure can be a great impetus to economic development. It is making Africa, Central Asia, Central America and South-eastern Europe more powerful," Deutsche Welle reported. "With the Belt and Road Initiative, many countries are showing signs of prosperity, which was unimaginable 10 years ago. No other politician has inspired such great hopes globally in the past decades." (*People's Daily overseas edition*)

COOPERATION

"Cooperation with China is an important opportunity for us"

In May 2018, the consortium of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Shanghai Stock Exchange reached a cooperation agreement with the Dhaka Stock Exchange of Bangladesh.

According to the agreement, the Chinese consortium became a strategic investor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange. In October 2018, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange led five companies listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Shanghai Stock Exchange to Bangladesh to connect with local companies and discuss with major Bangladeshi financial institutions to explore opportunities for greater cooperation between the two countries.

"This has opened up vast space for future cooperation between the two countries in the capital market," said Rahman, general manager of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, who has been engaged in the financial industry for more than 40 years. "We are interested not only in China's sufficient funds but also in its advanced technologies and development experience."

"My company is actively preparing to list on the Dhaka

Stock Exchange. Like many other Bangladeshi companies, we hope to strengthen cooperation with China in the financial sector," said Shameem Ahsan, chairman of E-Generation and former president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services.

"We are very lucky. Cooperation with China is an important opportunity for us," said Anis A. Khan, Managing Director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank. Bangladesh, a good neighbour of China, is implementing a "go east" strategy. The Belt and Road construction is in full swing in both China and Bangladesh, and the financial cooperation between the two countries is already in the fast lane.

Today, thanks to the extensive cooperation between the two countries, China has become Bangladesh's largest source of overseas direct investment. All the Chinese and Bangladeshi institutions involved in financial cooperation hope to contribute to the Belt and Road construction through pragmatic cooperation.

(*People's Daily*)

TRADE

Yunnan sees solid trade growth with B&R countries in Q1



Two men talk business in border fair in west Yunnan's Ruli, a city on the Chinese side of China-Myanmar border line. Photo by Zhang Tong

Southwestern China's Yunnan province saw year-on-year foreign trade growth of 5 percent with countries along the Belt and Road in the first quarter of 2019.

The border province's total foreign trade volume with Belt and Road countries rose to 35.12 billion yuan (5.72 billion US dollars) in Q1, said the province's Department of Commerce.

Yunnan saw the fastest trade growth with Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with petroleum, sulfur and ore the

most imported goods and textiles, mechanical and electrical products as the most exported goods.

Statistics show that trade with ASEAN countries made up a large share of its total foreign trade volume in Q1, with Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia contributing the most.

Bordering Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, Yunnan has accelerated economic and trade cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road, and southeast Asian countries in recent years. (Xinhua)

ODE TO 70 YEARS

48 counties in Yunnan lifted out of poverty



Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Starting from this issue, we continue publishing a column called "Ode to 70 years" to help you understand the earth-shaking changes that have taken place in New China.

On April 30th, the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee

and the Yunnan Provincial Government jointly held a press conference, announcing that 33 poverty-stricken counties (cities, districts) in the province have been lifted out of poverty according to on-site evaluation by third-party agencies. So far, 48 poverty-stricken counties (cities, districts) in the province have shaken off poverty cumulatively, accounting for 54.5 percent

of the provincial total. Such progress is basically keeping pace with the national progress, laying a solid foundation for a complete victory against poverty by 2020. Here, children from Dulong ethnic group in Yunnan are learning computer skills. Dulong people had also been lifted out of poverty as a whole in 2018.

(Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Kunming Airport launches Belt and Road Lane

BY ZUO CHAO

The Belt and Road Lane officially opened to incoming and outgoing passengers at 10 o'clock, on April 28 in Kunming Changrui International Airport (*Kunming Airport for short*). It is expected that the lane will provide more conveniences for people from Belt and Road countries who enter and leave China via Kunming Airport.

As a gateway airport of China to connect South and Southeast Asia, Kunming Airport has been playing important roles in promoting the "Belt and Road" Construction. By the end of 2018, it operated air routes to 35 cities in five South Asian countries and ten Southeast Asian countries, making itself the airport in China with the most air routes to South and Southeast Asia.

On April 28, the day right after the conclusion of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing from April 25 to 27,

Chinese National Immigration Administration opens the Belt and Road Lane in 12 airports and six land ports. The airports include those in Kunming, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Urumqi, Chongqing, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and Quanzhou. The lane is launched for the convenience of people from Belt and Road countries to go through customs and immigration inspection process when they leave and enter China via

these airports and land ports. Since the "Belt and Road" Initiative was proposed by China in 2013, more and more Chinese citizens have travelled abroad and the country also has received an increasing number of foreigners. In Kunming Airport, the number of incoming and outgoing passengers increases year by year, with the highest increasing rate of 28.02%. In 2018, the airport served four million incoming and outgoing passengers.



A passenger passes through the Belt and Road Lane.

Photo by Liang Jingwen

ECO

A visit to Ailaoshan Forest Ecosystem Research Station

BY CHEN SANJUAN

On April 11th, we came to the Ailaoshan Subtropical Forest Ecosystem Research Station of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (*the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station*) and joined the experts on a tour of the subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest.

"Here it is about 2,500 meters above the sea level. The annual average humidity is 88 percent, the annual average temperature is 11.6 degrees Celsius, and the rainy season lasts all year round. It is wet and cold in summer, so we wear thick clothes when working in the forest. At night, we warm ourselves by fire at the station," an engineer of the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station told us.

Fan Zexin, a researcher and head of the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station, seemed unaffected by the cold. In high spirit, he took us to an area where there were many transparent boxes and other devices, and told us that a soil warming test was ongoing.

In 2010, to study the impact of global climate change on the decomposition of organic matters in soil in the subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest, the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station introduced at its own cost this automatic soil warming and respiration monitoring system. For the first time in China, the researchers used the active warming and automatic soil respiration monitoring and control experiments in researching the forest ecosystems.

The Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station is located in the northern

section of the Ailaoshan Nature Reserve in Jingdong County, Yunnan Province. It was established in 1981 as part of the Key Laboratory of Tropical Forest Ecology of Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It joined the China Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) in 2002 and became a national field scientific observation and research station in 2005.

According to Fan Zexin, the researchers from home and abroad have long carried out scientific research at the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station. They have published a large number of academic papers and obtained a large quantity of basic data on water, soil, atmosphere and biology in China's subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest ecosystems. Today, the station has become an open, international base for academic exchanges.

Besides monitoring and research, testing and demonstrations are also an important part of the researchers' work at the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station. In recent years, they have collaborated with the Jingdong Management and Protection Bureau of the Ailaoshan Nature Reserve in spreading ecological knowledge to the public. Their diverse popular science activities have covered more than 50,000 teachers and students in some 30 primary and middle schools in Jingdong County. In 2018, the China Society of Forestry recognised the Ailaoshan Ecosystem Station as a National Popular Science Base on Forestry.

Water replaced two times in Dianchi Lake



A Panoramic view of the Dianchi Lake Photo by Zhang Tong

3.041 billion cubic meters of water has been channeled into Dianchi Lake since the Niulan River to Dianchi Lake Water Diversion Project was put into operation in 2013, according to news released recently by Kunming Municipal Water Authority. It means that the water in Dianchi Lake, which has a storage capacity of 1.5 billion cubic meters, has been replaced for two times, contributing a lot to the improvement of the water quality of the lake.

Located in the southwestern suburb of Kunming, the Dianchi Lake is the largest of the "nine plateau lakes" in Yunnan. By late 1980s, the water quality in Dianchi Lake began to deteriorate. At its worst, the lake was even listed as one of the most polluted of its kind in China.

In the past 30-plus years,

Yunnan has taken a series of efforts to improve the water quality of Dianchi Lake. They include formulating and promulgating protection rules and regulations, implementing river chief system, building sewage and waste water treatment plants, restoring shoreline wetlands, launching the Niulan River to Dianchi Lake Water Diversion Project and others. Last year, the water quality in the lake rose to grade IV, the best in the recent 30 years.

Accordingly, the Niulan River to Dianchi Lake Water Diversion Project is a large-size project of Yunnan to optimize the allocation of water resources. Its main function is to replenish water for Dianchi Lake so as to improve the water quality and ecological environment. It also has the capability to supply water for Kunming in emergencies.