



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## BELT AND ROAD

### China-Laos railway achieves tech breakthrough

The Yuanjiang Railway Bridge, which has the tallest bridge pier in the world and the longest span between two piers, and is part of the Chinese section of the 925.5-kilometer China-Laos railway, has got a major boost after builders finished installing 18 out of the 56 steel truss complexes forming the bridge.

The 832.2-meter-long railway bridge, which spans the Yuanjiang River with four piers in between and two platforms at both ends, is considered one of the difficult projects on the China-Laos railway, a major undertaking in the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We are now heading to the highest pier and hope to reach it before the end of October



Two workers are fastening bolts on the Munai River Double-track Bridge under construction. (Xinhua)

"this year," said Zhou Jihong, a project manager from the China Railway No 4 Engineering Group Co Ltd (CREC4), the company building it.

The main span of Yuanjiang Railway Bridge is 249 meters in length while its No 3 pier is 154 meters high, about the height of 54

stories in a high-rise, said Zhou.

The foundations of the tallest pier go 78 meters underground and took 22 months to build, and can withstand a weight of more than 150,000 metric tons even without the passing of the trains, said Chen Changguo, deputy Party secretary of the Fifth Divi-

sion of CREC4 which participated in the project.

The dual-track bridge, spanning the V-shaped Honghe River Canyon in Southwest China's Yunnan province, is one of 134 bridges being built on the 508.5-km Chinese section of the railway, which links Yuxi city in Yunnan and the Lao capital Vientiane and will be fully operational in December 2021.

According to Chen, construction of the Chinese section, also called the Yuxi-Mohan Railway, began in April 2016 with an investment of 51.6 billion yuan (\$7.9 billion) and 86.12 percent of it is comprised of bridges and tunnels, joining the Mohan-Boten border gate in northern Laos. (China Daily)

## EXPO

### Yunnan shines again in International Horticultural Expo

On April 29, 2019 International Horticultural Exhibition opened in Beijing.

Yunnan Province, after holding China's first International Horticultural Exhibition 20 years ago in the provincial capital city of Kunming, shines again in the Beijing expo and attracts world's attention.

Yunnan pavilion prepares 12 exhibitions for visitors. They display the most representative images of Yunnan, such as "lucky elephant", "lucid water" and "green mountain" and the "trail of tea horse road". Many visitors from home and abroad took photos with these beautiful landscapes.

In the pavilion, the Yunnan rose flower cakes are well received. Savoring the cakes and listening to the Yunnan folk music "Flowing Creek", Mrs. Yang, who is a Beijing local said that she likes Yunnan very much for its diverse climate and amazing scenery and plans to travel there in October.

The Beijing Expo is the largest of its kind in the world. It sees a participation of more than 110 countries and international organizations and 120 nongovernmental organizations. The exhibition will last to Oct.7. It exhibits flower, fruit and vegetable farming at the foot of the Great Wall in the capital's Yanqing district.

(Duan Peng)

### Water replaced two times in Dianchi Lake



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.

In the past 30-plus years, Yunnan has taken a series of efforts to improve the water quality of Dianchi Lake. Last year, the water quality in the lake rose to grade IV, the best in the recent 30 years.

Photo by Zhang Tong

## CONNECTIVITY

### Kunming Airport launches Belt and Road Lane



A passenger checks in through the Belt and Road lane.

Photo by Liang Jingwen

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.

(Zuo Chao)

## BUSINESS

### Yunnan sets to optimize business environment

Recently, the Yunnan Provincial Government held news conferences to interpret "Opinions on Further Improving the Business Environment" ("Opinions") and "Ten Actions to Improve the Business Environment in Yunnan Province" ("Ten Actions") issued recently in response to social concerns.

The "Opinions" put forward 30 specific measures in eight aspects. First, the province will resolutely remove unreasonable thresholds and restrictions to create a fair, competitive market environment. Second, the province will continuously improve the quality and efficiency of project approval services. Third, the province will further reduce the taxes and fees for companies and in turn their costs of production and operation. Fourth, the province will focus on the companies' concerns and

strengthen the protection of factors. Fifth, the province will exercise stronger oversight over delegated matters when they are being handled and after they have been handled and maintain a good social order. Sixth, the province will vigorously protect property rights and create a good environment for starting businesses and innovation. Seventh, the province will facilitate foreign investment and trade and enhance the ability to protect opening up to the outside world. Eighth, the province will strengthen organization and leadership to create a good atmosphere.

The "Ten Actions" consisted of 46 articles in 10 aspects. The "Ten Actions" comprehensively covers all aspects of the business environment, and the document clearly enlists the contents of actions and responsible organisations.

## DISCOVER YUNNAN

### Meet gibbons in Mt. Wuliang



A gibbon jumps from tree to tree. Photo by Pu Jianbin

When we arrived at the Dazhaizi Monitoring Station in Wuliang Mountain National Nature Reserve, the station staff told us that a few minutes' walk would bring us to the western black crested gibbons. We quickened our paces so as not to waste the opportunity.

After walking for about 500 meters, we heard the gibbon calls. A black gibbon came into our sight, and soon after, a golden one appeared, jumped swiftly from tree to tree.

"We wouldn't be able to get so close to them without years of efforts," said Niu Xiaowei, a doctoral candidate at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In 2003, the primate researcher Fan Pengfei came to Mt. Wuliang for a four-year field study. In order to better study and protect gibbons, he decided to trail them without

disturbing them. He followed the gibbons every day from dawn to dusk, regardless of wind or rain. Gradually, gibbons have got used to his presence. Today, humans can observe gibbons at a close range of five to a dozen meters.

"It used to be impossible to find any photo of gibbons, but now we have not only a clear grasp of their behaviors, but also an accurate understanding of their populations and living conditions," said Niu Xiaowei, adding that the monitoring has helped people enhance the awareness of protection and helped the gibbons survive better.

(Shen Hao, Chen Fei)



For more information, please visit our website.  
Yunnan Express:  
english.yunnan.cn  
Editor: Zu Hongbing  
E-mail: 249582138@qq.com