



CHINA • YUNNAN



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 pros-

pects." Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks at the press conference of the forum resonated with many 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 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 international and private investors, Western business centres led by London are waiting in line to participate in Belt and Road projects," *Financial Times* reported.

The Hindu pointed out on its website that the global

influence of the 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. (Xinhua)

EXPLORING YUNNAN

A visit to Ailaoshan Forest Ecosystem Research Station

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.

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 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.

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, covering more than 50,000 teachers and students in some 30 primary and middle schools in Jingdong County. (Chen Sanjuan)

Vernal scenery seen in Shangri-La on start of summer



Summer began on May 6 according to the traditional Chinese lunar calendar that divides the year into 24 solar terms.

However, vernal sceneries are seen nowadays across Shangri-La in northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, because of its high altitude.

The snow-capped peaks,

the verdant villages, the lucid waters, the grazing herds, the azalea fields, the Dukezong old town, and the Ganden Sumtseling Monastery, all present a unique vernal scenery.

Strolling in Shangri-La, an Eden-like tourist destination, visitors could not tell if it is summer or spring.

(Photo by Yang Zheng)

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. 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 province hold 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. **The photo shows children from Dulong ethnic group in Yunnan learn computer skills. The Dulong ethnic group had been lifted out of poverty as a whole in 2018. (Xinhua)**

CONNECTIVITY

Hero Hua on China-Laos railway

Mei Zhonghua, or Hero Hua as his colleagues prefer to call him, is an employee of the Fifth Company of the Fifth Bureau (Group) Corporation of China Railway. In 2013, China Railway recognised him as a model worker for his heroic deeds of braving high temperature in the construction of the Taiyangzhai Tunnel in the Mengzi-Hekou railway.

In January 2018, China Railway urgently transferred Mei Zhonghua to the Yuxi-Mohan railway (Chinese section of China-Laos Railway) and appointed him deputy head of the fifth construction team. In this 507-kilometer section of the China-Laos railway, the longest tunnel was Anding Tunnel, and No. 1 inclined shaft in this tunnel, which was as long as 2,601 meters, involved multiple adverse geological conditions such as gushing water, faults

and soft rock deformation. China Railway made the transfer so that Mei Zhonghua could use his expertise to facilitate the tunnel construction progress.

Upon arrival at the construction site, Mei Zhonghua began to direct and coordinate all the procedures. When the construction encountered faulty and deformed sections, he only slept for five or six hours a day.

He taught the young workers how to deal with the deformed sections and passed on to them all his tunnelling techniques, winning the love and respect of all team members. "Hero Hua is really good. I have learned a spirit from him, which always lifts my working morale," said Li Hao, head of the fifth construction team responsible for No. 1 inclined shaft.

(Hu Xiaorong)



Mei Zhonghua (Right) check the tunnel with his colleague. Photo by Hu Xiaorong

EXCHANGE

School bridges China and Laos

Having been teaching in Muong Say for 12 years, the principal of China-Laos Friendship School Xu Shunhong now has students all over the country. With a mastery of the Chinese language, many students have entered the Lao governmental departments, or are playing an important role in the construction of the China-Laos railway and other China-invested projects.

In 2006, Xu Shunhong came from southwest China's Yunnan Province to Laos and established the China-Laos Friendship School in northern Laos's Oudomxai.

As the China-Laos ties became increasingly closer, the Chinese language school also grew in size. One year, more than 1,000 students studied here. When the rented houses could no longer accommodate the school's development, Xu Shunhong and Zhang Tingjiang from Sichuan started to build their own school.

At present, besides the children of overseas Chinese, studying at the China-Laos Friendship School are mainly local Lao students, including those from all the provinces in northern Laos. For students with good academic performance or from poor areas, the school offers to reduce or exempt them from tuition fees.

According to a Lao vice principal of the China-Laos Friendship School, the school is popular in surrounding communities, and many people send their children here. The school has become a cultural melting pot. The children of some Chinese businessmen could not speak Lao when they first came, but they soon learned to speak the language at the school. The Lao children could not speak Chinese upon entering the school, but shortly afterwards they can speak both the Chinese and Lao languages.

Xu Shunhong considers education as his lifetime career. "If you have a dream, you must work hard and fight for it," he said.

(People's Daily)



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