



CHINA • YUNNAN



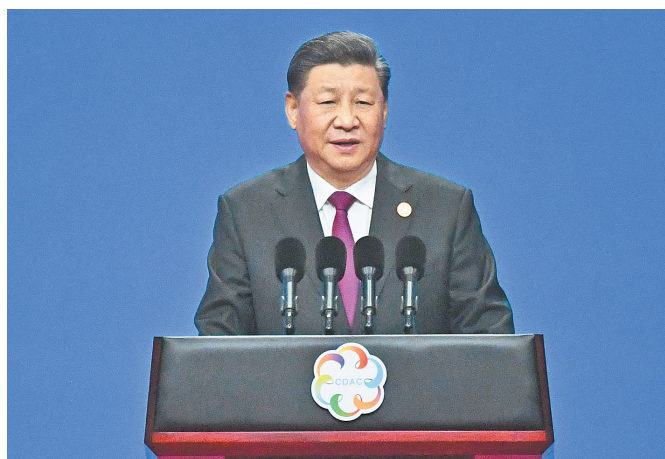
CDAC

Coexistence, mutual respect emphasized in Xi's speech

The concepts of mutual respect and coexistence among civilizations, highlighted by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations (CDAC), received positive feedback from participants.

In his keynote speech made at the opening of the conference on May 15, Xi said that exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations should be conducted in a reciprocal and equal manner, and should also be diversified and multidirectional. He also encouraged that civilizations around the world be allowed to fully bloom.

Laurence Brahm, found-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of CDAC. (Xinhua)

ing director of Himalayan Consensus and a senior fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, highlighted the importance of mutual

respect among civilizations.

"In our work and research, we find conflict, war and terror are not caused by clashes of civilizations. We observe that such

conflicts arise when people are economically disempowered and their identities marginalized," Brahm said.

To end conflict, people need their own sustainable economic platform together with respect and protection of their heritage and culture, he said.

Brahm added that diversified civilizations are significant for the sustainable development of nations.

"The values of Asia are a unity that evolves into derivatives of multiplicity that are interconnected, multidimensional, interactive and synergistic," he said. "There is a sense of coexistence that is core to Asian cultures. There is no judgment for right or wrong, but rather ac-

ceptance of what is."

While sharing his experiences in advising on reforms in some Asian countries such as Laos and Vietnam, Brahm said that it's no use to force someone to develop based on a certain model. Instead, it's crucial to understand what the people need.

Bundit Limschoon, secretary-general of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, said the conference offers small countries a platform to make their voices heard.

"We need more equality, and equal treatment by big countries toward small countries," he said, adding that diversity is very important as well. (China Daily)

BELT AND ROAD

Local people speak highly of China-Laos agricultural cooperation project

"Do you produce more rice in the dry season than in the rainy season?" I asked in bewilderment. "In the dry season, with the steady supply of water, we produce five tons of rice per hectare. In the rainy season, where there are too many rainfalls, we only produce four tons of rice per hectare. We are really grateful to China for helping us build the irrigation system and increase the rice yield," was the reply of the villagers.

The villagers were referring to the tail water irrigation facilities of Nam Theun-2 Hydropower Station, a key livelihood project in the Lao Five-Year Plan.

The project is located in a county of Khammouane province. It is the first phase of the flood control, drought relief and irrigation project in the Xebangfai river basin. Financed by China's preferential export buyer's credit and built by Norinco International Company Limited, the project includes main, trunk and branch canals and drainage channels. It runs a total length

of 101 kilometers and irrigates over 2,800 hectares. After its completion in 2015, it has greatly improved people's living conditions in the irrigated area, increased food production and reduced the impact of floods.

According to an official of the Laos Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Irrigation Bureau in charge of the project, the land along the Xebangfai is densely populated and fertile, especially suitable for planting rice and other tropical crops. In particular, the farmers can have two or three rice harvests a year. In the past, however, only 8 percent of the arable land was irrigated in the dry season. Now, the tail water of Nam Theun-2 Hydropower Station flowing into the Xebangfai provides sufficient water for irrigating the 100,000 hectares of farmland on both banks. The project has significantly increased rice production, increased people's incomes and reduced poverty, benefiting more than 1,300 farmers in nine villages.

(People's Daily)



A farmer receives interview in the field he is ploughing.

Screenshot from v.people.cn

SHANGRI-LA

Azalea blossoms enliven Shangri-La in May



In May each year, the wild azalea fields along the tourist routes extend for 50 plus kilometers in Shangri-La of Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, forming a spectacular sight.

With azaleas flowering on the undulating ridges, in the gullies and over the verdant

hills, the Shangri-La tourist routes are turned into seas of flowers.

The Rhododendron woods in the Baima Snow Mountain are rated as one of the top ten beautiful forests by *Chinese National Geography* magazine.

The Baima Snow Mountain boasts the most complete vegetation spectrum in the alpine valleys. With nearly 90 azalea varieties, the Rhododendron trees can be as tall as 8 meters. The little azalea shrubs are as short as 0.3 m.

(Zhu Dongran)

ODE TO 70 YEARS

China's natural gas consumption in 2018 reached 280.3 billion cubic meters

Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In 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.

In order to better meet the gas demand for natural gas, the Sinopec Huabei Oil and Gas Branch, which is responsible for the development of the Daniudi Gas Field, has taken the time to ensure production. Since the founding of New China, the government have attached great importance to energy develop-

ment, and the supply has been guaranteed and the structure has been increasingly optimized. Data show that China's natu-

ral gas consumption in 2018 reached 280.3 billion cubic meters, an increase of 18.1% over the previous year.



Workers busy at Kunming terminal of China-Myanmar Gas Pipeline
Photo by Yang Zheng

EXPO

SSACEIF to highlight digital economy, B&R investment

The 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) will make 5G technologies visible and see more displays regarding digital economy, said a spokesman in Kunming, Yunnan province on May 15.

With the 2019 SSACEIF to open in Kunming less than one month later on June 12, Yunnan is gearing up for the coming grand fair, and the exhibits from Pakistan, India and other countries are said to be arriving in the spring city soon.

With the theme of "gathering in the forefront and co-building a powerhouse of opening-up for common development", the SSACEIF will cover an exhibition area of 170,000 square meters.

Around 7,500 booths will be set up in 17 pavilions at this year's trade fair, including the Pavilion of Culture and Tourism, the Southeast Asia Pavilion, the South Asia Pavilion, the Pavilion of Other Countries, and others.

Of these, the Pavilion for Belt and Road (B&R) Investment and Cooperation, the Pavilion of Green Energy, the Pavilion of Green Food, the Pavilion of Forest Eco-product, and the digital Yunnan exhibition area belong to the new ones this year.

The Yunnan area will provide visitors with 5G network experiences, focusing on the "Travel in Yunnan" app and other apps that allow people to buy Yunnan teas and access government service on line.

The B&R investment and cooperation pavilion will show Yunnan's active service and integration into the Belt and Road Initiative in recent years. The province aims to be China's pivot of opening up to South and Southeast Asia, and the B&R pavilion is expected to be a major platform to facilitate international investment activities at the SSACEIF.

Around 1,500 volunteers for the SSACEIF will be recruited from 16 universities and communities in Kunming. All of them will go through strict training sessions in late May.

(Wang Shixue)



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