



CHINA • YUNNAN



BELT AND ROAD

Agriculture cooperation boosts grain production in Laos

"Agriculture is a pillar of the Lao economic development. The government is taking steps to develop and improve existing agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation systems and the rural power grid. We encourage the use of high-quality seed rice and the use of modern farming technologies as well. We will also strengthen support for rice cultivation, processing and exports," said the Director General of Department of Irrigation of the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Located in a county of Khammouane province, the irrigation facilities fed by the tail water from the No. 3 sluice at the Nam Theun II Hydropower Station are financed by China's preferential export buyer's credit system, and built by Norinco International Company Limited. "The new canal system and improved small irrigation and water conservancy facilities have increased the area with access to water and raised crop yields. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry considers the facility a model

irrigation project," said the Director General.

"With the irrigation system, our rice production has basically doubled to four to five tonnes per hectare. This is not just happening in Khammouane. China is helping us with agricultural development projects all over the country," said the Director General. "The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry often sends technicians to learn irrigation, planting, forestry and aquaculture techniques in China. I have been to Yunnan many times.

The geographical environment and planting structure there are similar to those in Laos, so we have learned a lot from China in terms of agricultural technology and the cultivation of crops."

The irrigation facilities fed by tail water from No. 3 sluice of Nam Theun II Hydropower Station epitomises the cooperation between China and Laos. This is true in terms of taking water conservancy from a vision to a reality. On April 30th, 2019, the "Action Plan for Building a Community

with a Shared Future between China and Laos" was signed. According to the plan, China will send agricultural experts to Laos to help train farmers so that they can take steps to earn more money. The two countries will jointly build an industrial demonstration park for further China-Laos agricultural cooperation. Laos will also increase its agricultural output and capacity to produce value-added agricultural products, with the goal of encouraging sustainable and export-oriented agriculture. **(People's Daily)**

COOPERATION

China-Laos-Vietnam joint road transport launched in Kunming

The launching ceremony of the international road transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion (China-Laos-Vietnam) was held in Kunming, Yunnan province on May 27.

Implementing a MoU on goods and people-to-people exchange in the sub-region, the joint transport aims to strengthen communication among the Lancang-Mekong countries, while increasing connectivity along the China-Indochina economic corridor.

The MoU was signed in March 2018 by the officials from the six GMS countries. In it, an agreement on facilitating cross-border

flow of goods and people was reached among countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, with details in cross-border procedures, road signs and transport fees specified.

Transport officials from China, Laos and Vietnam attended the launching and delivered speeches, including Viengsavath Siphandone, the Lao deputy minister of transport and Phan Thi Thu Hine, deputy director of the Vietnamese highway authority.

Chinese vice minister of transport Liu Xiaoming presented the GMS license to related companies.

(Han Chengyuan)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Wa villagers benefit from development of handicraft industry



Drawing patterns before exbroidering

Located in west Yunnan, Ximeng Wa Autonomous County is famous for its colorful ethnic cultures. In recent years, the government has enhanced its support for the protection and development of local cultures.

In Yangluo Village, Mengsuo Township of the county, handicraft industry booms. The government set up the "Ximeng Impression" Ethnic Handmade

Costumes and Decorations Experiencing Center where creative trainings are offered to improve local Wa people's brocade weaving and embroidery skills. Now, the handmade Wa ethnic brocades like costume decorations, shawls, blankets are sold in both domestic and foreign markets. These efforts have helped create more jobs for local villagers, and increase their income. **(Xinhua)**

CULTURE

Dragon Boat Festival celebrated



Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional holiday observed annually over 2,000 years in China to commemorate Qu Yuan (340-278 BC), an ancient Chinese patriotic poet. During the festival,

various folk activities are held, including dragon boat races and eating Zong zi, a pyramidal leaf-wrapped package filled with glutinous rice and other ingredients. This year, the festival

falls on May 7. Here, a child displays Zongzi she made with her family member during a themed event in Gu'an County of Langfang City, north China's Hebei Province, June 2. **(Xinhua)**

CONNECTIVITY

NE Yunnan to enter HSR era by year end

With the last set of train tracks placed on May 27, the high-speed railway (HSR) between Chengdu, Sichuan Province and Guiyang, Guizhou Province has reached Zhengxiong County in northeast Yunnan's Zhaotong City.

The entire track-laying project between Chengdu and Guiyang is planned to be accomplished by August 30, and high-speed trains will be in operation by the end of 2019, after a number of testing.

This means that not only Zhengxiong and its neighboring county Weixin, but also the Zhaotong City as a whole, will enter a new era of bullet trains by then.

With a total length of 632.6 kilometers, the Chengdu-Guiyang railroad is constructed and run by stages.

Passing numerous cities



Workers are laying tracks for the railway.

Photo by Yang Zheng

and prefectures, the 515-kilometer railway terminates at Guiyangdong Railway Station, with designed speed of 250 km/h. The track-laying is undertaken by China Railway Construction Group (CRCG).

The new railway also

joins the existing railroads to form a rail network in southwestern China. And the network will play a pivotal role in poverty alleviation and socioeconomic development in the nearby localities, including Zhengxiong and Weixin

EXPO

Kunming to host China-S and SE Asia Think Tank Forum

During the 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair in Kunming, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Yunnan provincial government will jointly host the Seventh China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum.

Preparations for the forum are progressing smoothly and the event is expected to host more than 100 experts. Those scheduled to attend include 60 people from abroad, 47 from provinces other than Yunnan, and 21 from the province itself. So far, the organizing committee has received 58 research papers submitted by domestic experts and 28 from those overseas. The number of research papers may exceed 100 by the time the forum begins.

"The China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum will bring together many experts. It will provide more advice for decision-making regarding the acceleration of shared development between China and the countries of South and Southeast Asia. This also includes building a community of shared destiny for mankind," said Chen Lijun during a May 21 interview. He is deputy dean and fellow at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences and the China (Kunming) South Asia and Southeast Asia Institute.

The think tank forum this year also includes six parallel forums created on the theme of "building a community of common destiny for China and the countries of South and Southeast Asia". The forum will highlight the concept of "think tank plus". On the basis of "think tank plus experts", it will promote the cooperation between "think tank plus companies" and "think tank plus media". Some large companies and well-known media outlets have been invited to help provide greater depth and breadth for the forum.

According to Chen Lijun, think tank experts will play more roles in further implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

(Wu Ping)



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