



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## EXPO

**Editor's note:** During the 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) held from June 12 to 18 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, representatives from 74 countries and regions and 3,348 enterprises attended the event. In this issue, let's take a look at the cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asia through the activities held during the SSACEIF.

## Connectivity to tighten Sino-ASEAN relations

The 3<sup>rd</sup> China-Southeast Asia Business Forum was also held in Kunming during the 2019 SSACEIF. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, political, business and academic representatives from China and nine Southeast Asian countries met together. They shared their insights on the Belt and Road Initiative, the existing cross-border economic cooperation system and innovative cooperative efforts in the

context of Yunnan's digital economy. They sought to improve industrial connectivity between China and Southeast Asia and promote common development across the region.

Among the varied partnerships within ASEAN, China-ASEAN relations are the most dynamic and profound. "We are working closely with the ASEAN Council, the Mekong Council and the Lancang-

Mekong Council. We have conducted in-depth discussions on common regional issues to stimulate greater inter-regional connectivity," said Dr. Xaybandith Rasphone, vice president of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He believes that only greater connectivity can lead to better win-win prospects.

Guo Chuanwei, director of the Department of Trade and Investment at

the China-ASEAN Centre, said that with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, major projects such as the China-Thailand Railway and the China-Laos Railway are underway. Under the new situation, all parties should seize the opportunities to locate more common interests and inject new impetus for further coordinated development.

Yunnan is endowed

with special advantages and should take more responsibility in promoting regional connectivity. At the forum, representatives from various countries vowed to join Yunnan in building a 'Digital Southeast Asia' as well. In the future, nearby countries are going to further improve connectivity with Yunnan, seek new ideas and break new ground.

(Wang Huan)

## Yunnan deepens educational ties with S and SE Asia

As part of SSACEIF, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Yunnan-South and Southeast Asia Forum for Education Cooperation was held in Kunming on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Some 500 educational experts and scholars from 31 countries and regions such as Cambodia, Laos and Thailand attended the meeting.

In recent years, with its unique location advantages, Yunnan has continuously deepened its educational cooperation with South and Southeast Asian countries. It has carried out a wide range of exchanges and cooperative efforts with schools in South and Southeast Asia in terms of vocational education. The province also has set up vocational education centres in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh and other countries, and the establishment of a Lancang-Mekong vocational education alliance is in progress.

In 2019, according to Director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, Zhou Rong, the province will provide 1,000 government scholarships

mainly for students from South and Southeast Asian countries. Yunnan will also offer government-sponsored overseas education for 1,000 outstanding students in the province so they can study at foreign universities.

**In recent years, with increasing educational cooperation with other countries, Yunnan has attracted 19,300 overseas students. The province has implemented 31 international educational projects and established 15 Confucius Institutes(classrooms) in other countries. Every year, 600 Yunnan teachers and students study abroad through government-sponsored programs.**

Additionally, Yunnan signed a total of 11 agreements concerning educational cooperation with relevant parties during the forum. (Chen Yixi)

## Chief editor of Champamai: "I make more friends at SSACEIF"

During this year's SSACEIF, Khambay Keosouphanh, chief editor of Champamai, a newspaper in Champasak, Laos, came to Yunnan Province for the first time. "China's advanced technology displayed in the digital Yunnan exhibition area gave me a new and unforgettable experience," he said.

Prior to SSACEIF, the chief editor attended the 1st

China-South Asia Media Forum in Yuxi, Yunnan, where he made many friends from China, Nepal, Pakistan, India and other countries. "We learned about the development of Yunnan and China, as well as the situation in many other countries. It was a very good opportunity for communication," he said happily. (Feng Yaxin)

## SSACEIF in facial expressions



During this year's SSACEIF, our photographers captured facial expressions of participants as they were staging performances, talking with friends or doing businesses... These rich facial expressions not only show the happiness, devotedness and earnestness of these participants, but also reflect the openness, popularity and success of the SSACEIF.

(Yunnan Daily)

## Everlasting China-South Asia Expo goes into operation

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Everlasting China-South Asia Expo and the South, Southeast Asia Imported Commodity Exhibition and Trading Centre went into operation at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

China has cultivated the China-South Asia Expo as a major international event. It is an important platform to support trade liberalization and economic globalization,

as well as an event to open the Chinese market wider to the countries of South and Southeast Asia. As an extension of the China-South Asia Expo, the Everlasting China-South Asia Expo is of great significance for deepening China's opening up and win-win cooperation with South and Southeast Asian countries.

Yunnan expects to build the Everlasting China-South Asia Expo into a high-end innovation platform and a high-standard,

high-quality and high-level exhibition and trading centre. The Everlasting China-South Asia Expo operates in a market-oriented manner and focus on displaying and selling famous products from South and Southeast Asian countries. It will provide multiple channels, multiple models and diversified services for commodities from South and Southeast Asia, and even the whole world, to enter the Chinese market.

(Chen Xiaobo)

## TOURISM

## Yunnan and Laos hold talks on tourism cooperation

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Yunnan-Laos Tourism Cooperation Conference was held in Kunming. The two sides exchanged views on how to strengthen bilateral tourism promotion, facilitate customs clearances, advance tourism industry standardization and strengthen cooperation in terms of tourism industry training. The attendees also held discussions on the 'Year of China-Laos Tourism'.

In recent years, Lao government has taken measures to improve services for Chinese tourists. And it hopes to cooperate with China to help cultivate more professionals for the Lao tourism sector, like tourist guides, Chinese food chefs and hotel managers.

According to an official from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Yunnan and Laos both hold the promise of increased tourism growth, with the China-Laos Railway bringing even greater opportunities. He recommended that Yunnan and Laos carry out tourism promotion, intensify the development of tourism products and routes and improve the infrastructure for tourism reception. He also advised both countries to further facilitate customs clearances, speed up tourism industry standardization, and establish and improve the mechanisms for further cooperation and dialogue.

Reportedly, the Yunnan Tourism Vocational College, a cultivation base for China-ASEAN tourism talent, trains about 100 tourism officials and practitioners for Laos every year.

(Liu Ziyu)



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