Regional cooperation expands with deeper opening-up

From June 12th to 18th, the 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) was held in Kunming, capital of Southwest China’s Yunnan province. The political and business leaders attending the event agreed that in the context of slack global economic growth and rising protectionism, SSACEIF and other exhibitions held by China have developed the Chinese market wider and brought more opportunities for cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asian countries.

In recent years, according to Ruwan Edirisinghe, president of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce, China has opened the Chinese market wider and brought more opportunities for cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asian countries.

Sports promote exchanges and cooperation

The third Lancang-Mekong College Students Goodwill Games and the fifth South and Southeast Asia College Students Culture and Sports Week were held in Kunming June 3-11. More than 400 teachers and students from ten countries, including China, Bangladesh, India, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand, participated in the events.

“The must seize the golden chance to learn from all other countries,” said Phongchalem Viengthong, a teacher leading the delegation from Souphanouvong University in Laos. Lao athletes who participated in previous sessions told him the event helps improve both skills and teamwork. He hopes to accumulate experience during the competition and bring it back to Laos.

“The event shows the differences between Chinese and other colleges. I highly recommend Thai children to study in China and learn the different culture,” said Wiraya Detsang, a teacher from Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna. “When our students hold exchanges with those of other countries, our university can also find opportunities for cooperation.”

“We give priority to cooperation with Yunnan,” said Pitsanuwat Suagivant, assistant to the president of the Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep(UTK). His university has been cooperating with Yunnan University, Yunnan Normal University, Kunming University of Science and Technology (KUST) and other Yunnan-based universities in running short-term courses, undergraduate courses and postgraduate courses. In the future, the two sides will join on joint doctoral programmes to promote higher education exchanges.

An exhibitor try to draw attention by holding higher his product during 2019 SSACEIF. (Yunnan Daily)

UDO TO 70 YEARS

Rice field art marks 70th anniversary of the founding of New China

In a four-hectare rice field set aside for traditional rice farming in Shadi Village of Kunming’s Jinning District, artists created a huge “painting” to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

The “painting” depicts a five-star red flag of China – the Great Wall, a sailboat, the number “70”, the character for “Yunnan” and the sand embankment of a fishing village.

(Yang Chongyun)

Ethnic group’s future takes root in tea trees

With a population of around 23,000, most Jino live in a township on Jino Mountain in south Yunnan’s Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture.

The township is located on a tea mountain. Elders told Zhe, a Jino villager, that there was a severe shortage of commodities before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. “You could only get an embroidery needle in exchange for 50 kg of tea at that time.”

Zhe, as well as the Jino, have long suffered poverty due to geographical isolation and poor transportation.

“I had my first home when I got married in 2000, which was a tile-roofed house built with bamboo. It was no better than a pen for chickens,” said the 46-year-old Zhe, who borrowed 4,000 yuan ($590) to hold a wedding ceremony.

Thanks to a series of targeted poverty alleviation policies, Zhe’s township and the Jino minority have undergone great changes. More villagers started to accept the commodity economy and walked out of the mountain to integrate into modern society.

With the help of the local government, more roads have been built linking the outside world. Tap water and other modern facilities, as well as vocational training, have been introduced to the township.

Tea has now become the pillar industry in Zhe’s village, which is no longer a small and poor place but a renowned tea production base. The tea produced in Jino Mountain township has been sold to the US, Japan and South Korea.

Early in April, the government announced that Zhe had been officially lifted out of poverty, together with other ethnic groups – the Dulong and De’ang.

(Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Four auxiliary galleries along China-Laos Railway's Xiping tunnel holed through

On June 17th, four auxiliary galleries along the China-Laos Railway’s Xiping tunnel, which has been holed through, marking a big step forward in the construction of the railway’s Chinese section. The galleries have improved the construction environment, laying a foundation for overcoming latter stage difficulties.

The China-Laos Railway is the first international railway to connect directly with the Chinese railway network. It is funded by China and administered by China. The project includes technical standards and equipment.

The Xiping Tunnel is located in Xiping Yi and Dai Autonomous County in Yuxi Prefecture in Yunnan. It is a single-hole, double-lane tunnel, extending for 14.8 kilometres. The tunnel goes through seven fracture zones. Broken rock masses, bursting water and gushing mud posed Level I risks for construction crews, according to national standards. The tunnel is a control project for the railway’s Chinese section.

During the construction of Xiping Tunnel, according to Zhai Mingtao, manager of the Xiji-Mohan Railway First Division of China Railway Tunnel Group, workers fully considered the usually unusual topographical conditions and broke down the project. They dug ten auxiliary galleries along the main tunnel, simultaneously opened 18 working surfaces and assigned more than 1,800 people to the construction sites every day.

Upon completion of the China-Laos Railway, a train ride from Kunming to Xi Shuangbanna will take approximately three hours, and one can travel from Kunming to Vientiane by train within a day.