CHINA • YUNNAN

FOCUS

H1 GDP grows steadily by 6.3 percent
China’s economic transformation and upgrading shows effect

China National Bureau of Statistics(NBS) announced on July 15th that the country achieved an estimated GDP of 45,093.3 billion yuan in the first half of 2019, up 6.3 percent year on year at constant prices. "China’s national economy continued to operate in a reasonable range in the first two quarters. Overall, the country’s economy achieved stable performance while securing progress in its economic development," said Mao Shengyong, spokesperson for NBS.

Such an economic growth rate is one of the highest among the world’s major economies. The interviewed economists believe that China maintained overall stability in employment, a moderate increase in prices and a relatively fast income increase of urban residents. The energy consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP decreased by 2.7 percent than previous year, and the ecological environment improved across the board, indicating that the 6.3 percent growth is of high quality and sustainable.

According to Cheng Shih, chief economist of ICBC International, China’s economy went through trade friction and other challenges in the second quarter, but still achieved the 6.3 percent growth rate. "Market consumption were significantly higher than market expectations, proving that China’s economic growth is still resilient. "China’s economy has withstood a test," said Wang Jun, member of the Academic Committee of the China Centre for International Economic Exchange. In his view, the economic growth is within the expected range. As highlights of China's economy in the first half of 2019, no obvious risk of inflation or austerity occurred, and no systematic risks are likely. The 6.3 percent growth rate has laid a good foundation for fulfilling the annual target. (Xinhua)

BELT AND ROAD

South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance established in Kunming

On July 12th, the inaugural ceremony of South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance was held in Kunming. Kunming Medical University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine jointly initiated the alliance. The alliance members were 20 medical education and health institutions in China and 19 medical education and health institutions in South and Southeast Asia, including China Medical University and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences.

The alliance will engage its member institutions in cultivating medical talents, carrying out scientific research, establishing international health service, organizing clinical practice, producing literature, knowledge contests, academic seminars and other events.

TRAINING

Seminar for Mekong media officials and journalists opens in Kunming

The Third Seminar for Media Officials and Journalists from Mekong Countries opened at the Kunming-based Yunnan Daily Press Group, according to the Yunnan Daily Press Group (YPDG) on July 22. The seminar, themed “Experiencing and friendship among peoples in the Mekong basin,” was held by Yunnan Daily Press Group (YPDG) from July 13 to 15. The seminar was held in Kunming, and the participants will visit Xichou, where the Mekong River originates. The seminar will go on to Frontier. The seminar aims to increase the media's understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative. (Chen Xinglong)

EXPO

Kunming stone expo draws world's attention

The 2019 China Kunming International Stone Expo will be held in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province from July 13 to 15, 2019. Exhibitors from 24 countries and regions, including Italy, Germany, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Afghanistan participated in the six-day expo. Since its inception in 2007, the stone expo has been held for 13 sessions, drawing attention from both China and the rest of the world.

X’RS VOICE

China follows the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration in engaging in global governance. China stands for democracy in international relations and the equality of all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor. China supports the United Nations in playing an active role in international affairs, and supports the efforts of other developing countries to increase their representation and strengthen their voice in international affairs. China will continue to play its part as a major and responsible country, take an active part in reforming and developing the global governance system, and keep contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance.

From the report delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the 19th CPC National Congress on October 18, 2017

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Ethnic villages benefit from poverty alleviation projects in Xichou

Xichou is a county under the jurisdiction of Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, southeast Yunnan province. As a multi-ethnic region, it has 15 different ethnic minorities groups dwelling on its soil, including Zhuang, Miao, Yi, Yao and Mongol. Ethnic villages can be found across the county.

However, Xichou for a long time has been labelled as one of the most under-developed places in China, mostly because of its highly desertified landforms which hamper the local agricultural practices to a great extent. Bearing in mind a belief that no single farmer can be left behind, the county has put enormous effort to help local residents get rid of poverty. As a result, over 5,000 rural households have already benefited from a series of poverty alleviation projects initiated by the county government.

Infrastructure is seen as a linchpin to foster the development of the villages. Now, ethnic villages in the county are interconnected not merely by newly-paved roads, but broadband and even 4G networks. And with increasing investments, the local water supply and sewage disposal systems have been largely upgraded.

The conservation of traditional ethnic cultures is another key indicator of Xi-chou’s development. While an increasing number of folklore museums have been turned into tourist attractions, ethnic dances, rituals and embroidery arts gain further fame for the county.

(Wang Jingzhong)

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