



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

China opens more sectors to foreign investment with new negative lists

China rolled out revised negative lists for foreign investment market access on June 30, introducing greater opening-up and allowing foreign investors to run majority-share-controlling or wholly-owned businesses in more sectors.

With the approval of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) released two negative lists of 2019.

The two lists, one for the piloted free trade zones (FTZ) and one for the rest of the country, contain fewer access-limiting measures. Pilot FTZs now have 37 listed items for foreign investors, down from 45, while non-FTZ areas are required to implement 40 items instead of 48.

They will go into effect on July 30, and market access restrictions not on the negative lists will be fully lifted before the end of this year, said an official with the NDRC.

The negative lists for

The service sector will see greater opening-up in transport, infrastructure, culture, and value-added telecommunications.

- The restriction that domestic shipping agencies must be controlled by the Chinese side will be scrapped.

- The restriction that gas and heat pipelines in cities with a population of more than 500,000 shall be controlled by the Chinese side will be lifted.

- The restriction that cinemas and performance brokerage institutions must be controlled by the Chinese side will be rescinded.

- The restriction on foreign investment in domestic multi-party communications, store-and-forward and call center services will be canceled.

Market access will be eased in agriculture, mining and manufacturing industries.

- Prohibition on foreign investment in the exploitation of wildlife resources will be abolished.

- Restrictions on the exploration and development of petroleum and natural gas are limited to Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures or non-equity joint ventures will

be canceled, as well as the prohibition on foreign investment in the exploration and exploitation of molybdenum, tin, antimony and fluorite.

- In the manufacturing sector, the ban on foreign investment in the production of Xuan paper and ink ingots will be lifted.

- On the basis of nationwide opening-up measures, the 2019 version of the pilot FTZ negative list for foreign investment has lifted restrictions on foreign investment in areas such as aquatic products fishing and publication printing.

market access outline sectors, fields and businesses off-limits for investors. Industries, fields and businesses not on the lists are open for investment to all market players. Chinese authorities revise the negative lists for market access on an annual basis. The 2018 versions were

released last December.

The newly revised negative lists fully demonstrate China's unswerving determination to expand its opening-up, the official said.

The continuous expansion of market access and the introduction of various policies to promote

foreign investment have injected new impetus into the development of an open economy, promoted the steady growth of foreign capital inflows and enhanced the long-term confidence of transnational corporations, said an official with the NDRC.

(Xinhua)

SHANGRI-LA

Mushroom season begins in Shangri-la

In July, Shangri-La in north-west Yunnan's Diqing prefecture has a mild climate with a temperature of around 18 °C, making it a good place to avoid summer heat.

Beside snow-capped peaks, forests and lakes for sight seeing, the delicious wild mushrooms like matsutake also stir the taste buds of the tourists in Shangri-La.

Shangri-La is located in the Hengduan Mountains in the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where several large rivers in Asia run through. And the wild mushrooms of matsutake are nourished by pristine natural environment here.

When matsutake begin to mushroom in late June every year, the Tibetan folks in Shangri-La also kick off their daily activity: picking wild mushrooms in the mountains.

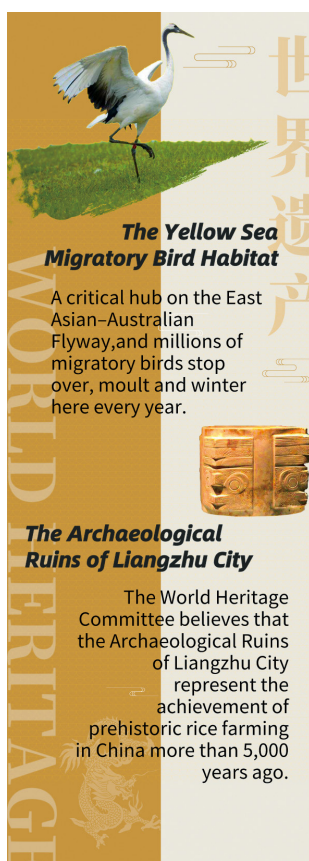
In Shangri-La families, matsutake is often cut into slices and grilled with butter. The pine mushroom can also be stewed with chicken. (Wang Shixue)

WORLD HERITAGE

China ranks first on World Heritage List with inclusion of Liangzhu and Migratory Bird Habitat

The World Heritage Committee inscribed China's Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City and the Yellow Sea Migratory Bird Habitat (Phase I) onto the UNESCO World Heritage List at its 43rd session in Baku, Azerbaijan. This brings the total number of World Heritage Sites in China to 55, the highest number in the world.

The Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City is located in Hangzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province. The new World Heritage site consists of a heritage zone covering 14.3 square kilometres surrounded by a buffer zone of 99.8 square kilometres. The heritage elements include city ruins dating back to between 3300 and 2300 BC, as well as 11 early-stage dams and high-level cemetery sites with altars from the same pe-



riod.

The World Heritage Committee believes that the Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City repre-

sent the achievement of prehistoric rice farming in China more than 5,000 years ago. The site is also considered an outstanding representation of ancient urban civilizations. Liangzhu reveals the development of rice farming in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River during the Neolithic Age, and meets the principles of authenticity and integrity required to become a World Heritage site.

The Yellow Sea Migratory Bird Habitat (Phase I) is located in Yancheng in Eastern China's Jiangsu province. It is mainly comprised of intertidal mudflats and other coastal wetlands. This site is a critical hub on the East Asian-Australian Flyway, and millions of migratory birds stop over, moult and winter here every year.

(Xinhua)

XI'S VOICE

We should foster new sources of growth for the global economy. Innovation, more than anything else, is such a new source of growth. Research shows that 95 percent of the world's businesses are now closely linked with the Internet, and the global economy is transitioning toward a digital economy. This means we should boost co-operation in digital economy

products. Another source of growth derives from making greater efforts to address the issue of development and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and such efforts will both benefit developing countries and generate business and investment opportunities for developed countries.

—From speech on the State of the Global Economy by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit.

ODE TO 70 YEARS

China accelerating modernization of education



Editor's note: This year 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.

Since its founding in 1949, China has continuously increased investment to advance the modernization

of its educational system. In 2018, China achieved a nine-year compulsory education retention rate – the rate between enrollees and graduates -- of 94.2 percent, as well as a senior high school gross enrolment rate of 88.8 percent, both higher than in previous years. The Photo here shows students in a primary school in Jiangsu Province learn how to sort trash. (Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

Yunnan company to help build Boten-Houayxay Expressway

Yunnan Communications Investment and Construction Group and the Lao government, signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Feasibility Study on the Construction of the Boten (Luang Namtha)-Houayxay (Bokeo) Expressway the other day in Vientiane.

The expressway connects Boten (Mohan in China) with Houayxay (Chiang Khong in Thailand). It passes through the provinces of Luang Namtha and Bokeo in northern Laos. With a total length of 181 kilometres, it will be a two-way, four-lane expressway and

will adopt the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model during its construction phase.

The Memorandum of Understanding marks a solid step towards the construction of the Boten-Houayxay expressway. When the project is completed, a car ride from Boten to Houayxay will be shortened to just 1.5 hours. (Li Chenghan)



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