



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

Pilot free trade zones push China's opening-up to new heights

The Information Office of China's State Council, held a press conference on August 26, to brief on the establishment of pilot free trade zones in Yunnan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangxi, Hebei and Heilongjiang. So far, China has set up 18 such zones, and cumulatively 60 percent of its provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have participated in building pilot free trade zones.

Among the six newly established ones, three are on the coast and three are along the border. They join the twelve previously established zones to form a stronger version for the country's system of opening-up. "The setup of eighteen pilot free trade zones reflects the overall enhancement of opening-up in China's coastal regions, as well as the priority given to opening-up in central



During the unveiling ceremony of China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, a signing ceremony was held between China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone. (Yunnan Daily)

and western regions," said Bai Ming, deputy director of the International Market Research Institute under the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Bai believes that this will provide more

reproducible and transferable experiences for expanding China's opening even further. The China (Yunnan) pilot FTZ covers parts of Kunming, the provincial capital, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture that neighbors Vietnam and Dehong Dai and

Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, which borders Myanmar, amounting to an area of 119.86 square kilometres.

After the establishment of the pilot free trade zone, Yunnan will take a more active part in building the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, the China-Laos Economic Corridor and other, similar international cooperative efforts. The province will strengthen ties with neighbouring countries and pursue innovative models of border and cross-border economic cooperation. It will also increase cross-border cooperation in areas including production capacity, finance, tourism, e-commerce, agriculture, energy, logistics and RMB-based businesses. (Staff correspondents)

Read More: Pilot free trade zones bring dividends

From 2013 to 2018, China set up twelve pilot free trade zones. They are located in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian, Liaoning, Zhejiang, Henan, Hubei, Chongqing, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Hainan. These pilot free trade zones have made bold explorations and achieved remarkable results

in areas including investment and trade liberalization and facilitation, financial services for the real economy and the transformation of government functions. Their reproducible and transferable experiences will help to expand China's reform and opening-up throughout the country. (Staff correspondents)



HONG KONG

China voices firm opposition to G7 statement on Hong Kong

China on August 27 voiced strong dissatisfaction with and resolute opposition to "random accusations" and "irresponsible remarks" on Hong Kong affairs in a statement from the Group of Seven (G7) summit.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang made the remarks at a daily press briefing.

The G7 reportedly reaffirmed the existence and the importance of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong and called for avoiding violence in a joint statement issued on August 26 at the end of a G7 summit

held in Biarritz, France.

"As we have emphasized on many occasions, Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs, and no foreign governments, organizations or individuals have the right to intervene," said Geng, when responding to a query about China's comment on the statement from the G7 summit.

On the aforementioned Joint Declaration between China and Britain, Geng said its ultimate goal and core content were to make sure China would take back Hong Kong in 1997 and the government of the

People's Republic of China would resume its exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong with effect from July 1, 1997.

"Since Hong Kong returned to the motherland in 1997, the Chinese government has exercised jurisdiction over Hong Kong according to the Constitution and the Basic Law," he said. "Based on international law and basic norms governing international relations, no other country or organization is entitled to meddle in Hong Kong affairs under the pretext of the Joint Declaration." (Xinhua)

"No one cares more about Hong Kong's prosperity and stability than Chinese people, including residents of Hong Kong," Geng said. "(Those) are our own affairs, we will handle them well. G7 members should not poke their noses into others' business with ill-harboured intentions and conspiracies."

BELT AND ROAD

High-geothermal tunnel on Yuxi-Mohan section of China-Laos railway holes through

On August 27th, the Molangshan Tunnel on the Yuxi-Mohan Railway in Yuanjiang County, built by the Fifth Bureau Corporation of China Railway, holed through. This progress lays a solid foundation for the steady progress of the entire China-Laos Railway.

The Yuxi-Mohan Railway connects Yuxi in southwestern China's Yunnan province, with Mohan on the China-Laos border. This important section of the China-Laos Railway extends for 508.53 kilometres. The Molangshan Tunnel in Yuanjiang County has a total length of 3,457 metres and an

underground depth of up to 615 metres. In its vicinity are the Rehai hot springs, which maintain temperatures of 90 degrees Celsius. It is more than 40 degrees Celsius inside the tunnel, posing a formidable challenge for construction workers.

Since construction started

in 2016, the Fifth Bureau Corporation of the China Railway has overcome multiple difficulties including gushing water, mud bursting, large land deformations and particularly high geothermal temperatures to ensure the safe and steady progress of the project.

(Hu Xiaorong)

XI'S REMARKS

China today is more than the country itself; it is very much a part of Asia and the world. In the time to come, China will open its arms wider to embrace the world and contribute the dynamic achievements of Chinese civilization to a better

world in the future.

—Excerpt from keynote speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations

INDUSTRY

Dadugang recognized as world's largest tea plantation

China's major Pu-er tea plantation area of Dadugang in Southwest China's Yunnan province was recognized as the world's largest tea plantation by the London-based World Record Certification Agency on August 27.

The world record certificate was conferred to the municipal government of Jinghong city in south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Autonomous Prefecture, which administrates Dadugang.

Surrounded by tropical rainforests, 65,246 mu (4,349 ha.) terraced fields of tea plantation in Dadugang are the origin area of Pu-er tea, which is typically compressed in cake or brick forms.

"Tea-making and

tea-drinking cultures have been passed down from generation to generation here. The ancient Tea Horse Road has linked Yunnan with the world," said Bai Ling, mayor of Jinghong.

The municipal government has been committed to the protection of ancient tea tree resources and the construction of a modern tea industrial park in Dadugang to protect and upgrade the tea industry.

In 2018, the tea planting area of Jinghong reached 289,000 mu, with an output of 22,600 tonnes. The comprehensive output value of the city's tea industry amounted to 3 billion yuan (\$419 million).

(Xinhua)

IN-PICS

Music and dance drama staged featuring costumes of Yi people



Yunxiu Yishang, a large-scale music and dance drama featuring the traditional dress of the Yi people was staged at the Yunnan Art Institute on August 27th. The drama is based on the story of a woman from the Yi ethnic group. As the five chapters of the drama unroll one by one, viewers enjoy the beautiful embroidery of the Yi people, as well as the natural beauty where they live. The drama wonderfully interprets the Yi people's unique culture.

by the Ethnic Arts Theatre of central Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, with the support of Shanghai. It was a focus of attention during the Silk Road Fashion Gala - Colourful Yunnan Ethnic Costume Festival.

(Photo / Yang Zheng)



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The drama was created