



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

Yunnan maintains rapid foreign trade growth

From January to July, 2019, Yunnan registered import and export value of 125.83 billion yuan (about US\$18.51 billion), a year-on-year increase of 17.9 percent. Yunnan's foreign trade is characterized by close links with the countries along the Belt and Road, as well as rapid growth in featured areas and increasingly greater trade facilitation.

In 2015, in order to serve the Belt and Road Initiative, Yunnan Intercontinental Train Logistics Co Ltd incorporated and went into operation, operating railway shipments between Yunnan and Europe. Over the past four years, the

company has successively put into operation trains that connect China with Europe, Vietnam and Singapore, achieving cross-border, multimodal transport. In 2018, the company cumulatively completed international freight transport of 37,810.79 tons, an 89.56 percent increase over the previous year.

The company epitomizes Yunnan's increasing trade cooperation with the countries along the Belt and Road. In recent years, trade volume between the province and South and Southeast Asian countries has also been on the rise. As of July, the trade volume

between Yunnan and ASEAN nations reached 63.01 billion yuan (about US\$8.98 billion), an increase of 20 percent.

As China's consumer market evolves, shopper demand for imported vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products has been on the rise. Due to its unique geographic location, Yunnan has become a gateway for agricultural products from neighbouring countries to enter China. Meanwhile, Yunnan's high-quality agricultural products are also selling well in other countries. Agricultural products are now highlights in Yunnan's foreign trade

ecosystem.

Up to now, Yunnan has opened up 25 ports to the outside world. In recent years, the province has been facilitating customs clearance at these ports, laying a foundation for the growth of foreign trade. Statistics show that imports and exports through Ruili Port on China-Myanmar border have increased from 325 million yuan (about US\$46.30 million) in 1995, to 69.77 billion yuan (about US\$9.93 billion) in 2018. This growth has turned Ruili into the most important land port for trade between China and Myanmar.

(Yunnan Daily)

XI'S REMARKS

The Chinese people will stay committed to the strategy of opening-up for win-win results. We will pay equal attention to "bringing in" and "going global", and break new ground in opening China further through links running eastward and westward, across land and over sea. We will adopt policies to promote

high-standard liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and explore the opening of free trade ports with Chinese characteristics.

—Excerpt from keynote speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference held on April 10, 2018

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Tourism lifts Jinuo people out of poverty



The Jinuo drum dance is a popular performance in Jinduoshan Scenic Spot. Photo by Dai Zhenghua

Seventy years ago, Jinuo people in south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture became part of a modern society directly from their indigenous past. In recent years, they have shaken off poverty through the promotion of tourism.

Bapo, one of the oldest Jinuo villages located in Jinduoshan Township, is near Jinghong, the prefectural seat of Xishuangbanna. In the past few years, like other places in Xishuangbanna, the village has helped establish the Jinduoshan Scenic Area. Now many Jinuo villagers work there. Some of them act as tour guides, others greet tourists, and yet others perform the Jinuo great drum dance and play traditional bamboo instruments called qikuo arm. And Che Jie presides over the sacrificial ceremony before the great drum dance and

the coming-of-age ceremony for Jinuo boys.

Tourism has helped local people get rid of poverty. According to Che Jie, more than 60 villagers now work in the scenic area, and their earnings range from 2,000 yuan (about US\$284.90) to 5,000 yuan (about US\$712.25) every month. In Bapo, the scenic area brings in more than 300,000 yuan (about US\$42,700) for the village every year, and people can sell local products including fruits and honey to tourists at designated stalls.

In 2018, according to an official from Jinduoshan Township, the scenic area received nearly 170,000 tourists. From January to May, the scenic area received more than 100,000 tourists, a substantial increase, year-on-year.

(Xinhua)

DATA 1 90.74 billion yuan



From January to July of this year, Yunnan and countries along the Belt and Road completed trade worth 90.74 billion yuan (about US\$12.93 billion), a 16 percent increase. The photo here shows a freight train from Kaiyuan, Yunnan province to Haiphong Vietnam.

Photo by Yang Zheng

DATA 2 14.48 billion yuan



From January to July, Yunnan exported agricultural products valued at of 14.48 billion yuan (about US\$2.06 billion), a 14.1 percent increase. The province also imported agricultural products worth 6.44 billion yuan (about US\$920 million), a 29.5 percent increase. The photo here shows that Chinese customs officials inspect Thailand fruits at Mohan port, Xishuangbanna.

Photo by Han Chengyuan

DATA 3 25.15 hours



In June, Yunnan province recorded overall export customs clearance times of 0.52 hours (the national average was 4.18 hours) and overall import customs clearance times of 25.15 hours (the national average was 42.39 hours). The photo here shows the self-serving declaration terminal built by Kunming Customs.

Photo by Dai Zhenghua

BELT AND ROAD

From dam burst victim to builder of the China-Laos Railway Lao man has a magical year



A man from Attapeu works at the T-beam making site in Vientiane. (Xinhua)

Bali, a Lao man, cannot help describing his experience using the word "magical" when recalling how he had went from a victim to a construction worker of the China-Laos Railway.

Last July, a severe dam burst happened in Attapeu Province. After that, like many other victims, Bali joined a Chinese

company working on the China-Laos Railway.

When our reporter met Bali, he had just received his salary. "Now I earn much more than before, and I've bought a mobile phone to keep in touch with my family. I've worked here for more than a year, and my family will soon move into

The China-Laos Railway stretches from the China-Laos border in the north, to the Lao capital of Vientiane in the south. This China-funded railway will be jointly operated by China and Laos and will directly connect with the existing domestic Chinese railway network. It will completely adopt Chinese technical standards and equipment. Construction started in December 2016 and is expected to go into operation in 2021.

a new house," Bali said happily.

"I never knew how to build beams and I couldn't speak a single word of Chinese, so I had difficulty at first. It was the Chinese technicians who helped me gradually adapt to my job. Now I can complete some processes independently," Bali said confidently.

"Building the railway is an exciting and demanding job. I'm responsible for pouring concrete. It sounds simple, but the slightest mistake can delay

the project's progress and even affect the quality of the T-beams we use," Bali said. "I don't want to let people down. They all hope that the railway will be completed soon."

Bali said that the China-Laos Railway will enable him to go farther and see a bigger world. "When the railway is open to traffic, I will take my family to travel around China," he said.

(Xinhua)

CULTURE

Shiping County strengthens preservation of old houses

In April 2018, the China Cultural Relics Protection Foundation launched a programme called 'Rescue Old Houses'. Shiping County in southeast Yunnan province actively responded and quickly began to repair and strengthen preservation work and the rational utilization of old houses. The old houses identified for preservation are cultural relics that exist in the Chinese traditional villages but not yet been recognized by the state or the province for protection, as well as the private estates registered in the third national cultural relics survey. To date,

Shiping has repaired 18 old houses. With children playing in them and visitors coming and going, these old homes are once again full of life. The old houses and the ancient villages are the spiritual legacy of the Chinese people. They always manage to touch the deepest parts of people's hearts. (Xinhua)



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