



YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

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The Nation

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## REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

# Yunnan achieves high-quality leapfrog development in new era

"In 2018, Yunnan's economic aggregate reached nearly 1.8 trillion yuan (Bt 7.9 trillion), and the total revenue of local public finance reached over 370 billion yuan, an increase of 205 times and 1,988 times respectively over 1952. On the morning of August 12, at a press conference held by China's State Council Information Office to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Beijing, Chen Hao, party secretary of Yunnan province, briefed Chinese and foreign media on Yunnan's economic and social development, and Ruan Chengfa, governor of Yunnan province, answered questions from

Chinese and foreign journalists. "The annual growth rate of major development indicators in ethnic minority areas has been higher than the provincial average for many years," Chen Hao said, adding that, Yunnan has been striving to promote economic and social development in ethnic minority areas. According to statistics, the number of poor people in ethnic minority areas in Yunnan has decreased from 4.26 million in 2012 to 865,000 by the end of 2018. In addition, from 2013 to 2018, a total of 7.07 million people in Yunnan have been lifted out of poverty. The incidence of poverty in 48 poverty-stricken counties has dropped

from 21.7 per cent at the end of 2012 to 5.39 per cent. Poverty alleviation will be accomplished across the province by 2020. From 2012 to 2018, forest coverage in Yunnan increased from 50.03 per cent to 60.3 per cent; the percentage of days with good air quality in cities above the prefectural level was above 98 per cent; and the water quality of the nine plateau lakes was improved obviously. In addition, more than 90 percent of Yunnan's typical ecosystems and more than 85 percent of its key protected wildlife species were effectively protected.

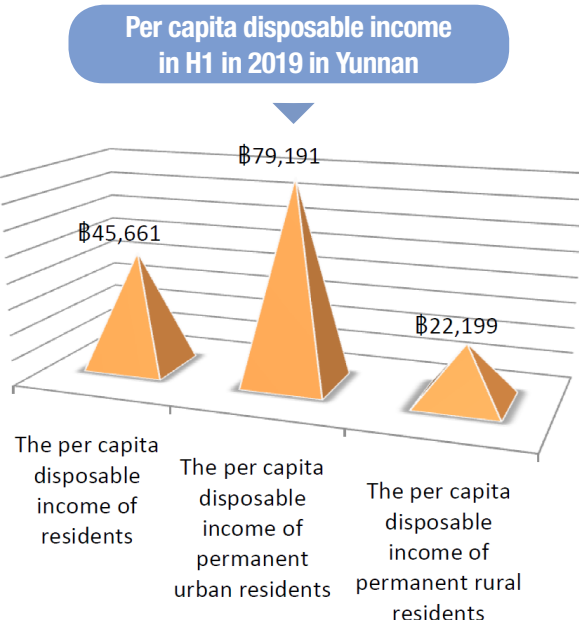
"Yunnan's international and domestic cooperation, especially with neighbouring countries, is getting better and better. The cooperation range is wider while the cooperation content becomes richer," said Chen Hao. Now, Yunnan has established 11 bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms with nine countries; built seven categories with 18 opening and cooperation function areas and key opening platforms such as China-South Asia Expo. Cross-border renminbi business covers more than 90 countries and regions outside China. Since 2015, Yunnan has introduced 3.8 trillion yuan of funds from outside the province.

and their sense of happiness and national pride have been enhanced.

People of all ethnic groups in Yunnan have developed together

Yunnan has positively involved in the B&R Initiative and is striving

to build itself into a highland of China's opening up areas.



In the first half of 2019, the GDP of Yunnan province reached 795.743 billion yuan; the disposable income of residents per capita in Yunnan province is 10,380 yuan; the per capita disposable income of permanent urban residents is 18,000 yuan; and the per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents is 5,045 yuan. In 2018, the GDP of Yunnan ethnic

autonomous areas reached 715.586 billion yuan with 37,136 yuan per capita. The revenue of local governments' general public budgets totalled 19,435 billion yuan. There were 484 primary and secondary schools for nationalities in Yunnan province. The number of ethnic minority students in school reached 4.62 million.



Thailand booths in the China-South Asia Expo are crowded by consumers. Photo by YDPG

**Policy:** Yunnan has established 11 bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms with nine countries.  
**Education:** A total of 15 Confucius Institutes have been set up overseas, and 18,778 foreign students are enrolled in universities in Yunnan province.  
**Fund:** Cross-border renminbi business has covered over 90 countries and regions.  
**Facilities:** By 2018, Yunnan province's highway traffic mileage reached 253,000 kilometres; high-speed trains run directly to 17 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, running more than 180 trains a day; there were 15 civil airports with 524 routes.  
**Trade:** Yunnan has 25 open ports, 5 national economic development zones, 4 national border economic cooperation zones. Yunnan has held the China-South Asia Expo for five years. It has set up 30 commercial representative offices abroad with actual outbound investment totaled US\$9.99 billion.

## XI'S REMARKS

"Diversity spurs interaction among civilizations, which in turn promotes mutual learning and their further development. We need to promote exchanges and mutual learning among countries, nations and cultures around the world, and strengthen popular support for jointly building a community with

a shared future for both Asia and humanity as a whole. —Excerpt from Chinese President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations held on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## ECOLOGY

### Rare leopard spotted in Deqin county

Infrared cameras in a national nature reserve in southwest China's Yunnan province have captured three videos and several pictures of leopards, according to the reserve recently. The infrared cameras photographed an ochreous leopard with a black blotched pattern strolling along a ridge at an altitude of around 4,000 metres in the Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve in Deqin county on December 12 last year. According to the reserve, it was not clear if the same leopard was seen in all three video clips. A total of 27 infrared cameras were set up by the reserve's administration in December last year along a ridgeline of about

five kilometres in the reserve. "The capture of leopard images this time shows that our long-term protection efforts have yielded positive results," said Ti Bu, a researcher of the reserve. According to Ti, researchers will conduct a further study concerning the sub-species, distribution and group population of the big cat in Yunnan. Leopards are under China's highest national-level protection and are listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Records of this wild animal were seldom seen due to its secretive nature and small population size. By Diqing Daily

### Exhibits from different countries favored at Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo



Many visitors are fascinated by the exotic cultural exhibits including hand-painted Turkish ceramics, old Japanese porcelain, and Vietnamese aloes wood, Indonesian coral jade displayed in the No. 2 Hall at the 2019 Creative Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo. "How much is the hand-painted table lamp?" In front of the booth of Turkish hand-painted ceramic crafts, a variety of colorful hand-painted table lamps, floor lamps and chandeliers attracted the attention of many visitors. Zhang Xiling, who is attending the exhibition for the third time, brought thousands of hand-painted crafts from Turkey to the Expo this year. She said that the Belt and Road Initiative and the Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo have made many Chinese know and love Turkish hand-painted handicrafts. At the Expo, antique porcelain from Japan also attracted much attention. According to an exhibitor named Zhao Ling, Yunnan people like to drink Pu'er tea, and the taste of Pu'er tea is rich with different tastes and serving ways. After years of traveling, she discovered that the Japanese tea ceremony can transform the

taste of Pu'er tea into something special. That's why she brought more than 3,000 pieces of unused old Japanese porcelain made before 1980 and bought on auction to the Expo, hoping that Yunnan tea culture and Japanese tea ceremony culture can create more sparks. "This agarwood bracelet is made in Nha Trang and the price is a little higher." In front of the Vietnam Nha Trang Aloes Booth, Ye Shujuan, a Vietnamese girl who studied at Yunnan University of Finance and Economics and speaks fluent Chinese, was busy introducing the exhibits to visitors. Their factory is located in Quang Nam province in Vietnam. They came to Kunming each year to participate in the Cultural Industry Expo in the past few years. Through the platform, more and more people have experienced the aloes culture from Vietnam, and more and more aloes cultural products from Vietnam entered the Chinese market. Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo has built a bridge of cultural exchanges and friendship between Yunnan and foreign countries. (Wu Ping)

## CULTURE

## EXCHANGE

### The first "Thai Select" food festival opened in Kunming



On Aug.17, the first "Thai Select" food festival hosted by the International Trade Promotion Office of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand and the Commercial Office of the Consulate General of Thailand in Kunming opened in Kunming. From August 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, the event will hold a press conference in four "Thailand Select" restaurants in Kunming to promote the "Thailand Select" logo. It is said that "Thailand Select" is the symbol of authentic Thai cuisine restaurant, which has been 19 years old. Currently, 71 Thai restaurants in China have received the logo.

### Thailand Day observed at Beijing Horticultural Expo

On July 28, the Thailand Day was held at Beijing Expo Garden. Traditional cultural and artistic performances, paper umbrella painting, fruit and vegetable carving, delicious food tasting and rich herbal medicine use demonstration and other wonderful activities were provided to visitors in Thai Garden and Gui Rui Theatre.

The deputy director of Thailand's Agriculture Promotion Department, who attended the opening ceremony of Thailand Week and Thailand Day, said that Thailand's participation in the 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Expo aims to showcase Thai gardens and homes under the theme of green living and Thailand's self-sufficiency. Thailand Week and Thailand Day ran from July 26th to 30th aiming to improve Thailand's image in agricultural products, tourism, culture and other aspects.

Chen Zhou, Vice President of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and Beijing

Expo general representative of Chinese Government, said that when the International Horticultural Expo was held in Chiang Mai in 2006, the Tang Garden built then has been permanently preserved as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. Thailand also provided strong support to the Beijing Expo.

Piriya Khempon, ambassador of Thailand to China, said that for Thailand, attending the Beijing Expo is an important opportunity to show Thai customs to the international community, enhance the quality and confidence of Thai agricultural products, and promote Thailand's tourist attractions and cultural customs. It also provides an important opportunity for Thai departments to work together to improve the quality of tourism goods and services. The Thailand Day activities will promote closer friendly relations between Thailand and China.

He highlighted that it is a response to co-building the Belt and

Road Initiative proposed by China's President Xi Jinping. It shows Thailand's support for sustainable development and environmental protection. Thailand is willing to cooperate more closely with China on sustainable development and jointly creating a better world.

By Chen Shangwen and Qu Song



Thai dance performed during the Thailand Day. Photo by Xinhua

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION

### Confidence building and education help Jingpo shake off poverty

**Editor's Note:** In Yunnan, 9 ethnic groups—the Derang, De'ang, Jino, Nu, Bulang, Jingpo, Lisu, Lahu and Wa—have directly moved from primitive or slave societies into modern societies. In poverty alleviation, Yunnan focuses on the areas inhabited by these ethnic groups and other minorities. The province has taken creative, targeted measures and formulated special poverty alleviation plans in recent years. This issue, we continue to publish a story on how Jingpo ethnic groups shakes off poverty.

There are more than 12,000 people in the Xishan township of Mang City, Yunnan province, and Jingpo ethnic group accounts for 92.8 per cent of its total population. The average person has 5 mu of arable land and 17 mu of forest land. That means its endorsement of resources is good. However, due to a long-term social development retardation and backwardness, the poverty rate in the Xishan township was 23 per cent in 2014. Mulepao, an old Jingpo man in Maojiang Village of Xishan township, had lost confidence in life. He and his wife had been ill for a long time and their two sons had no productive skills. His family lived in poverty by farming. In 2014, the poverty alleviation team came to his home to explain the poverty alleviation policy and help them to understand the development intention. The team members took his two sons to attend skill training and then sent them to Zhejiang, a more developed coastal province in east China to work. The old couple are doing breeding at home, now

raising seven beef cattle and 16 pigs. Since 2017, Mulepao's family has been out of poverty and their life has been lifted getting better and better. "Our country's poverty alleviation policy is good, and we should also stand on our own feet." The old man, who used to be unhappy, had a bright smile on his face. In the Yingpan Ethnic Primary School, there are students from nine ethnic groups, of which the Jingpo students account for 85 percent. In order to inherit the Jingpo traditional culture, the school adopts bilingual teaching, and folk dance becomes the students' exercise during the break. "No one drops out of school here. Parents are actively sending their children to school," said Yang Anjia, the school master. "Education can take our children further," said Shi Legan, a teacher at Yingpan Ethnic Primary School. He has been engaged in education in the township for 31 years and has taught more than 1,000 students. He hopes that his students can change their own destiny through learning and bring their own culture out. Help the poor boost confidence first and help them to be more educated. In targeted poverty alleviation, local party committee and government promote the support of both ambition and wisdom, stimulate the endogenous drive of the local people, block the transmission of poverty across generations, and take precise measures to solve the problem of quality that caused poverty. Now, the poverty rate has decreased to 5.8 percent in Xishan Township. (Xinhua News)

## EDUCATION

### Thai Consul-General in Kunming: Learning Chinese well will bring more opportunities

"People-to-people exchanges are friendly between Thailand and China, studying in China can promote cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between the two countries." When interviewed recently, Nitivadee Manitkul, Thai Consul General in Kunming said that around 800 Thai students studied in Yunnan in 2018 and the number increases each year. **Reporter:** In recent years, with the closer cooperation between Thailand and China, more and more Thai students are choosing to study in China. Can I ask how many Thai students are studying in Yunnan? **Nitivadee:** In 2018, more than 500 Thai students got registered at the consulate-general, plus those registered in the previous years. Currently around

800 Thai students are studying in Yunnan and the number increases each year. **Reporter:** How does the consulate-general help the students who study and live in Yunnan? **Nitivadee:** The students can come to the consulate for help whenever they encounter a problem. I often invite student representatives to exchange discussions to learn about their study and living conditions in Yunnan. We also keep in touch with colleges and universities in Yunnan. We also help students organise activities during the Songkran Festival and other events. For example, we communicate with the universities where the Thai students study to help them prepare Thai food so that they could share with their friends and promote cultural

exchanges in this way. **Reporter:** What role do you think Thai students play in China-Thailand friendly exchanges? **Nitivadee:** People-to-people exchanges are friendly between Thailand and China, studying in China can promote cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between the two countries. For example, Thai students wear traditional Thai costumes to celebrate Songkran Festival in Yunnan. They introduce traditional Thai culture to Chinese teachers and students. This is a good cultural exchange and helps to understand each other. **Reporter:** What positive impact do you think Thai students will get from

studying in China? Could you give them some messages? **Nitivadee:** China is now the world's second largest economy. All students who come to study in China are well aware that learning Chinese well will bring them more opportunities. The first word I would like to share with Thai students is diligence. Chinese students study very hard. I hope Thai students learn from them. The second word is persistence. Don't be afraid of difficulties and try hard to finish your study. The third word is communication. Make more Chinese friends and communicate more in Chinese. By Li Qinying and Cai Meng