



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

From Chinese language to specialty courses Lao students enjoy more choices in Yunnan

In recent years, as China and Laos enhance their ties in an all-round way, cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation increase between the two countries. According to statistics released by universities in Yunnan, more and more Lao students come to study in the province and they enjoy a more diverse choice of specialty courses. In the past, they mainly opted for language-based majors, but now they can study trade, finance, tourism management, media, journalism and so on.

“From 2018 to 2019, about 5,300 Lao students study in Yunnan. Most of them are in universities in Kunming City, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture,” said Bounsonh Thammavongxing, Education Consul of Lao Consulate-General in Kunming.

Cooperation between the two countries has direct influence on the intentions of Lao students in choosing their majors. As China

and Laos strengthen their cooperation in finance, the number of Lao student who choose to study finance increase significantly. According to Duan Jieyun, deputy dean of the Chinese Language and Culture College (CLCC) of Yunnan Normal University, the CLCC offers five programs for international students, and the finance and international trade are the most popular among Lao students.

You Mengping, a researcher on Lao affairs at Yunnan University said study in finance will offer Lao students opportunities to master investment and economic laws of both China and Laos in a compressive way. After graduation, many of these students choose to work in Chinese companies or China-Laos joint ventures. As they have advantages in language and specialties, they will make more contributions to the win-win cooperation between China and Laos. (*The Mekong Magazine*)

VOICE

Yunnan and Laos maintain frequent educational and cultural exchanges for the following reasons. First, transportation is convenient between the two countries. Second, the cost of living in Kunming, which is lower than in other Chinese cities, is within the reach of Lao students. Third, Lao students can choose from eleven universities in Yunnan.

—**Bounsonh Thammavongxing, Education Consul of Lao Consulate-General in Kunming**

Based on the Chinese language proficiency of international students, Chinese

teachers first teach in English before shifting to Chinese. The transitional period enabled me to adapt to my studies here. More importantly, I have made many friends from other countries. Communicating with them has broadened my horizons.

—**Shanshan, a Lao student at Yunnan University**

I hope that Lao students will use the professional knowledge and skills they learn here to help China and Laos carry out a wider range of in-depth cooperation.

—**You Mengping, a researcher on Lao affairs at Yunnan University**

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To study in China, international students need to pass the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK). The HSK includes writing, reading and listening sections. It comes in six difficulty levels: Level 1 through Level 6. In 2019, 48 colleges and universities in Yunnan qualified to recruit international students, and the provincial government

offers 1,000 scholarships for international students to seek further educational opportunities in the province.



BELT AND ROAD

Chinese workers overcome harsh conditions for China-Laos connectivity project



Workers are moving the ice blocks into the Ban Konlouang Tunnel. (Xinhua)

The 9,020-meter Ban Konlouang Tunnel is the second longest tunnel along the China-Laos railway in northern Laos, which is constructed by China Railway No. 5 Engineering Group (CREC-5). The construction has been listed as a key bottleneck of the railway project.

When the reporter went into the under-construction

tunnel in late July, Wang Hong and his Chinese colleagues were kneeling on an ice pile made up of dozens of large ice blocks.

“The happiest thing in this stuffy tunnel is to take a 10-minute rest on the ice pile,” Wang Hong said, smearing the sweat off his face. According to Wang, the average temperature in the tunnel exceeds 45 de-

grees centigrade.

In order to keep cool inside the tunnel, the CREC-5 project management has purchased an ice machine, only for providing some five tons of ice every six hours to cool down the construction sites.

Wang Hong, in his 40s, said that working in the tunnel for 10 minutes will turn the clothes into a “raincoat”,

and working at this environment is prone to serious rheumatism.

Having worked in more than 20 tunnels, Wang said the Ban Konlouang Tunnel is the hottest tunnel he has ever worked on and also with the most difficulties.

In the evening, the first thing Wang Hong and his fellow workers did in the dormitory was turning on electric blankets. In the rainy season, continuous precipitation not only brings coolness but also dampness. Workers need to prepare electric blankets and spend an hour or so every day to dry up their sheets and quilts.

According to Wang Hong’s team worker, Qiu Liping, they are working in the daytime in the tunnel, so they have to prepare electric blankets, instead of dry up the sheets and quilts in the sun.

(Edited from Xinhua)

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 on May 15th, 2019**

CULTURE



The World Flower Model Contest is one of the highlights of this year's Yunnan Culture Industries Expo. Photo by Yang Zheng

1,300 companies join in Yunnan culture expo

The Creative Yunnan Culture Industries Expo 2019 kicked off in Kunming, Yunnan province on August 8.

With the theme of “integrated cultural advancement and value-added creativity”, the five-day expo exhibited new trends and results of the cultural industries in Yunnan, while facilitating cultural exchanges.

The cultural fair also showcased Yunnan's effort in fusing culture into tour-

ism, focusing on the creativity, innovation and upgrades of the cultural industry.

Having been held annually for years, the 2019 expo features 7 exhibition pavilions, 7 sub-venues and 20 cultural activities. More than 1,300 cultural companies home and abroad joined in the Yunnan cultural event, including those from Afghanistan, the Philippines, Japan, Turkey, Nepal, Indonesia, and others.

(Wang Shixue)

INDUSTRY



Photo by Yang Zheng

Yunnan establishes its first new energy vehicle industrial park

Yunnan province has established its first new energy vehicle industrial park in the Yanglin National Economic and Technological Development Zone in Songming, Kunming. Domestic new energy vehicle makers have settled in the industrial park. The Yanglin National Economic and Technological Development Zone, which is expected to cover 54.19 square kilometres, focuses on the production of new energy vehicles and green food. The industrial park has seen the emergence of new energy vehicle com-

panies. These include Kunming New Energy Vehicles, Dongfeng Yunnan Automobiles and Jiangling Motors Corporation, all of which have contributed to setting up the first new energy vehicle industrial park in the province. (Yang Wei)



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