



CHINA • YUNNAN



70 YEARS ON

Exhibitions highlighting Yunnan's achievement over past 70 years



An EMU train runs from Kunming, capital of Yunnan province to Mengzi in southeast of the province Photo by Yang Zheng

On September 23rd, the "Great Journey, Glorious Achievements" exhibition was opened to the public in Beijing. It marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Some of the highlights were Yunnan elements on the exhibition's display panels for various historical periods.

Two days later, Yunnan province staged an exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of PRC in Kunming, entitled "70 Glorious Years". The exhibition consisted of four integrated zones and four special zones, and provided an overview of the province's achievements since 1949.

In both exhibitions, as visitors browse the pictures, the literature, the artefacts and the sandbox models, the history of the Yunnan province's past 70 years unrolls itself.

Yunnan's history since the founding of PRC began in February 1950, when 100,000 Kunming citizens warmly welcomed the People's Liberation Army into the city, at the Tuodong sports ground. On February 24th, 1950, Yunnan announced the liberation of the whole province and embarked on a new journey.

Yunnan's industry, agriculture and transportation developed rapidly in the early years of PRC. By the 10th anniversary of the founding of PRC, in 1959, the province had completed ten landmark buildings.

In 1978, China started to carry out its reform and opening up, bringing opportunities and momentum

for Yunnan's economic and social development. In the 1980s, Yunnan's light industry developed rapidly. Many Yunnan-made products—Camellia TV sets and cars, Spring Flower bicycles, Orchid refrigerators and White Rose washing machines—were particularly popular among the public.

The continuous economic improvement promoted the development of various social institutions in Yunnan. Data show that the number of medical institutions in the province increased from 5,836 in 1980 to 23,387 in 2012, offering a wider choice of medical care for the people.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Yunnan has actively served and integrated into the national development. It has quickened the pace of developing into a demonstration zone for national unity and progress, a pioneer in the construction of an ecological civilization and a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia.

Thanks to targeted poverty alleviation efforts, the number of people living below the poverty line in Yunnan's ethnic minority areas has decreased from 4.26 million in 2012 to 865,000 at the end of 2018.

By March 2019, Yunnan has completed four national forest cities, 166 nature reserves and 18 national wetland parks.

From the first China-South Asia Expo in 2013, to the establishment of the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone in August 2019, Yunnan keeps widening its door to the outside world.

(Yunnan Daily)

Yunnan's economic and social development over the past 70 years

Since the founding of the New China, Yunnan faced the daunting task of its own development. Seven decades on, the province has achieved great economic and social development and gained significant strength.

Economic output

In 1949, Yunnan had an economic output of 893 million RMB (US\$ 125 million). By 2018, Yunnan's GDP had grown by more than 2,000 times, to 1.7881 trillion RMB (US\$ 251.75 billion).

Per capita GDP

Yunnan's per capita GDP grew from 56 RMB (US\$ 7.86) in 1949 to 37,136 RMB (US\$ 5,214.41) in 2018.

Industrial development

Yunnan's three-industry structure shifted from 70:11:19 in 1949 to 14.0:38.9:47.1 in 2018.

Urbanization

In 1949, Yunnan had an urbanization rate of 4.86 percent. By 2018, the province had achieved an urbanization rate of 47.81 percent.

Infrastructure

In 2018, Yunnan had a total highway length of 248,800 kilometres, an increase of 89 times compared to 1949. This total length of highways included expressways totalling 5,184 kilometres, an increase of more than 114.2 times since 1949. The province's combined railway length was 3,848 kilometres (including high-speed railways totalling 1,026 kilometres), an increase of 4.9 times compared to 1949. By 2018, the province had built 15 civil aviation airports and a 500 kilovolt power network, and had extended the 220 kilovolt power grid to cover all 16 prefectures and cities. By 2018, Yunnan's fixed and mobile broadband internet user access had grown to 10.1943 million and 400.392 million, respectively.

XI'S REMARKS

“On our journey forward, we will stay on the path of peaceful development, and pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up. We will continue to work with people from all countries to push for jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity.”
—Speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

COOPERATION

China and Laos protect cross-border eco corridor together

In the China-Laos: Xishuangbanna Shangyong and Nam Ha Joint Protected Area, Wang Lifan puts some food and other items into a canvas bag. He is the director of Shangyong Management and Protection Department of the Yunnan Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve. Today he and his colleagues are going to patrol the depths of the rain forest.

The joint protected area that Wang Lifan's will patrol was established in 2009. The ecological environment is a closed-loop system. Mountains and rivers connect China with Laos. Whether the biodiversity can remain in the cross-border area concerns the ecological security of both countries. Therefore, the Xishuangbanna Na-

tional Nature Reserve proposed the joint protection of biodiversity along the China-Laos border more than a decade ago.

After years of combined efforts, the number of shotguns and other hunting tools in the joint protected area has decreased, the forestland and fire management is well organized, and rare and endangered species such as Asian elephants and their habitats are effectively protected.

According to academic researchers, the joint protected area has helped to protect the tropical rainforests and biological resources along the China-Laos border. This model of international biodiversity conservation has augmented the content of the Belt and Road cooperation.

(Xinhua)

CONNECTIVITY

The successful closure of Shanglongyin extra-large bridge on the China-Laos railway



Photo from Yunnan.cn

A few days ago, the China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Company Ltd. announced the successful closure of the Shanglongyin extra-large bridge on the China-Laos railway, marking a breakthrough in the construction of the project. Construction on the 660.55 meter long extra-large bridge, located in Mengla County, was started in December 2017. The China-Laos railway, connecting

Kunming and Vientiane, will greatly improve the connectivity between the two countries.

(Xinhua)



english.yunnangateway.com
Editor: Zu Hongbing
E-mail: 249582138@qq.com