



# CHINA • YUNNAN



**FOCUS**

## Yunnan separates operating permit and business license in pilot FTZ

Operating permits and business licenses are the two keys for a company to enter the Chinese market. In the past, a company hoping to enter the Chinese market should first obtain the operating permit and then apply for the business license. Even with a business license, it still

faced a myriad of requirements for other types of permits. The reform to separate the operating permits and business licenses aims to solve this problem by simplifying the administrative procedures of examination and approval, thus improving the business environment.



A company owner shows business licence in the Kunming area service center of China (Yunnan) Pilot FTZ. **Photo by Li Hengqiang**

The Yunnan Provincial People's Government recently issued the *Plan for Pilot Reform of Separating Operating Permits from Business Licenses in the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone* (hereinafter referred to as the Plan). According to the Plan, from December 1st, the reform has been launched in the Kunming, Honghe and Dehong areas of the China (Yunnan) pilot free trade zone (FTZ) to separate operating permits from business licenses. This involves 331 enterprise-related business licensing procedures.

According to the Plan, the province will immediately cancel enterprise-related business licensing procedures that are no longer necessary and adjustable through the market mechanism, can be regulated by the industry organizations or intermediaries, and standardised through oversight of the whole business operations process. After cancellation of these procedures, enterprises can start operations, provided that they have obtained business licenses.

For the six procedures concerning examination and approval that are to be replaced by filing processes, the procedures will be handled at the time of registration. This means that the different forms of certification required of businesses can be merged into one certificate.

53 procedures concern examination and approval carried out by the way of notification and commitment. These include human resources service permits, road freight operation permits and travel agency establishment permits. The authorities concerned shall formulate an accurate and complete list of conditions that are quantifiable, operable and not subjected to

fallback provisions. The enterprises shall be notified of the regulations, the consequences of violating the commitments, and be provided with a sample letter of notification and commitment. 265 examination and approval services procedures shall be optimised. These include procedures for the pollutant discharge permit, the motor vehicle driver training permit and the advertising release registration. This will result in a reduction of the time needed for examination and approval, improved efficiency and lower costs. (Xinhua)

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**NEW ECONOMY**

### Indoor zoos and pet cafes emerging in Kunming

Pet cafes and indoor zoos are an emerging trend in Kunming. These places attract a large number of people who love animals but cannot afford the time and money to keep their own pets.

The Cowboy Rabbit Pet Club in Kunming keeps more than 30 species of animals including alpacas, ponies, foxes, martens, sugar gliders and raccoons. They mostly live in semi-open captivity. Assisted by the keepers, the visitors can approach and even touch the animals.

Besides the indoor zoos, cat bars, doggie bars and other pet cafes in various residential neighbourhoods are also increasingly popular in Kunming. For many young people, it has become a new way of relaxing—Hold a cup of coffee in one hand, and caress a pet with the other.

How do the pet bars and indoor zoos ensure hygiene and safety? According to Zhou Mo, owner of the Cowboy Rabbit Pet Club, his shop requires the visitors to clean and disinfect their hands and put on special gloves before entering the animal interaction area. They must follow the instructions of animal keepers when they touch the animals. (Li Shuangshuang)

**BELT AND ROAD**

### China-Laos railway welding yard starts operations

On December 2nd, the China Railway No.2 Engineering Group (CREC-2) completed welding the first 500-meter-long stretch of rails for the China-Laos railway in Vientiane, Laos. It signalled the official start of operations of the rail-welding base for the China-Laos railway project, laying a solid foundation for the rails of the China-Laos

railway. The CREC-2 rail-welding base covers an area of about 136 mu (9.07 hectares). Its construction started on May 16th, and all the rails for the China-Laos railway will be welded at the base.

The said railway is a strategic project, connecting China's Belt and Road initiative with Laos's "land-locked to land-linked"

strategy. The railway will run a total length of 414 kilometres from the Boten border town in the north to Vientiane in the south. Designed to accommodate trains with a speed of up to 160 kilometres per hour, this electric passenger and freight railway is expected to go into operation in December 2021. (Xinhua)

**IN-PICs**



As winter comes, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain becomes more amazing and attracts more tourists. Located in northwest Yunnan's Lijiang city, the mountain, with the highest peak at an altitude of 5,596 meters, is the southernmost snow mountain of the Northern Hemisphere. Many glaciers are interwoven into the rocks of this thirteen-peaked wonder and its highest peak has never been conquered by climbers. (Xinhua)

**CHINA IN THE EYES OF EXPATS**



Great visions can be realized only through actions. Actions hold the key to building a community of shared future for mankind. To achieve this goal, the international community should promote partnership,

security, inter-civilization exchanges and the building of sound ecosystems.

—Excerpt from President Xi Jinping's speech at the UN Office in Geneva on January 18, 2017



### China blazes path of development in keeping with its national conditions

Since 1992, I have been to China a dozen times. Every time I visited, I was amazed by the tremendous changes in this country.

In my opinion, China's development achievements have drawn the attention of the world. This is because China has not copied the development experience or models of other countries but has embarked on a path of development in keeping with its own national conditions. More importantly, China's open-mindedness and inclusiveness have won a growing number of friends.

The idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping has not only inherited the essence of the fine traditional Chinese culture but also conformed to the trend

of our times. Today, all nations are interdependent in unprecedented ways. Only through shared development and prosperity can we achieve a win-win outcome.

I have witnessed how China has supported Africa's development and improved the living standards of local people, based on shared interests and mutual benefit through Belt and Road projects. China not only "gives fish" to Africa, but also teaches the African people how to fish for themselves. Many ordinary people in African countries have mastered professional skills in the Belt and Road projects and have truly shaken off poverty. (The author is the former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. The text has been abridged for the purpose of publication.)

**CULTURE**

### Embroiderer "Sister Yi" helps local women become wealthy



Li Jincui (left) introduces embroidery products to visitors.

Liangshan Township of Yuanmou County is mainly inhabited by the Yi ethnic minority. There, the tradition of Yi embroidery has been passed down to today. Yu Jincui began to learn this traditional handicraft from her mother and grandmother when she was eight years old.

In 2007, Yu founded the Yi Sister Embroidery Association, together with 12 other embroiderers. In the first year she sold 246 pieces of embroidery and earned 60,000 RMB (8,534 U.S. dollar). Other embroiderers also increased their income.

In 2015, with the support of the local government, Yu founded the Yi Sister Embroidery Company Inc. and started to sell

the products to domestic and foreign markets. In 2018, the company was employing 300 local women, selling more than 10,000 pieces of embroidery worth more than three million RMB (426,700 U.S. dollar). The embroidery business has lifted many local women out of poverty who earn more than 2,000 RMB every month. (Zeng Bin)



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