



# CHINA • YUNNAN



**FOCUS**

## Pilot Free Trade Zone to increase cooperation between Yunnan and S and SE Asia

On 30 August, plaque-awarding ceremonies were simultaneously held in Kunming, Honghe and Dehong, marking the official establishment of the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Its location in border areas is the biggest feature of the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone. The next step, after the official opening, will be the exploration of new border and cross-border policies by Yunnan province which will give full play to aforementioned advantages. The province will quicken the pace of developing into a frontier of China's opening-up process and become a hub for South and Southeast Asia. Yunnan aims to develop the pilot free trade zone alongside other platforms.

Zhou Xining, director of the Pilot Free Trade Zone Research Centre of the Yunnan Association of International Trade, shares



Yunnan provincial governor Ruan Chengfa issues business licence to the person in charge of an enterprise which will operate in the China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone. (Yunnan Daily)

his interpretation of the China (Yunnan) Free Trade Zone from three aspects. Firstly, it will help improve the quality of services by making all sorts of services readily available by implementing the policy of "one port and multiple channels". Secondly, it will facilitate a

more open and free market, allowing for a free flowing of all factors. And lastly, it will provide companies with more and better investment opportunities. For example, the pilot free trade zone will make it easier for foreigners to work in Yunnan, and the development of cross-border

logistics will pick up speed.

The establishment of the China (Yunnan) Free Trade Zone has drawn considerable attention from the South and Southeast Asian diplomats and business people who are operating in the province. According to them, Yunnan is in an incomparable place to cooperate with South and Southeast Asian countries, given its unique geographical position. The pilot free trade zone will increase opportunities for cooperation between Yunnan and the neighbouring countries.

Thai Consul General in Kunming Ms. Nitiwadee Manitkul refers to measures taken by Thailand aiming to boost free trade. She takes the Eastern Economic Corridor as an example, saying that Thailand is willing to cooperate with China through the pilot FTZ in Yunnan in aviation logistics industry.

(Yunnan Daily)

**XI'S REMARKS**

Four decades of reform and opening-up has given us many valuable inspirations. The most important one is that for any country or nation to achieve rejuvenation, they must follow the logic of history and the trend of the times in their pursuit of

progress and development.

—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

**FORUM**

## Fortune Global Sustainability Forum 2019 held in Yunnan

On September 4, the Fortune Global Sustainability Forum 2019 kicked off by Fuxian Lake in Yuxi. The theme was "Green Grows Up: Forging a New Environmental Consensus".

In his opening speech, Chen Hao, the Yunnan Provincial Party Secretary said that the forum was in line with the province's new vision and direction of development. As Yunnan pursues green and sustainable development, the forum will enable the outside world to better understand China and Yunnan. It will furthermore pool wisdom for sustainability, build consensus and promote good practices to influence other countries, and encourage Yunnan to

aim higher in the practice of green development.

Fortune CEO Alan Murray expressed hope that global business elites and experts would participate in the forum and brainstorm on sustainability.

The Fortune Forum is one of the most influential forums globally. The three-day Fortune Global Sustainability Forum 2019, including ten sub-forums, was attended by about 300 people. The attendees included representatives of Fortune Global 500 companies, other Chinese and foreign companies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and noted experts and scholars. (Yunnan Daily)

**More information: The 119.86 square kilometer China (Yunnan) Free Trade Zone consists of the Kunming, Honghe and Dehong areas, with the following functions allocated to the different areas:**

**KUNMING**

The Kunming area will strengthen interconnected development with the Kunming Airport Economic Zone. It will focus on high-end manufacturing, aviation logistics, the digital economy, corporation headquarters business and other industries. It aims to become a hub of connectivity, a centre of information and logistics, and a focal point of culture and education for South and Southeast Asia.

**HONGHE**

The Honghe area will develop in tandem with the Honghe Comprehensive Bonded Zone and the Mengzi Economic and Technological Development Zone. It will focus on processing and trade, big health services, cross-border tourism, cross-border e-commerce and other industries. It will develop into a trade and logistics centre, a processing and manufacturing base for ASEAN nations and an example for economic cooperation between China and Vietnam.

**DEHONG**

The Dehong area will focus on industries such as cross-border e-commerce, capacity cooperation and finance. It will strive to become a pilot area for the opening up of the country's border area and a gateway for the China-Myanmar economic corridor.

**70 YEARS ON**

## China's rapid development in the eyes of Lao people

Khemvieng, Sommano and Sommad are the daughter and sons of Quinim Pholsena, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos. In the 1960s the siblings lived and studied in Beijing.

In a recent interview with our reporter, Khemvieng and her two brothers recalled their experiences in China. Mr. Sommano recalled seeing row upon row of coal balls on his way to school. At the time, honey-comb-shaped coal was not yet available in Beijing, he said.

Mr. Sommad, now Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Laos, added: "All the Chinese people were wearing blue clothes at the time."

After leaving China, the Pholsena brothers and sister studied and worked in many other places. However, they kept following China's development process closely, through various channels of information.

In 1989, Khemvieng visited

China as part of a delegation of the Lao Women's Federation. "I looked around and saw broad streets and tall buildings. Great changes had taken place since the 1960s," she recalled.

"In the past few years, we have been to Changsha, Nanchang and Xi'an. High-rises are everywhere," Sammano said. "Chinese people's living standard has improved. They wear fashionable clothes and travel by high-speed train."

"We visited some Chinese friends at their homes. I could sense that they were living a happy life," Sommad observed. In his eyes, something has changed but at the same time remains unchanged in China: People still wear patched clothes and ripped jeans, but now it's because it's trendy. Now they eat coarse corn bread not for lack of fine food, but for health reasons.

(Xinhua)

**ECO**

## China to hold UN bio diversity conference in Kunming



Students in northwest Yunnan province's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture is given a lesson on how to protect Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys. Photo by Chen Fei

China will hold the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) themed "Ecological Civilization—Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth" in 2020.

The meeting, which will be held in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province,

will review the "post-2020 global biodiversity framework" and determine the new goals of global biodiversity in 2030.

China will earnestly fulfill the obligations of host country to ensure the landmark meeting is a complete success, Li said.

(Xinhua)

**CULTURE**

## Xinhua: a thousand-year-old silver village



In Xinhua, almost every household is engaged in the silver industry. (Yunnan Daily)

Each day in Xinhua, a seemingly mundane village sitting in northwest Yunnan's Heqing county, begins with some rhythmic clang clang sound shrouded in morning mist.

However, only a few know that this is where the secret of the village lays.

Xinhua, as a matter of fact, is an unusual place in which nearly every single household has been involved in the making of silverware for centuries.

In here, silver artifacts—even those with the simplest forms—might take a villager's half month of work.

You perhaps can never believe that a quality and well-designed silver pot would entail up to one hundred thousand times of hammering before completion.

But this is exactly why these handicrafts, marked by durability and elegance,

have gained much popularity among customers from the U.S., Japan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan and many more.

The production of silverware in Xinhua can be traced back to as early as the period of Nanzhao (738-920AD), one locally-built kingdom in Yunnan which synchronized with the Tang Dynasty (618-907), a peak for the entire history of ancient China.

But nothing seems to have been forgotten or discarded today—some 1,100 years later—as the enthusiasm of producing silver artworks was, and still is infused in the soul of silversmiths from Xinhua.

Silverware being created here range widely from rice bowls and kettles to tea cups, from bracelets and earrings to small statues and even fairly sophisticated crowns. And it seems that every one of them retains a good story, waiting to be heard.

(Wang Jingzhong)



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