



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

Why does the Fortune Global Sustainability Forum favour Yunnan?



Discussions during the forum Photo from Yunnan Daily

“Yunnan holds a special position in global sustainable development. The provincial government has intensified sustainability efforts in recent years, which have achieved remarkable results,” said Fortune Media Group CEO Alan Murray at the closing ceremony of the inaugural Fortune Global Sustainability Forum. The Forum was held by Fuxian Lake in central Yunnan’s Yuxi, from September 4th to 6th. More than 300 attendees joined the Fortune Global

Sustainability Forum, which was themed Green Grows Up: Forging A New Environmental Consensus. The Fortune Global Forum is one of the most prestigious and influential forums in the world. We wonder why it chose Yunnan as the site for its first sustainability forum. In an interview prior to the forum, Alan Murray said that Fortune had an optimistic view on the province’s basic sustainability advantages and its proximity to South and Southeast Asia.

Yunnan is a world-class tourist destination, a frontier of China’s reform and opening up policy and a hub for South and Southeast Asia. It is rich in natural resources such as non-ferrous metals, flowers, tea, rubber and herbal medicine. The varying climate, the unique highland ecosystems, the great biodiversity and splendid ethnic minority cultures make it an ideal place for leisure, wellness and sightseeing. In recent years, in pursuit of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, Yunnan has made progress in developing an ecological society, and picked up speed in building a modern industrial system with unique characteristics. What Yunnan is doing and how it presents itself to the world aligns well with global sustainability goals. The forum participants believe, in terms of sustainable development, Yunnan has come a long way in recent years and promises great potential for the future. Alan Murray has pointed out that the newly established

China (Yunnan) Free Trade Pilot Zone will further promote sustainable development in the province. “Trade facilitation will play a key role in its sustainable development,” he said.

Voices

Fuxian Lake in Yunnan offers breathtaking scenery and beautiful ecosystems. It is an ideal site for the forum and a perfect place to discuss sustainability. — Fortune Media Group CEO Alan Murray

Yunnan is geographically close to India and other South Asian countries. As such, we can facilitate more exchanges regarding sustainability. In particular, we can explore win-win cooperation opportunities in managing water resources and improving the living standards in rural areas. — Aditi Mukherji, representative of the International Water Management Institute.

XI’S REMARKS

The Belt and Road Initiative responds to the trend of the times, conforms to the law of development, and meets the people’s interests. It surely has broad prospects. We should build on the sound momentum generated to steer the Belt and Road Initiative toward greater

success.
— Keynote speech delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Opening Ceremony of The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14, 2017

ECO

Guesthouses around Erhai Lake reopen



Erhai Lake Photo by Zhuang Junhua

In south Yunnan’s Dali Bai autonomous prefecture, efforts have been made to transform tourism, more specifically the operation of guesthouses that were loosely regulated and had contributed to the eutrophication of water of Erhai Lake in recent years. The closing of nearly 2,500 restaurants and guesthouses around the lake for 18 months beginning in April 2017 had caused controversy in the media. However, 1,791 of the venues have since resumed business. Short-term pain is inevitable, but the sector has made progress when exploring alternative ways to develop tourism, says Gao Zhihong, Party secretary of the city of Dali.

the northeast shore of the lake, 485 restaurants and guesthouses reopened to capitalize on the first rush season of summer after the resumption of business late last year.

During the fallow 18 months, a sewage collection and treatment system was installed, telecommunication lines and solar water heaters were concealed, and roads and parking lots were improved - things that the local people didn’t have the time to do in the past in the town. From January to July, Shuanglang received 1.19 million visits from Chinese and overseas guests, generating an income of more than 1 billion yuan (\$139.8 million).

(China Daily)

SHANGRI-LA

Diqing leading Tibetan autonomous prefectures in development



Photo by Yang Zheng

It is early autumn. The village of Shimaigu in Shangri-La City of northwest Yunnan’s Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture is a verdant green. Fruits dangle from the branches and send their fragrance far and wide. Jiangchu Nongbu has been living in the village for 75 years. Outside the village, the railway and expressway to connect Shangri-La with Lijiang is under construction. “When they are completed, we’ll have an even better life,” Nongbu was full of expectations. Since the prefecture was founded in 1957, the mileage of its highways has increased 327 times to 6,886 kilometers, bringing prosperity to all its industries. From 1952 to 2018, Diqing’s GDP has grown by 3,281 times. Its GDP has maintained an average annual growth rate of 16.4 percent in the past 70 years, leading 10 Tibetan autonomous prefectures

in China. Diqing is the first prefecture to offer 14 years of free education in Yunnan. Education has helped people increase confidence in their own ability to shake off poverty and encouraged them to pursue a happy life. To date, 107 of the 147 originally poor villages have been lifted out of poverty, and the poverty headcount ratio in the prefecture has dropped to 3.57 percent from 24 percent at the end of 2015. In 2018, Diqing received 24.1 million tourists. To protect the ecosystems, the prefecture has established one national nature reserve and three provincial nature reserves, covering more than 320,000 hectares, and its average ratio of days with good air quality was over 99.7 percent last year.

(China Daily)

HONG KONG

Speech moves diplomats to condemn violence

Diplomats from various countries responded positively to the speech delivered September 11 by Pansy Ho Chiuking, chairwoman of the Hong Kong Federation of Women, at the 42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In her speech, Ho condemned the “increasingly escalating violent acts” in the Chinese city and called for the international community to reprimand the organizers and influencers and help to stop the promotion of hatred and violent extremism, which can only “leave irreparable scars to forever strip our beloved city of harmony and stability.”

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who was in Geneva to address the UN rights body session, told our reporter that “people should respect the law and not create a disordered situation” that will “undermine the environment of investment and peace and tranquillity in Hong Kong.”

Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, permanent representative of Myanmar to the United Nations Office at Geneva,

said, “We should condemn any violent acts there.”

“What is happening in Hong Kong is an internal affair of China, and the principles of non-selectivity, objectivity, non-politicization and, very importantly, non-interference in the internal affairs of another country should be respected,” the ambassador said.

Sitsangkhom Sisaketh, Lao deputy permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, said the Hong Kong demonstrations have not been peaceful and that they undermine the SAR’s security and economy.

“I think that the international community will have a better understanding of what has been happening in Hong Kong through the statement of the representative of the Hong Kong Federation of Women,” he said.

“The violent protests in Hong Kong have drawn the attention of the international community, as the majority of Hong Kong people have been affected. Their safety is under a threat posed by protesters,” he said.

(China Daily)

BELT AND ROAD

Shark Sivilay: I benefit from China's development

“Over three years, I have seen the infrastructure of Kunming constantly improving, and high-rises are springing up like mushrooms in Chenggong. The university town is now buzzing with life,” said Shark Sivilay a Lao student who obtained his master’s degree at Yunnan Normal University in July. “I’m lucky to witness and benefit from China’s development.”

Shark Sivilay has won a Chinese government scholarship before his graduation from Yunnan Normal University and will continue his studies at the Minzu University of China in the next few years. “Without the Chinese government scholarship, I wouldn’t have the opportunity to further my education in China,” Shark Sivilay said.

Before coming to China, Shark Sivilay was a teacher of the Lao language in Luang Namtha. “All I had hoped for was to teach in my hometown, get married, have children and live an uneventful life,” he said.

“Besides my major, I have gained some financial knowledge in China, which will be helpful when I return to Laos. I dream of becoming a linguist. I hope to pass on to my people what I have learned in China, and contribute to my country,” Shark Sivilay said, confident that his dream will eventually come true.

Studying in China has broadened his horizon and changed his idea. He is now determined to make an achievement in the field of ethnology. “I wish to do what I want while I’m still young,” he said.

(Qin Xuedan)



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