



CHINA · YUNNAN



FOCUS

Xi reaffirms China's opening-up commitment



Chinese people often say, 'The world is a big place, and I just want to see more of it.' What I want to say to you today is that the Chinese market is such a big one that you should all come and see what it has to offer."

—Xi Jinping said in his speech at the opening ceremony of the second CIIE

President Xi Jinping took a group photo with leaders from other countries before the opening ceremony of the second CIIE on November 5. (Xinhua)

Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's commitment to opening its door wider with such measures as lowering tariffs and improving the business environment.

China will adhere to its fundamental State policy of opening-up, bringing it to an even higher level, Xi said in a speech on November 5 at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo(CIIE) in Shanghai.

"China will place greater importance on imports," Xi told business leaders at the expo. More than 3,800 enterprises and 181 countries, regions and international organizations are attending the expo.

As China has the largest middle-income population in the world, Xi said that the huge Chinese market has unlimited potential.

The president pledged to better leverage the fundamental role of domestic consumption in economic development and foster a more robust domestic market.

Xi added that China will continue to lower tariffs and transaction costs, develop demonstration zones to promote imports, and purchase more high-quality goods and services from around the world.

He said China will continue to encourage bold trials and experiments in pilot free trade zones and quicken the development of the

Hainan Free Trade Port as pacesetters of opening-up. China will give foreign investments greater market access to more sectors, shorten the negative list further and provide more investment-friendly institutions, Xi said.

He stressed the importance of improving the business environment, saying that China will continue to foster an enabling business environment that is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards.

Last month the World Bank released its Doing Business 2020 report. China now ranks 31st, up 15 places from last year's ranking.

"China will be happy to conclude high-standard, free trade agreements with more countries," Xi said, adding that the country will speed up negotiations on a China-EU investment agreement, a China-Japan-Republic of Korea FTA, and a China-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA.

The president said China will continue to advance Belt and Road cooperation following the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

China has signed 197 documents on Belt and Road cooperation with 137 countries and 30 international organizations. (China Daily)

HIGH-TECH

China ushers in 5G commercial service era

China officially kicked off commercialization of 5G services on October 31, with the nation's big three telecom operators rolling out their 5G data plans.

The move means consumers can now pay to access superfast 5G speeds as more than 86,000 5G base stations have already entered service in China, covering 50 cities nationwide.

The move is also part of the latest push to accelerate the rollout of a sound digital infrastructure to fuel high-quality economic growth.

Chen Zhaoxiong, vice-

minister of industry and information technology, the nation's top industry regulator, said China has been working hard to extend 5G coverage. By the end of this year, more than 130,000 5G base stations will be activated to support the network, yielding one of the world's largest 5G deployments.

China is set to become the world's largest 5G market by 2025, with 460 million 5G users, according to a forecast by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association, a global telecom association.

(China Daily)

CULTURE

Huize varicolored copper-ware highlight craftsmanship



Zhang Wei, the thirteenth-generation inheritor of Huize varicolored copper-ware craftsmanship

The unique Huize varicolored copper-ware craftsmanship of Yunnan province is recognized as Chinese national-level intangible cultural heritage. Huize is a county that is famous for its copper merchants. Its varicolored copper-ware, known as "metallic gemstones" and

"rare treasures", are highly aesthetic and true collectables. In today's Huize, Zhang and Dekang's varicolored copper-ware are among the most authentic. The local copper-smiths have passed down and carried forth the craft from generation to generation.

(Photo by Yang Zheng)

FTZs

300-plus companies make investments in China (Yunnan) Pilot FTZ

Since its establishment on August 30, The China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone has introduced a series of policies to attract investments. To date, more than 300 companies have established themselves in the pilot FTZ. The businesses include warehousing, logistics, cross-border trade, biology, IT, renewable energy and other industries.

The pilot FTZ comprises of the Kunming, Honghe and Dehong areas. Simultaneous to the establishment of the pilot FTZ, Yunnan province has made great efforts to improve the investment environment. Now, applying companies can enjoy one-stop online approval services.

"It used to take a long time to register a foreign-funded



A passenger passes the self-service customs clearance channel of the Hekou Port Joint Inspection Center in the Honghe Area of China (Yunnan) Pilot FTZ. Photo by Zhu Hai

company. Now all the formalities can be completed in a single day," said Wang Lei, general manager of Yunnan QuHuanzhang Biotechnology Company Limited. He was greatly impressed by the pilot FTZ efficiency, and he is now confident in the future of his company.

It is not just the business-friendly environment that is highly attractive, but also the favourable investment policies. Since September, the pilot FTZ has launched a number of policies to attract investors. These focus specifically on the fields of high-end equipment manu-

facturing, biomedicine, renewable energy, new materials, electronics and IT.

The Honghe Area is facilitating customs clearance in order to promote cross-border trade and tourism. At the self-service customs clearance channel of the Hekou Port Joint Inspection Centre, both inbound and outbound passengers can complete customs clearance in seconds, by swiping their identity cards or using facial or fingerprint recognition technology. For time-sensitive products such as fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood, Hekou Customs provides express customs inspection and clearance services. Fruit harvested in Vietnam in the morning can arrive at Chinese markets in the afternoon.

(Yunnan Daily)

SHANGRI-LA

Big changes in a small village

Just after the Mid Autumn Festival, Hongpo village in Shangri-La, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, experienced a rainy streak. Villager Xiao Sun still remembers the difficult days he had in the past. "My family earned about 5,000 RMB (US\$710.55) per year. I suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and necrosis of the hip joint. To make matters worse, four years ago my condition got so bad that I was no longer able to take care of myself," he recalled.

Thanks to China's poverty alleviation drive, Xiao Sun's family are now living a much better life. In 2016, his cottage was rated as dilapidated and rebuilt with a 30,000 RMB (US\$4,263.30) government grant. In 2017, he went to Kunming for medical treatment, which cost nearly 100,000 RMB (US\$14,211.01). After the reimbursement, issued under the new rural cooperative medical care system, he actually paid less

than 7,000 RMB (US\$994.77). In 2018, when his daughter went to university, he was granted a yearly governmental subsidy of 5,000 RMB (US\$710.55) to enable her to complete her university education. "Now our life is getting better and better," Xiao said.

Today, Hongpo villagers have an annual per capita net income of over 10,000 rmb (US\$1,421.10). This small plateau village has witnessed great changes in the process of being lifted out of poverty. (Zhang Fan)



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