



雲南日報
YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

CHINA·YUNNAN

YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP

The Pioneer Vol.102

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018

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BELT AND ROAD

Xi hails ties with Pacific island nations

Renew friendship, explore new ways of development and chart the course for future growth of relations between China and the Pacific island countries

China is ready to deepen strategic trust and expand pragmatic cooperation with Pacific island countries for an even brighter future for their relations, Chinese president Xi Jinping said in a signed article published by local newspapers in Papua New Guinea recently.

Xi hailed relations between China and Papua New Guinea in the article titled "Set Sail on a New Voyage for Relations between China and Pacific

Island Countries". He said the relationship has stood the test of a changing international situation and stayed as strong as ever.

"The rapid growth of China-Papua New Guinea relations is an epitome of China's overall relations with Pacific island countries," he said in the article.

Xi recalled his meeting with leaders of the eight Pacific island countries that have diplomatic ties with China four years

ago in Fiji, saying the meeting heralded a new dynamic stage in the relations between China and the countries, featuring mutual respect and common development.

In developing their relations, China and the Pacific island countries take each other as true friends and good partners, he said, adding that closer economic and technological cooperation have made the pie of common inter-

ests between China and the countries even larger.

Xi expressed hopes to renew friendship, explore new ways of development and chart the course for future growth of the relations between China and the Pacific island countries through meeting with the leaders of the countries during his visit to Papua New Guinea.

He highlighted the importance of people-to-people exchanges, saying this will help deepen mutual

understanding and friendship between peoples of China and Pacific island countries and carry forward the friendship from generation to generation.

The relations between China and the Pacific island countries are now better than ever and face important development opportunities, he said. "China will work with Pacific island countries to brave the wind and waves and set sail for a brighter future in their relations."

Peter O'Neill, prime minister of Papua New Guinea, said in a recent interview that he looked forward to building stronger ties with China. Under Xi's leadership, China plays an active role in coping with common challenges the world is facing such as climate change, and resolutely upholds free trade, O'Neill said. He added that his country stands firmly with China.

(China Daily)

EXPO

Yunnan to build everlasting China-South Asia Expo



The overseas enterprises signed a contract to display their products at the Exhibition and Trading Center for Commodities from South and Southeast Asia. (Photo by Zhou Can)

On the afternoon of November 6th, the Yunnan delegation to the China International Import Expo held a promotion at the Shanghai National Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The promotion, held with the theme "Exhibition and Trading Centre for Commodities from South Asia and Southeast Asia and Everlasting China-South Asia Expo", drew the attention of the world. In particular, several hundred participants from South and Southeast Asian countries, as well as other provinces in China, showed intense interest in joining hands with Yunnan to create win-win cooperation.

According to Zhao Rujun, director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce, the province will set up special pavilions in the Kunming Dianchi In-

ternational Convention and Exhibition Centre for an everlasting China-South Asia Expo. The pavilions will help to showcase commodities from South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as function as a trading centre. The products will primarily highlight the national image and featured commodities of participating countries.

This new project will be located at the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will focus on the national images, featured commodities and investment projects of 18 South and Southeast Asian countries. The dedicated space will function to facilitate international trade, build new sales channels for companies and act as hub for the organisation of overseas exhibition tours and sales promotions.

(Xinhua)

China's electronic giant to construct technology park

Midea Group, Chinese electrical appliance manufacturing company, has started construction of a Science and Technology Park in western India.

The Chinese consumer appliances maker said on Monday that it will invest \$184.63 million over the next five years in Ahmednagar in western Maharashtra state to set up a technology park.

During the last decade, Midea has estimated several increasingly high-profile projects, peaking with the most recent wins to install large-

scale heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) solutions in all the 12 stadiums for the Rio Olympic Games in 2016, as well as 9 of 12 stadiums for the World Cup in Brazil in 2014.

The park is expected to start function from 2020, and is looking forward to producing 500,000 refrigerators, washing machines, water purifiers and water heaters, 1.5 million household air conditioners, 250,000 commercial air conditioners and 4.5 million air conditioner compressors every year.

(Xinhua)

Yunnan to build characteristic townships



In 2017, the Yunnan government decided to carry out the building of characteristic townships within the province. Through more than one year of hard work, the construction of characteristic townships across the province is making overall progress.

Up to now, 710 new projects have been started in Yunnan's characteristic townships building, with an accumulated investment of 63.32 billion yuan. And 65,000 new jobs have been provided which contribute, 860 million yuan to tax. 2576 companies settled in the characteristic townships. The project attracts 53 national level intangible cultural inheritors as well. The characteristic townships receive a total of 180 million tourists which get a tourism income of 105.2 billion yuan.

(Photo by Yuan Jinghui)

BEAUTIFUL YUNNAN

Lao Ambassador to Brunei: 'Yunnan fascinates me'



Black-necked cranes fly to Yunnan for winter every year

Photo by Xie Yi

[Editor's note]In July of this year, the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and the provincial government vowed to build Yunnan into the most beautiful province in China. In this edition, Mr. Phonethavy Boudara, who worked

in the province for nine years and now acts as the Lao ambassador to Brunei, shares his views on "building Yunnan into the most beautiful province in China".

"I'm very optimistic about the prospects of Yun-

nan building itself into the most beautiful province in China. That's because it has many potential advantages," said Mr. Boudara. He related that the news immediately brought back his memories of Yunnan. "Yunnan fascinates me,"

he said.

When Mr. Boudara first arrived in Yunnan, he was impressed by the fresh air. "The air is as sweet as that in Laos, so I knew Yunnan must be a beautiful place," he said. "Yunnan has diverse weather and abundant natural resources. From the tropical rainforests in Xishuangbanna to Meili Snow Mountain in Shangri-La, the natural beauty is simply enchanting."

"Yunnan should give full play to its ecological advantages. It should protect and utilize its natural resources rationally and effectively. To build itself into the most beautiful province in China, Yunnan must mobilize its people. Additionally, it should vigorously develop tourism," Mr. Boudara suggested.

(Yang Chunmei)

Trade value of the 16th agricultural fair exceeds \$6b

During their five-day exhibitions, the total trade value of the 16th China International Agricultural Trade Fair (CIATF) and the 20th Central China (Hunan) International Agriculture Fair (CCIIF) amounted to 41.6 billion yuan (\$6 billion) and 26.6 billion yuan, respectively.

With an area of 113,000 square meters, 47 exhibition areas, including rural revitalization and poverty alleviation exhibitions, were set up. More than 4,000 enterprises participated, exhibiting more than 16,000 different products.

The guest countries of honor at the fair were Uganda and Thailand. More than

200 foreign companies from 20 different countries and regions, including India, Malaysia and France, participated as well.

More than 50,000 buyers and experts attended the fair, including 40 global key purchasers, and over 400,000 people visited over the five days.

The Ministerial Forum on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture, held at the same time as the fairs, also attracted ministerial representatives and ambassadors from 30 countries, as well as the heads of 12 international organizations. It was the largest event in global South-South cooperation. (Chinadaily)

Yunnan accelerates railway construction

In recent years, Yunnan has been accelerating the building of its railway network. In the first half of 2018, the province invested 12,529 billion yuan in such work. This total accounts for 52.3 percent of the annual investment plan. Investment increased by 2,343 billion yuan over the same period last year, a rise of 23 percent year-on-year.

The Dali-Ruili Railway is an important part of the China-Myanmar Railway scheme. It is 330 kilometres long and starts from the city of Dali. Trains call at Yangbi, Yongping, Baoshan, Shidian, Longling and Mangshi before terminating in Ruili on the China-Myanmar border. When the line goes into operation, one can travel from Kunming to Ruili by train in six hours.

"The Dali-Ruili Railway is a long-cherished dream for people of all ethnic groups in Dehong. In the past, Dehong did not have a single inch of railway. As

our country has become stronger over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, railway construction has progressed smoothly. In the future, with the completion of the Dali-Ruili and China-Myanmar railways, Dehong will become a major international land port along Belt and Road Initiative. It will be a key node of the pivot of China's opening to South and Southeast Asia. The region will also act as a gateway for the China-Myanmar economic corridor," said Sha Zhendong, deputy director of the Dehong Prefectural Railway Construction Office.

Railway building is in full swing all over the province. To raise the speed of trains, the province is overhauling the existing Mile-Mengzi and the Dali-Lijiang railways. Other projects, such as the Yuxi-Mohan Railway, the Dali-Lincang Railway, the Dali-Ruili Railway and the Lijiang-Shangri-La Railway, are also progressing in an orderly manner.

(Hu Xiaorong)



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Amomum tsao-ko lifts valley people out of poverty

Yaping Village is tucked away in Gaoligong Mountains. It belongs to Lumadeng Township, Fugong County, Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province. In the past, the villagers grew corn to eke out their livelihoods.

The corn, golden as it was, did not make the valley people rich. Instead, it intensified soil erosion and increased the likelihood of landslides, mudslides and other geological disasters. No matter how hard they worked, the villagers could not shake off the trappings of persistent poverty.

Then China launched a strategy of targeted poverty alleviation, and the battle to end poverty is now in full swing. A large number of officials came to help people in the valley find new ways of making money.

The poverty alleviation officials brought Amomum tsao-ko seedlings. They convened a meeting and told the villagers that the government offered subsidies for them to grow Amomum tsao-ko—a ginger-like plant known in English by the transliterated Chinese name "caoguo".

Cultivation of the plant would bring in more money

to the region. After the meeting, however, most of the villagers kept tending their corn fields.

Since the villagers were unwilling to act, Party members took the lead. The Amomum tsao-ko growers received not only government subsidies, but also were taught new growing techniques. After the first harvest, the Amomum tsao-ko farmers earned five times more than those cultivating corn, when measured by unit of acreage.

Serious changes have taken place in the village. Corn acreage has decreased,



A villager washing tsao-ko

villagers have begun to eat rice instead of corn, every-

one now has three meals a day when they used to only have two, and sturdy concrete buildings have replaced old-fashioned houses that were shared by both people and animals.

Jie Qiuye was a big corn grower in the village. In the past, by growing corn all year round, his six-person family earned only 8,000 yuan a year. He was one of the last

villagers to start growing Amomum tsao-ko. Now his family grows 50 mu of Amomum tsao-ko. Although not all the plants have fruited, his family earned more than 48,000 yuan last year.

The village cooperatives purchase Amomum tsao-ko fruits from Yaping Village and other nearby towns so that the villagers can earn more. Today, besides 12,500 mu of Amomum tsao-ko, Yaping Village also grows 10,000 mu of Coptis chinensis, 300 mu of Paris polyphylla and 1,000 mu of tea. (Xinhua, photo by Gongxia)