**REMARKABLE 70 YEARS**

Pilot free trade zones lead
the way in China’s opening-up

China’s State Council Information Office held a press conference on August 26 and introduced the situation of the nine newly set-up pilot free trade zones in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Tianjin, Henan, Hainan, Hubei, Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guizhou. The current pilot free trade zones in China have reached 18 units, and the area has completely covered China’s major economic zones.

In September 2013, the Shenzhen pilot free trade zone was inaugurated, becoming a model for the establishment of pilot free trade zones. Since then, China has advanced the construction of pilot free trade zones in several economic zones and made bold explorations in investment and trade liberalization, financial innovation and services, and transformation and development of government functions in real economy. Remarkable results have been achieved.

The six new pilot free trade zones are: Tianjin, Hangzhou, Hainan, Kunming, Zhengzhou, and Yunnan. The new pilot free trade zones will create a model of the overall opening-up and coordinate development of China.

**PILOT FREE TRADE ZONES BRING DIVIDENDS**

From 2013 to 2018, China has built 12 pilot free trade zones, ranging from Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian, Lianyungang, Zejiang, Hangzhou, Henan, Qingdao, Kunming, Shenzhen, and Hainan. The pilot free trade zones have been gradually expanding, with the number rising from two to more than 20, and the area increased from 114 square kilometers to 570 square kilometers.

China has experienced an important role in creating a new-land-based, business-friendly environment. The new pilot free trade zones will further expand the scope of business environment and accelerate the integration of China’s business environment into the international market.

**IN PICS**

Yunnan’s foreign trade maintains rapid growth

From January to July, China’s foreign trade grew by 3.3% year-on-year, maintaining a rapid growth momentum, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

**Yunnan expands education ‘friend zone’**

Yunnan has initiated a number of pilot programs for educational cooperation in the Belt and Road, including the Yunnan South Asia and Southeast Asia Education Cooperation Center, which focuses on the Belt and Road cooperation with more than 100 countries and regions.

In March 2019, Yunnan signed an agreement to expand and develop the Open-Up New in the Open, a program focusing on promoting education in education in all around the world.

For over 40 years, a contract in the industry of Yunnan has been signed with China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under the banner of “We are the world,” the project has contributed to the development of education in China and other countries.

**Chinese hybrid rice benefits the world**

Chinese hybrid rice has been introduced to over 80 countries and regions, benefiting more than 500 million people. It has helped to increase the yield of rice, reduce the cost of rice production, and improve the efficiency of rice production.

**BUSINESS**

Indian companies to ramp up investment in China

India’s National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved an additional loan of $500 million to the Indian government for further investment in China. The loan will be used to promote investment in the manufacturing sector, infrastructure, and other areas.

**HONGKONG**

CNN apologises for ‘false’ story of Queen’s visit to Hong Kong

CNN has apologised for its story, which falsely reported that Queen Elizabeth II visited Hong Kong after falsely blaming Hong Kong September 2019 protesters for the illegal protests. The story, which appeared in CNN’s Hong Kong edition, had been published on August 28.

In a video apology, CNN’s Vice-President for Asia-Pacific, Roger Clark, admitted that a newsguard had been “mislead” into using post-riot water bottles and water cannon photographs to illustrate the story.

**BEIJING**

Chinese hybrid rice benefits the world

China is committed to sharing its hybrid rice technology with the world, and has contributed to food security in several countries.

**Yunnan expands education ‘friend zone’**

Yunnan has signed agreements with different countries to promote education cooperation. For example, Yunnan has signed an agreement with Vietnam to promote the development of education in the border region.