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3rd China-South Asia Expo proceeding smoothly



Press release meeting about CSA Expo

Photo by Han Chengyuan

By Staff Reporter

It is reported that the preparations for the 3rd China-South Asia Expo smoothly proceeded.

For the 3rd China-South Asia Expo, Yunnan has sent out invitations to 53 countries, two regions and two international organizations, some honoured guests have been invited to attend, and the investment work has achieved remarkable results. Up to now, a total of 83 well-known companies have confirmed their participation, including 24 Fortune 500 companies

and 8 Top 500 domestic companies. The 3rd China-South Asia Expo will see the participation of 25 provinces from China (autonomous regions and municipalities) and 75 countries and regions, including all (8) South Asian countries and all (10) ASEAN countries.

The exhibition plan has been well carried out, with in-depth optimization. In addition, the venue construction and exhibition arrangements are proceeding orderly. The construction of the new convention centre and supporting facilities is progressing as

scheduled with a high standard. The 12 indoor pavilions will cover an area of 123,000 square meters, and the outdoor exhibition area will take up about 7,000 square meters, doubling the total exhibition area of the previous China-South Asia Expo. There will be significantly more foreign exhibitors, who have booked more than 50 percent of the booths. All the booths will showcase various products for citizens. And a sister city pavilion will show up during the expo, which is the first time to show in similar exhibitions in all over China.

Yunnan's first Comprehensive Bonded Zone went into operation

According to Yunnan Daily, the first Comprehensive Bonded Zone in Honghe prefecture of Yunnan went into operation. It will boost Yunnan to involve deeply in the One Belt and One Road initiative in the development of its opening up and regional economy.

On December 16, 2013, the Honghe Comprehensive Bonded Zone was approved by the State Council. The special customs supervision zone covers an area of 3.29 square kilometres and is expecting a total investment of 2.045 billion yuan. In addition, a plot of 2.3 square kilometres to the northeast of the

Comprehensive Bonded Zone is set aside for further development. It takes only six months, the construction of the Comprehensive Bonded Zone has basically completed and has passed the Check and Acceptance by relevant provincial department. Then on January 29, 2015, it was officially accepted by the national inspection team. So far, the Comprehensive Bonded Zone has cost 530 million yuan on main roads, patrol roads, fences, the temporary customs hall, ancillary buildings, warehouses, fumigation treatment sites and facilities, customs check posts, the monitoring and alarm system and the information system.

Construction of Yunnan high-speed rail Kunming south railway station picking up speed



Workers are busy with the construction of high-speed rail Photo by Zhou Can

By Li Hongfeng

The construction site of Yunnan high-speed rail Kunming south railway station is now a bustling scene, with workers racing against time installing steel structures, laying pile foundations and carrying out other operations.

According to the person in charge, more than half of the investment has been implemented and the project is expected to be completed

by June, 2016. Upon its completion, it will become the largest railway station in southwest China.

The Yunnan high speed rail Kunming south railway station is located at the foot of Longtan Mountain in Chenggong District of Kunming. It will be the junction of the Lanzhou-Kunming high speed rail, the Shanghai-Kunming high speed rail, the south-southwest China high speed rail and the Trans-Asian

Railway.

In particular, Kunming south railway station is a major infrastructure project in building Yunnan into a pivot for South and Southeast Asia, which is part of the One Belt and One Road initiative. Besides, it is also an important hub in Yunnan's railway network of "eight interprovincial and four international high speed rails". Therefore, it has a significant strategic position and geographical advantages.

The Yunnan high speed rail Kunming south railway station project includes the station house, the passenger shelter, the elevated platform, the exit floor, the subway platform floor and the entry stairs. The main station house, covering an area of 120,000 square metres, will provide 16 platforms and 30 tracks. The annually passenger flow is planned

to 31.2 million passengers in the short term and 46.93 million passengers in long term with a daily volume of 128,000. At peak time, the volume of passengers could be 100,000. Its passenger capacity will reach six times of that of the Kunming south railway station currently in use.

The Yunnan high speed rail Kunming south railway station will be not only a super-large railway stations but also the largest high-speed railway station in southwest China. When completed, it will handle high-speed trains, bullet trains and interprovincial trains.

By March 2015, the station has completed an investment of 1.6 billion yuan, which account for 50 percent of the total investment. The planned investment for this year is 0.6 billion yuan.

Kunming: a rapid running "CPU"



Bird-eye-view over Kunming city



Photo by Lei Tongsu Workers are busy with the construction of Kunming subway

Photo by li Qiuming

By Zhang Fan, People's Daily

At present, it is around the solar term of Grain Rain according to the Chinese lunar calendar, and the new Kunming south railway station, which will cover an area of 330,000 square metres upon completion, is getting higher and higher in Chenggong District of Kunming, Yunnan Province. By next June when this high-speed rail station is put into operation, it will take a matter of eight and four hours to travel by train from Kunming to Shanghai and Changsha respectively, thus achieving the interconnectivity of Kunming with other places of the country. The 16-platform

and 30-track new Kunming south railway station will also be a hub of Yunnan's four international high speed rails.

The One Belt and One Road initiative aims to "bring into play the geographical advantages of Yunnan to facilitate the construction of international transport channels connecting China with neighbouring countries, build Yunnan into a new height of economic cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and turn Yunnan into a radiation centre for South and Southeast Asia." In this context, Li Wenrong, mayor of Kunming, said, "We would like to position Kunming as the central processing unit of

the new pivot of South and Southeast Asian countries."

The Kunming Dounan Flowers Park is the largest fresh cut flower trade market in China and Asia. The flowers here are exported to 46 countries and regions, and the market is currently introducing electronic settlement and e-commerce. Kunming is guiding the integration and restructuring of local advantageous industries that are complementary with South and Southeast Asia, covering agricultural products, flowers, minerals, hydropower and medicine.

In the past three years, Yunnan Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd. has won the bids for a

total of 49 overseas projects, including the China-Myanmar oil pipeline, the Laos Asia-Europe Meeting Summit supporting facilities, the Cambodia Military Academy and the Equatorial Guinea Malabo New Airport Road.

The tourism and cultural industries are forerunner industries to better connect the cities along the Silk Road. In 2014, *Turbulence of the Mu Clan*, *Beautiful Daughter-In-Law*, *Beijing Youth* and six other domestic TV series translated by the Kunming National Advertising Cultural Industrial Park gained great popularity in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Kunming is actively

involved in the construction of the BCIM Economic Corridor, the GMS cooperation, the Yunnan-India cooperation and the cooperation between Yunnan and northern Vietnam, northern Laos and northern Myanmar. Currently, Kunming is improving its image with the resources of the whole province in preparation for the 3rd China-South Asia Expo, the scale of which will double that of the previous session when the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre welcome the guests around the world in June.

Kunming, the "central processing unit" is running at a high speed as a new pivot of South and Southeast Asia.

40 % of shoes made in Kunming went to Southeast Asia

By Cao Jie

The recently established Kunming Alliance Footwear Industry Association has assembled more than 140 members. Currently, according to Chen Yanyun, deputy chairman of Kunming Alliance Footwear Industry Association and general manager of Kunming Yuyao

Trading Co., Ltd., about ten million pairs of leather shoes and cloth shoes are produced in Kunming every year. In the output value of about one billion yuan, 160 million is from exports to Vietnam, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries. "Of the 10 million pairs of shoes made in Kunming every year, more than four

million pairs are exported to Vietnam, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries. Given the affordability of the local market, the average export price is 40 yuan a pair, bringing in more than 160 million yuan while the output value of the entire Kunming footwear industry is just about one billion yuan."

Featured industries in Yunnan inviting investments

By Zhang Zizhuo

It is reported that Yunnan welcomes more investments in its featured industries: new materials, petrochemicals, advanced equipment manufacturing, biological pharmaceuticals, tourism, plateau agriculture.

Yunnan encourages private capital and foreign capital to cooperate with state-owned enterprises in forms of incremental

investment, purchase of shares, equity replacement and also encourages foreign capital to invest in its modern agriculture, high and new technology, advanced manufacturing, energy conservation and environmental protection, new energies, modern service industry and other fields in forms of mergers and acquisitions, equity investment, venture investment, BOT, TOT, PPP and so on.

2015 Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo to Launch in August



Acrobatic performance during the last session of the Expo

Photo by Huang Zhechun

By Yue Ranran

From August 7 to 11, the 2015 Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo will be held at Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Themed on "Culture Creates Wealth & Creativity Enhances Value", the Expo will fully showcase the excellent cultural products and

achievements of Yunnan.

Focusing on exhibitions and transactions like its previous sessions, the Expo will build a product and project trading platform to introduce to the world Yunnan's representative cultural products, especially metal, wood, pottery, stone and textile products.

The 2015 Yunnan Cultural Industry Expo will set up seven

pavilions and one outdoor exhibition area, namely a jewellery and jade pavilion, a cultural tourism pavilion, a contemporary arts pavilion, a cartoon and animation pavilion, a comprehensive pavilion (including a international pavilion), a embroidery and home textile pavilion and a wood carving and wooden products area.

The Moh Ni Hei Festival of the Wa people



Tourists are posing for photos after smearing each other with black muddy cream during the Festival.

Photo by Ding Shurong

By Huang Xinghong

For the Wa people in Lincang of Yunnan, black is a symbol of hard work, health and beauty. This is best reflected in the Moh Ni Hei Festival, or the Touch You Black Festival.

In ancient times, when a person, especially a child, was ill, the Wa people would apply a medicine concocted from a herb called Niangbuluo to his/her

face to drive away the disease or evil spirits. The month of May has been set aside as the Siganglee Moh Ni Hei Festival to celebrate this tradition of the Wa people, which will turn the mysterious Awa Mountain into a sea of joy every year.

When the Moh Ni Hei Festival falls, the Wa people will put on their ethnic costumes and come to a designated place to smear

the faces of each other with a black muddy cream, which is believed to provide protection from the sunshine and improve the skin health. For the Wa people, it will make girls more beautiful, old persons much healthier, children even stronger and friends more faithful. During the Moh Ni Hei Festival, the blackest person is the most blessed and the happiest one.

A second team of Myanmar athletes training in Kunming

By Xie Liming

In preparation for the 28th Southeast Asian Games, more athletes of Myanmar national team have arrived in Kunming for a two-month training session.

The 28th Southeast Asian Games will be held in Singapore in June this year. In order to achieve better

results than in the previous Southeast Asian Games, the Myanmar delegation of more than 400 athletes, coaches and workers have come in batches to Beijing, Anhui, Hunan and Yunnan for intensive training. A total of 198 athletes and coaches of 11 major events are now training in Kunming, accounting for nearly half of

the Myanmar delegation.

This is not the first time that Myanmar athletes have come to Kunming for intensive training. Last year, with a China-Myanmar technological cooperation project, Myanmar as the host country won the second place among all the teams which is the best ever result in the Southeast Asian Games.

Dali University upgraded as one comprehensive university

By Luo Nan

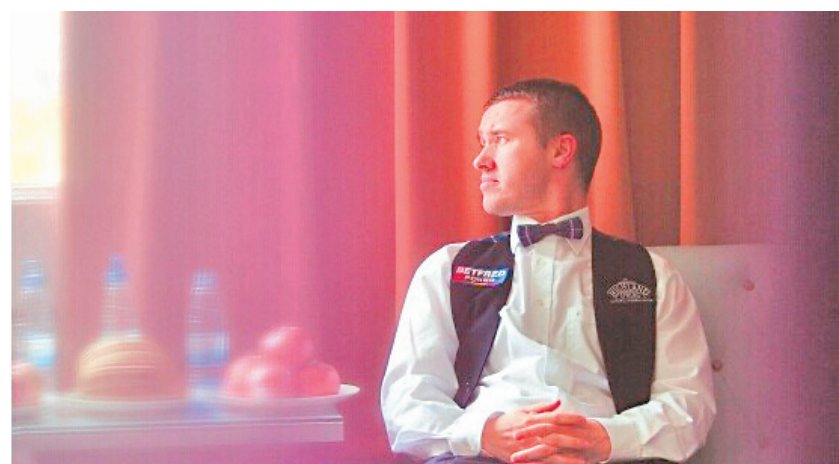
On May 8, at the approval of the Chinese Ministry of Education, Dali University was officially upgraded as the only comprehensive university in Yunnan that is located in a non-capital city of the province.

Currently, Dali University offers 57 undergraduate programmes

that cover 10 disciplines, namely economics, law, education, literature, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, management and arts.

Up till now, Dali University has set up Chinese practice bases in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. As of 2013, Dali University has cumulatively trained 2,400 students from South and Southeast Asian countries.

"Snooker king" Hendry through the lens



By Zhou Mingjia

On April 14, the Bank of Communications OTO Fortune China Amateur Snooker Masters 2015 was declared open at Wanda Plaza in Kunming. The "snooker king" Hendry attended the opening ceremony and some snooker fans were lucky enough to play a game with him. In fact, it was the second time that Hendry had come to Kunming. On March 24, 2007, a picture on the front page

of Spring City Evening News showed Hendry leaning on the sofa in a snooker room in a shaft of sunshine, enjoying the warmth and absorbed in thought, as if he was full of expectations for Kunming. Expressing his satisfaction with this picture, the photographer Zhou Mingjia said, "I am not only a photographer but also a snooker enthusiast. I am also a huge fan of Hendry. Therefore, I tried to put all my skills into this picture. The angle and the light are unique."

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN



Pei Yifeng accepted interviews

Photo by Zu Hongbing

Pei Yifeng, an old Kunminger

By Zu Hongbing

High-nosed, blue-eyed, wearing a Western suit, he is every inch a gentleman but speaks fluent Chinese. Whenever anyone is amazed at his Chinese, he would say confidently, "I came to Kunming in 1998. I am an old Kunminger." The pride is obvious in his tone.

His Chinese name is Pei Yifeng. Like Fang Suya, the former Consul General of France in Yunnan, Pei Yifeng comes

from Lorraine in the northeast of France. In 1996, Pei Yifeng started a consulting firm in Taiwan and began to learn Chinese. In 1998, in order to help several French companies participate in Kunming Expo '99, Pei Yifeng came to Yunnan for the first time and saw great business opportunities and potential in Kunming. Therefore, he moved his firm to Kunming and had it registered as Kunming S i n o M e k o n g Consulting Co., Ltd. "It seems that I made a

right choice," said Pei Yifeng. He went on to tell me that his firm has been expanding the business scope to cover corporate consulting, education consulting, French training and so on. Not just French companies, a lot of companies and universities in Yunnan also have found French partners via Pei Yifeng.

Having worked and lived in Yunnan for 17 years, Pei Yifeng has made a lot of friends. He has long fallen in love with Yunnan. "I love the mild

weather of Yunnan, particularly that of Kunming," said Pei Yifeng. His hometown is very much like Yunnan except that it is colder back there. In his hometown, where it is a rural area, many people plant flowers in their yards. Every year a gardening competition is held in the village, and the names of the winning gardeners and flowers are engraved on a board at the entrance to the village. Pei Yifeng said, "People in many rural areas of Yunnan also have

the habit of planting flowers, always reminding me of my hometown."

"Small pot rice noodles, cross-the-bridge rice noodles..." Pei Yifeng can name a long list of Kunming snacks without hesitation when asked about his favourite Yunnan foods. In the past 17 years, Pei Yifeng has tasted almost all Yunnan delicacies. He said, "I love both Yunnan cuisine and French cuisine." He is usually too busy with work to cook, but when a

year draws to an end, he would invite his employees to his home and treat them with an authentic French feast. In his spare time, Pei Yifeng would track the footprints left by the French in Yunnan in the early 20th century. "Since the first year I came to Kunming, I began to collect old photographs and data on the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway. Some of them were taken by French people, while others by Chinese people..." Speaking of the Yunnan-Vietnam

Railway, Pei Yifeng always has many things to talk about. Pei Yifeng said, "Collecting historical data can help people better protect and develop the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway." Pei Yifeng once held a photograph exhibition on the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway in the Kunming Railway Museum. He hopes to live in Mengzi after retirement, so that he can keep the company of the the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway and the existing French buildings.

Ah Hua's Yunnan dream

By Ma Xiao

I met Ah Hua, a restaurateur in Hanoi, when I was travelling in Vietnam a few years ago. He spoke fluent Chinese. We had so much to talk about that we soon became friends.

We have been exchanging e-mails ever since then. Ah Hua has visited

Yunnan twice and he loves its cultural and natural landscapes and mild weather. Ah Hua often asks me to tell him more of Yunnan, and he is looking forward to travelling Yunnan once again someday.

Ah Hua's restaurant offers some specialities, and he also provides a menu in Chinese. When we first met, I asked him how come he

could speak Chinese so fluently. Ah Hua said, he had a lot of Chinese friends and he had put some real efforts into learning Chinese in his spare time, so that he could make more Chinese friends and better understand the Chinese culture, especially the culinary culture.

When travelling Yunnan, Ah Hua ate a lot of local delicacies.

Then he began to have a Yunnan dream – to open a restaurant in Yunnan and introduce the unique Vietnamese food to the Chinese people. To make this dream come true, Ah Hua has been honing his Vietnamese cooking skills while learning the Chinese culinary culture. He often invites Chinese students in Hanoi to enjoy the

Vietnamese food in his restaurant and make recommendations. In a recent e-mail, Ah Hua told me that he plans to send his two children to study in China when they are older.

I sincerely hope that Ah Hua will achieve his Yunnan dream so that we can meet again in his Vietnamese restaurant in Yunnan some day.