



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## FOCUS

# Yunnan pilot FTZ sees an average registration of 160 market players per day

“Cross-border e-commerce improves logistic efficiency and saves time. Vietnamese customers can place orders on popular local shopping sites like Lazada and Shopee. It takes only one day to transport our goods from Hekou to Hanoi, and at most three days to reach Ho Chi Minh City,” said Li Jianrong, general manager of an e-commerce company in Honghe area of China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ).

Li's company is located in the China-ASEAN cross-border e-commerce logistics park in Hekou County in Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan, which sits next to Vietnam's Lao Cai. The park, officially launched in

January, is now home to 130 e-commerce companies.

Li said his company can deliver up to 3,000 parcels, mainly consignments of garments, shoes and bags, to Vietnamese customers every day in the peak season. “This is a far cry from the days when traders used tricycles to transport cargo for customs clearance at Hekou Port. It could take them several hours just to cross the border,” Li recalled.

China (Yunnan) pilot free trade zone (FTZ) was inaugurated on Aug. 30 last year to facilitate trade, investment and logistics between Yunnan and neighboring Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. The FTZ covers parts of Kunming, Honghe Hani and Yi

Autonomous Prefecture and Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture.

In the past year, the pilot FTZ's total value of foreign trade reached RMB 13.105 billion, with the cross-border RMB settlement adding up to RMB 9 billion.

The rapid development of cross-border e-commerce has also contributed to the FTZ's strong trade performance.

Besides a robust growth in foreign trade, the Yunnan pilot FTZ has also become a magnet for domestic and foreign investment since its inauguration. The FTZ has rolled out a spate of preferential policies, including rent reduction, to attract investment.

As of July 30, a total of 13,902 newly-registered

enterprises had been set up in the FTZ, including 64 foreign-funded enterprises. It means the FTZ has seen an average daily registration of 160 market players.

“The construction of the pilot FTZ has injected new vitality to Yunnan's high-quality development and opening-up,” said Zhao Ruijun, head of the Yunnan provincial department of commerce.

Zhao added that the FTZ will work to attract more resources and continue to tap into domestic and international markets, helping Yunnan build itself into China's gateway to South Asia and Southeast Asia.

(Edited from Xinhua and The Lancang-Mekong Party)

## POLICY

### China announces new entry rules for foreigners

China will allow the entry of foreign nationals holding three categories of valid Chinese residence permits starting on September 21, according to an announcement jointly made by the Foreign Ministry and the National Immigration Administration.

The new rule, which takes effect at midnight on September 20, allows foreign nationals holding valid Chinese residence permits for work, personal matters and reunion to enter China with no need to apply for new visas, said the announcement.

The Chinese mainland reported no new locally transmitted infections for 38 consecutive days as of September 22 and the 10 new cases reported September 22 were all imported, said the National Health Commission.

The announcement on September 23 noted that those affected by the latest entry adjustments must strictly abide by China's regulations on epidemic prevention and control.

But other measures issued in March will continue to be implemented, according to the announcement, adding that the Chinese government will continue to resume people-to-people exchanges in a gradual and orderly manner while ensuring effective epidemic control measures.

(China Daily)

## PICS



By the end of this year, China is determined to secure the success of building a Xiaokang/well-off society in all aspects, while getting rid of absolute poverty. Recently, Yunnan launches “Go Yunnan, See Xiaokang” media tour across the province, which takes our readers to Kunming, the provincial capital, Yuxi City and Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture to see what has been achieved in building a Xiaokang society in all aspects. Here the photo taken in Yuxi City shows a local dentist is talking with two elders about how to protect teeth.

(Li Zha)

## BUSINESS

### Street market turns into wind vane of flower business

The Dounan Flower Market is located in Chenggong district, Kunming, capital of Yunnan province. Nearly 70 percent of China's fresh cut flowers are traded here. With more than 110 major categories and over 1,600 varieties of flowers, the market has ranked first in China in terms of volume of business, cash flow, and the number of traders for many years in a row.

While it is now regarded as the wind vane and barometer of China's flower market, the Dounan Flower Market was only a street market where flowers were sold retail in the 1990s.

“Over 20 years ago, flower growers would cut flowers, tie

them into bundles, put them into wicker baskets and then carry them with shoulder poles to the street flower market for sale,” recalled Hua Mingsheng, a shop owner in the flower market.

Hua runs a potted plant shop in the Dounan. In the late 1980s, he planted the first pot of carnations in Yunnan. In 2002, the Kunming International Flora Auction Trading Center was officially established in Dounan village. The first product auctioned at the center, fresh cut roses, was also planted by Hua.

In 2012, Hua's son started to explore the Thai market for export and import of tropical plants. Just recently, he successfully exported 5,000 pots of small potted plants

to Thailand.

A number of young people like Hua's son, who have been familiar with flowers since they were little, know about the market and skills, and boast vision, have infused more vitality to the flower industry in Dounan village.

Last year, the annual sales volume of fresh cut flowers in the Dounan Flower Market reached nearly 7.44 billion yuan, and 9.2 billion stems of fresh flowers were sold to different parts of the country and exported to more than 50 countries and regions around the world. The small village has helped create jobs for more than one million people.

(People's Daily Online)

## FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

### Linden: China deserves the world's respect



In 1983, Brian Linden, a young man from the United States, received a call from China informing him that he had been awarded a scholarship to study at Peking University, he was flabbergasted.

Recalling that life-changing moment, Linden, now 58, said in a choked voice: “I will be grateful for it for my entire lifetime.”

That phone call was the start of Linden's long relationship with China, which extends to today.

In 2004, he “missed China so much” that he sold his house in the US and returned to China to settle down with his wife and two sons. He ultimately chose Xizhou, Yunnan province, a town close to Erhai Lake and Cangshan Mountain in the Dali Bai autonomous prefecture.

He was attracted by the beautiful landscapes in Dali and an old compound having distinctive features of the Bai ethnic group. The compound was built in 1948 and once belonged to the family of businessman Yang Pinxiang, a trader who had gained great wealth in the early 1900s.

Linden applied to renovate it using his entire savings of about 4 million yuan (\$580,000). He and his wife, Jeanee, created the

Linden Centre hotel.

“Restoring old buildings requires more money, time and care than building a new one,” he said. “We believe our efforts to preserve the structures would promote China's cultural heritage.”

Linden's efforts have also touched local residents like Zhang Bin. “Linden makes us consider the importance of local culture and the environment, and encourages us to be more confident in cultural communication.”

Unlike many other homestays, 60 percent of the Linden Centre blends into public spaces, including a library and gym, which are also available for local people to use. Linden employs about 100 locals and provides free opportunities for local students to engage in education projects.

“I may not have much money, but I really would like to lead more local people to live a better life,” Linden said.

“It is so attractive that I hope the world will love it through my eyes, and share my passion for China. As a foreigner, I should do that, want to do that, and love to do that. China deserves the world's respect.”

(China Daily)

## SAVE FOOD

### “Clear Your Plate” campaign heats up in China

As a nationwide “Clear Your Plate” campaign against wasting food is heating up in China, a niche market for meals provided in smaller dishes and individual servings in restaurants is growing in the country as more consumers pursue cleaner, more convenient and safer dining experiences. A large number of restaurant associations nationwide have proposed initiatives to reduce food wastage. They

encouraged restaurants to launch more options such as half-portion dishes and small-portion offerings.



Editor: Zu Hongbing  
E-mail: 249582138@qq.com