

FOCUS

Sustainable development to shine in China's 14th five-year plan



China remains committed to sustainable development goals despite challenges brought by the COVID-19 global pandemic, aligning its

national blueprint for the next five years to the United Nations' 2030

Agenda, a senior official said.

The country's upcoming 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) will feature a focus on achieving sustainable development and be "highly consistent with" the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, said Huang Yiyang, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of International Economic Affairs.

Adopted by all UN member states in 2015, the 2030 Agenda is the collection of 17 goals intended to be achieved by 2030, such as no poverty, zero hunger and clean energy.

In face of the rising protectionism amid the pandemic that has made achieving common and

sustainable development more difficult, China will step up efforts to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, with the five-year plan to give detailed roadmaps for fulfilling related national targets and to coordinate domestic development and global goals, Huang said.

"The plan is set to break down the goals regarding energy conservation and carbon emission reduction into smaller sub-areas, making a solemn promise to the international community by staying open and transparent," he said.

Huang made the remarks on September 26 at a symposium on the 5th anniversary of the nation's announcement of establishing the Center for International Knowledge on Development, or the

CIKD, themed China and the World in a Changing Global Context.

Founded under instructions from the country's top leadership in 2017, the CIKD aims to research and communicate with other countries on development theories and practices, especially in terms of summarizing and sharing China's development knowledge, as well as to promote international development cooperation and global sustainable development, said Ma Jiantang, president of the CIKD.

To perform the roles, the CIKD has rolled out various reports about China's development experience in such areas as in reducing poverty and combating the COVID-19 outbreak, and organized a

sustainable development forum to explore the actions of relevant parties in implementing the 2030 Agenda, among other key moves, Ma said.

"The goal is neither to import development patterns of foreign countries nor to export China's mode, but to share development knowledge via two-way exchanges and provide developing economies with multiple choices and references," Ma said at the symposium. Ma added that the center will strengthen cooperation with international partners to share China's development experience. It has also started to compile its third report of assessing China's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, to be released next year. (China Daily)

TRADE

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



Photo from Yunnan Daily

"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 Honghe Prefecture's Hekou County, which sits next to Vietnam's Lao Cai. The park, officially launched in January, is now home to 130 e-commerce companies. 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 pilot FTZ also covers parts of Kunming, the provincial capital 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.

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. Many of the new enterprises are engaged in key fields such as high-end manufacturing, bio-industry, aviation logistics and the digital economy.

Zhao Ruijun, head of the Yunnan provincial department of commerce, said 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)

GO YUNNAN, SEE XIAOKANG

"Xiaokang" in Yunnan's top community

Located in central Yunnan's Yuxi city, Daying Jie is a village with a 600-year history. It is now a top Yunnan community in terms of economy development and an example of China's efforts to build a moderately prosperous society or Xiaokang society in all aspects.

In the eyes of most Yunnan natives, every family in the Daying Jie community has a beautiful villa and yearly dividends, all children receiving a good education.

Since China's reform and opening up started in 1978, the community has blazed a new path for common prosperity in rural area. Its per capita

floor area is 80 square meters. The children are well educated, the adults are fully employed, and the elderly and the ill are well looked after.

"To my understanding, Xiaokang means not only taking good care of kids and the elderly, but also forging a pilot area for rural rejuvenation. Daying Jie needs to be a popular destination where visitors don't want to leave," Huang Xingbang, a retired teacher said.

Huang is 79 years old now. In his leisure time, he often plays Erhu with his friends. "I guess Xiaokang means the retired friends can meet often, exercising, singing and playing chess together. In a word, the

elderly can still have a wonderful life."

"I've been working here since 1989. I'm lucky to work here because the paper factory is thriving. I have a stable income, looking after my family and living in a good environment," said He Jinchun, a staff member with Yuxi Shuisong paper plant.

The Huilong spring garden is a 4-star scenic area in the Daying Jie, receiving around 200 visitors daily. In the future, the community will focus on tertiary industry such as tourism. In upgrading the conference center and the guest room area, it plans to invite in international brands. (Yunnangateway.com)

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 China 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. (China Daily)

IMMIGRATION

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)

BUSINESS

Street market turns into wind vane of flower business



Photo from Yunnan Daily

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 Kunming.

In the late 1980s, Hua 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.

From an ordinary farmer to a senior plant technician, Hua has witnessed the journey of local flower growers in more than 30 years.

In 1987, Hua, who was 24 years old, spent almost all the savings of his family on gladiolus seed balls and started to grow gladiolus on about 66.67 square meters of contracted land, becoming one of the first batch of flower growers in Dounan village.

Three months later, the first batch of gladioli flowers were cut and sold for more than 160 yuan (\$23.68). "The profit is several times higher than that generated by growing vegetables," Hua thought. Hua and other young people in the village discovered the business opportunity in growing flowers.

Flowers planted by Hua were very popular back then and

some of them, such as carnation and babysbreath, were brand new varieties to local people. "They were always sold quickly in the market and some flower retailers even waited by the fields to buy the flowers," Hua said. Hua described the flower growing forerunners in Dounan village as ambitious, daring, and hardworking.

Later, 95 percent of the peasant households in Dounan village started to grow flowers, instead of vegetables. They gradually introduced farming facilities into flower planting and stepped toward large-scale planting with more flower subdivisions.

The local government also rolled out policies to encourage local flower growers to rent land from other areas of the city so as to expand their planting areas. Hua and his friends pooled their capital and rented a total of about 20 hectares of land to grow cymbidium in Jinning district and Shilin Yi autonomous county of Kunming.

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.

Dounan village is no longer simply a base for growing flowers. The village has shifted its focus from production into market-oriented services. 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. (People's Daily Online)

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Foreigner shows love for country he adopted

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)