



# CHINA • YUNNAN



## INTERCONNECTIVITY



### HSR operation in countdown

At 10:40 am, July 5, a CRH Harmony Express pulled out from Kunming South Railway Station, and started its test run in the Yunnan stretch of the Shanghai-Kunming high-speed railway (HSR), marking the countdown of the rail's operation. As China's longest east-west HSR, the Shanghai-Kunming HSR line has a 467.5-kilometer stretch from Guiyang North to Kunming South. Additionally, the Kunming South Railway Station also will be a start point of China-Laos railway in the future.

Photo by Wan Chengli

## Construction of Mohan-Boten cargo channel kicks off

Dai Zhenhua

Recently, construction on the Mohan-Boten cargo channel kicked off, marking a substantial step in the development of the China-Laos Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zone.

The channel is an important measure dedicated

to facilitate cargo clearances, in order to effectively address the congestion and low efficiency in the mixed passenger and cargo channels currently in use at the Mohan-Boten land port.

The channel is divided into two sections, an 800-metre corridor in China and a 1,654.5-metre corridor

in Laos. Total investment in the project is expected to be around 50 million yuan. The project will be completed in four months. An initial 489.52-meter corridor on the Lao side has already launched, with an estimated investment of 13 million yuan.

After completion, this dedicated cargo channel

along the Kunming-Bangkok Highway will greatly enhance bilateral cargo throughput, further enhance cargo transportation levels within the China-ASEAN FTA and lower cargo circulation costs. This economic and trade cooperation of separate markets can merge into an integrated regional market.

## ENERGY

### Representative office of CSG established in Laos

Zhang Zhiwen

The representative office of China Southern Power Grid (CSG) in Laos was established recently.

Wang Qihui, Economic and Commercial Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Laos, officials from Lao Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and representatives from Chinese enterprises in Laos attended the founding ceremony.

Deng Xiaowen, a division director of International Department, CSG, said that Laos is located in the center of the Greater Mekong sub-region and is one of the key areas for the company's international power cooperation. The establishment of the Lao office will help strengthen its ties and partnership with Laos.

In December 2009, Yunnan International Company of CSG realized 110 kV grid interconnection with the Lao national grid. In 2015, the 230 kV power grid project in northern Laos, invested by the Lao Power Generation Company and contracted by CSG, was put into operation. Currently, the two companies are working together on the construction of the 500 kV China-Laos joint grid.

## NEIGHBOURS

### China showing goodwill in water diplomacy: Vietnamese reports

As a big power in the upstream of the Mekong which has crucial role in socio-economic situation of countries in the Southeast Asia, China is showing its goodwill to join hands in dealing with water resource with neighboring countries in the downstream area, said a Vietnamese state newspaper on last Tuesday.

This is a positive

move in Beijing's "water diplomacy," Nhan Dan (People) Newspaper assessed in its report about Mekong River cooperation, adding that countries in the Mekong basin hold responsibility for suitable use of Mekong water.

In the context that lives of millions of people in the river basin have been largely affected by climate change, a closer and more active

cooperation mechanism among related countries is needed to exploit and effectively use the important water resource in Mekong River, reported Nhan Dan.

From March 15 to May 31, China discharged water from southwest Yunnan province's Jinghong Hydropower Station to the lower reaches of the Mekong River. (Xinhua)

## SPRING CITY

### Kunming promotional film debuts in UK

Ye Pingfan

In July, the Kunming promotional film, be shown at London Piccadilly Circus and Liverpool Railway Station, two historic landmarks in the United Kingdom. The goal is to make raise international awareness for the Spring City.

The natural environment, history and temperament of the city are explained in detail during the three-minute film. The picturesque scenery of Dianchi Lake, Green Lake, the Stone Forest, as well as old streets and alleys, tell the stories of a city known for its abundance of flowers and the perfect combination of tradi-



The promotional film of Kunming shown at London Piccadilly Circus.

Photo by Ye Pingfan

tion and modernity. Starting June 29, the opening ceremony of Kunming Week in the UK was held at the UK's

largest open-air shopping centre, Liverpool One, bringing the British public a "gift from Kunming".

## BELT AND ROAD

### Business portal of China-ASEAN FTA upgraded

Gu Ying

Recently, the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area launched its upgraded official website (www.asean-cn.org) in Kunming.

The website, approved by the China-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference, was first put online in January 2010. The upgrade will make it easier for enterprises within the region to keep track of the Free Trade Area's latest policies, enhance their ability for economic cooperation and facilitate the development of trading, logistics and other sectors.

The upgraded website is divided into four sections, namely goods trade, services trade, investment and economic cooperation. Also, the website has now introduced a place-of-origin certificate issuing system, a tariff concession inquiry system and several other trade facilitation systems. Additionally, the portal features a cross-border electronic commerce platform,

as well as a network and data centre intended for use by ASEAN countries.

Moreover, according to Yu Yimin, director of the official website's operation centre, the website will soon launch both a "Partnership Program" and an "SME Cross-border Electronic Commerce Program". The "Partnership Program" aims to unite institutions and enterprises at home and abroad to build a China-ASEAN trade and investment service network. It will facilitate circulation of commodities within the region and help enterprises to reduce their trade costs and enhance their overall international competitiveness.

On the other hand, the SME cross-border e-commerce development plan is set to assist SMEs in the FTA and beyond by opening up the ASEAN market, removing export barriers, publishing product information, obtaining related training for more business opportunities through the portal.

## AGRICULTURE

### YNAU offered agriculture training course for ASEAN countries

Wu Ping

Organized by the International Cooperation Department of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, and undertaken by China-ASEAN Education and Training Center of Yunnan Agricultural University (YNAU), the international training course on comprehensive prevention and control of major crop pest harms in ASEAN countries was launched at YNAU.

In the 20 days to come, 23 experts and scholars from five ASEAN countries are going to receive theoretical training and hands-on practice for disease and pest control for major crops. They will also pay on-site visits to crop disease and pest control demonstration bases in Shilin and Jianshui.

Over the years,

YNAU, as Yunnan's only agricultural college with undergraduate programs, has been giving full play to the geographic advantage of the province and enrolled more than 90 international students from Laos, Cambodia and other countries. Since 1994, the university has trained more than 3,500 agricultural professionals from ASEAN countries in a number of international training programs designed to meet the social development needs of these countries.



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