



## Mekong journalists hail Yunnan's opening-up

"The pronunciations of Thai language and Dai language have similarities", "we have a similar papermaking method in Myanmar", "we also eat Zongzi in Laos"..... from June 15th to 17th, 15 press officers and journalists attended the first Seminar for Media officials and journalists from Mekong countries, visited the frontier port to watch the ancient papermaking art, and saw people trading at the border market. The most frequently used word they mentioned was "we". At the port of Lincang, they experienced the friendship of being nourished by the same river and felt the deepening of policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade and people-to-people exchanges. They laughed along the way and praised Yunnan's opening-up.

On June 15, from Linxiang District, a bus headed all the way to Jiuzhai village. In a hot and busy scene, everyone arrived at the construction site of the Lincang-Qingshuihe highway. The huge scraper pan scoured the ground under the traction of the iron arm, splitting the earth and stone, which were transported away by an excavator. The whole process was orderly and efficient.

This section of the road is significant to the Lancang-Mekong countries. It crosses the border at Qingshuihe Port, passing through Dengni, Laxu and Mandalay. It is expected to open to traffic by 2020, which will promote the linkage between China and Myanmar and Laos.



Journalist from Thailand is writing on the Mangtuan paper, Yunnan (Photo by Wang Huan)

brothers," U Myo Maung Maung, assistant revisor at the Department of Information and Public Relations, Ministry of Information in Myanmar, said excitedly. He said that the link between Qingshuihe Port and Kyaukpyu Port is only a microcosm of the friendly cooperation between Myanmar and China. This road will undoubtedly drive the rapid development of infrastructure, agricultural products and other exchanges between the two sides.

On June 16, over ten trucks from Myanmar and China stopped at Qingshuihe Port Goods Inspection Site in Mengding Town of Lincang City, waiting to be inspected. Qingshuihe port, neighboring with Myanmar, is a national open port of China. It is 983 kilometers from Kyaukpyu Port and one of the

most convenient land routes to South and Southeast Asia for Yunnan Province.

"I believe that the China-Myanmar border inspection and customs clearance system at Qingshuihe port is complete and efficient, facilitating trade and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries," said Visith Teppalath, a reporter for the Vientiane Times, who was fascinated to see border residents verify their identities through a fingerprint verification system.

With increasing border trade and personnel exchanges between China and Laos, the port facilities of Qingshuihe are constantly being upgraded. The new gate, which is expected to be completed by 2020, is 900 meters away from the existing gate. The Lancang-Qingshuihe

highway will pass through the gate.

On the afternoon of June 16, journalists visited Mangtuan Village, dubbed as "China's first Dai paper village," to experience the charm of hand-papermaking culture of the Dai people.

"There is also hand-papermaking in Battambang Province of Cambodia, which was introduced from China in ancient times. Though the process and materials are no longer totally the same, the skills that have been passed on for centuries still shine brilliantly in Dai villages," said Chhean Leang, advisor to the Cambodia Ministry of Information and Deputy Director of the General Department of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Information.

Mangtuan Dai hand-papermaking has a history stretching back more than 600 years. Knowing that papermaking is an important source of income of Mangtuan Village - 1.5 million pieces of papers were made last year earning income of over 4 million yuan, Mr. Long Seng, advisor of Cambodia's Ministry of Information and Deputy Director General Administration of Public Affairs and Finance, Ministry of Information, gave the thumbs up. He said, "This is a good experience of rural development and prosperity. Our trip has been very rewarding."

(Wang Huan, Wang Shixue and Shenyan)

## Yunnan villagers go nuts for Australian nuts

Li Zhizhong may not be able to locate Australia on a map, but he is a master at cultivating Australian macadamia nuts.

Li, 63, has devoted more than a decade of his life to the two hectares of macadamias he grows in Mengzhi Village in southwest China's Yunnan Province. The village is among the largest production areas of macadamias in China thanks to locals who brought the Australian seedlings there more than 20 years ago.

"We used to grow corn and potatoes in the mountains, but we did not make much money," Li recalled. "With macadamias, we all became rich."

Currently, about 133,333 hectares of macadamias are under cultivation in the city of Lincang, where more than 170,000 farming households are engaged in the business, according to official statistics.

In the 1990s, local officials established Mengzhi as a pilot area in the county to grow macadamias, but villagers were reluctant to switch to the exotic crop.

"Most villagers were suspicious about the seedlings because they basically knew nothing about the nuts," Li said.

Only one man named Bi Jiafu was willing to give them a try, Li said.

"He read a magazine about the environment needed to grow macadamias and about the nuts' high market value," Li said. "He said the county's

climate was perfect for growing the nut trees."

Bi then went to the county government and asked for 100 seedlings.

"He spent days choosing the right place, growing and fertilizing the seedlings, and experts sent by the government often came to help," Li said. "He also frequented bookstores in the county to learn more about his crops."

In 2001, Bi's fields produced the first batch of macadamias. Production climbed year after year, with each hectare of the nuts generating up to 240,000 yuan (37,471 U.S. dollars) annually.

The exotic nuts truly transformed the fortunes in the county. Take Li for example. Growing the nuts has allowed him to buy a car worth 130,000 yuan and a house priced at more than 400,000 yuan.

In the village next to Mengzhi, resident Yang Wenzhu can make about 500,000 yuan a year growing macadamias. Yang calls his newly bought house the "nut house" and his car the "nut car" because they were bought thanks to the booming nut industry.

"The industry has not only beautified the mountains in our hometown, but also improved our

livelihood," Li said. (China.org.cn)

(Wang Huan)

## Chinese American singer delivers idea of U.S.-China cultural exchanges

A veteran Chinese American opera bass singer who has played with New York's Metropolitan Opera for over 20 years is trying to deliver his grand idea of cementing a closer cultural bond between the United States and China in an operatic way.

Hao Jiang Tian, who has appeared in 26 operas at the Met Opera for more than 20 years, brought a group of Western tenors and sopranos to San Francisco for the first time to sing some of the most popular Chinese songs in a Western style to nearly 1,000 American and Chinese audience.

The Chinese and Western artists made a debut Saturday night in a concert, iSING! San Francisco with Hao Jiang Tian, that was staged as a fund-raiser for an eclectic program he had created to offer free training courses for young Western and Chinese young singers, who he said are trained to be a bridge for Western and Chinese people, especially

ly the Americans, to know each other better.

Their one-and-half-hour performance, which presented a Western repertoire coupled with some of the most popular Chinese vocal works, blew the audience away at the Herbst Theatre, an auditorium in the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center in downtown San Francisco on the U.S. west coast.

Tian wants the Western singers to integrate Chinese musical works with Western classical vocal technique and create a repertoire of Chinese lyricism interpreted with distinct Western sensitivities.

"During the past 30 plus years of my opera career, I received various kinds of help from numerous people both at home and abroad," said Tian, who was born in the 1950s in Beijing, capital of China.

The San Francisco concert marks another fruit of his long-standing efforts to help young opera talents from various countries to perform on world stage, serving as a bridge for more profound understanding between U.S. and Chinese people. (Abridged from Xinhua)



Builders began to lay the first steel truss complex on June 22 on the Yuanjiang Railway Bridge, in Yuanjiang County, Yuxi City of Yunnan Province, marking a new milestone in the construction of China-Laos railway. The 832.2-meter long bridge has 6 piers and its No. 3 pier is 154 meters tall, the tallest in the world. (Xinhua / Hu Chao)

## Xiangguqing: the magical home of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys

Yu Jianhua works as a ranger at the Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve in Weixi County, Yunnan. Every morning he hangs the leafless mini-shrubs of the *Usnea barbata* plant over tree branches while calling out to the monkeys in the language of the Lisu ethnic minority group.

Soon the black-and-white monkeys begin to respond excitedly, racing across the forest, and the Xiangguqing valley immediately comes to life.

As the most representative species of the nature reserve, the



Snub-nosed monkeys are dubbed elves of Baima Snow Mountain (Photo by Chen Fei)

## China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum provides wisdom for cooperation

The sixth China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum ended on June 15th in Kunming, Yunnan Province.

During the two-day Forum, more than 300 experts and scholars from 18 countries including Myanmar, India, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Asian Development Bank and international organizations gathered in Kunming and provided their suggestions and contributed their wisdoms focusing on the theme of Working together to build a community of shared future for humanity and deepening the practical cooperation between China, South and Southeast Asia in the new era.

There were five topics in the Forum. On the topic of "promoting the construction of China-South and Southeast Asia Economic Corridors", many scholars believed that due to the special geographical locations, conditions, long history and cultural origins and strong econom-

ic complementarity, all parties should take effective measures to further promote the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indo-China Peninsular Economic Corridor. On the topic of "Building a community of shared future for China-South and Southeast Asian countries", scholars from India believed that China and India can draw nutrients from a long history of civilization to cultivate Asian culture and shared Asian values. On "Constructing China-South and Southeast Asia New International Relations", scholars from China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Afghanistan and other countries pointed out that the "Belt and Road" is not only a way of cooperation between China and the countries along the road for win-win, but also the construction of new relations between China, South and Southeast Asian countries, which will benefit

all countries and lead the new direction of international relations. On the topic of the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road Construction", experts believed that it is necessary to strengthen maritime transport corridor and infrastructure construction to form a more open international economic cooperation zone. On the topic of "China and South and Southeast Asian Countries Talent Cooperation Mechanism Construction", some scholars said that a talent cooperation think tank alliance can be established. Scholars from Southeast Asia said that China, South and Southeast Asian countries could actively carry out cooperation in the field of talent information, training, technical exchanges and human resources development, among which the cooperation mechanism of cultivating young talents should be placed in an important position. (Li Hongfeng)