CHINA·YUNNAN

EXPO

2019 SSACEIF opens in Kunming

The 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) officially opened on June 12th at the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, in southwest China's Yunnan province. Representatives of 74 countries and regions and 3,348 enterprises attended the event, including 20 Fortune 500 companies and 18 Top 500 Chinese companies.

Hosted with the theme of "gathering in the forefront and co-building a powerhouse of opening-up for common development," this year's SSACEIF offers 7,500 standard booths in 17 pavilions. These include the biomedi

A photo taken on the 2nd China-South Asia Forum, a part of the SSACEIF   **Photo by Gu Bin**

cine and big health pavilion, the green food pavilion, and the Belt and Road investment and cooperation pavilion. In total, the exhibition area covers 170,000 square meters.

Sri Lanka serves as the theme country, while Cambodia is the guest country of honour. The pavilion of the former is inspired by the cut surfaces of a gemstone, using points, lines and planes to achieve a sense of volume, modernity and expressiveness.

The Belt and Road investment and cooperation pavilion, the green energy pavilion, the ecological forest product pavilion and the Digital Yunnan pavilion – which emerge for the first time this year – have already drawn much attention. The green energy pavilion focuses on smart, digital energy technologies and products, and fully reflects the latest developments in green energy sector from inside Yunnan as well as across the world. The Belt and Road investment and cooperation pavilion consists of an investment promo-

tion zone and two exhibition zones highlighting Yunnan's advantages in opening-up and its economic cooperation with other countries. The pavilion, specially designed, adopts 5G technologies and uses multiple display screens to create an interactive, cutting-edge and intelligent effect. The ecological forest product pavilion features forest ecosystems and employs practical, environmentally friendly materials that are in line with the characteristics of cities and prefectures across the province.

The event will last to June 18. And a total of 14 related high-end forums are staged in Kunming.   **(Yunnan Daily)**

ODE TO 70 YEARS

The miracle of Fuxing bullet trains

Editor's note: *This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In this issue, we continue publishing a column called "Ode to 70 years" to help you understand the earth-shaking changes that have taken place in New China.*

China's high-speed railway network is the longest in the world, as well as boasting the largest construction scale and the highest speeds in the world. In the future, China will put into use freight bullet trains capable of speeds higher than 250 kilometres per hour, and smart passenger bullet trains with top speeds of 350 kilometres per hour. The country is developing bullet trains with different speed settings to meet the needs of different regions, while also building a network of eight vertical and eight horizontal high-speed railway lines.

The China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) has led the way concerning research and develop-

ment of the Fuxing series of bullet trains. The company possesses completely independent intellectual property rights for its world-class trains.

On June 25th, 2017, the first Fuxing bullet trains went into operation, running between Beijing and Shanghai. By April 2018, they had expanded to 15 other cities above the provincial level in China.

Additionally, China is also going to put into use a new type of smart passenger bullet trains running between Beijing and Zhangjiakou. These trains will adopt the Chinese-developed Beidou satellite navigation system for the first time. They will provide full WiFi coverage and run automatically at a world record high speed of 350 kilometres per hour.

Before actually going into use, every Fuxing bullet train must run 600,000 kilometres without passengers. Such a distance is 15 times the Earth's circumference at the equator   **(People's Daily)**

A green bullet train runs from Kunming to Mengzi in Yunnan.   **Photo by Yang Zheng**

BELT AND ROAD

Longest bridge on China-Laos railway completes beam erection

A 32-meter, T-shaped beam was laid between two piers on the Nam Khone super major bridge, the longest span on the China-Laos Railway. The feat was achieved recently in Vientiane, marking the completion of the bridge's beam erection work.

According to a staff member from the China Railway No. 2 Engineering Group (CREC-2), the Nam Khone super major bridge is 7,506.3 metres long. CREC-2 began pier construction of the bridge in May 2017, completed the main construction work in June

2018, and started to erect the beams in February 2019. The CREC-2 has overcome difficulties of poor transportation, scorching weather and language barriers to complete the bridge beam erection on June 1st, several days ahead of schedule.

(Xinhua)

Yunnan-Laos joint venture listed in Lao capital market

The Vientiane Centre Public Company, jointly incorporated by the Lao Krittaphong Group (LKG) and the Yunnan Construction and Investment Holding Group (YCIH), was listed in Laos on the morning of May 31st. This is the tenth company listed with the Laos Stock Exchange Market.

The Vientiane Centre is a pilot project created under the Belt and Road Initiative. It is implemented by the

North Nongchan Comprehensive Development Co Ltd, a joint venture between YCIH and LKG, with the two companies holding 60 and 40 percent of the shares, respectively. The project's first phase, consisting of shopping malls and office buildings, went into business in March 2015. The project integrates catering, shopping, recreation and entertainment, attracting a large number of world-

famous consumer brand companies.

According to an executive from the Vientiane Centre Public Company, the successful operation and listing of the Vientiane Centre is a model of China-Laos cooperation and industrial-capital integration. It marks a milestone in the building of a community of shared destiny for China and Laos.

(Yang Jianhua)

HIGH-TECH

Crucial step forward taken for 5G with commercial licenses

The Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on June 6 officially rolled out commercial 5G licenses, marching toward a crucial period for next-generation 5G commercial use.

The ministry granted the 5G licenses to the nation's major three telecom carriers—China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom—as well as the State-owned China Broadcasting Network Corp.

The Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei said China welcomes foreign companies to actively participate in the construction of China's 5G market and share the benefits generated in the market.

The move marks an accelerated push by China to apply 5G. Its previous plan was to commercialize the technology in 2020.

High-speed 5G technology is expected to revolutionize the tech world in the near future, as it will be able to transmit data at least 10 times faster than the 4G system.

In the 5G era, higher reliability and lower latency can be realized, making the internet of things more effective and enabling tasks that are impossible in the 4G era, such as overseeing self-driving vehicles.

Telecom equipment-maker Huawei Technologies Co said in a statement on June 6 that it is ready to help China accelerate the commercial use of 5G.

Huawei's global pioneering capabilities to offer 5G solutions can support Chinese telecom carriers to build a sound network. China will lead the world in commercializing the superfast wireless technology, the company said.

Huawei has invested about $2 billion in total into the research and development of 5G since 2009.

China is set to become the world's largest 5G market by 2025, with 460 million 5G users, according to a forecast by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association, an industry group.

(China Daily)