



The 7th China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum held in Kunming

Editor's Note:

The 7th China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum was held in Kunming on

June 12. More than 200 experts, scholars and politicians from 19 countries including China, South and Southeast Asia gathered in

Kunming, aiming to contribute wisdom and provide a sound initiative for establishment of a community of shared future

among China, South and Southeast Asia.

(Yunnan Daily staff reporter Li-Hongfeng covered the story)

Focus



Inauguration ceremony of Centre for Pakistan Studies, Chinese (Kunming) Academy of South and Southeast Asian Studies was held during the 7th China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum.

The 7th China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum was opened in Kunming on June 12. Currently, this forum has become the highest-profile high-end think tank forum with the largest number of participants, the widest range of agenda setting and the most abundant accomplishment among China (Yunnan) and countries from South and Southeast Asia.

With the theme of "Join Hands for a shared Future - Construction of a Community of Shared Future between China-South and Southeast Asia", this forum demonstrated a common idea as well as important consensus on being actively involved in open world economy theme and practically promoting exchange and cooperation between China and countries from South and Southeast Asia.

More than 200 guests from 19 countries are all not only outstanding representatives from important think

tank organizations, but also well-known experts who have influence on both basic research and decision-making consulting fields of those countries. In addition, this forum has attracted think tank experts from Oceania including Australia and New Zealand and Europe including Germany to attend, which showed a distinct "international style". On this forum, inauguration ceremony of Centre for Pakistan Studies, Chinese (Kunming) Academy of South and Southeast Asian Studies was held. During the ceremony, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, the consul-general of Pakistan in Chengdu, said that it was a flagship cooperation project which would promote the China-Pakistan economic corridor construction process.

Such key words as "A Community of Shared Future for Mankind", "Belt and Road", "Connectivity in 5 aspects" (policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and

people-to-people bonds), "Economic Corridor" and "Poverty Elimination" etc. became high-frequency words that were used by scholars and experts from South and Southeast Asia on this think tank forum. The forum focused on 5 key areas, including international sub-regional cooperation and economic corridor construction, people-to-people exchanges and closer people-to-people ties, cooperation between China and Indian Ocean rim region, open development and experience sharing and building Yunnan into a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia. These areas not only involved sub-regional cooperation, economic corridor construction, economic and trade cooperation, cultural exchange and closer people-to-people ties, but also covered previously unexplored topics such as mutual opening between China and South and Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, 123 experts made statements on this forum and over 100 research results have been received, almost covering all important fields as well as hot issues of the practical cooperation among China and South and Southeast Asia. Beyond that, the existing problems and necessary assistance in cooperation were pointed out, and the prospect of cooperation and the common goal were discussed on the forum.

On this forum, 10 outstanding achievements were selected and cited for the first time. After the meeting, the sponsor will compile and arrange these achievements reached on the forum as the *Overview of the Achievements Reached on Seventh China - South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum* (a tentative name), which will be published in public.

Opinion

Think tanks are important forces for co-construction of Belt and Road

He Zukun, head of the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, delivered a keynote speech entitled *Think tanks are important forces for Co-construction of "Belt and Road"* on the opening ceremony. Four issues were put forward.

Firstly, making explanation jointly that "Belt and Road" construction is an important practical platform for co-construction of a community of shared future for mankind and leading the forward direction for promoting the practical cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asia. All of us should stick to standing high and looking far and look on "the Belt and Road" with a wide view of shared future. The most basic question of study on "Belt and Road" for think tanks from all countries is that how do they think of "Belt and Road", which is also a fundamental premise for cognition and research of "Belt and Road".

Secondly, making in-depth study jointly on the great realistic problem for implementation of "Belt and Road" Initiative in South and Southeast Asia and providing thoughts and programs for promoting the practical cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asia. We should conduct research on major issues occur in the construction of "Belt and Road" with a rigorous attitude. For instance, how to promote realization of common high-quality development in construction of "Belt and Road" among China and countries from South and Southeast Asia, how to establish an interconnected partnership between China and South and Southeast Asia and how to boost economic corridor construction etc. so as to provide valuable suggestions on cooperation between China and South and Southeast Asia.

Thirdly, making in-depth study jointly on significant issues including cooperation mechanism and platform construction and proposing rules and standards for practically promoting the establishment of a community with a shared future between China and South and Southeast Asia, including promoting standards mutual recognition according to industry in allusion to key areas of cooperation among China and countries from South and Southeast Asia; pushing standards mutual recognition as well as formulation of new standards etc. by taking the cross-border and frontier economic cooperation zone and the project cooperation of cross-border enterprise as the breakthrough in order to construct a standard system for promoting construction of "Belt and Road" among China and countries from South and Southeast Asia.

Fourthly, conducting in-depth exploration jointly for practical approach for improving the level of closer people-to-people ties and strengthening the public opinion foundation for impelling the establishment of a community with a shared future between China and South and Southeast Asia. We should actively build bridges for learning and meriting from each other of different civilizations, strengthening exchange and cooperation in such fields as think tank, media, education, culture, technology, sports, travel and sanitation etc., industriously removing the estrangement arising from previous misunderstanding, misreading and misjudgment and writing more wonderful stories of Silk Road.

Impressive results of parallel forums

Voice

The think tank forum has provided five topics for discussion, including international sub-regional cooperation and economic corridor construction, people-to-people exchanges and closer people-to-people ties, cooperation between China and Indian Ocean rim region, open development and experience sharing and building Yunnan into a pivot of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia.

Lee Laito, Professor of Mae Fah Luang University, said when reporting the research results reached on parallel forum of "International Sub-regional Cooperation and Economic Corridor Construction" that Yunnan quite actively participated in construction of "Belt and Road", and he hoped that there would be more attention on relevant software construction as well as the practical cooperation with ASEAN and South Asia while carrying out hardware construction of "Five-Pronged Approach". In his opinion, it's quite well done for China-Pakistan economic corridor construction, which could be nearly called as a model of "all-weather cooperation". Besides, China-Laos economic corridor promoted Laos to be a "land-linked country" from a "landlocked country" and the Lao people indeed benefited from cooperation with China. It's believed that Yunnan is capable of realizing its further deep connection with the neighboring countries from South



International Scholars participating the forum.

and Southeast Asia by relying on its foundation, resources and ability. In the future, Yunnan province would play a very important role in this aspect.

Ren Jia, Counselor of the People's Government of Yunnan Province, Former President and researcher of Yunnan Academy of Social Science, said that some scholars pointed out that the geographical locations of South Asia region and Southeast Asia region were quite important when reporting the research results reached on parallel forum of "Cooperation Between China and Indian Ocean Rim Region". But in her opinion, the current goals for the countries in this region are econom-

ic development, regional stability, which are her principal contradiction.

Zheng Mingyu, Director of "Belt and Road" Strategic Research Center of Tunku Abdul Rahman University, Director of Institute of Management and Leadership Development for College of Accounting and Management, said that it's a digital era when reporting the research results reached on parallel forum of "Open Development and Experience Sharing". In her opinion, e-commerce could help us in better integration and Chinese 5G technology as well as artificial intelligence would help us to realize better progress.