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The Nation

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Green development has become a social consensus in China nowadays



Editor's note: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past 70 years, China has made great achievements in protecting its eco environment. And in today's China, the concept of green development has widely been accepted and the quality of the environment is steadily improving. This issue, let's take a look at how Chinese people implement the concept of "Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" and what results they have achieved.

The sky is bluer



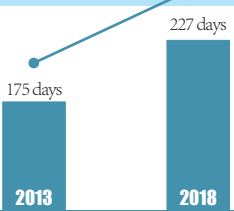
Story

After a rain, the air in Beijing was very fresh in early summer. Gao Xiang, a local citizen said, "In the past, we hid from rain, otherwise we would be covered with sand spots. Now it is much cleaner." From 2013 to 2018, thanks to the replacement of coal with natural gas and electricity, the number of days when Beijing's air quality was up to standard rose from 175 to 227. Beijing's change is the result of a massive blue sky protection campaign in China. For many urban Chinese, the days when air pollution is too bad to leave their homes are dwindling.

Data:

Since the *Action Plan on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution* in 2013, the effectiveness of air pollution control has initially shown. In 2018, of 338 cities at or above the prefecture-level, 121 met air quality standards, accounting for 35.8%. The number of days with heavy pollution reduced to 2.2%.

The number of days with good air quality in Beijing



Water is clearer



Story

Erhai Lake, located in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province, is the second largest plateau fresh water lake in Yunnan. Because of people's production and living and tourism development along the coast, the lake once faced a serious environmental threat.

Strict measures were taken to clean up the pollution by demolishing a large number of illegal buildings, and once shutting down thousands of hotels and inns along the lake, requiring sewage treatment facilities to meet standards before reopening.

Wang Shuxing, who lives in Xizhou Town, is a native Bai from Erhai Lake. Wang said, "I am a beach coordinator for Renliyi Village, responsible for cleaning Erhai Lake within 1.8 kilometers. I inspect Erhai Lake two or three times a day." Wang added that failure to complete the task of salvage should be reported to the government departments in time.

In Xizhou, there are many others like Wang who are willing to do their best for Erhai.

Data:

China's wetland area is 804 million mu (5.36 billion m²), ranking the first in Asia and the fourth in the world. In 2018, the water quality of Erhai Lake has finally returned to an excellent level, reaching grade II for 7 consecutive months.

Mountains are greener



Story

The 46-year-old Wu Chaoshun smiled as he looked at mangoes hanging from branches. Just a few years ago, where the mango trees are located were mountains in black, while Wu Chaoshun was a famous coal boss in Huaping County, Lijiang City, Yunnan Province.

For a long time, the local ecological environment has been damaged by its industrial structure relying on coal mines. In recent years, Huaping County closed mines to grow mangoes. The county's mango planting area is more than 300,000 mu (about 20,000 hectares), with an annual output value of more than 1 billion yuan (US\$14.29 million).

Data:

From 2012, China has completed afforestation of 508 million mu (3387 billion m²), with a forest area of 3.12 billion mu (2.08 trillion m²) and a forest coverage rate of 21.66%, becoming a country with the largest growth in forest resources in the world during the same period. China's desertification area has changed from an annual expansion of more than 10,000 square kilometers at the end of the 20th century to an annual decline of more than 2,400 square kilometers. In recent years, Yunnan has put forward three brands of green energy, green food and healthy living destination, with strong momentum of green development and gradual optimization of economic structure.

Animals are back



Story

In Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan province, more than 1 million mu (666 million m²) of natural reserves have been added in recent years to protect tropical rain forests and provide sufficient space for wild animals such as elephants. In Pu'er, the local government has planned a food source base of nearly 4,000 mu (2.68 million m²) in the areas planted sugar cane, banana and corn which elephants like to eat, to reduce the frequency of elephants entering human living areas. It is showed that over the past 20 years, the range of wild elephants in Yunnan has expanded from 14 towns of 3 counties in the past to 26 towns in 8 counties. Now, there are about 300 Asian elephants living in the primeval forests in Xishuangbanna, Pu'er and Lincang for a long time.

Data:

At present, China has 2,750 nature reserves of all kinds at all levels, including 474 national nature reserves. The area of land and natural protection areas has reached more than 1.7 million square kilometers. In rural areas, many environmental problems that have plagued people have been fundamentally reversed. In 1993, only 7.5% of rural residents had access to sanitary and toilet facilities, but now it is close to 85%. More and more urban and rural residents have benefited from green development.

Comprehensive report

CULTURE



Thai art troupe performed in Chuxiong

On July 24, The silk road Yunnan costume • colorful Yunnan 2019 ethnic costume cultural festival achievements exhibition and Southeast Asian countries' fine arts gala were held in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province.

The event while displaying fine clothing, art troupes from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, brought dance programs full of rich Southeast Asian customs to the audience. In the picture, Thai actors perform folk dances at Chuxiong Civic Square in Yunnan Province.

(Xinhua News)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Life of Wa people getting better

Editor's Note: In Yunnan, nine ethnic groups—the Derung, De'ang, Jino, Nu, Bulang, Jingpo, Lisu, Lahu and Wa—have directly moved from primitive or slave societies into modern societies. In the battle against poverty, Yunnan focuses on the areas inhabited by these ethnic groups and other minorities. The province has taken creative, targeted measures and formulated special poverty alleviation plans in recent years. This issue, we start to publish stories on how these ethnic groups have shaken off poverty.

Ximeng, a county of Pu'er in South-western China's Yunnan province, is located on the China-Myanmar border. Its county seat, which is inhabited by Wa people, features many Wa-styled buildings.

However, visitors to this small city are even more impressed by a slogan that reads "Wa tribes in Ximeng—childhood of human beings".

"When New China was founded, the Wa people were still in the late primitive society, just like the childhood of human beings," said Yang Yu, party secretary of Ximeng. Today, the Wa people have shaken off poverty. They have moved from the childhood of human beings to a modern civilization.

Yandong, 44, is a farmer of Banzhe village in Ximeng's Mengka town. In the past, he always dreamt of living in a bright house that could provide a shelter from wind and rain. Thanks to a project of poverty alleviation through relocation, Yan's dream came true in 2015. Now, the three generations of his family live in a new two-story house of more than 200 square meters.

"When I was young, all the villagers lived in thatched cottages," Yandong recalled. Such cottages could hardly shelter them from wind and rain. Worse still, the grass would rot away in four to five years and had to be replaced.

"In 2012, about 40 percent of the villagers in Ximeng lived in thatched cottages," said Yang Yu. In 2015, Ximeng began to renovate dilapidated cottages and implement a project of poverty alleviation through relocation, moving 15,000 households into strong and beautiful houses.

Besides help to move the house, the local government also helps organizing training to skill the Wa people.

Shuila, 52, has learned to use the smart phone of late. "I watch videos of raising cattle and bees," he said. He participated in a training course organized by the county not long ago. The participants not only did field studies but also set up a WeChat group to share the planting and breeding skills. Shuila had attended the training course reluctantly. "I know you now raise 30 beehives, but you will be able to keep 200 or 300 beehives after the training," the official said.

"Your cattle are ready for sale in more than three years, but the Yunling cattle grow faster, produce better beef, and bring in more money," the official added.

Finally, Shuila was finally convinced and went to the training, which proved to be good and he believes that life will get better.

Xinhua

First Thai Quality Fruit Festival held in Kunming

The first Thai Quality Fruit Festival opened in Kunming recently. The Thai Quality Fruit Festival is one of a series activities under a program to export Thai fruits to the Chinese market through modern trade channels.

The program is sponsored by the

Department of International Trade Promotion of the Thai Ministry of Commerce, aims to expand Thailand's high-quality fruit exports. In addition to Kunming, the Thailand Quality Fruit Festival is also held in Beijing, Chengdu, Nanning, Xia-

men and other cities.

It is reported that in 2018, Thailand exported \$254.6 million tropical fruits to Yunnan, up to 70% percent from 2017. This fully reflects the huge demand and special love of Yunnan consumers for Thai fruits.

The purpose of the event is to promote the promotion and sales of high-quality fruits and selected products from Thailand to let more and more consumers in Yunnan Province know and choose high-quality products from Thailand. **By Wang Huan**

FOCUS

ASEAN becomes China's second largest trading partner

China has been the largest trading partner of ASEAN for 10 consecutive years and ASEAN has become the second largest trading partner of China. Li Chenggang, Assistant Minister of Commerce of China, said at a press conference of the State Affairs Office on July 31. January to June this year, China-ASEAN trade reached \$291.85 billion, up 4.2% to last year.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, by the end of 2018, the two-way investment between China and ASEAN totaled US\$205.71 billion, and the stock of two-way investment increased 22-fold in fifteen years.

Under the framework of the Belt and Road, China and ASEAN countries have jointly carried out China-Singapore connectivity projects and key cooperation projects including China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park, Malaysia-China Guantun Industrial Park, China-Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipeline, Indonesia Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, and China-Laos Railway, China-Thailand Railway. The Protocol on Upgrading the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area came into effect after all domestic procedures of China and the 10 ASEAN countries were finally completed. **By Qiu Haifeng**



Guests of the 17th Asean Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs Conference which opened in last June thumbs up for the business promotion session. Photo by YDPG

IN PICS



Dancers perform the dance opera *Under Siege* in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province. Photo by Xinhua

Under Siege makes US debut

Combining traditional paper-cutting performances, glamorous Peking Opera costumes, haunting operatic voices, bold martial arts and installation art, *Under Siege* is a work of contemporary dance based on powerful body language and an authentic Chinese spirit.

Under Siege makes US debut on Aug. 8, 2019.

It retells the story of an epic battle in Chinese history between the Chu and Han kingdoms' armies more than

2,000 years ago. The dance drama has been hailed as an aesthetic triumph for its visual splendor since its 2015 debut in China.

"It is an experimental drama of contemporary dance, highlighting Chinese culture and aesthetics through an international lens," says Yang Liping, chief choreographer and director of the show.

Yang is a household name in China, making her name back in 1986 with her dance piece, *Spirit of the Peacock*.