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## COOPERATION

### YCTB signed agreement with Indian Travel Agents Association

Yunnan Culture and Tourism Bureau (YCTB) signed a framework cooperation agreement with Indian Travel Agents Association recently. Two sides will further carry out exchanges in high-level visits, information, tourists and talents.

A relevant person from Yunnan Culture and Tourism Bureau invited Travel Agents Association of India to organize more tourists to Yunnan, and hope Yunnan and India strengthen tourism and cultural exchanges in

tourism resources, information, visitors, market and other aspects to promote internet + tourism to open new prospects for China-India tourism cooperation.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, president of Travel Agents Association of India, said that Yunnan is a tourist destination suitable for health and recreation, and the association promote the exchanges and cooperation between Yunnan and India in the field of tourism.

By Liu Ziyu

## EXCHANGES

### Chinese firms participate in India's "LED Expo"

Over 300 companies from India and several countries, including China, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Finland and Turkey, have been participate in the three-day "LED Expo" held on the outskirts of the Indian capital recently.

According to the organisers, this was the 19th edition of the expo which was focusing largely on IoT (Internet of things technology) infused lights that would not only help cut down the living cost but also provide convenience.

Among the Chinese companies participating in the event are Guangdong Yanyang Lighting Co Ltd, Shenzhen CYT Semicon-

ductor Technology Co Ltd, Yiyang Anxing Electronics Co Ltd, Jiangmen Zhongyang Optoelectronics Co Ltd, Guangzhou Tianxin Photoelectric Co Ltd, Jing Ming International Ltd, said the organisers.

With the help of initiatives taken by the government and awareness among the millennial generation, LED lights have reached a level above and entered the smart LED revolution. The millennial generation is now looking for lighting technologies that offer them savings, sustainability (eco-friendly), uncomplicated and affordable solutions.

(Xinhua)

## ECO

### Deqin Villagers: Clean water and green mountains are our common treasure

The fifty-year-old Arong is a member of Luorong villagers group, Hongpo Village Committee, Jiantang Town, Shangri-La City, Diding Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province and lives in Pudacuo National Park. The villagers there still follow the tradition of farming and grazing.

In Pudacuo National Park, there are lakes, wetlands, forests, meadows, valleys, streams, and rich resources of rare animals and plants. The national park covers an area of 602 square kilometers with an elevation of 3500 meters on average. In the past, Luorong village was not the same. Due to the lack of roads and the cold, variable weather, the villagers' life was not easy. The highland barley and potatoes planted were not enough to fill their stomachs. In order to solve the problem of livelihood, some villagers began to go up to the mountains to log woods and hunt animals. Logging to build houses and for firewood were common practice.

"We did not have a good relationship with forest rangers in the past." Arong said that many villagers did not understand it when a logging ban was announced in Diding in 1998 for it affected their livelihood.

With openings of Shudu Lake and Bitahai Lake, villagers seized the business opportunities brought by tourism. Some villagers organized their own horse tours and sold food and barbecued on the meadows. The influx of tourists, trampling horses and increas-

ing garbage seriously damaged the vegetation and affected the ecological environment.

Tang Hua, director of Pudacuo National Park Management Bureau, said that since 2006 the local government has been trying to build a national park and set up a strict ecological protection zone, a bio-diversity protection zone, a recreation and exhibition zone and a traditional resource utilization zone.

"Projects that can destroy environment must be banned and people's livelihood must also be considered." Ding Wendong, chief of Conservation Division of Pudacuo National Park Management Bureau, said that since 2008, franchising companies started to ecologically back-nurture its surrounding communities. According to the agreement, the back-nurture fund is 10 million yuan annually for the first round and around 20 million yuan annually for the second. A compensation contract is signed every five years. Now, the back-nurture fund reaches 150 million yuan.

Arong's family receives nearly 40,000 yuan ecological back-nurture fund each year. Her family members also can work as cleaners in the National Park. The reporter learned that the back-nurture project has increased the awareness of villagers for conservation. Now, Villagers carefully minimize the impact on the surrounding environment, even when they go into the mountains to pick up mushrooms.

(Xinhua News)



Pudacuo National Park is welcomed by tourists at home and abroad (Photo by Li Jujan)

## China, India agree to bring ties to higher level



Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit and they agreed to increase mutual trust and bring the bilateral ties to a higher level.

Xi said that China-India relations have seen an increasingly positive momentum, which

not only brings growth impetus for the two countries but also injects stability and certainty into the global system at a time of profound changes.

President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov 30, 2018. [Photo/Xinhua]

## Yunnan achieves win-win with neighbouring countries by opening up

As Yunnan province opens its door wider, it is providing more opportunities for neighbouring countries to board the express train of China's economic development while enhancing its own development momentum and improving its own development quality. A win-win situation has been achieved among involved parties.

Following the 5th China-South Asia Expo in June, the Cambodian jasmine rice has entered 20 Zhijia convenience stores

in Kunming. "This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia. The cooperation between the two countries has gradually borne fruits. China's favourable import policies and Chinese consumers' pursuit of quality have strengthened our confidence to explore the Yunnan market," said Ye Yongming, regional manager in Nanning of Canadian Group, the parent company of Golden Daun Keo

Rice Mill Co Ltd. Kunming International Flower Auction and Trading Centre is the largest fresh cut flower auction market in Asia. During peak hours every day, eight to ten million flowers are sold to more than 50 countries and regions. Among them, 20 percent to 30 percent are exported to South and Southeast Asian countries.

As the opening up and cooperation deepens, the foreign goods such as Myanmar jade, Sri Lankan gems and Indian

blue crabs have made their ways into the homes of ordinary Chinese people.

Yunnan is becoming an increasingly important height of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia. Statistics show that the province's import and export volume grew from 104 million US dollars in 1978 to 23.39 billion US dollars in 2017, and nearly 60 percent of the increase was from the trade with South and Southeast Asian countries.

(Abridged from Xinhua)

## 51 countries and regions participated in 2018 SCO Marathon



The Yunnan Salt Industry 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Kunming International Marathon was held on December 2. Twenty thousand contestants from 51 countries and regions marched happily through beautiful scenery with blue sky, white clouds and seagulls competing for a good performance. Belay Olkeba Jene, an Ethiopian runner, finished the men's full marathon by 2 hours 20 minutes and 49 seconds and achieved the best result. The competition was directed by the SCO Secretariat and Yunnan Provincial Government and hosted by Chinese Athletics Association, Yunnan Sports Bureau, the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial Government and Kunming Municipal Government

Photo by Zhang Tong

## FURTHER READING

### Guests praise Kunming warmth

The Yunnan Salt Industry 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Kunming International Marathon was held on December 2. Kunming's pleasant climate, high quality of the competition arrangement, the warm and hospitable people made visitors from all over the world praise the event.

Russian Ambassador to China who started to learn Chinese since he was 16, said that Kunming is a unique city, and he other people from north countries were really impressed by Kunming's warm climate.

He enjoyed his stay in Kunming very much. He said, "When I go back to my home country, I will recommend this beautiful place to people around me so that they can come for a visit."

Kazakhstan's Am-

bassador to China, said that Kunming is a very beautiful city. The site selection for SCO is successful. There are blue sky and white clouds, beautiful lakes and mountains, and fresh air. It was unimaginable that the marathon could be held on such a sunny day in December winter, but it is true here in Kunming. "I hope the race will be better and better and more runner will come to Kunming to get to know it." The Ambassador said that the beauty of Yunnan and the hospitable people made him feel at home.

Evans Nyakamba Mayaka, Men's half marathon champion, said, "Kunming is a very beautiful place. That's the reason I come here to participate in the event. This is the first time for me to participate in the race in Kunming. Though it

is winter but the climate here is wonderful." He was impressed by the beautiful scenery and hospitable citizens along the track, and he enjoyed the race very much.

Belay Olkeba Jene, Men's full marathon champion said that he was glad to participate in the Kunming competition and won the championship. In the competition, the warm and sunny climate made the runners happy, which was conducive to the level of their performance. They were also touched by the enthusiasm of the audience along the way. This is a beautiful and friendly city.

John from Uganda said, "This is my first visit to Kunming. The temperature in my home country Uganda is between 25 and 27 C. Therefore I feel the coolness in Kunming and the

warmth of the sponsor. "The marathon is well organized. All the staff are very warm, and the citizens are very friendly which makes people feel warm."

Suminda Liyanage comes from Sri Lanka and now is a foreign teacher at Yunnan Vocational College of Tourism. "It is a happy thing to run at the Haigen Dam," said admiringly that he must try to register for the competition next year. He has been working in Kunming for two years and has visited quite many tourism sites. "Yunnan is a place with beautiful mountains and water and people. I like Dali, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna. I also like seagulls and they are old friends of Kunming. It is a beautiful picture of living in harmony with nature."

Comprehensive report

## Four-decade makeover just the beginning

Editor's note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy. From this issue on, we will profile people who experienced or witnessed the important drive.

Hugh Davies, Former commercial counselor at the British embassy in Beijing fondly remembers the time he introduced a British publisher to Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1985, when Davies was commercial counselor at the British embassy in Beijing.

Deng asked the publisher, "When you go back, could you tell them that the Chinese would like to join the Eureka program?"

sionary approach to economic development, combined with the entrepreneurial spirit of the Chinese people, will continue to propel the nation forward.

"China has a huge population, it has a huge geographical spread, a massive industrial base, huge financial resources, and experiences in both participating in international organizations and also peacekeeping operations," Davies said. "In the next 40 years, China will undoubtedly become the most important country in the world."

In 1998, he took early retirement from his diplomatic career, but continued to work with China, spending time as an adviser to British insur-



Founded in 1985, the program was a European platform for sharing jointly funded research and development projects. China did not end up joining Eureka, but Davies still likes to tell the story to demonstrate Deng's forward-looking attitude.

"It was extraordinary that the Chinese wanted to join. For me, that was a fine example of how China needs to move forward in working with other countries," said Davies, whose enthusiasm is tangible as he makes observations about China's 40 years of dramatic transformation.

He said he thinks the next four decades will be even more exciting.

Davies, who first visited China in 1966, has many insights into how the country has transformed from a planned economy to a market economy thanks to its reform and opening-up policy, which was initiated in 1978.

The former diplomat said the Chinese government's vi-

ance companies Prudential and Old Mutual and helping them plan their strategies for entering China's life-insurance market.

He said "mutual benefit" drives the growing collaboration between China and the UK. In addition to trade, the UK's advanced technology sector and the English language remain influential on China and its internationalization, he said.

Looking to the future, Davies said he would like China to open up further to foreign investment, saying it will help Beijing step into the role of responsible global leader.

"If China can continue to open, then the international community will feel that China is playing by the rules, and will see China as a good neighbor in the world," he said. "I'm not saying that other countries are doing that well themselves. But China, being such a huge country, has massive responsibilities."

(Abridged from China Daily)

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION

### Ethnic village gets life with new crops

Yu Shaogui and his neighbors were once discouraged by their village's location. But now the situation has changed dramatically, thanks to China's opening-up policy and the rapid growth of a new port built adjacent to the community.

Yu, 37, is from Kou'an New Village, a native Lisu ethnic enclave in the town of Houqiao in Yunnan province's Tengchong city. The community lies along the China-Myanmar border and next to Houqiao port, now a national-level trading port.

The area is mountainous and local farmers have limited arable land, Yu said. Over the years, residents depended on limited agricultural incomes. Lacking confidence in their skills, few dared to venture out to look for jobs in cities.

However, the growth of border trade and enhancement of traffic has greatly benefited their lives in recent years.

Better connections with the outside world allowed the villagers to advance their agricultural skills. They introduced new economic crops, such as caoguo, a ginger-like plant, to replace the traditional crops of corn and rice.

"Today, every family in our village is growing caoguo, and it has become the major income source for us," Yu said. "Our incomes are growing fast, too." Caoguo is used both as a seasoning and an herbal medicine.

According to Cai Wenhui, the village Party chief, the entire village grows more than 200 hectares of caoguo, and villagers can earn around 8,000 yuan (\$1,150) per year growing it.

Meanwhile, the villagers have also been growing other things, such as tea-oil and walnut trees, in recent years.

Last year, the average income reached almost 10,000 yuan, which puts them above the poverty line by local standards.

Since 2016, a new policy has allowed people from several villages along the border to participate in cross-border trade. Each resident is given a daily tax-free quota for goods in certain categories, including bananas and bamboo, from neighboring Myanmar states, so long as the goods' value is less than 8,000 yuan.

The villagers gradually organized themselves to share their quotas, so that they can sell a truckload of goods and reduce transportation costs.

According to Cai, last year, more than 900 villagers out of a population of 1,700, joined the business. Some of them have learned to speak a bit of the Myanmar language to communicate better.

This year, the scale of border trade in our village is expected to reach 5 million yuan. The policy is helpful for increasing villagers' incomes and eliminating poverty.

(China Daily)