

## OPENING-UP



A view of Shanghai's Yangshan Port in East China, Jan 1, 2022. (Photo by Xinhua)

Despite rising external uncertainties, multinational companies remain committed to China as they plan to expand their local footprint and investment, and are impressed by the nation's latest commitment to high-standard opening-up and high-quality economic development, global business leaders said.

In a report that Xi Jinping delivered at the opening session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 16, he stressed the need to promote high-standard opening-up and accelerate efforts to foster a new pattern of development.

Seeing big opportunities in areas such as carbon neutrality, advanced manufacturing and innovation-driven development, foreign companies increasingly value China's multiple roles as a vast market, a crucial part of global supply chains and a pioneering research and development hub, senior executives said in a series of interviews with China Daily.

Tao Lin, vice-president of US electric carmaker Tesla, said the report highlighted that further advancing opening-up is a key feature of the new era, and as a beneficiary of such efforts, the company is convinced that "it will create more value in this vigorous and dynamic land".

"Thanks to the Chinese government's decision to scrap limits on foreign ownership of

electric vehicle companies, Tesla became the first wholly foreign-owned vehicle manufacturer in the country," Tao said.

"Now, Tesla is even more deeply engaged in China's promising domestic market," Tao added.

Hou Yang, chairman and CEO of Microsoft Greater China, said that due to China's increased opening-up and its economic vitality, foreign companies have more opportunities to invest in the nation, and the Chinese market has become increasingly appealing.

"China's ever-improving economic foundations and technological innovation capabilities have enabled it to demonstrate its strong resilience and flexibility in the face of risks," Hou said, adding that the company will increase its local workforce to over 10,000 next year by adding about 1,000 new jobs.

Such sentiment is in line with recent figures pointing to the strong momentum of foreign direct investment in China. FDI in the Chinese mainland, in terms of actual use, grew 16.4 percent year-on-year to 892.7 billion yuan (\$123.5 billion) in the first eight months of this year, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Wu Dongming, CEO of DHL Express China, said that amid challenges and pressures, China's economic stability is the

biggest contribution to the world economy and global supply chains.

"Looking forward, China's focus on sustainable development will greatly benefit international trade," Wu said, adding that the company tested its first pilot hydrogen fuel cell truck in Shanghai last month, as part of the German logistics firm's broader push to experiment with the latest green technology and boost investment in the country.

China's high-quality development agenda and its growing innovation prowess are also boosting business leaders' confidence, as these promise big potential for future growth.

Wang Lei, global executive vice-president of British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, said he was encouraged by the report's emphasis that innovation will remain at the heart of China's modernization drive.

"China's innovation-driven development strategy will create more opportunities for us, as the country has become a very important part of our global innovation as well as our R&D network," Wang said.

Looking ahead, experts forecast that China's growth engines could be revving up as it heads into 2023, which will motivate more foreign businesses to increase their investment in the nation.

(China Daily)

## CHINA-SOUTH ASIA EXPO

### The 6th China-South Asia Expo held in Kunming



An exhibitor (right) is talking with his customers during the 6th China-South Asia Expo. (Photo by Yang Zheng)

The 6th China-South Asia Expo and the 26th China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair was held in Kunming from November

19 to 22.

The China-South Asia Expo this year was held both online and offline. A number of

activities were added to its agenda, such as the China-Indian Ocean Development and Cooperation Forum, the RCEP International Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum, the 2022 Border Opening Forum for a New Era, and the 2022 Innovation and Development Forum on Domestic and Foreign Trades Integration. Side events such as business tours, investment promotions, and cultural experiencing programs were also organized to promote extensive communication and cooperation among exhibitors and participants from different countries and regions.

(Yunnan Daily)

## STORY

### Yannick: Yunnan is my dream land

"When I traveled to Yunnan for the first time in 2006, I was charmed by the splendid views and diverse ethnic cultures here," says Yannick Benichou, from France. Since then, coming to live in Yunnan has become his biggest dream.

In 2016, Yannick took the job opportunity to become the general manager of a joint venture enterprise in Anning, Yunnan province. The enterprise focuses on producing shellac, a

resin that can be manufactured into food glaze. Yannick, apparently, felt excited to be back to his dream land. Looking back, he calls all this a destiny.

Today, the shellac products manufactured by the factory have already been exported to several countries, including the US, Spain, Italy, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Australia, Israel and Mexico. "Recently, we have imported some raw materials via the newly-opened

China-Laos Railway. It's both convenient and time-saving," he smiles.

In his spare time, Yannick is an outdoor enthusiast who loves hiking and camping in particular. He goes out with his family and friends to enjoy the natural and cultural diversities of Yunnan almost every weekend.

"Thanks to shellac," says Yannick, "I'm able to live in Yunnan - my dream land."

(Yunnan Daily)

## NEWS

### Seminar held on Yunnan traditional architecture

A seminar on traditional architecture of southwestern China's Yunnan province was held both online and offline on November 3. The seminar was held at separate venues in China and the US. Experts discussed the China Folk House Retreat project, the history and characteristics of Chinese folk architecture, protection and inheritance of Yunnan's traditional architectural culture, and

promotion of friendly exchanges between the two countries. The China Folk House Retreat project plans to build a reproduction of a Yunnan-style folk residence on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, West Virginia. When completed, this reproduced folk residence will enable the Americans, especially American young people, to learn about Chinese customs and folk culture.

(Yunnan Daily)

## ECOLOGY

### Yunnan's green effort pays off

The snow-capped peaks and the lush Gaoligong mountain that extend for hundreds of miles are species gene pools straddling the China-Myanmar border, while the Three-parallel Rivers in China's southwest Yunnan province is a treasure house for conserving national ecology and biological diversity.

"In the past decade, Yunnan has seen marked improvement in ecology. Provincial forest coverage increased from 50.03% to 65.04%, and the forest stock mounted from 1.693 billion cubic meters to 2.067," said Liang Xudong, deputy director of Yunnan Development and Reform Commission.

When visiting the Erhai lakeside village of Gusheng in west Yunnan's Dali Bai autonomous prefecture in January 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized that economy should be developed, but not at the expense of destroying the ecological environment.

Since Xi's inspection tour to Yunnan, the province has further shown its capacity in green development, featuring green food production, clean

energy generation, biodiversity protection, and smart tourist services.

Last year, the province registered 1,528 geographical indications for local green food, organic products and agricultural products. Now Yunnan holds 1,781 valid certificates of organic products, ranking second in Chinese provinces, said Xinhua on March 10, adding Yunnan green foods have been exported to more than 110 countries and regions.

Moreover, Yunnan has joined hands with the neighboring Mekong countries in power supply. From January to June this year, Yunnan International Company of China Southern Power Grid finished trading 1.43 billion kWh of electricity with the Mekong countries of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, a year-on-year increase of 59.24%.

At the opening session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 16, Xi Jinping said, China will prioritize ecological protection, conserve resources and use them efficiently, and pursue green and low-carbon development.

(Yunnan Gateway)

## PEOPLE

### Yunnan teacher devotes life to girls' education

The year 1995 was the darkest time in Zhang Guimei's life, losing her beloved husband to cancer after spending all their savings trying to cure him. Before that, Zhang had lost her parents.

Feeling desperate, she applied to leave west Yunnan's Dali city, where she had worked with her husband as a teacher, and went to teach in remote mountainous Huaping county, Lijiang city, northwest Yunnan, a totally strange place for her.

"I wanted to find a place where nobody knew me or could remind me of any beautiful moment in my life. I was banishing myself," recalled Zhang, who was born in Heilongjiang province in 1957, and went to Yunnan province in 1974.

That decision changed not only her life, but also those of numerous children living in deep mountains. Although she was in darkness, she lit up the sky for others, and has been elected as a delegate to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

In 1997, she was diagnosed with uterine fibroids. Her colleagues and students donated money to help her, which moved her deeply and she wanted to repay them.

She noticed many girls dropped out of school, and after visiting their homes, she found poverty and outdated perceptions hindered parents in supporting their girls' education, and made them get married at a young age.

To change the situation, she made up her mind to establish a

high school, which would offer free access for local girls. She tried to collect money, but failed and was regarded as a swindler by many people.

An opportunity for change came when she was elected as a delegate to the 17th CPC National Congress in 2007. After receiving an interview talking about her wish, the local government helped Zhang realize her dream and in 2008 established the Lijiang Huaping High School for Girls, with Zhang as principal.

The first year welcomed 96 students, many of whom were poorly educated before entering the school.

"If girls from the mountainous area want to leave, we just offer a hand, to help them fly out to see a wider world," Zhang told China Global Television Network.

Since the school's establishment, more than 2,000 students have flown to the outside world and changed their lives, and the school has surged to be one of the best high schools in Lijiang.

Besides her work at the school, Zhang also serves as dean of the children's welfare home in Huaping, where she usually visits and cares for orphans.

Over the years, Zhang has reached almost every corner of Lijiang, and changed the destiny of many families. She is alone without any children, but she has become the mother of many orphans.

(China Daily)