

Reflections on Regional Cooperative Development in Yunnan Province under the New Situation

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Abstract: Under the new situation, some scholars believe that the world economic order is shifting to the Asian model. Under the guidance of the “The Two Centenary Goals” plan, China continues to move forward steadily. In the development strategy of China’s external layout, The Belt and Road Initiative has far-reaching significance. Significant progress has been made. In the future, it will play a greater role. Some progress has been made in the aspect of people-to-people bonds, which is the most important one in the five connectivity. This paper puts forward some thoughts on its development status.

1. Introduction

Promoted by the development of China and other late-developing countries, the traditional world economic order has experienced inevitable new situations, new contradictions and new trends in its transition to the Asian model. Foreign media forecast that late-developing countries are gradually becoming a group of emerging countries. Mr. Obama mentioned the Asia-Pacific rebalancing; Trump emphasized the United States priority. China’s development and foreign policy is that we do not export ideology or system. We hope to take a peaceful development road that requires both development and independence.

2. The Central Government is Operating from a Strategically Advantageous Position and Laying Out in “The Belt and Road” Initiative

The core of China’s diplomatic contains good wishes and development ideas, as well as the world outlook of building the community with a shared future for mankind. In the “Belt and Road” practice platform, we do not only go out, but also come in. In 2019, the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the Beijing Garden Expo and the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations were held. We should deepen understanding, strengthen cooperation and accelerate common development through the policy communication, trade connectivity and the civilization dialogue.

In terms of policy communication, we should strive to show that China will not become a hegemonic power even when we become a strong country. We need to strengthen high-level leadership and promote the integration of “Belt and Road” with the development strategies and plans of relevant countries and regions. The “Belt and Road” is a platform for consultation and development of all countries in the world, and it is by no means a solo stage of China.

In terms of smooth trading, the volume of trade cooperation has exceeded \$6 trillion. The focus of investment cooperation is to develop high-quality areas. In terms of financing, China is building a systematic project with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund as platforms. It can not only find investment fields and hot spots for liquidity financing of various countries, but also solve urgent development problems of late-developing countries, provide cooperation platforms for all parties involved and tackle capital and technology problems. The goals are achieving win-win cooperation and establishing a virtuous cycle mechanism. It also steadily promotes the process of RMB internationalization and enhances its ability to resist financial risks.

In terms of dialogue among civilizations, we held the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations which focuses on the exchanges and mutual learning among Asian civilizations and the theme of shared future. It provides spiritual support for the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

3. The Current Situation of People-to-People Bonds in the Five Connectivity of Yunnan Province and Reflection

3.1 Connectivity of policy

According the “Three Positioning” of the Central Committee, Yunnan Province holds a responsible attitude towards history, and makes every effort to upgrade the level of urban and rural planning in the whole province. Secondly, Yunnan Province, as an active practitioner of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, has unprecedented historical opportunities and new development orientation in foreign exchanges. It needs to set high standards and seek common development. Third, Yunnan seizes the opportunity of free trade area construction, strives for strategic support in the development of the Pan-Beibu Gulf Economic Zone, and works with neighboring countries to promote economic and trade cooperation, trying to become the radiation center of South-East Asia, so as to expand radiation sources and enhance radiation power.

It is worth mentioning that Yunnan locates in the southwest frontier. It plays an important role in stabilizing the frontier, maintaining national unity and demonstrating ecological civilization. We should set up a bottom-line thinking, pay special attention to the stability of the border areas, and spare no efforts in anti-gambling, anti-terrorism and explosion prevention.

3.2 Road connection

As an important node of in the Belt and Road, Yunnan has 25 international ports and is the province with the largest number of national border economic cooperation platforms. It borders Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam with a border of 4060 kilometers. In terms of railway network, the Trans-Asian Railway (the east line) will be implemented. The Trans-Asian Railway will benefit the ASEAN and China, and Kunming will become a transportation hub. In recent years, Yunnan has actively participated in the construction of the Indo-China Peninsula Economic Corridor, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism, and played an increasingly prominent role in the national strategy of opening out.

3.3 Connectivity of trade

3.3.1 Further expand cooperation in the field of tourism and health

There are abundant tourism resources in southwest provinces of China and the Southeast Asian countries. In terms of the relationship between supply and demand, the rigid demand has not been formed. How to establish a cooperative mechanism that can fully exploit the potential, transform tourism resources into commercial capital, exchange needed goods, and actually benefit the people? How to establish a long-term mechanism in health care industry, so as to avoid the short-term effects of general flexible or random activities, and truly serve the local people? Only by eliminating difficulties and answering questions of local people can we really get close to their hearts. In this regard, our experiences in Africa are worth learning.

It is undeniable that in foreign countries, the image of a small number of Chinese citizens is not good. The personal affairs are small, and our national image is a big issue. The government and schools can strengthen citizens' moral quality education, guide civilized behaviors and improve their quality. The construction of citizens' credit information system and the punishment of uncivilized behaviors can also help to construct socialist core values.

3.3.2 The connectivity of people (people-to-people bonds) through enterprise engineering construction

Development needs to return to rationality. The development of any country and region cannot

be separated from the peaceful and cooperative environment. Firstly, we need to carry forward the spirit of Silk Road and build a multi-dimensional dialogue platform. It requires us to hold the open and inclusive attitude, building mutual learning and mutual communication channels, so as to achieve mutual benefits and the win-win situation. Secondly, international communication also needs to be precise and effective. We need not only connect with governments' development plans, but also understand the ideas and needs of common people. Thirdly, in the process of implementation, we need to seek cooperation patterns which can bring benefits to the people, so that they can have a sense of gain and happiness, and form the sense of identity. In practice, three points should be paid attention to. First, we need to give them a sense of respect, respecting their national complex, religious beliefs and customs. Second, we should make the other party feel comfortable when negotiating. The arrogant attitude is unacceptable; we should not treat them with the attitude of giving. Third, we need to make the other party have more sense of gain when distributing interests, which requires precise investigation and research. Only by knowing what they need can we gain the leadership and win the negotiations. Finally, we need to pay attention to "three things we cannot do". First, the overall implementation of the project cannot be in a hurry. We need overall planning and steady progress, especially in some projects which are rejected by public opinion. The forced promotion can only be counterproductive, and cannot produce long-term effects. Second, the project which has been started cannot advance slowly. The projects should be divided into different stages, in order to make basic preparations for the work afterwards and exert the cumulative effect. Only when the people feel convenient and get tangible benefits can they gradually improve and support the project. Thirdly, the overall strategy should be planned in no delay. The Asian Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund have injected 300 billion yuan. Only by generating profits and improving people's livelihood can we achieve long-term benefits, so as to promote the mechanism improvement, the platform expansion and form a virtuous circle.

3.3.3 Avoid blindly pursuing economic benefits and form the new development idea of protecting environmental ecology and paying attention to human ecology

For enterprises, the connectivity of people (people-to-people bond) is a multi-level, multi-directional and multi-perspective project. We do not only need to strive for the connectivity with people abroad; Chinese enterprises also need to achieve the internal connectivity. Governments should avoid conflicts out of chasing short-term commercial interests and achievements. We should strive to achieve the high level win-win situation in foreign exchanges and cooperation. Enterprises should carry out benign competition through rolling out high-quality products and services. Chinese corporates should do business based on sincerity, which can inject vitality to the long-term development of countries along "the Belt and Road". The government need to provide more guidance and carry out researches on the country we cooperate with. Honesty is the foundation of enterprises. Companies should not seek quick success and instant benefits. To some extent, they need to respect local laws and regulations as well as the will of the people, especially their religious believes. They cannot destroy the ecology of "border areas" along the "Belt and Road" in the exchange for short-term economic benefits, since this kind of development is not sustainable. In practice, we should uphold the spirit of enterprise, give back to the society and take various measures to benefit the people. For example, we can carry out counterpart education, skill cultivation, poverty alleviation, literacy education, health care, resource sharing and other activities. In this regard, we can still draw on experiences in Africa.

Enterprises in Yunnan should enhance their sense of self-reliance and self-improvement. There are not many local products; the main products such as tobacco and coffee are not open to the outside world. To avoid of being a transit place, we need to continue opening up, improve the industrial structure, make up the shortcomings of the industrial chain, focus on strengthening green and ecological brands, and build a health base as well as an industrial chain. We can seek more guidance and support from the government, conduct in-depth research and explore the positive interaction among green ecology, industrial development, the integrity of industrial chain as well as the upgrading of independent R&D technology capabilities. In the information technology

revolution, we should pay more attention to thinking innovation, trying to open up new paths and achieve the leapfrog development.

3.4 The most important link in the five connectivity, the people-to-people bonds face barriers in language and culture communication

3.4.1 Education for overseas students in colleges and universities.

Yunnan has some well-known educational brands. It is becoming an important destination for Southeast Asian students to study in China. In 2015, the numbers of international students enrolled in Yunnan's universities exceeded 10,000, so as the number of foreign students in primary and secondary schools. The figures rank tenth in our country. The number of central and Southeast Asian students enrolled in schools reaches about 22,000. The 20,000 small overseas students will play an important role. They will return home and become pillar talents for the development of all walks of life in Southeast Asia in the next 30 years. Therefore, during the period of study in Yunnan, they need to deeply experience China's development, understand Chinese customs, and have a further understanding and recognition of win-win development. Afterwards, they will become the bridge between China, especially the Yunnan Province and Southeast Asian countries. To improve this channel, we can set up the archives to track students' development, which can provide reference for the improvement of overseas education system, provide basis for the follow-up development of overseas students, and keep records on talents for the future cooperation in various fields. The second method is building Confucius Institutes. The project has been carried out and achieved favorable results. It covers a wide range of areas, but also arouses controversy. There are more than 500 Confucius Institutes in the world, of which 1/4 located in the United States. These schools mainly provide Chinese education. The effects on cultural and popular exchange are not significant. There are even voices that Confucius Institutes are channels of exporting Chinese ideology. Under that situation, it is necessary for Confucius Institutes to think and change educational levels and contents, as well as the communication methods. They need to change the simple concept of school running, change the position of thinking, expand the implementation path, and display the excellent traditional Chinese cultural ideas. Third, the insufficient talent support as well as the lack of compound and research talents have become bottlenecks restricting foreign exchanges. Colleges and universities can build a multi-level, wide-ranging and multi-channel education and training system according to their own development features and regional development plans. Models include the Chinese + vocational education training program, bilingual + skilled personnel training program, bilingual teacher training base, bilingual + Southeast Asian legal personnel training program and so on. Some scholars have pointed out that special talents cultivated by China should meet five criteria: understanding the language, becoming a friend for people in the target country, understanding policies, understanding laws and regulations, and understanding the art of communication. In particular, it is pointed out that special scholarships can be offered by the government project to train high-level personnel for future public service.

But at the same time, we must face up to the problem that China and Southeast Asia do not have the ability of carrying out good the dialogues. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once mentioned the “elephant theory” when he commented China. Some Vietnamese nationals are not friendly to the Chinese; people in the border areas feel the hostility most deeply. It is true that Singapore still maintains a conservative attitude towards China, while backward countries such as Vietnam still exclude and retain China. They hold complex attitudes. The “China Threat Theory” needs to be answered positively. In order to play the unique role of soft radiation, it is necessary to understand the concerns of other nationals and to guide them positively. Only through summarizing and refining can we form the Yunnan model.

3.4.2 Create a better life though people-to people bonds

The importance of people-to people bonds is self-evident. Under the new situation, we should consider the “Belt and Road” Initiative from the new vision. It is not only the investment on infrastructure such as roads, it is the development strategy of China's external layout which covers

political, economic, cultural, military and other fields. The “Belt and Road” Initiative and platform can help the implementation of the “The Two Centenary Goals” plan, which is related to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and provides the historical opportunity for Yunnan to achieve leapfrog development. We must have the comprehensive outlook, as well as the sense of historical mission and responsibility, and work together to safeguard the peaceful development. The spirit of Silk Road in history is still applicable today. Every Chinese who go out and every employee in overseas projects represent the image of China. In other words, these “micro images” relate to the people-to-people bonds as well as the overall image of our country. Every detail of engineering quality, product quality and citizens’ quality can be perceived by all parties in the interaction between China and foreign countries.

4. Conclusion

Every Chinese who go out have the responsibility and obligation to maintain the image of the country. Chinese citizens have the ability of completing the project with high quality; they need to consciously disseminate the spirit of China. The traditional spirit of peace-loving, good-neighborly tolerance, win-win cooperation as well as innovation and enterprising spirit that being inherited by the Chinese people for thousands of years should be brought to all parts of the world, so as to achieve the development goals of peaceful discussion and win-win results.

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