

Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries

(May 13-May 26, 2025)

People's Republic of China

Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), Beijing

SEMINAR REPORT



Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris
Member
Indigenous Nationalities Commission
August 28, 2025

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Pan Yue, Minister of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China, for inviting me to participate in this seminar. I am also deeply thankful to His Excellency Mr. Chen Song, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Nepal, for his support. My heartfelt thanks go to the Academy for International Business Officials (Training Center of the Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China) for providing the platform and resources that made this seminar so valuable. I am especially grateful to Mr. Wu Wei, Director of the Executive Department of AIBO, MOFCOM, for his insightful guidance, and to AIBO officials Ms. Wang Yang, Ms. Zhang Siyu, and Mr. Li Zhennan for their constant support.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Wang Zhi (Vice President), Ms. Gulibanumu Kebaituli (Vice Dean), Mr. Zang Ning (Deputy Director), and the officials of Minzu University; Mr. Wei Guoxiong (Director General), Mr. Zhao Jing (Deputy Director General), and Ms. Qiu Peng (Director) of NEAC; as well as the Director General, Deputy Director General, and officials of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province. I am equally grateful to Mr. Li Jing Wei (Deputy Director) and the officials of the Anshun Ethnic District Commission for their warm welcome and hospitality. Finally, I would like to express my special gratitude to the Government of China for conferring upon me the honour of vice-ministerial level during my visit.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the seminar speakers, Professor Ran Jijun, Former Consul Yang Baozhen, Professor He Wenping, Deputy Director Li Jiyong (NEAC), Professor Wang Wei, Professor Liu Baoming, and Mr. Lu Gui (Minzu University), for sharing their expertise and insights during the Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices. Their engaging and informative presentations on topics such as Overview of China's National Conditions and Chinese Modernization, The Governance Philosophy of China's Leaders, Practices of the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative, Important Thoughts of General Secretary Xi Jinping on Strengthening and Improving Ethnic Work, Policies and Practices of China's Ethnic Unity and Progress, Achievements of the Communist Party of China in Ethnic Affairs in the New Era, and Safeguarding Ethnic Unity through Law added immense value to the seminar.

I am also deeply grateful to all participants from Cuba, Ecuador, Gambia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Sri Lanka, and Nepal for their active engagement and meaningful contributions throughout the program. Special thanks go to my companions, Mr. Resham Gurung and Mr. Nurahari Khakiwada, for their support during this journey.

This report is based on the speakers' presentations, the study tours in Guizhou Province, Minzu University, and the Great Wall, as well as symposiums with NEAC and the provincial and district ethnic commissions, along with the valuable insights shared by fellow participants.

Table of contents

Executive Summary	1
Background	4
Nepal and China relations	4
Belt and Road Initiative	4
About AIBO	4
Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries	4
Opening Ceremony	4
Presentation Session	10-20
Overview of China's National Conditions & Chinese Modernization	
- Professor Ran Jijun	10
The Governance Philosophy of China's Leaders - Ms. Yang Baozhe	10
Practices of the Belt & Road Initiative & Global Development Initiative	
- Prof. He Wenping	10
Important Thoughts of General Secretary Xi Jinping on Strengthening & Improving Ethnic Work	
- Mr. Li Jiyong	10
Policies and Practices of China's Ethnic Unity and Progress - Prof. Wang Wei	10
Achievements of the Communist Party of China in Ethnic Affairs in the New Era	
- Prof. Liu Baoming	10
Safeguarding Ethnic Unity through Law - lecturer Mr. Lu Gui	10
Ethnic Policies and Practices	30-40
Regional Ethnic Autonomy System	31
Regional Ethnic Autonomy System in China	31
Administrative divisions	32
Introduction to Beijing Municipality	35
Introduction to Guizhou Province	37
Ethnic Autonomous Administrative Divisions in Guizhou Province	38
Guizhou Cultural & Natural Heritage Protection & Development Project	40
Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Policy Focusing on Ethnic Minority Areas	41
Introduction to Guiyang City	41
Introduction to Anshun City	42
Cultural Heritage Protection program in China	42
Officially recognized Ethnic groups	42
National Ethnic Affairs Commission	42
On-site Instruction and Symposium	36-40
On-site Instruction 1: Common Prosperity of China's Multi-ethnic Cultures, Visit to Minzu University of China	10
On-site Instruction 2: Ethnic Work in Guizhou Province, Symposium with the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province	38
On-site Instruction 3a: Visit Longjing Village in Huaxi District, Investigate the Protection of Ethnic Villages and the Development of Ethnic Handicrafts	10

On-site Instruction 3b: Visit Qingyan Ancient Town, Investigate the Protection and inheritance of Ethnic Culture, Cultural and Tourism Integration Development, and the Exchange and Integration of Ethnic Groups (Less Developed Areas Investigation)	10
On-site Instruction 4: Visit the "Exhibition of Cultural Relics and Ancient Books on Forging a Strong Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation" at the Cultural Palace of Nationalities	10
On-site Instruction 5: National Ethnic Affairs Departments and Achievements in Ethnic Policies of Various Countries	10
Study Tour	31-40
Study Tour 1: Visit to a World Cultural Heritage Site-The Great Wall	10
Study Tour 2: Visit to a Chinese Commodity Market-Longde Plaza	10
Study Tour 3: Guiyang City Construction Tour	10
Study Tour 4a: Visit to Jinyuan Community in Guanshanhu District, Guiyang City	10
Study Tour 4b: Visit to Guizhou Provincial Museum	10
Study Tour 5: Investigate Guizhou Ethnic Trade and Handicraft Enterprises - Colorful Guizhou Guiyang Industrial Development Co., Ltd. (Cultural and Creative Park of Guizhou Scenery Eye)	10
Study Tour 6: Travel to Anshun City, Guizhou Province, Visit Balinghe Bridge and Bridge Museum, Investigate Guizhou's Transportation Development in Boosting Socio-Economic Growth & Enhancing Exchanges, Integration, & Interactions Among Ethnic Groups	10
Introduction to Anshun City	67
Study Tour 7: A. Visit to Huangguoshu Waterfall- Assessment of Ethnic Unity Promotion through Tourism Development	10
B. Visit to Anshun Rainbow Community- Observation of Embedded Development Practices of Ethnic Groups	10
C. Visit to Awai Village -Investigation on conservation of Traditional Ethnic Villages and Intangible Cultural Heritage	10
Basic Chinese Practice	76
Summary of Study and Questionnaire	77
Closing Ceremony	88
Outcomes of the Seminar	77
Conclusion	77
Suggestions	88
Reference	88

Executive Summary

The Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries was convened in Beijing, China, from 13 to 26 May 2025, under the auspices of the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. The program brought together 24 participants from eight partner countries (Nepal, Cuba, Ecuador, Gambia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, and Sri Lanka), reflecting the diversity and breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative's collaborative network.

The seminar was designed to deepen participants' understanding of China's ethnic policy framework and its practical applications in cultural preservation, poverty alleviation, and inclusive governance. Beyond knowledge transmission, the program sought to cultivate dialogue, mutual learning, and institutional capacity-building, thereby contributing to the strengthening of intercultural understanding and policy innovation across BRI partner countries.

The seminar adopted a blended methodology that combined theoretical instruction with experiential learning. Interactive lectures, roundtable discussions, and participatory workshops were complemented by cultural exchanges and on-site field visits. This structure enabled participants to engage not only with conceptual perspectives but also with real-world practices, thus fostering comparative analysis, hands-on exploration, and cross-cultural appreciation.

The substantive content of the seminar was organized around three interrelated domains. The first focused on China's ethnic policy framework, examining the legal foundations of regional autonomy, mechanisms for the protection of ethnic minority rights, and the representative roles of institutions such as the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The second emphasized cultural preservation and revitalization, exploring strategies for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including language, crafts, and festivals, while integrating traditional resources into contemporary cultural industries. The third addressed poverty alleviation and development in ethnic regions, highlighting targeted approaches such as vocational training, eco-tourism, and infrastructure investment, and considering their potential adaptation to the contexts of BRI partner countries.

Structurally, the seminar comprised three main components: Presentation Sessions, On-site Instruction and Symposiums, and Study Tours. The Presentation Sessions featured contributions from seven distinguished speakers, including five senior academics, a former consul, and the Deputy Director of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission (NEAC). Five On-site Instruction and Symposium activities were conducted, three in Beijing and two in Guizhou Province, providing participants with direct exposure to policy implementation and local governance practices. Complementing these, seven Study Tours, two in Beijing and five in Guizhou, enabled participants to observe community-level initiatives, cultural heritage sites, and development projects in practice.

Set against the broader context of globalization and the Belt and Road Initiative, the seminar underscored cultural diversity and inclusive governance as fundamental pillars for social stability, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. By sharing China's experiences and innovations in ethnic policy and governance, the program offered insights of

potential relevance and adaptability for participating countries. Importantly, the seminar emphasized not the replication but the exchange of ideas, encouraging participants to reflect on how lessons learned might inform locally appropriate strategies for harmonizing modernization with cultural preservation, safeguarding minority rights, and advancing equitable development.

In this spirit, the seminar served as both a platform for academic inquiry and a forum for cross-cultural dialogue, reaffirming the value of shared learning in strengthening the foundations of cooperation and mutual prosperity across the BRI community.

Background

The Indigenous Nationalities Commission (INC) of Nepal proposed an exposure visit to the National Ethnic Affairs Commission (NEAC) of China through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 5, 2024. The objective was to advance a strategic partnership of cooperation featuring ever-lasting friendship for development and prosperity between China and Nepal, and to promote the exchange of experiences in governing ethnic affairs between the two commissions. In response to this proposal, Ms. QIU Peng, Director of the International Department of NEAC, contacted Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris, a member of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission, by email and telephone on May 6, 2024, regarding a formal invitation and visit arrangements for the NEAC delegation. NEAC expressed its wish to visit Nepal in mid-August 2024. Referring to this request, and in relation to a six-member Chinese delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Pan Yue, Minister of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China, the INC sent a formal invitation on May 12, 2024. The proposed official programs for the NEAC delegation in Nepal were later postponed due to the Mid-Autumn Festival in China (September 15–17, 2024). Instead, NEAC requested that the INC delegation visit China from September 17–22, 2024. Accordingly, the INC delegation, headed by Hon. Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa Magar and comprising four members (Hon. Ms. Rina Rana, Hon. Mr. Sharan Rai, Hon. Mr. Surya Bahadur Gurung, and Deputy Secretary Mr. Tek Prasad Pulami), visited China during that period.

Subsequently, Honourable Minister Mr. PAN Yue (Ph.D.) of NEAC led a six-member delegation to Nepal from February 23 to 26, 2025. The delegation included Mr. WEI Guoxiong, Director General of the International Department of NEAC; Mr. XU Fubang, Deputy Director General of the Department for National Solidarity of NEAC; Ms. QIU Peng, Director of the International Department of NEAC; Mr. CHEN Xicong, Deputy Director of the General Office of NEAC; and Mr. QU Qiang, Deputy Dean of the School of Journalism & Communication of Minzu University of China. On the evening of February 23, 2025, the Indigenous Nationalities Commission organized a welcome dinner for the Chinese delegation at the Sa Sa Twa Newari Restaurant in Kirtipur. As per the official program, INC members accompanied the NEAC delegation on a three-day tour of heritage and cultural sites, including the World Heritage sites Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, Hanumandhoka Durbar Square, and Swayambhunath, as well as the Narayanhiti Durbar Museum, the National Museum, and the Jyapu Museum. A meeting with the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Hon. Mr. Badri Pande, was held on February 24, 2025,

at Singhadurbar. On February 25, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between INC and NEAC at Hilton Hotel, Naxal, in a ceremony attended by Indigenous leaders and mayors. The visit concluded with a closing ceremony and farewell dinner hosted at Dwarika's Hotel, Battisputali.

During a visit to historical sites in Nepal, accompanied by Hon. Member Dr. Min Bahadur Shris of INC, His Excellency Mr. Pan Yue, Minister of NEAC of China, extended an invitation to visit China. Subsequently, on March 26, 2025, a cordial invitation and diplomatic note were received from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, requesting the nomination of one board member (vice-minister level) from the INC to participate in the 'Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries', organized by the Academy for International Business Officials, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), to be held in Beijing from May 13–26, 2025.

In response, a delegation led by Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris (Member of INC), accompanied by Secretary Nurhari Khatiwada and Mr. Resham Gurung (Vice President, NFDIN), departed from Kathmandu to Beijing via Chengdu on May 12, 2025, aboard Sichuan Airlines.

Nepal and China relations

The friendly exchanges between China and Nepal have a long history, dating back over a thousand years. This history is filled with rich cultural interactions. Nepal and China are connected by the majestic Himalayas and great rivers, and their peoples have been intertwined since prehistoric times. The culture of the Kathmandu Valley has preserved the mythical legend of Manjushree (known as Wen Su in China), who is said to have come to Nepal from Wutai Mountain in China to venerate the self-created fire of Swayambhunath, which once burned over the lake that formed the Kathmandu Valley. A gorge in Chovar, carved to drain this lake, is credited to him. He is also said to have erected the Swayambhunath stupa on the hill from which the fire emanated. Popular legend attributes to Manjushree the founding of the Valley's first human settlement, known as "Manjupattan," which was shaped like his sword. In subsequent centuries, this settlement evolved into the city of Kathmandu, and it is said that the chariot-pulling festivals continue to trace the ancient city's contours to this very day. Putting aside the myths, anthropologists have identified migration streams involving people of Tibeto-Burman-Mongoloid descent from the northeast and the Khasa people from Central Asia and western China. These groups intermixed with the indigenous Kirat people of Nepal. In particular, the Kathmandu Valley served as a melting pot for these diverse streams, giving rise to the Newar community, a community that transcends a single homogeneous ethnic group. Recent research has even indicated that the genetic makeup of some Newar people is similar to that of inhabitants of China's Yellow River basin.

Moreover, Buddhism has played a significant role in bringing Nepal and China closer culturally. Buddhism is one of the three major philosophies in China. Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, was known to Chinese pilgrims as early as the first century AD. Scholar-monks from China, such as Tseng Tsai, Fa Xian, and Xuan Zhang, visited Lumbini and even

Kathmandu. In contrast, Master Buddhahadra (also known as Batuo) of Nepal traveled to China around the fifth century AD, where he served as the first abbot of the Shaolin Temple and played a key role in propagating dhyana Buddhism, known in China as Chan Buddhism. Bhrikuti (Khri b Tsun) and Araniko (Anige) also contributed tremendously to the spread of Buddhist religion, culture, art, and crafts in Tibet and China. The Ranjana script of Nepal, also known as Lanza, appears in many Buddhist temples in China, while Thangka paintings draw inspiration from the Paubha paintings of the Newars. These ancient cultural ties are further strengthened today through annual cultural festivals and exchanges between Nepal and China. The famed Nepali architect Araniko designed the White Pagoda of Miaoying Temple in Beijing during the Yuan Dynasty. This structure not only showcases the unique charm of Nepali architecture but has also become a cultural landmark in Beijing's Xicheng District, attracting many tourists and standing as a vivid testament to the enduring cultural exchange between our nations.

Nepal and China established formal diplomatic relations on August 1, 1955, marking a significant milestone in a relationship that had long benefited from strong cultural and economic ties. In 2025, the two countries are celebrating the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. In 2019, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Nepal, during which the leaders of both countries jointly announced the elevation of China–Nepal relations to a strategic cooperative partnership for development and prosperity, thereby injecting new momentum into our bilateral relationship. From December 2nd to 5th, 2024, Nepal's Prime Minister, Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, visited China.

Belt and Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative is a global infrastructure development strategy initiated by the Chinese government in 2013, aimed at investing in projects in more than 150 countries and with international organizations. It comprises six overland corridors connected by roads, railways, energy networks, and digital infrastructure, as well as the Maritime Silk Road, which is linked through the development of ports. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative between the Chinese and Nepalese governments was signed on May 12, 2017, outlining a framework for collaboration. Both sides will jointly develop the Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network by constructing ports, roads (including bridges and tunnels), railways, aviation infrastructure, telecommunication projects, and electricity transmission lines to enhance connectivity. Essentially, the Belt and Road Initiative is a modern revival of the ancient Silk Roads, which once spanned vast land and maritime routes. Nepal was part of these historic routes, and researchers have claimed that at least three Silk Roads passed through the country. These routes, bent toward the southwest, appear to have been influenced by pilgrimages to Lumbini, as well as by the trade of silk, wool, salt, gold, and rice between China and India via Nepal.

The Silk Road began in north-central China in Xi'an (in modern Shaanxi province). A caravan track stretched west along the Great Wall of China, across the Pamirs, through Afghanistan, and into the Levant and Anatolia. The Silk Road is neither an actual road nor a single route. The term instead refers to a network of routes used by traders for more than

1,500 years, from when the Han dynasty of China opened trade in 130 B.C.E. until 1453 C.E., when the Ottoman Empire closed off trade with the West. The Silk Road was the longest ancient overland trade route. Its length was about 4,000 miles (more than 6,400 km). It began to trade silk for horses. There were 5 Silk Roads from China. Marco Polo was the most famous Silk Road trader.

While Nepal wasn't a primary route of the classical Silk Road, it was connected to it through secondary trade routes, particularly the Trans-Himalayan route and the Kaligandaki River valley. These routes facilitated trade and cultural exchange between India, Tibet, and Central Asia, with Nepal playing a role as a gateway and intermediary. Trans-Himalayan route, opened in the 7th century, linked Nepal to Tibet and Central Asia, with a significant influx of people accompanying the Nepali princess Bhrikuti to Tibet. Kaligandaki River Valley route, along the Kali Gandaki River, connected Varanasi and Bodhgaya in India with Kapilvastu, Lumbini, Butwal, and Ridi in Nepal, continuing to Mustang, West Tibet, and beyond. Nepal's geographic position, especially the Kathmandu Valley, made it a crucial link between India, Tibet, and the broader Silk Road network. It served as a gateway for Buddhist monks and merchants traveling between India and China, offering a shorter, though sometimes less secure, route than other options. Historical evidence, including petroglyphs in Mustang and trade settlements along the Kaligandaki, indicates the significance of these routes in the past.

About AIBO

Academy for International Business Officials, also known as Training Center of the Ministry of Commerce, is the only educational and training institution affiliated to the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), People's Republic of China. Situated in the famous Xiaotangshan Longmai hot spring area, Changping District, near the riverside of Wenyu River and covering an area of nearly 40 hectare with the total floor area of over 100,000 m², AIBO enjoys beautiful environment and has all necessary facilities. AIBO is the first to organize seminars for officials from other developing countries since 1998. It has actively practiced the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity and made great efforts to act as a platform to build consensus and enhance mutual trust, to promote exchanges and cooperation. By the end of 2023, AIBO has successfully organized more than 2300 seminars and workshops, and have received more than 60000 officials from 160 countries and regions throughout the world.

Seminars organized by AIBO cover a large range of topics such as economic administration, trade and investment, city planning and administration, telecommunication, port and inland waterway management, transportation, construction of development zones, logistic management, development of natural resources, international labor cooperation, urban-rural coordinated development, wireless communication and digital TV technology, clean energy.



Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries

In an era of deepening globalization and transnational cooperation, cultural diversity and inclusive governance have emerged as critical pillars for fostering social stability, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as a platform for multilateral collaboration, intersects with the rich cultural tapestries of its partner nations, where ethnic cohesion, cultural preservation, and equitable policy frameworks are essential to harmonizing development ambitions with local identities. Many BRI countries face challenges in balancing modernization with ethnic heritage, managing intergroup relations, and designing policies that empower marginalized communities while maintaining national unity. China's decades of experience in ethnic policy innovation-rooted in principles of unity in diversity, regional autonomy, and targeted poverty alleviation-offer valuable insights for BRI partners seeking to navigate similar complexities. By addressing the interplay of ethnic inclusivity, cultural revitalization, and socioeconomic equity, this seminar seeks to advance cross-border dialogue and collaborative strategies to strengthen social cohesion and shared prosperity across the BRI region.

This seminar aims to provide BRI partner countries with a comprehensive understanding of China's ethnic policy frameworks, practical models for cultural preservation, and strategies for integrating ethnic minority rights into national development agendas. By facilitating knowledge exchange on conflict resolution, multilingual education, and participatory governance, the seminar will empower policymakers to design inclusive, context-sensitive policies that respect cultural diversity while promoting social harmony. Through collaborative workshops and field studies, the initiative seeks to forge a shared vision of multicultural coexistence, enhance cross-BRI cultural diplomacy, and build institutional capacities to address ethnic disparities, thereby reinforcing the BRI's role as a bridge for civilizational dialogue and people-centered development.

The seminar focused on the following 3 content:

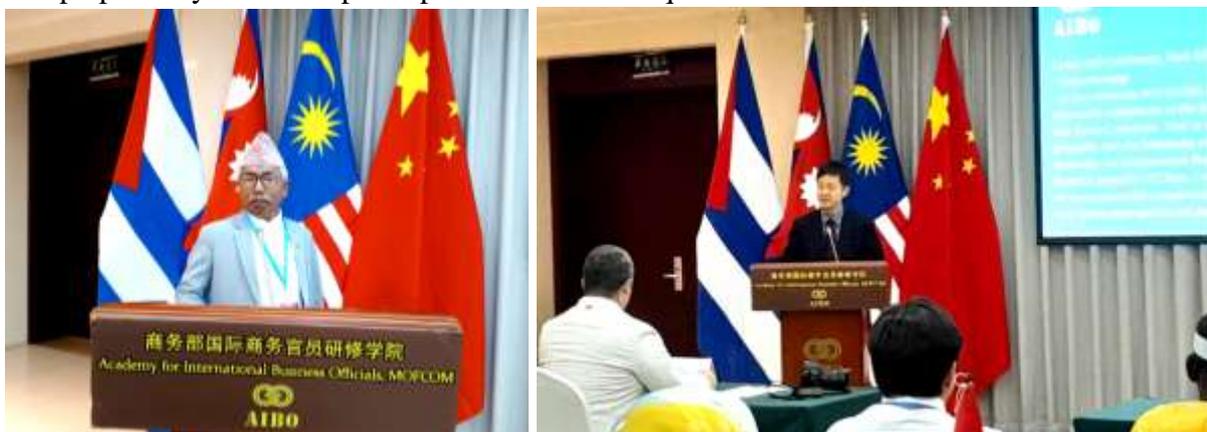
- 1. China's Ethnic Policy Framework:** Legal foundations of regional ethnic autonomy, mechanisms for safeguarding minority rights, and the role of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in ethnic representation.
- 2. Cultural Preservation & Revitalization:** Case studies on protecting intangible heritage (e.g., traditional crafts, festivals, languages) and integrating ethnic arts into modern industries.
- 3. Poverty Alleviation in Ethnic Regions:** China's targeted strategies for uplifting minority communities, including vocational training, eco-tourism development, and infrastructure investments in remote areas.

The method of the seminar has been adopted combine interactive lectures, roundtable discussions, and immersive field visits. 1. **Participatory Workshops:** Delegates have engaged in scenario-based simulations, designing inclusive policy drafts for hypothetical multi-ethnic communities or evaluating case studies on heritage conservation conflicts. 2. **Cultural Exchanges:** Traditional performances, craft demonstrations, and culinary showcases have deepened understanding of China's ethnic diversity while encouraging delegates to present their own cultural narratives.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held at the lecture hall, first floor of AIBO administration building on Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 11 am. Welcoming remarks from Mr. Wu Wei, Director of Executive Department at AIBO, MOFCOM, presented the seminar as an opportunity to share a common vision for fostering social stability, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. The seminar seeks to advance cross-border dialogue and collaborative strategies to strengthen social cohesion and shared prosperity across the BRI region. He noted that as a Chinese saying goes, “A single flower does not make spring; one hundred flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden”. Since its establishment in 1949, China has forged ahead, moving from poverty and backwardness towards strength and prosperity. The Chinese people will always remember the support and help that China has received from other countries and international organizations. Upholding the belief that all countries are members of a global village with shared future, China is willing to share its experience without reservation to improve development capacity and optimize development partnerships, so as to build fairer and more equitable international relations, and steadfastly contributes to global development. He highlighted that seminars of this kind are concrete actions taken by the Chinese government to promote communication and understanding between China and other developing countries and create synergy for common development and prosperity.

Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris, member from Indigenous Nationalities Commission of Nepal, as a chief guest of Ceremonies on that day of the seminar presented the heartfelt thanks to NEAC and AIBO for providing the opportunity to participate in this valuable seminar. He mentioned that to foster mutual respect and cooperation, the Indigenous Nationalities Commission of Nepal and the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of China have established an official relationship. A MoU to enhance bilateral relations between the two commissions was signed on February 25, 2025. He also noted that this seminar will have a lasting impact on professional development and will prove invaluable in addressing ethnic policies and practices. Future collaborations and learning in the field of ethnic policies and practices will be continued. Dr. Shris also welcomed to 24 participants from Cuba, Ecuador, Gambia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Nepal for cooperation in the field of ethnic minority. Ms. Wang Yang, seminar coordinator of AIBO, served as the host for opening ceremony on the first day of the seminar. The welcome luncheon was prepared by AIBO for participants at Grand Banquet hall of AIBO restaurant.



Hon. Dr. Min Bdr Shris, member of INC & Mr. Wu Wei, Director of Executive Department at AIBO, addressing the opening ceremony on May 13, 2025



Participants and AIBO staffs at the Opening ceremony held at the Administrative Building



AIBO Director & Participants at the welcome luncheon at Grand Banquet hall of AIBO restaurant.

Presentation Session

The presentation session of this seminar involved seven invited speakers, among them five speakers were university professors, one former consul and one Deputy Director of NEAC. These sessions were structured to allow experts to share their findings and for participants to engage with the material and each other. Participants were involved in discussion and interaction during the presentation program. At the beginning of each session Moderator of AIBO introduced speakers, managed time, and facilitated the Q&A. The presentation session was very effective and well-managed. Professor Ran Jijun, Dean of English Department at CFAU, and former consul Ms. Yang Baozhen has given lecture on Wednesday May 14, 2025 the first day of this session.

Overview of China's National Conditions & Chinese Modernization- Prof. Ran Jijun

He provided brief information about Chinese history, the rise of the Chinese Communist Party, the stages of China's development, the current situation, and the state of China's political and social development.



Professor Ran Jijun & Participants at the Lecturer Hall

Major Chinese dynasties, in chronological order

Dynasty	Dates (BCE/CE)	Dynasty	Dates (BCE/CE)
Xia	c. 2100 – c. 1600 BCE	Shang	c. 1600 – c. 1046 BCE
Zhou	c. 1046 – 256 BCE	Qin	221 – 206 BCE
Han	206 BCE – 220 CE	Sui	581 – 618 CE
Tang	618 – 907 CE	Song	960 – 1279 CE
Yuan	1271 – 1368 CE	Ming	1368 – 1644 CE
Qing	1644 – 1912 CE		

China's political history is marked by long periods of dynastic rule, followed by a period of republicanism and then the establishment of the People's Republic of China under communist rule. The dynastic era, characterized by strong central governments and emperors, saw periods of unity and division among various dynasties. The Qing dynasty, the last imperial dynasty, ended in 1911 with the Xinhai Revolution, leading to the formation of the Republic of China. The Republic of China, initially led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, faced challenges including warlordism, Japanese invasion, and a civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists. The Communist Party of China (CPC), commonly known as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), founded in 1921 ultimately prevailed, establishing the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. Since 1949, the PRC has been governed as a communist state under the leadership of the CCP. The CCP maintains a tight grip on political power, with a focus on economic development and maintaining social stability. With over 90 million members, it is the largest political party in the world.

Membership in the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee (CC), which consists of around 200 full members and about 150 alternate members, does reflect political power and influence within China's top decision-making structure. The Central Committee is one of the three top decision-making bodies in China's political system, with the Politburo Standing Committee being the most powerful. The structure of the CPC Central Committee can

be understood through its various components and their roles. At the top is the Politburo Standing Committee, which is the highest-ranking body within the CPC, making major political decisions. The Politburo is made up of 25 senior members, including those in the Standing Committee, holding senior government or regional leadership positions. The Central Committee itself consists of leaders from provincial governments, the military and state-owned businesses, and it convenes meetings annually. The Standing Committee is composed of seven members, including the General Secretary of the CCP. It holds de facto power over the Central Committee, which is the larger body. The current General Secretary of the CCP, and thus the head of the Standing Committee, is Xi Jinping. When the Central Committee is not in session, the Politburo and its Standing Committee handle most duties & responsibilities. Secretariat supervises central party organizations and implements Politburo and Standing Committee decisions.

	Standing Committee of Politburo	Politburo Members	
Party Organs	1	5	6
NPC	1	1	2
State Council	2	3	5
CPPCC	1	0	1
CCDI	1	1	2
Military	1	2	3
Local	0	6	6
Total	7	18	25

Central Committee has various departments, including the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (IDCPC), which handles the party's external relations. Additionally, there's the United Front Work Department, which focuses on engaging with individuals and groups outside the CCP, including those in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and overseas. Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) is responsible for party discipline and internal oversight. Other departments Central Financial Commission, Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, Central Rural Work Leading Group, Central International Liaison Department, Central Organization Department, Central Policy Research Office, Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, Central Publicity Department, Central Science and Technology Commission, Central Taiwan Affairs Office, General Office, General Office of the Central Committee for Financial & Economic Affairs, General Office of the Central Committee for Foreign Affairs, General Office of the Central Institutional Organization Commission, International Communications Office, & Working Committee of Central & State Organs.

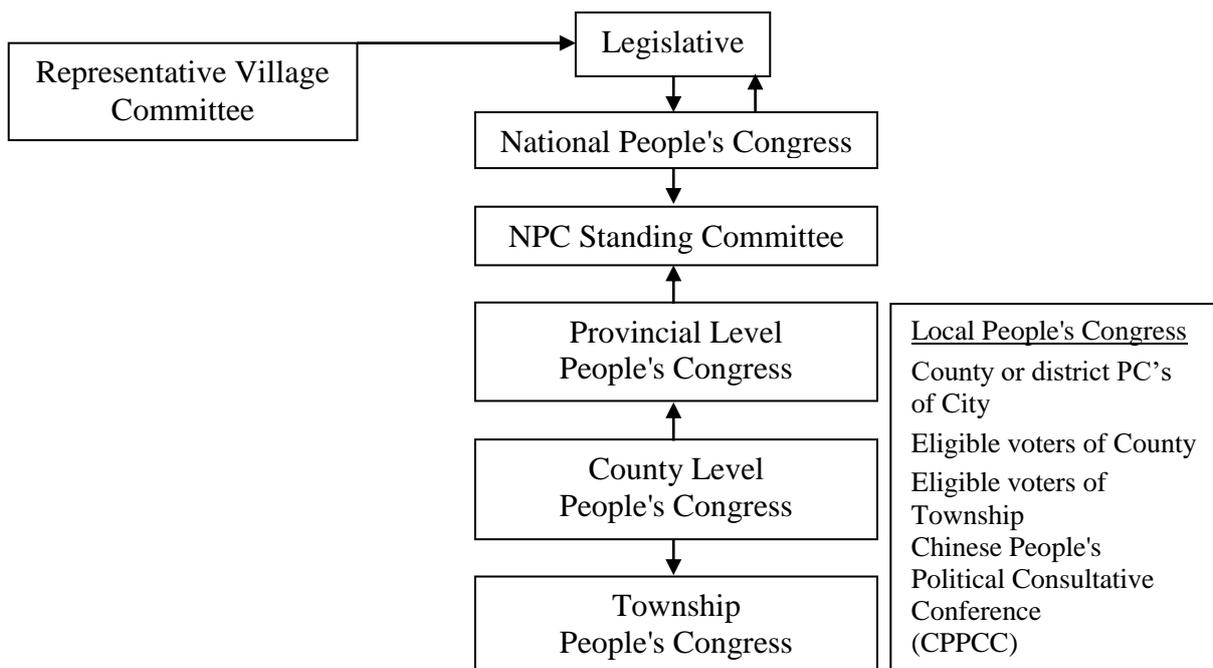
There are 3,200 local Party committees at all levels across China, including 31 provincial-level committees, 397 municipal (prefectural) committees, and 2,772 county (city, district, banner) committees. The 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC), where 2,280 delegates attended, is representing 89 million CPC members nationwide. These delegates were largely elected from electoral units across the country, with 2,280 qualifications confirmed valid out of 2,287 elected, and 74 special delegates were also invited to attend with equal

rights. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2017 had 2,280 delegates, with a notable increase in grassroots representation, including a significant proportion of workers (8.7%), farmers (3.8%), intellectuals (12.4%), women (24.2%), and minority members (11.5%), and 70.6% of delegates were under 55 years old.

Representation proportion in 1st to 13th National People's Congress (NPC)

NPC	year	deputies	CCP members	Ppl's Lbr Army	women	minorities
1st	1954	1226	54%	5%	12%	14%
2nd	1959	1226	58%	5%	12%	15%
3rd	1964	3040	55%	4%	18%	12%
4th	1975	2885	77%	17%	23%	9%
5th	1978	3497	73%	14%	21%	11%
6th	1983	2978	62%	9%	21%	14%
7th	1988	2970	67%	9%	21%	15%
8th	1993	2978	68%	9%	21%	15%
9th	1998	2979	72%	9%	22%	14%
10th	2003	2984	73%	9%	20%	14%
11th	2008	2987	70%	9%	21%	14%
12th	2013	2987	70%	9%	23%	14%
13th	2018	2980	71%	9%	25%	15%

The National People's Congress (NPC) is the highest organ of state power in China. It is the legislative body of the country, and its primary function is to exercise the legislative power of the state. The NPC is elected for a five-year term. The NPC is not the same as the National Congress of the Communist Party of China (NCCPC), which is the highest authority of the Communist Party of China. The NPC is the highest organ of state power, while the NCCPC is the highest organ of the ruling Communist Party.



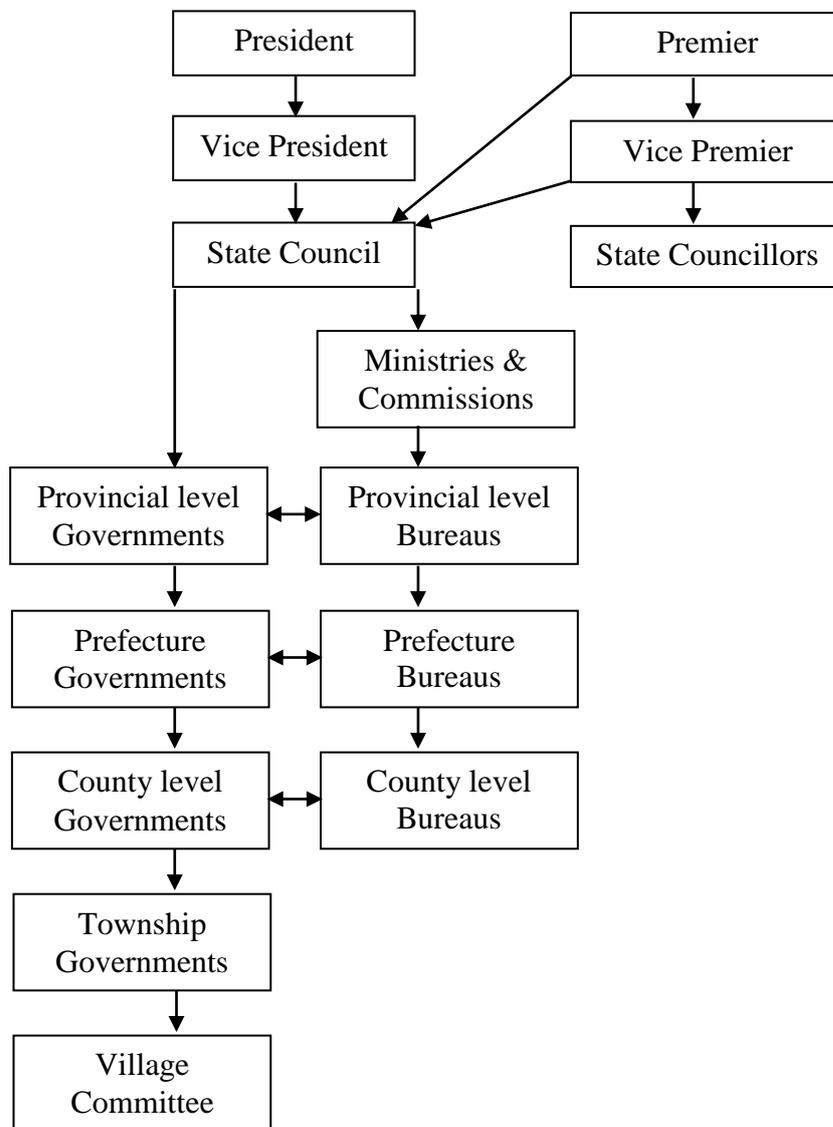
The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) promotes unity and cooperation among its participating political parties and individuals without party affiliation. It also works to promote democracy and offer proposals on state affairs while fostering consensus. The CPPCC consists of a national committee and local committees. In China, multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is a fundamental political system. This system is characterized by the CPC's leadership alongside the participation and cooperation of other political parties and public figures, all working towards common goals. It's a key aspect of China's socialist democracy and governance, distinct from Western multi-party systems. The CPC is the leading party, providing overall direction and guidance. Other political parties often referred to as "democratic parties," and individuals without party affiliation participate in the political process. A central element is the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an organization for consultation and democratic oversight. This system differs from multi-party systems in the West by emphasizing unity and cooperation towards shared national goals. The Chinese system aims to avoid the pitfalls of both one-party rule (e.g., lack of oversight) and multi-party competition (e.g., excessive conflict). The system is designed to promote socialist democracy and incorporate diverse perspectives into decision-making. The CPPCC plays a role in facilitating this concept, which emphasizes the active participation of the people in governance. The system operates on principles like long-term coexistence, mutual oversight, and sharing both successes and challenges among participating parties. The system seeks to unite various political forces and individuals under the banner of national rejuvenation. The CPPCC and this system of cooperation are integral to China's overall state governance structure.

SN	Other political parties in China
1	Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang
2	China Democratic League
3	China National Democratic Construction Association
4	China Association for Promoting Democracy
5	Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party
6	China Zhi Gong Party
7	Jiusan Society
8	Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League

In China's political system, alongside the Communist Party of China (CPC) and other officially recognized political parties, there exists a group of prominent individuals who are not affiliated with any of these parties. These "non-affiliates" play a role in China's political landscape, participating in discussions and offering perspectives on various issues. Non-affiliates are incorporated into China's political system through mechanisms like the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The CPPCC is a key platform for

political consultation and participation, where non-affiliates can voice their opinions and contribute to policy discussions. Non-affiliates are consulted on important matters, including the formulation of national development plans and policies. For instance, Xi Jinping convened a forum where non-affiliated individuals provided input on the 14th Five-Year Plan. The CPC's United Front Work Department plays a role in organizing and supporting non-affiliates, ensuring their participation in the political process. The concept of non-affiliates in Chinese political history dates back to revolutionary times, where individuals outside of established parties contributed to the nation-building process. Including non-affiliates in the political system is seen as a way to broaden participation, tap into diverse perspectives, and strengthen the overall capacity for governance. In essence, while China's political system is characterized by the dominant role of the CPC and other parties, the inclusion of non-affiliated individuals provides an avenue for broader participation and input in shaping the country's political and social landscape.

Executive Organizations of the government



The President and Premier hold distinct roles, though sometimes overlapping, within the government's structure. The President is the head of state, a largely ceremonial position with limited real power, while the Premier leads the State Council, the equivalent of a cabinet, and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the government. AS a Head of State the President represents China on the international stage, receiving foreign dignitaries and signing treaties. While the President promulgates laws and appoints officials, these actions are based on the decisions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and its Standing Committee, which is Ceremonial Role. The President's position is largely symbolic, with real power residing in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its leadership. Currently, Xi Jinping holds both the position of President and General Secretary of the CCP, which gives him significant influence over both state and party affairs. Premier is a Head of Government and is responsible for the day-to-day administration. The Premier leads the State Council, which is the highest organ of state administration. The Premier directs the work of the State Council, which includes managing the economy, public services, and other aspects of government. Premier plays a crucial role in implementing the policies decided by the CCP and the NPC. Historically, the Premier was considered the second most powerful position in China, but the influence of the CCP leadership, particularly Xi Jinping, has shifted the balance of power.

Level	Types	Number
Provincial Level Governments	Provinces	22
	Autonomous Regions	5
	Municipalities	4
	Special Administrative Regions	2
Local Level Governments	Prefectures	333
	Prefecture-level cities	293
	Counties	2843
	County-level cities	394
	City districts	977
	Townships/towns	39,945
	Villages	600,000

Autonomous Regions	1. Inner Mongolia, 2. Xinjiang Uygur, 3. Guangxi Zhuang, 4. Ningxia Hui 5. Xizang (Tibet)
Municipalities	1. Beijing, 2. Tianjin, 3. Shanghai, 4. Chongqing
Special Administrative Regions	1. Hong Kong (since 1997), 2. Macau (since 1999)

The People's Republic of China administers its territory through a hierarchical system of administrative divisions. These include provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, and special administrative regions at the highest level, followed by prefectures, counties, and townships at lower levels. Province-level divisions are the most common type of first-level administrative division. There are 23 provinces, including Taiwan, which is claimed by the PRC but not under its control. Autonomous Regions are designated for ethnic minorities and have a degree of autonomy. There are 5 autonomous regions: Inner Mongolia, Guangxi,

Tibet, Ningxia, and Xinjiang. Municipalities are cities directly controlled by the central government. There are 4 municipalities: Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Chongqing. Special Administrative Regions are regions with a high degree of autonomy granted by the central government. There are 2 special administrative regions: Hong Kong and Macau. Prefectures are subdivisions of provinces and autonomous regions. Counties are subdivisions of prefectures and municipalities. Townships are subdivisions of counties. Autonomous Prefectures are subdivisions of provinces and autonomous regions, specifically for ethnic minorities. Autonomous Counties are subdivisions of prefectures and counties, specifically for ethnic minorities. Sub-districts are administrative units within municipalities and larger cities. Villages are the lowest level of administrative division, under townships.



Participants at the Lecturer Hall, first floor of AIBO Administration Building

The Governance Philosophy of China's Leaders- Former consul Ms. Yang Baozhen

She highlighted the thoughts and role of three leaders Mao Zedong (1893-1976), Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) and Xi Jinping who made special contributions to China's development. The Mao Era: China Rose Up Politically. Founding of the People's Republic of China in a very short time, a complete social system and a complete industrial system were established, and the economy and development were quickly restored. Bring China back to the international arena, earn the respect of the world, and create an environment for steady development. It is proposed to serve the people wholeheartedly and represent the interests of the workers, and the people of the whole country are more united than ever.

The Deng Xiaoping Era: China Stands Up Economically. Deng Xiaoping former Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China was a Chinese statesman, revolutionary, and political theorist who served as the paramount leader of the People's Republic of China from 1978 to 1989. He reformed the Chinese economy (build a socialist market economy) and opening-up to the outside world. Socialism "liberates the productive forces and develops the productive forces" in order to "finally achieve common prosperity." Reform and opening-up have set China on the path of rapid economic development. The "Xi Jinping era" refers to the period in Chinese history during which Xi Jinping has been the paramount leader of China, a role he assumed in 2012 as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and Chairman of the Central Military Commission. Since 2013, he has also held the position of President of China, though the CCP General Secretary is

considered the most powerful office in the Chinese political system. The "new era" under Xi Jinping's leadership in China is characterized by a consolidation of power within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and a strong emphasis on party discipline and internal unity, exemplified by his anti-corruption campaign and the promotion of the "Chinese Dream". During this period, China's economy has continued to grow significantly, often described as authoritarian capitalism or state capitalism under the CCP's control. China officially declared the eradication of absolute poverty across the country by the end of 2020, fulfilling a key goal set by the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) to establish a "moderately prosperous society". This ambitious target, set in motion by President Xi Jinping in 2015, aimed to lift all rural residents living below the national poverty line out of poverty by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020). China has achieved a nearly universal net enrolment rate in primary schools, with official figures from 2022 indicating a rate of over 99.9%. China's per capita disposable income more than doubled in 2020 compared to 2010, reaching 32,189 yuan (approximately \$4,961 USD), as a result of economic growth and policies aimed at improving living standards.

Practices of the Belt & Road Initiative & Global Development Initiative- Prof. He Wenping



Professor He Wenping and Participants at the Lecturer Hall

Professor He Wenping, Institute of West Asia & African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science, has given lecture on Thursday May 15, 2025. She highlighted on Practices of the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) are both Chinese-led initiatives aimed at promoting global development and cooperation, though they differ in their approach and focus, with the GDI emerging to address some of the challenges and criticisms of the BRI. While the BRI primarily emphasizes large-scale infrastructure projects and connectivity, the GDI focuses on smaller-scale grants, capacity building, and training programs, aiming for more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes. The BRI's core practice involves extensive investment in infrastructure, including roads, railways, ports, and energy projects, along historical and new trade routes. The BRI encourages public-private partnerships to leverage private sector expertise and capital for development projects. There is an increasing emphasis on green and sustainable development within the BRI framework, including

initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC). The GDI addresses concerns related to debt sustainability and economic challenges that arose from large BRI projects, by focusing on smaller, more targeted projects. The GDI, like the BRI, espouses a people-centric approach, aiming to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, and create jobs. The GDI aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Important Thoughts of General Secretary Xi Jinping on Strengthening & Improving Ethnic Work- Mr. Li Jiyong

Mr. Li Jiyong, Deputy Director General of the Theoretical Research Department of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission has given lecture on Thursday May 15, 2025. The Party's ethnic work in China's "new era," led by Xi Jinping, is historically oriented within the framework of achieving the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," emphasizing of ethnic minorities, forging a strong sense of community among all Chinese peoples, and integrating ethnic work with high-quality development goals. This approach aims to promote national unity and contribute to building a modern socialist country. Upholding the equality of all ethnic groups means ensuring that all individuals and communities, regardless of their ethnic background, are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and have equal access to rights, opportunities, and resources. This principle is fundamental to achieving social harmony and equitable development within a diverse society. The statement "We must hold high the banner of the great unity of the Chinese nation" emphasizes the importance of national unity and solidarity across all ethnic groups in China. Upholding and improving the system of regional ethnic autonomy is a complex issue with significant implications for national unity, minority rights, and economic development. This system, grants certain regions autonomy in managing their affairs to ethnic minorities. The idea of building a "common spiritual home for the Chinese nation" emphasizes the importance of a shared cultural identity and values for the diverse ethnic groups within China. This concept, promoted by Chinese leadership, aims to foster national unity and cohesion by highlighting a common heritage and promoting a sense of belonging among all Chinese citizens. Promoting extensive exchanges and integration among all ethnic groups is crucial for fostering harmony, understanding, and cooperation within diverse societies.

This involves facilitating interactions, cultural exchange, and mutual respect to break down barriers and build stronger communities. Upholding the rule of law in ethnic affairs is crucial for a just and stable society. It means ensuring that laws are applied fairly and equally to all ethnic groups, protecting their rights, and preventing discrimination and abuse of power. This approach fosters trust between different communities and promotes peaceful coexistence. China's approach to governing ethnic affairs, often described as the "Chinese path," integrates elements of traditional wisdom with modern political strategies. It emphasizes national unity and social stability while recognizing the diverse needs of its ethnic minority groups. This approach involves a combination of centralized leadership, regional autonomy, and targeted economic development initiatives.



Interpreter, Mr. Nurhari Khatiwada, Secretary of INC, Mr. Li Jiyong, Deputy Director General of NEAC, Mr. Resham Gurung, Vice Chair of NFDIN, and Hon. Dr. Min Bdr. Shris of INC

Policies and Practices of China's Ethnic Unity and Progress- Prof. Wang Wei

In the fifth lecture of this session, Professor Wang Wei, Minzu University, gave a presentation on Friday May 16, 2025. He noted that It has implemented China's ethnic policies, endeavoured to promote the unity and common prosperity of various ethnic groups, and developed and consolidated the new type of socialist ethnic relations of equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony. The principle of equality among all ethnic groups has been upheld. The elements of ethnic unity in the outstanding traditional culture of China are 'Harmony in Diversity'. Harmony leads to unity, and unity multiplies strength. Founder Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the paramount leader of China, Mao Zedong's theory on ethnic unity emphasized the importance of class struggle and uniting all ethnic groups under the banner of the Chinese Communist Party to achieve national unity and liberation from imperialism and feudalism. He believed that while ethnic differences existed, the shared experience of class struggle and the goal of building a socialist society should be the primary basis for unity. He emphasized the importance of unity between ethnic groups, particularly between the Han Chinese majority and minority groups, within the context of China's political system. It highlights the significance of regional ethnic autonomy as a fundamental aspect of this unity and promotes cooperation to achieve common goals, potentially including the "defeat of fascism." The phrase "promote unity among all ethnic groups and jointly defeat fascism" suggests a need for solidarity and cooperation to address a shared threat or challenge. While the term "fascism" can be interpreted in various ways, it

likely refers to a perceived threat to national unity, social stability, or ideological values. The emphasis on fostering strong relations between the Han ethnic group and minority groups indicates an awareness of the potential for ethnic tensions and a desire to mitigate these through positive interactions and mutual understanding. This is a key aspect of maintaining social harmony in a multi-ethnic country like China. The statement acknowledges that regional ethnic autonomy is a cornerstone of China's political system. This means that certain regions with significant minority populations have a degree of self-governance, allowing them to manage their own affairs within the broader framework of the Chinese state. The idea is that regional autonomy, when implemented effectively, should contribute to the overall development and progress of both the minority ethnic group and the nation as a whole. The ultimate goal of these policies is to create harmonious ethnic relations, ensuring that all ethnic groups can coexist peacefully, contribute to the country's development, and feel a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Deng Xiaoping emphasized various ethnic groups have formed a new type of socialist relationship characterized by unity, friendship, mutual assistance, and harmony. In the process of achieving the Four Modernizations, the grand unity among all ethnic groups will be further consolidated. The National Conference on Ethnic Unity and Progress Commendation Ceremony is held. The Four Modernizations refer to modernization of agriculture, industry, science and technology, and national defence. These were viewed as essential to China's economic development. Jiang Zemin emphasized under the leadership of CPC and the government to unwaveringly implement the policy of ethnic equality, ethnic unity, and the common prosperity of all ethnic groups. The core principles of China's ethnic policy: ensuring equality, fostering unity, and promoting prosperity across all ethnic groups. This policy is a key focus of the Central Conference on Ethnic Work, highlighting the importance of a unified Chinese nation with equal rights and opportunities for all its diverse ethnic groups. The Central Conference on Ethnic Work is a significant meeting held in China focused on strengthening and improving work related to ethnic minorities. It's a key event for discussing and implementing policies aimed at fostering unity, development, and shared prosperity among all ethnic groups in China. The conference aims to advance the national goal of "modern socialist country" by ensuring all ethnic groups participate in and benefit from China's development. It emphasizes the importance of national rejuvenation, social harmony, and the shared destiny of all ethnic groups. The conference often covers topics such as strengthening national identity, promoting ethnic unity, and ensuring the well-being and development of ethnic minority communities. Conference serves as a platform for disseminating guidelines and policies related to ethnic work, including those based on the thoughts of Xi Jinping. A study book on Xi Jinping's thoughts on ethnic work has been published in multiple ethnic minority languages to further disseminate these ideas. The conference is often organized by the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee and the National Ethnic Affairs Commission. Hu Jintao Former President of the People's Republic of China emphasized to "Unite and struggle together for common prosperity and development" as the basic principle for carrying out ethnic work and dealing with ethnic problems and concluding the essential features of socialist ethnic relations as "equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony".

Chinese President Xi Jinping has always attached great importance to work on ethnic in the new era. He remarks that The Chinese nation is a big family where 56 ethnic groups love and care for each other, embracing each other as the seeds of a pomegranate. We should always hold high the banner of ethnic unity; promote the strong tradition of heartfelt connection and mutual support among all ethnic groups. We should actively engage in extensive publicity and educational campaigns on ethnic unity and progress, and meticulously carry out our work in ethnic affairs. Ethnic unity is the lifeline of all people from different ethnic groups. To excel in ethnic affairs, the key lies in fostering strong ethnic unity, and the most effective approach is to win the hearts and minds of the people. China is a unified multi-ethnic country. The diversity and unity among various ethnic groups are an important treasure left by our ancestors. We must strive to better safeguard the unity and stability of ethnic regions, accelerate their development, and consolidate the wisdom and strength of all ethnic groups. Together, we will realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The leadership and organization of the CPC has made to be realized in advancement of ethnic unity practice and the fruits of ethnic unity. The people-centred approach covers every member of the ethnic groups, and, as President Xi put it, “no ethnic group should be left behind”; in this process, the cohesion among members of the ethnic groups would naturally be strengthened. The system of regional ethnic autonomy has been consistent with the correct path of resolving ethnic issues with Chinese characteristics, and the basic structure of regional ethnic autonomy has fully safeguarded socialist ethnic relations based on equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony, and has demonstrated the intrinsic strengths in advancing ethnic unity and progress.



Achievements of the Communist Party of China in Ethnic Affairs in the New Era- Prof. Liu Baoming

Professor Liu Baoming, Central Institute of Ethnic Administrators has given lecture on Saturday May 24, 2025 the last day of this session. He highlighted that in the new era, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has focused on strengthening the sense of community among all ethnic groups in China and promoting high-quality development in ethnic affairs. Key achievements include fostering a strong sense of community among all Chinese ethnicities, enhancing regional development through differentiated policies, and effectively consolidating poverty alleviation gains in ethnic minority areas, and strengthening the Party's leadership in ethnic affairs. The CPC emphasizes fostering a strong sense of community for

the Chinese nation among all ethnic groups, promoting cultural exchange and integration. Government is promoting High-Quality Development in the ethnic minority areas. China has focused on building a "cultural home" shared by all ethnic groups, emphasizing the concept of a unified Chinese nation. This includes promoting the standard spoken and written Chinese language to facilitate communication and understanding across different ethnicities. A key goal is to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, ensuring all ethnic groups feel a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

The government has implemented differentiated policies to support the development of various ethnic minority regions, addressing their specific needs and challenges. Efforts have been made to consolidate the gains of poverty alleviation in these areas, ensuring that ethnic minority populations benefit from economic development. China has also established robust education, social security, and healthcare systems that are accessible to all ethnic groups. China encourages academic and non-governmental exchanges both domestically and internationally to foster better understanding and cooperation between different ethnic groups and cultures. This includes active participation in global human rights governance and contributing to international human rights conventions and declarations. China has incorporated its vision of a community with a shared future for mankind into various international human rights resolutions. Efforts have been made to strengthen legal protections for human rights, ensuring the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of all citizens are respected. This includes specific initiatives to protect the rights of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Overall, China's approach to ethnic affairs in the new era emphasizes unity, development, and the well-being of all its citizens, with a focus on strengthening national identity while respecting the unique cultures and traditions of each ethnic group.

Chinese Ethnic Policies	Western Ethnic Policies
China's ethnic policies emphasize national unity and integration under the leadership of the Communist Party, with a focus on regional autonomy and preferential treatment for ethnic minorities.	Western countries, particularly in Europe and North America, have adopted approaches like multiculturalism and interculturalism, which focus on managing diversity through various policies such as anti-discrimination laws and promoting cultural exchange.
Regional Ethnic Autonomy: China's main policy for ethnic minorities is regional ethnic autonomy, which allows for the establishment of autonomous regions, prefectures, and counties where ethnic minorities live in concentrated communities.	Multiculturalism: Many Western countries, particularly Canada, have adopted multiculturalism as a policy, aiming to embrace and respect the cultural diversity of their populations.
National Unity: The Chinese government prioritizes national unity and the integration of ethnic minorities into the broader Chinese nation, emphasizing the concept of a	Interculturalism: Some Western nations favor interculturalism, which emphasizes interaction and dialogue between different cultural groups, promoting social cohesion

"community of the Chinese nation".	and mutual understanding.
Preferential Treatment: Ethnic minorities in China receive certain preferential treatments, such as relaxed restrictions on birth control, lower requirements for university admissions, and favourable treatment in legal disputes.	Anti-discrimination Laws: Western countries have implemented anti-discrimination laws and policies to address historical and on-going inequalities faced by ethnic minorities and immigrants.
State Leadership: The Communist Party of China (CPC) provides the overarching leadership and guidance for ethnic policies, with institutions like the National Ethnic Affairs Commission playing a key role.	Focus on Individual Rights: Western approaches often prioritize individual rights and freedoms, including freedom of religion, language, and cultural expression, while also recognizing the importance of group rights for minority communities.
Emphasis on Equality and Harmony: China's ethnic policies emphasize the equality of all ethnic groups, promoting unity, mutual assistance, and harmony among all 56 officially recognized ethnic groups.	Managing Diversity: Western policies on ethnic diversity aim to manage the challenges and opportunities presented by multicultural societies through various means, including education, social programs, and legal frameworks.
Language and Culture: While promoting Mandarin Chinese as the common language, China also respects and protects the languages and cultures of ethnic minorities.	Historical Context: Western approaches to ethnic diversity have been shaped by historical experiences with colonialism, immigration, and social movements advocating for equality and minority rights.



Hon. Dr. Min Shris and Professor Liu Baoming at the Lecturer Hall on May 24, 2025

Safeguarding Ethnic Unity through Law- lecturer Mr. Lu Gui

Lecturer Mr. Lu Gui, Minzu University of China has presented on Saturday May 24, 2025 the last lecture of this session. He discussed that the Chinese Constitution and related laws guarantee equality among all ethnic groups and protect the lawful rights and interests of ethnic minorities, including their right to use and develop their own languages and customs. These laws also emphasize the importance of regional ethnic autonomy, allowing minority areas to govern themselves and manage local affairs. The Constitution explicitly states that all ethnic groups are equal and prohibits discrimination and acts that undermine ethnic unity. The Constitution and the Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law provide for regional autonomy in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, allowing them to establish autonomous organs and exercise self-governance. It grants autonomous regions the power to manage local affairs, develop their own languages and cultures, and adjust central directives. However, the law also emphasizes the responsibility of these regions to safeguard national unification, ethnic unity, and social stability. This law ensures that women from ethnic minorities have equal rights and opportunities. China implements policies promoting cultural preservation, including the protection of intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. "Ethnic unity education" is mandated in schools to foster a sense of national identity and promote understanding among different groups. There are also initiatives aimed at promoting economic development and improving living standards in ethnic minority areas.

Ethnic Policies and Practices

Regional Ethnic Autonomy System

While the system of "regional ethnic autonomy" as it exists in China is a unique and prominent example, the concept of granting significant self-governance to ethnic groups is not exclusive to China. Other countries like Ethiopia, Spain, United Kingdom, and India also have policies and structures aimed at managing multi-ethnic societies, though they may differ in their legal frameworks and degree of autonomy. Autonomous regions typically possess varying degrees of self-governance, often having their own legislatures, governments, and distinct cultural or legal systems. These reflect the diverse ethnic, linguistic, or historical identities within the broader sovereign state.

There are approximately 40 countries that contain autonomous regions, though the exact number can vary depending on definitions and the evolving nature of political situations. These countries encompass a wide variety of semi-autonomous regions. Sometimes, "Autonomous Region" and "Special Administrative Region" (SAR) are considered similar, but there are key distinctions. Autonomous regions are typically established to protect the culture and governance of ethnic minorities within a country, offering them a degree of self-rule. In contrast, Special Administrative Regions—such as Hong Kong and Macau—are former colonies that now function as distinct entities. They maintain separate economic and legal systems from mainland China under the “one country, two systems” principle, which grants them broader and more distinct freedoms than typical autonomous regions. Hong Kong, a former British colony, was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Macau, a former Portuguese colony, became an SAR of China in 1999.

India has a federal system with provisions for the protection of minority rights and the creation of autonomous councils, such as the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in the state of West Bengal, which provides some degree of autonomy to the Gorkha people. Ethiopia's constitution recognizes ethnic groups and provides for ethnic-based regions, allowing them to govern their internal affairs, language, and culture. In United Kingdom the devolution of power to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland grants them significant legislative and administrative autonomy over their internal affairs, reflecting a form of regional self-governance for distinct cultural and national identities within the UK.

Indigenous self-governance in Canada operates under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, which recognizes the inherent right to self-government for Indigenous peoples. This right is expressed through negotiated agreements, often in the form of modern treaties or comprehensive land claim agreements, that grant Indigenous communities greater decision-making authority over their land, culture, language, education, and economic development. These arrangements aim to restore powers and rights that existed prior to colonization, allowing Indigenous governments to function as orders of government within the Canadian federation and to manage their internal affairs while also engaging with other levels of government.

Indigenous self-governance in Australia centers on Indigenous self-determination, aiming for greater control over land, resources, and cultural practices through mechanisms like Indigenous Data Sovereignty and negotiated agreements. While progress has been made

through co-designed frameworks like the Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data and specific agreements, comprehensive self-governance requires a new relationship with the government based on genuine power-sharing and robust, well-resourced community-led governance structures. Efforts continue to strengthen these models and ensure Indigenous people have a decisive say in policies affecting them, with some communities pushing for greater alignment with international standards for Indigenous rights.

Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Communities, which were established by 1983 and possess a significant degree of self-governance while remaining part of the larger Spanish state. These regions enjoy autonomy in areas such as culture, education, and regional administration. Italy has five autonomous regions: Aosta Valley, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardinia, Sicily, and Trentino-Alto Adige. These regions are granted legislative, administrative, and financial autonomy through special statutes, giving them greater control over their governance to reflect their unique cultural and linguistic identities. Denmark also has two autonomous regions: Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Russia has the largest number of autonomous regions (26), each granted a degree of self-rule to accommodate its diverse constituent peoples. Uzbekistan has one autonomous region—the Republic of Karakalpakstan—an autonomous republic located in the northwestern part of the country. Karakalpakstan is home to a distinct Karakalpak culture and language, which shares closer ties with Kazakh and Noghai traditions. The region encompasses the historical territory of Khwarazm and was once the site of the Aral Sea, now known for the severe environmental consequences resulting from its desiccation. The Åland Islands of Finland are an autonomous territory with a Swedish-speaking population and enjoy significant self-governance. France governs territories such as New Caledonia and French Polynesia, which also have a high degree of autonomy. Quebec, in Canada, is a well-known example of an autonomous province, with distinct cultural and linguistic characteristics.

A federal Indian reservation is an area of land reserved for a tribe or tribes under treaty or other agreement with the United States, executive order, or federal statute or administrative action as permanent tribal homelands, and where the federal government holds title to the land in trust on behalf of the tribe. With the law of the Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) at the time, also called the Indian Bill of Rights, the indigenous people were guaranteed many civil rights they had been fighting for. The ICRA supports the following: Right to free speech, press, and assembly. Protection from unreasonable invasion of homes. Today, there are over five million Native Americans in the US, about 80% of whom live outside reservations. Around 20% live in American Indian areas or Alaska Native villages. As of 2020, the states with the highest percentage of Native Americans are Alaska, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. Indigenous Peoples in the United States are more commonly referred to as Native groups. There are approximately 326 Indian land areas in the U.S. administered as federal Indian reservations (i.e., reservations, pueblos, rancherias, missions, villages, communities, etc.). The largest is the 16 million-acre Navajo Nation Reservation located in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. In 1924, Congress extended American citizenship to all other American Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States. American Indians and Alaska Natives are citizens of the United States and of the individual states, counties, cities, and towns where they reside.

Nepal's "ethnic autonomy" refers to demands for greater political recognition and self-governance for its numerous ethnic groups, which are often based on linguistic, cultural, and historical identities. The country's federal system established in 2015 provides a framework for this, allowing for provinces with a degree of autonomy, but full ethnic autonomy in the sense of separate cultural governance remains a contested and evolving issue. While the state officially recognizes indigenous communities, tensions between individual and collective rights, along with internal divisions within ethnic groups, continue to complicate the realization of comprehensive ethnic autonomy.

Ethnic groups, often referred to as indigenous nationalities (*adibasi janajati*), have long fought for their rights against political and economic marginalization rooted in the traditional caste system. The movement for ethnic autonomy includes calls for distinct legal and cultural frameworks, recognition of traditional institutions like Bheja and Badhgar, and greater political representation. The 2072 BS (2015) constitution established a federal structure with seven provinces, introducing decentralization of power and some degree of local self-governance for ethnic groups. While the constitution doesn't grant full ethnic autonomy, it does provide for the protection and empowerment of marginalized communities, though this has been viewed by some as rejecting broader ethnic self-determination.

Despite constitutional provisions and local recognition of certain traditional practices, the effective implementation of ethnic autonomy and cultural rights within the broader federal framework remains a significant challenge. In practice, the distinction between ethnic groups and the traditional caste system can be blurred, with some ethnic groups internalizing hierarchical norms and reproducing caste-like dynamics.

Article 56(5) of the Constitution of Nepal provides for the establishment of Special, Protected, or Autonomous Areas for social and cultural preservation or economic development in accordance with federal law. Section 99 of the Local Government Operation Act, 2074 (2017) provides for the establishment of special, protected, or autonomous areas. According to sub-section (1) of the same section, the Government of Nepal, in consultation with the provincial government, may, for the purpose of social and cultural preservation or economic development, designate any of the following areas as a special, protected, or autonomous area by publishing a notice in the Nepal Gazette:

- (a) One or more districts
- (b) One or more rural municipalities or municipalities
- (c) One or more wards of a rural municipality or municipality.

According to sub-section (2), the following criteria shall be taken into account when establishing a special, protected, or autonomous area. (a) For a Special Area: (1) Geographically remote due to a lack of transportation and infrastructure, (2) The percentage of the population living below the poverty line and the severity of poverty is higher than the national average. (3) Predominantly inhabited by economically and socially disadvantaged communities, (4) Any other basis deemed appropriate by the Government of Nepal. (b) For a Protected Area: (1) Inhabited by minority, marginalized, or endangered communities, (2) The social and economic development indicators of the community as referred to in sub-clause (1) are lower than the national average, (3) Any other basis deemed appropriate by the

Government of Nepal. (c) For an Autonomous Area: (1) Having a concentrated settlement and predominance of a community sharing the same language or culture, (2) The social and economic development indicators of the community as referred to in sub-clause (1) are lower than the national average, (3) Any other basis deemed appropriate by the Government of Nepal.

According to Section 100 of this Act, for the development of Special, Protected, or Autonomous Areas established pursuant to Section 99, the Government of Nepal and the Provincial Government shall implement special programs or provide additional budget for such purposes. According to Section 102 while implementing special programs in Special, Protected, or Autonomous Areas, the Government of Nepal and the Provincial Government shall coordinate with the concerned District Assembly, Rural Municipality, and Municipality (Local Government Operation Act, 2074: 77-78).

Regional Ethnic Autonomy System in China

The system of regional ethnic autonomy in the People's Republic of China allows ethnic minorities to establish autonomous government bodies in areas where they live in concentrated communities. This system was designed to promote ethnic equality in China. In 1941, the concept of regional ethnic autonomy was first tested by the government led by Mao Zedong in the Shaan-Gan-Ning Border Region. In the governmental principal file, ethnic Mongolian and Chinese Muslim were to establish autonomous region based on ethnical equality principle. In 1947, Mongolian Autonomous Region was established. After that, various autonomous regions, prefectures, and counties were established in 1950-1963 and 1979-1990, Tibet Autonomous Region in 1965 and the latest Beichuan Qiang Autonomous County in 2003. Ethnic Autonomy Region was generally established in areas where more than 20% of the population is ethnic minority people.

The administrative level of autonomous government body is principally decided by the population and area of the region. Autonomous regions are the highest level of administrative body in China, with the same status of a province, followed by autonomous prefecture and autonomous county. Autonomous government has the right to make ethnic laws, improvising execute specific ethnic related issues, enjoy relatively higher economic independence and higher reserve fund in central government, have a separate ethnic related budget in Chinese State Council, enjoy independent cultural control to a certain degree, use the major ethnic minority language as official language, organize local police militia. But law making and execution power need permission from National People's Congress and State Council respectively. Autonomous prefectures are one type of autonomous administrative division in China, existing at the prefectural level, with either ethnic minorities forming over 50% of the population or being, most commonly, the historic home of significant minorities. The official name of an autonomous prefecture includes the most significant minority in that region, sometimes two, rarely three

The head of people's government and people's congress should be ethnic minority person. In the people's congress, when multiple ethnicities live in the same autonomous region, every ethnicity should have representatives, especially giving low population ethnicities considerable more representative positions. In the people's government, the

consisting personals and the belonging branches should try their best to employ ethnic minority officials, and when there are ethnic minority candidates who meet the selecting criteria, they should be priority employed. The ratio of ethnic minority officials should correlate to the ratio of ethnic minority population in the region, when the ethnic minority population is over 1/2 of the local population, and should be higher than the ratio of ethnic minority population, when is lower than 1/2. According to different policies in different Chinese provincial gaokao committee, the ethnic minority students residing in ethnic autonomous regions can get free bonus points, varying from 10 to 35 in total 750 points. In Chinese universities, the undergraduate education still goes on by grouping students into classes. And the ethnic minority students will be asked about the special custom and culture by the supervisors. The supervisors and university staff would try to avoid taboo and offences to ethnic minorities. Due to the large number of Chinese Muslims, most Chinese universities have a specific dining section for them (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_ethnic_autonomy_system_of_China accessed on 6 August 2025).

Ethnic townships, ethnic towns, and ethnic sums are fourth-level administrative units designated for ethnic minorities of political divisions in the People's Republic of China. They are not considered to be autonomous and do not enjoy the laws pertaining to the larger ethnic autonomous areas such as autonomous regions, autonomous prefectures, autonomous counties, and autonomous banners. However, what defines an ethnic township is that the law requires that its head of government be a member of the titular ethnic minority. The only ethnic sum is the Evenk Ethnic Sum in Old Barag Banner, Inner Mongolia.

Officially recognized ethnic groups receive or have received certain benefits over Han Chinese under the regional ethnic autonomy system, including affirmative action, exemptions from the one-child policy, designated seats in political organs and government support to preserve their culture. Ethnic minority autonomous areas receive additional state subsidies. Languages of officially recognized minorities are used in official government documents.

Administrative divisions

The administrative divisions of China have consisted of several levels since 1412, due to mainland China's large population and geographical area. In the People's Republic of China, the constitution provides for three levels of government. However, in practice, there are five levels of local government; the provincial (province, autonomous region, municipality, and special administrative region), prefecture, county, township, and village.

Since the 17th century, provincial boundaries in mainland China have remained largely static. Major changes since then have been the reorganization of provinces in the northeast after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the formation of autonomous regions, based on Soviet ethnic policies. The provinces serve an important cultural role in China, as people tend to identify with their native province. Rural villages and urban communities are sometimes considered as the fifth level, however they are defined by the constitution as "basic level autonomies" (village-level subdivisions or village committees) and there is no government on this level. China has 34 provincial-level divisions, which

include provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government, and special administrative regions. Prefecture-level divisions are 334; under prefecture-level divisions are county-level divisions, of which there are around 2,862. There are 41,034 township-level administrations, and 704,382 basic-level autonomies.

Level & No.	Types
Provincial level (34)	23 Provinces 5 Autonomous regions (i. Inner Mongolia, ii. Xinjiang Uygur, iii. Guangxi Zhuang, iv. Ningxia Hui, v. Xizang/Tibet) 4 Municipalities (Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai, and Tianjin) 2 Special administrative regions (SARs): Hong Kong and Macau
Prefectural level (333)	293 Prefecture-level cities 7 Prefectures 30 Autonomous prefectures: Xinjiang Province: Bayingolin, Bortala, Changji, Ili, & Kizilsu Prefecture Yunnan Province: Chuxiong, Dali, Dehong, and Diqing Prefecture Hubei Province: Enshi Prefecture Gansu Province: Gannan, and Linxia Prefecture Sichuan Province: Garzê, Liangshan, and Ngawa Prefecture Qinghai Province: Golog, Haibei, Hainan, Haixi, Huangnan, & Yushu Prefecture Yunnan Province: Honghe, Nujiang, Wenshan, and Xishuangbanna (Sibsongbanna) Prefecture Guizhou Province: Qiandongnan, Qiannan, Qianxinan Prefecture Hunan Province: Xiangxi Prefecture Jilin Province: Yanbian Prefecture 3 Leagues
County level (2,850)	954 Districts 366 County-level cities 1,359 Counties 117 Autonomous counties 49 Banners 3 Autonomous banners 1 Special district 1 Forestry district
Township level (39,863)	8,122 Subdistricts 20,942 Towns 9,659 Townships 2 County-controlled districts 985 Ethnic townships 152 Sums 1 Ethnic sum
Basic level autonomy (662,393)	104,083 Residential Committees Communities 558,310 Village Committees Village/Administrative Villages Gaqa

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_China

Introduction to Beijing Municipality

Beijing, known as "Jing" and serving as the capital of the People's Republic of China, is a municipality under the direct administration of the central government, a national central city, and a megacity. It is recognized by the State Council as a political, cultural, international exchange, and technological innovation hub, as well as one of China's famous historical and cultural cities and ancient capitals. As of October 2023, Beijing comprises 16 districts with a total area of 16,410.54 square kilometers. At the end of 2023, the city's permanent population was 21.858 million. Beijing is the seat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, and the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. It has successfully hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, making it the world's first "Double Olympic City."

Beijing is not only one of the birthplaces of the Chinese nation but also a world-renowned ancient capital and modern international city. It embodies the outstanding traditional Chinese cultural achievements since the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, boasting numerous historical sites and cultural landscapes. It holds the distinction of being the city with the highest number of World Cultural Heritage sites globally. In terms of economic development, Beijing's GDP per capita in 2023 was approximately \$45,000, reflecting its robust economic performance and high standard of living. The city's economy is driven by a diverse range of industries, including but not limited to:

"High-Tech Manufacturing" Beijing is renowned for its thriving high-tech manufacturing sector, with Zhongguancun, often referred to as China's Silicon Valley, at its forefront. This area is a powerhouse for innovation, hosting over 20,000 technology companies, including giants like Baidu, Lenovo, and Xiaomi. The high-tech industry contributes significantly to Beijing's economy, with an annual output value exceeding 1 trillion yuan.

"Financial Services": The Central Business District (CBD) in Beijing is a financial powerhouse, boasting a concentration of financial institutions and multinational corporations. It is home to the headquarters of the People's Bank of China, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, and numerous international banks. The CBD's financial sector generates a substantial portion of the city's GDP, with financial services contributing over 20% to Beijing's economy.

"Cultural and Creative Industries": Beijing's cultural and creative industries are deeply rooted in its rich history and heritage. The city is a magnet for creative talent, with the film industry particularly flourishing. The 798 Art Zone is a famous creative hub, hosting galleries, art studios, and cultural events. The music scene is also vibrant, with numerous music festivals and venues showcasing local and international talent. The design industry is equally dynamic, with Beijing hosting the China International Design Week and numerous design competitions and exhibitions.

The city's commitment to sustainable development and investment-friendly policies is evident in initiatives like the coordinated growth strategy of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (Jing-Jin-Ji) region, aimed at optimizing resource allocation and enhancing regional economic.

China has 60 World Heritage Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list, among them 9 sites are in Beijing. The Great Wall, Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing & Shenyang, Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing, Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing, Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, The Grand Canal, and Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital.

Beijing is one of the four direct-administered municipalities of the People's Republic of China, and is divided into 16 districts. Further districts are divided into 147 Sub-districts, 161 Towns, 30 Township and 5 Ethnic Townships.

Beijing Municipality		Provincial level
County level	Districts (16)	
Township level (343)	Sub-districts (147) Towns (161): Townships (30): Ethnic township (5): Changying Hui Ethnic Township (Chaoyang District) Yujiawu Hui Ethnic Township (Tongzhou district) Changshaoying Manchu Ethnic Township, and Labagoumen Manchu Ethnic Township (Huairou District) Tanying Manchu & Mongol Ethnic Township (Miyun District)	

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Beijing

Introduction to Guizhou Province

Guizhou province is in Southwestern China. Its provincial capital is Guiyang. Guizhou borders the autonomous region of Guangxi to the south, Yunnan to the west, Sichuan to the northwest, the municipality of Chongqing to the north, and Hunan to the east. Guizhou is a mountainous province, although its higher altitudes are in the west and centre. It lies at the eastern end of the Yungui Plateau. At 2,900 m (9,514 ft) above sea level, Jiucaiping is Guizhou's highest point. Guizhou Plateau is predominantly mountainous, and its topography can be generally divided into three basic types: plateau mountains, hills, and basins, with 92.5% of the area being mountains and hills. There are numerous mountain ranges within the province, with overlapping ridges and peaks stretching across the landscape. Guizhou has a humid subtropical climate. There are few seasonal changes. Its annual average temperature is roughly 10–20 °C (50–68 °F), with January temperatures ranging from 1–10 °C (34–50 °F) and July temperatures ranging from 17–28 °C (63–82 °F), with annual rainfall ranging from 1,000–1,400 mm (39–55 in); the frost-free period lasts between 250 and 300 days. There is no severe cold in winter and no extreme heat in summer, with the coldest month of January averaging 4–6 °C (39–43 °F), and the hottest month of July averaging 15–23 °C (59–73 °F). The unique climatic characteristics make Guizhou an ideal place for leisure travel and summer retreats.

Guizhou has a total area of 176,167 km², accounting for 1.8% of the country's total land area. The terrain is high in the west and low in the east, with an average elevation of 1100 m. The province is characterized by undulating mountains, complex geomorphological types, and unique natural landscapes. Guizhou is also one of the birthplaces of ancient Chinese humans

and ancient Chinese culture, with ancient humans living on this land since about half a million years ago. The population of Guizhou stands at 38.5 million, ranking 18th among the provinces in China. Demographically, it is one of China's most diverse provinces. Minority groups account for more than 37% of the population, including sizable populations of the Miao, Bouyei, Dong, Tujia and Yi peoples, all of whom speak languages distinct from Chinese. The main language spoken in Guizhou is Southwestern Mandarin, a variety of Mandarin.

It is rich in natural, cultural and environmental resources. Guizhou is a transportation hub in the southwest area and an important part of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. It is the country's first national-level comprehensive pilot zone for big data, a mountain tourism destination and a major mountain tourism province. It is a national ecological civilization pilot zone, and an inland open economic pilot zone. Its natural industry includes timber and forestry, and the energy and mining industries constitute an important part of its economy. Notwithstanding, Guizhou is considered a relatively undeveloped province, with the fourth-lowest GDP per capita in China as of 2020. However, it is also one of China's fastest-growing economies. The Chinese government is looking to develop Guizhou as a data hub.

Ethnic Autonomous Administrative Divisions in Guizhou Province

Guizhou province has one of the largest ethnic minority populations in China with 14 million (38%) of the population, belonging to 49 different ethnic groups. It has a rich history of ethnic diversity, with its people and cultures contributing significantly to the unique cultural landscape of China. It is home to 49 ethnic groups, including the Miao, Bouyei, Dong, Shui, Yao, Gelao, Hui, Tujia, and Yi. Among them, the Miao, Dong, Bouyei, and Shui are some of the largest and most prominent minority groups. Key regions for experiencing and preserving ethnic minority cultures -such as the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture in southeast Guizhou and the Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in southwest Guizhou -are home to many of these communities and their vibrant traditions.

Guizhou Province administers 9 prefecture-level divisions, including 6 prefecture-level cities and 3 autonomous prefectures. It also governs 88 county-level divisions, comprising 10 county-level cities, 50 counties, 11 autonomous counties, 16 districts, and 1 special district. At the Township level, there are 1,543 divisions, including 691 Towns, 506 Townships, 252 Ethnic Townships, and 94 Subdistricts. At the Village level, Guizhou oversees 18,168 divisions, consisting of 3,857 urban communities and 14,311 administrative villages.

The three autonomous prefectures are: 1. Qianxinan Buyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, 2. Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, 3. Qiannan Buyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. Guizhou Province has 11 autonomous counties: 1. Guanling Buyei and Miao Autonomous County, 2. Sandu Shui Autonomous County, 3. Songtao Miao Autonomous County, 4. Weining Yi, Hui, and Miao Autonomous County, 5. Wuchuan Gelao and Miao Autonomous County, 6. Yanhe Tujia Autonomous County, 7. Yuping Dong Autonomous County, 8. Cengong Dong Autonomous County, 9. Dushan Yao Autonomous County, 10. Zhenning Buyei and Miao Autonomous County, 11. Xishui County.

Liuzhi Special District in Guizhou is a place where the Bouyei ethnic group lives, with Zhongzhai being a specific ethnic town within the district that includes Bouyei people. While it is home to various ethnic groups, including Bouyei, Miao, and Yi, its connection to the Bouyei culture is significant, evident in its various ethnic workshops and cultural sites. Liuzhi Special District governs over 3 sub-district, 9 towns, 1 township and 5 ethnic townships. Ethnic townships are Suojia Miao and Yi Ethnic Township, Niuchang Miao and Yi Ethnic Township, Zhongzhai Miao, Yi and Bouyei Ethnic Township, Luobie Bouyei and Yi Ethnic Township, and Yuelianghe Yi, Bouyei and Miao Ethnic Township.

An ethnic township is a type of local administrative division within China, similar to a township, but specifically designated for areas with a significant ethnic minority population. Guizhou has 252 official ethnic townships within the Township level administrative divisions, a specific type of administrative division designed to accommodate its large and diverse ethnic minority population, which includes groups like the Miao, Dong, Bouyei, and Shui peoples. These townships serve as important cultural and administrative units, with the province hosting many ethnic villages and autonomous prefectures. These townships, along with other administrative divisions, form part of the overall provincial structure, which includes towns, townships, and sub-districts.

Guizhou has 28 such famous villages, recognizing their cultural importance. The province also has 757 traditional villages, many of which are ethnic. There are 1,640 villages at the Chinese and provincial levels that are considered ethnic minority villages. Xijiang Qianhu Miao Village is the largest Miao-inhabited village in China, showcasing Miao culture, architecture, and customs. Zhaoxing Dong Village is known as the "No. 1 Dong Village," it is home to over 1,000 households and over 6,000 inhabitants. Basha Miao Village is a popular village visited by tourists for its traditional Miao culture. Langde Miao Village is referred to as the "Miao Ethnic Village Museum" for its cultural significance and unique art forms.

Guizhou Province		Capital: Guiyang
Prefecture-level divisions		
Prefectural cities	6 (Guiyang City, Liupanshui City, Zunyi City, Anshun City, Bijie City, Tongren City)	
Autonomous prefectures	3 (Qianxinan Buyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, and Qiannan Buyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture)	
County level divisions		
County cities	10	
Counties	50	
Autonomous counties	11	
Districts	16	
Special districts	1 (Liuzhi Special District is under the jurisdiction of Liupanshui City, a prefecture-level city)	

Township level divisions	
Towns	691
Townships	506
Ethnic townships	252
Subdistricts	94
Villages level divisions	
Communities	3,857
Administrative villages	14,311

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Guizhou

Guizhou Cultural & Natural Heritage Protection & Development Project

Guizhou Province is located in southwest China and has a total population of about 39.5 million. The province has one of the largest ethnic minority populations in China with 14 million (38%) of the population, belonging to 49 different ethnic groups. Although underdeveloped, Guizhou is richly endowed with cultural and natural resources. However, this rapid growth has exposed structural weaknesses in the implementation of the current tourism strategy and presented challenges for the conservation and sustainable development of the province's heritage assets. In response to these challenges, the Chinese government launched the Guizhou Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection and Development Project, supported by a US\$60 million loan from the World Bank. This Project was designed to enable Guizhou Province to better utilize and manage its rich cultural, natural & historical resources and improve the living standards of the local ethnic minority communities which account for 38% of its population. The range of activities supported through the project were included improvement of the basic community infrastructure, restoration of traditional buildings, expansion of tourist service facilities, protection of intangible heritage, and technical assistance for project implementation and tourism management. An important feature of the project was the adoption of a community-based development (CBD) approach, aimed at protecting cultural heritage & generating local income. This approach involved active participation of local communities in the planning, management, and implementation of the programs. This project was beginning in December 2010, and completed in December 2016.

The project focused on the protection of ethnic minority cultural heritage and included components aimed at supporting the sustainable development of tourism and managing environmental and social impacts. Guizhou has a large rural population, and the project formed part of the province's socioeconomic development strategy to reduce poverty through tourism and the sustainable use of its unique cultural and natural resources. Key components of the project included: a. Preparation of a Development Master Plan, b. Protection of Ethnic Minority Cultural Heritage, covering 17 minority villages and 4 historic towns in the Qiandongnan and Qianxinan prefectures, c. Implementation of physical investments to improve infrastructure and tourism facilities, d. Protection and development of natural heritage and scenic sites, e. Construction of tourist information centers, f. Development of facilities in tourism gateway towns, g. Tourism promotion and training programs, and h. Strengthening of institutional capacity within the tourism sector.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Policy Focusing on Ethnic Minority Areas

Guizhou Province has a rich history of ethnic diversity, with its people and cultures contributing significantly to the unique cultural landscape of China. It is home to 49 ethnic groups, including the Miao, Bouyei, Dong, Shui, Yao, Gelao, Hui, Tujia, and Yi. Among them, the Miao, Dong, Bouyei, and Shui are some of the largest and most prominent minority groups. Key regions for experiencing and preserving ethnic minority cultures -such as the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture in southeast Guizhou and the Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in southwest Guizhou -are home to many of these communities and their vibrant traditions. In recent years, Guizhou Province has placed strong emphasis on the preservation & innovation of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). The province has launched a range of immersive ICH experiences, traditional performances, & unique tourism products, providing visitors with a vibrant and enriching cultural experience.

China has a comprehensive system for listing ICH at national, provincial, municipal, and county levels. To date, China has over 100,000 ICH items of various levels, including 1,557 featured on the national list. A total of 3,056 people are recognized as national-level ICH inheritors. Guizhou has two items inscribed on UNESCO's International Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage. As of 2024/2025, the province is home to 159 nationally recognized intangible cultural heritage items and 1,025 at the provincial level. Within Guizhou, the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture stands out for its especially rich cultural heritage, with 218 provincial-level items, 329 prefecture-level items, and 56 national-level items (www.eguizhou.gov.cn).

Miao Embroidery and Batik: While embroidery has a long tradition in China, the origins of Miao embroidery are shrouded by history. Batik, a craft inherited through generations among the Miao ethnic group in southwest China's Guizhou, has a history of more than 2,000 years. The first written record of the ancestors of the Miao is in the Book of Han, which suggests that Miao embroidery was being produced as early as the Warring States Period. The Miao do not have their own written language, and their embroidery itself takes on the role of documenting their history and culture. Miao embroidery motifs handed down from generation to generation not only reflect the world view, values and aesthetics of the Miao, they also illustrate their history and religion and the social changes they have undergone over the centuries. This makes embroidery an extraordinary medium for expressing and preserving Miao culture. Miao embroidery is a meticulous art form employing various stitches to create detailed patterns on clothing and ceremonial items. Motifs are inspired by nature and their daily lives, including flowers, mountains, butterflies, and rivers, each holding symbolic meaning. Butterflies, for example, are associated with their ancestry, while flowers represent the development of their descendants. For Miao women, learning embroidery is a rite of passage, starting from a young age and culminating in the creation of elaborate dowries for their weddings. These garments serve as "walking history books" and are vital to preserving their cultural heritage. They utilize silk and cotton threads, and sometimes horsehair, working with vibrant colors such as scarlet, pink, purple, dark blue, and green. Bees wax melting, patterns drawing, indigo dyeing, and fabrics boiling are the main procedures of making batik

by local people. The folk artwork is famous for its elegant color, graceful patterns and rich cultural meanings. The Miao people have a rich history of embroidery with various techniques and styles, including at least 12 categories like wring stitch, barbola embroidery, and warp-width counting stitch. Their batik often features deep and soft tones, with patterns depicting animals, plants, butterflies, fish, and flowers, expressed with delicate curves.

Miao Embroidery is considered one of China's five great traditions and is a significant medium for preserving Miao culture. Efforts by young creators and local players are reintroducing and promoting traditional arts like Miao embroidery and batik, moving them from their original mountain villages to a global stage. The Chinese government supports traditional cultural heritage, promoting it as a unique cultural legacy that benefits the economy and enhances China's global standing. Miao embroidery and batik are part of the broader textile heritage of the Miao, one of the 56 officially recognized ethnic groups in China, primarily residing in provinces like Guizhou, Yunnan, and Sichuan, according to Wikipedia. Danzhai County is a major center for the Miao ethnic group's batik craft. Beyond batik, the county is also known for other traditional crafts like papermaking and embroidery. Miao embroidery is recognized as a significant part of China's national intangible cultural heritage, having been included in the first batch of the national list in 2006. While it's a protected cultural asset within China, it has not yet been nominated and inscribed on UNESCO's international lists.

Bouyei Batik and Embroidery: The Bouyei people are highly regarded for their colorful patterned traditional batik fabrics, with common patterns including pear flowers, waves, and chains. They also craft colorful embroidery, along with bamboo hats and sleeping mats. Bouyei batik often has a blackish tone due to the number of dyes used. Their embroidery and batik are integral to their cultural identity as another officially recognized ethnic minority group in China. Bouyei traditional attire is typically made from homespun fabric often dyed in shades of blue, cyan, or white. Men commonly wear gowns and trousers, while women's attire includes blouses with wide collars and pleated skirts, often adorned with batik and embroidery. Bouyei garments incorporate batik, a wax-resist dyeing technique that produces intricate designs, and often feature geometric patterns. Embroidery is utilized in their clothing, though traditionally the patterns may differ from those of the Miao. Bouyei ethnic wear is also being commercialized and recognized internationally, with businesses producing and selling their traditional costumes and embroidered goods. Bouyei batik and embroidery are considered significant parts of China's cultural heritage and are being revitalized and promoted through initiatives that are gaining global recognition. The practice is recognized as an important folk tradition from the Guizhou province. Bouyei Batik and Embroidery is recognized as a national intangible cultural heritage of China and was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2006, under the name "Chinese Folk Art of Batik".

The Four Famous major regional styles of Chinese embroidery are Su Xiu (Jiangsu Province), Xiang Xiu (Hunan Province), Yue Xiu (Guangdong Province), and Shu Xiu (Sichuan Province). All of them are nominated as Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Su Embroidery (Su Xiu) Originating from Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, Su Xiu is perhaps the most celebrated and well-known. It boasts a history of over 3,000 years and is characterized by its beautiful patterns, ingenious conceptions, meticulous embroidery, and lively needling. Xiang Embroidery (Xiang Xiu) is Known for its time-honored history and excellent craftsmanship, Xiang embroidery hails from Hunan Province. The earliest known piece dates back to the Han Dynasty, found in Changsha. Yue Embroidery (Yue Xiu) or Guang embroidery comes from the Guangdong Province, particularly areas like Guangzhou, Shantou, and Zhongshan. Historical records mention a remarkable embroidery of a Buddhist scripture by a girl named Lu Meiniang during the Tang Dynasty. Shu Embroidery (Shu Xiu) is also called Chuan embroidery, is associated with Chengdu and the Sichuan Province. It also has a long and rich history.

Other famous Embroidery and Batik: While China has many embroidery and batik traditions, the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage lists specifically include **Traditional Li textile (Li brocade) techniques** (spinning, dyeing, weaving, and embroidering) of Li ethnic group which is a broad designation that encompasses embroidery. Traditional Li textile techniques inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2024, after first being added to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2009. It was inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of China in 2006. These techniques are practiced by the Li ethnic group of Hainan Province, China, who have a tradition of textile production dating back over 3,000 years. Another UNESCO ICH lists include **Song brocade**, also known as Song Jin or Suzhou Song Brocade, is a traditional Chinese textile art originating from the Song Dynasty (960–1279 AD) in the Suzhou region known for its intricate, vibrant patterns, luxurious silk, and soft yet strong texture. Historically prized by the imperial court and high officials, and used for clothing and mounting calligraphy and paintings. It is a treasured part of China's textile heritage. Production Involves the careful reeling of silk cocoons, dyeing with natural plant-based dyes, and weaving techniques such as jacquard weaving to create intricate designs. After the Qing Dynasty, the craft declined significantly. A production cooperative was established in 1956, and a silk relic's reproduction center in 1995, to research and revive the traditional techniques. The weaving technique was included in China's first batch of national intangible cultural heritages in 2006 and later inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List in 2009. Contemporary Art Artisans continue to preserve the craft, while modern innovations are being incorporated to ensure its relevance today.

The "Grand Song" of the Dong people and their associated living traditions, including their traditional costumes and weaving skills, are inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Grand Song tradition of multi-part singing performed without instruments was inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009. It highlights the need to preserve the entire cultural context of the Dong people, which encompasses their distinctive building techniques, medical knowledge, autonomous administration, and intricate weaving traditions. By recognizing these interconnected elements, UNESCO helps to promote a holistic approach to safeguarding the

cultural heritage of the Dong people and their villages. Both the Chinese government and UNESCO are involved in protecting & promoting these traditions. The Chinese government's efforts to support Dong brocade's protection and development are a key part of this initiative.



Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/dong--villages>

The nominated Dong Villages were located in Liping County, Rongjiang County and Congjiang County of Guizhou Province and Sanjiang, Tongdao & Suining County of Hunan Province. The drum tower and Sasui (famous heroine of Dong Nationality) altar are the most important basic elements of a Dong village. The multi-storey drum tower, the symbol of a Dong village, is usually built in the flat or high grounds of the village center. A square is built in front of the drum tower, and provides a venue for the entire village to come together for meetings, festival celebrations, and other public activities. The typical residences of Dong people are called “Diaojiolou”, stilt houses built with Chinese fir wood and consisting of three or four floors. They feature a wood column-tie structure, and a tiled roof, and are surrounded by corridors and railings. In some regions, the corridors and the eaves are respectively connected between houses. A large number of Dong Villages have fish ponds dugged out in front and at the back of the houses and build a two-storey granary on stilts beside. The fish ponds are used to rear fish and for fire safety features a waterside village. The intangible cultural heritage of Dong Villages is also remarkable and unique.

Dong embroidery intricate style is rooted in the agricultural traditions of the Dong ethnic group and expresses their reverence for nature. It characterized by its vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and deep cultural significance, often depicting nature, religious beliefs, and symbols of good fortune and identity. It is primarily practiced by Dong women and is seen on various items like clothing, headscarves, shoes, and bags. It utilizes a diverse range of stitches, including flat, crossed, and knotted stitches, often in binary color combinations. Some artisans are skilled in "double-sided embroidery," a particularly intricate technique where the design is invisible from the back. Dong embroidery is rich in symbolic imagery. Common motifs include flowers, sun, moon, and dragons, each carrying specific meanings like protection, good fortune, kindness, and respect for nature. Dong embroidery is a vital part of their cultural heritage, expressing the ethnic identity of the Dong people and their connection to their traditions and beliefs. It is a highly detailed and time-consuming hand-embroidery process, reflecting the skill and patience of its practitioners.

China's "Traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices" were added to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on November 29, 2022, following its inscription by the 17th UNESCO Intergovernmental Working Conference. This recognition includes the knowledge, skills, and practices of tea plantation management, picking, manual processing, and drinking, which are deeply integrated into Chinese daily life and social customs.

Based on natural conditions and local customs, tea producers have developed six categories of tea: green, yellow, dark, white, oolong and black teas. When added to reprocessed teas, such as flower-scented teas, the result is over 2,000 tea products with a variety of colours, aromas, flavours and shapes. Tea is ubiquitous in the Chinese people's daily life and is served steeped or boiled in homes, workplaces, tea houses, restaurants and temples. It is an important part of socialization and of ceremonies such as weddings and sacrifices. The practice of greeting guests and building relationships within families and among neighbours through tea-related activities is common to multiple ethnic groups, providing a sense of shared identity and continuity for the communities. The knowledge, skills and traditions are passed on through families and apprenticeships, and the bearers include tea producers, farmers and artists, as well as those who make the pastries that are typically served with tea.

Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges are listed in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The inscription on the Representative List was made by UNESCO in December 2024, and the tradition was previously on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2009. Traditional Chinese wooden arch bridges are built using wood and ancient techniques like the mortise and tenon joint and beam-weaving, guided by experienced master carpenters to create stable, long-lasting structures. These bridges, prominent in Zhejiang and Fujian provinces, are more than just crossings; they are integral community hubs and cultural symbols that embody harmony with nature. The practice, listed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, faces threats from urbanization but is undergoing a revival through dedicated preservation efforts and educational initiatives.



Source: <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-5309/14/9/2669>

Rural tourism in China's ethnic minority areas

Rural tourism in China's ethnic minority areas focuses on showcasing unique cultures and landscapes to promote economic development, particularly in the western and south-western provinces. Supported by government initiatives and infrastructure projects such as high-speed rail, this form of tourism brings significant economic and social benefits and can help strengthen local identities. Tourism serves as a strategy to bring economic and social development to rural communities where opportunities are limited. The development of these areas emphasizes the preservation and promotion of ethnic minority cultures, arts, and traditions for both domestic and international tourists. The expansion of China's high-speed rail, civil aviation, and highway networks has made once-isolated ethnic minority regions more accessible, boosting tourism. The development of rural tourism in these areas has been a focus of national programs like "Open Up the West" (since 2000) and the "Build a New Socialist Countryside" campaign.

China's ethnic minority rural tourism is mainly a government-led, pro-poor development strategy that mixes infrastructure investment, destination branding, and market mechanisms with community participation. A sustainable development approach in China that uses rural tourism to preserve the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of ethnic minority communities. Overall, great progress has been made in the sustainable development of rural tourism in China's ethnic minority areas. A long-term, balanced approach that protects the environment, supports local economies, and sustains cultural traditions is a China's Sustainable Development Model. This model supports safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage (traditional songs, dances, crafts, rituals, languages) of ethnic minority groups in China.

China has been emphasizing village museums and similar local cultural institutions as part of its rural and ethnic minority tourism development. These initiatives not only preserve local heritage but also contribute to rural revitalization and economic empowerment. They are embedded within broader policies aimed at rural revitalization, cultural preservation, and poverty alleviation, while also creating new economic opportunities for local communities. Small museums are emerging in villages, showcasing culture and attracting visitors with authentic, locally curated exhibitions. Some villagers have transformed their renovated homes into cultural museums, drawing tourists and integrating heritage into their livelihoods. As of late 2023, provinces such as Jilin and Zhejiang have been pioneers in developing rural museums. Jilin has established 91 such venues, while Zhejiang has built 692, with plans to reach 1,000 by 2025.

China has adopted an Eco museum model approach that integrates community involvement, cultural preservation, and tourism. Ethno-ecological museums, or Eco museums represent a new type of multidisciplinary open-air museums focused both on the natural and the cultural environment of ethnic minority groups. This model approach Initiated in Guizhou and targeted Miao, Dong, and Buyi communities in late 1990s. Later on expanded to places like Guangxi, Yunnan, and Inner Mongolia.

Major activities in China's ethnic and cultural tourism generally fall into several interconnected categories:

1. Festival and Performance Tourism – Attending traditional festivals, cultural shows, and folk performances that showcase music, dance, and storytelling.
2. Ethnic Villages and Theme Parks – Visiting ethnic minority villages—some authentic, others reconstructed—where tourists can experience traditional architecture, clothing, crafts, and cuisine. Large-scale cultural theme parks, such as the Yunnan Nationalities Village or Splendid China in Shenzhen, also present diverse ethnic traditions in curated settings.
3. Handicraft and Culinary Tourism – Purchasing locally made products such as textiles, embroidery, silverware, pottery, and wood carvings. Participating in or observing traditional food preparation, for example, Tibetan butter tea, Uyghur kebabs, or Dong minority rice wine.
4. Heritage and Religious Site Tourism – Visiting historical monuments, temples, monasteries, mosques, and UNESCO World Heritage sites such as the Potala Palace or the Dazu Rock Carvings. Observing religious rituals and ceremonies, often adapted for tourist audiences.
5. Nature–Culture Integration – Experiencing minority cultures within scenic landscapes, such as the rice terraces of the Zhuang and Yao in Guangxi or the nomadic grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Activities may include trekking, horseback riding, or engaging in traditional farming and herding practices.
6. Interactive Cultural Experiences – Wearing ethnic costumes for photography, joining craft-making workshops, taking music and dance lessons, or participating in homestay programs for immersive cultural exchange.

Introduction to Guiyang City

Guiyang, capital of China's Guizhou Province, blends ancient ethnic heritage with modern tech innovation amidst a stunning karst landscape and year-round cool climate. Once a remote frontier town, it's now dubbed "Big Data Valley," leveraging its ecological and climatic advantages to host tech giants like Huawei and Tencent, whose energy-efficient data centers thrive here. The city preserves centuries of multicultural fusion—seen in Ming-era Jiaxiu Pavilion, Qingyan Ancient Town's cobblestone streets, and vibrant Miao ethnic festivals while pioneering sustainability through green urban corridors and global eco-dialogues. Nature thrives in Qianling Mountain Park's macaque-filled forests, Hongfeng Lake's emerald waters, and nearby UNESCO sites like Huangguoshu Waterfall. Culinary adventures range from fiery sour fish soup to Zhenning Road's bustling night markets. With seamless connectivity via Longdongbao Airport and high-speed rail, Guiyang is a gateway where misty peaks frame server farms, ancient traditions meet AI labs, and ecological balance fuels a sustainable future (Academy for International Business Officials [AIBO], MOFCOM, 2025).

Guiyang's rich cultural landscape includes the distinct Yelang, Yangming, and Tunpu cultures, alongside a wealth of ethnic minority traditions. Beyond physical structures, there is an effort to revitalize and develop intangible cultural heritage, such as the Bouyei Penglai Dixi Opera, using it to promote rural development. Dixi Opera, a cultural practice observed during the lunar New Year to honour ancestors and welcome spring, and diverse Miao ethnic dances. Guiyang regularly hosts events like Cultural and Natural Heritage Day celebrations,

which often blend traditional performances and crafts with modern activities like the Guiyang Marathon. Other events include "International Museum Day" and cultural and creative markets that feature workshops, performances, and artisan showcases. The city is known for its rich textile traditions, including Miao embroidery and Bouyei clothing, as well as paper cutting, batik art, and the production of instruments like the Lusheng. Traditional medicine and local cuisine are also integral parts of the intangible heritage. Guiyang is home to various ethnic groups; particularly the Miao and Bouyei, whose unique cultural practices and traditions are actively celebrated and preserved through festivals, dances, songs, and rituals like the Bouyei Nostalgia event in Longjing village. Villages like Xijiang Qianhu Miao village and Sanbao Dong village became tourist destinations, attracting visitors interested in ethnic culture and cuisine.

There is a strong emphasis on integrating intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with tourism and modern life, as seen in efforts to create cultural and creative products, promote cultural tourism routes, and showcase ICH in public spaces. Guiyang utilizes its ICH as a valuable resource for local development, aiming to raise income levels and enhance the cultural attractiveness of the region, while also actively working on scientific pathways for its protection and inheritance. The city features locations like the Guiyang Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Hall and museums that house extensive collections of ethnic ritual objects, costumes, and artifacts, providing a platform for education and appreciation of Guizhou's cultural heritage. Institutions like the Guiyang Hands-on Memory Museum and village-based workshops serve as centers for research, cultural exchange, and hands-on learning experiences in traditional crafts and arts. The local government supports cultural preservation through initiatives such as establishing learning centers and providing start-up funds for local businesses involved in heritage crafts, like the Zhengfeng ethnic costume processing factory. The development of cultural heritage in Guiyang is increasingly tied to sustainable rural development and the responsible management of cultural and environmental resources.

The entire Guiyang municipality currently consists of six districts, one county-level city and three counties. The districts are Nanming, Yunyan, Huxaxi, Wudang, Baiyun and Guanshanhu. The county-city is Qingzhen and the counties are Kaiyang, Xifeng and Xiuwen.

Guiyang City		Prefectural city
County level	County cities (1): Qingzhen City Counties (3): Kaiyang County, Xifeng County, Xiuwen County Districts (6): Nanming District, Yunyan District, Huaxi District, Wudang District, Baiyun District, Guanshanhu District	
Township level	Sub-districts (67): Towns (40): Townships (9): Ethnic township (17): Xiaobi Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Mengguan Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, Huchao Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, Gaopo Miao Ethnic Township, Qiantao Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Maling Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township,	

	Xinbao Bouyei Ethnic Township, Pianpo Bouyei Ethnic Township, Dula Bouyei Ethnic Township, Niuchang Bouyei Ethnic Township, Hefeng Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Nanjiang Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Gaozhai Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, Qingshan Miao Ethnic Township, Maige Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, Wangzhuang Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, and Liuchang Miao Ethnic Township
Basic level	49 administrative villages and 90 residential communities in Guanshanhu District

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Guizhou

Introduction to Anshun City

Anshun, a prefecture-level city in southwestern Guizhou Province, China, captivates visitors with its harmonious fusion of natural grandeur and cultural traditions. Situated amid the rugged karst landscapes of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, this mountainous region boasts iconic attractions such as Huangguoshu Waterfall, Asia's largest waterfall celebrated both for its thunderous cascades and its role in Chinese pop culture as a filming site for the classic Journey to the West TV series. Nearby, the Dragon Palace (Longgong) enchants explorers with its 4-kilometer labyrinth of underground rivers, shimmering stalactites, and record-breaking cave formations, including the world's largest in-cave waterfall. The surrounding Tianxingqiao Scenic Area further showcases nature's artistry through jagged stone forests and turquoise streams sculpted by millennia of water erosion.

Beyond its geological wonders, Anshun preserves living history in ancient Tunpu villages, where descendants of Ming Dynasty soldiers still inhabit stone-walled courtyards and practice time-honored customs like Dixi Opera masked performances. The city's cultural vibrancy extends to annual events like the Dragon Palace Poetry Festival, which intertwines ecological appreciation with literary arts. Travelers savor authentic local flavours such as Zhusuncha, a hearty bamboo shoot chicken hotpot, while engaging with communities actively promoting sustainable tourism through initiatives like English-language storytelling competitions. With over 90% forest coverage in its rural outskirts and a temperate climate ideal for year-round exploration, Anshun emerges as a compelling destination where earth's raw beauty converges with enduring human heritage (Academy for International Business Officials [AIBO], MOFCOM, 2025).

Anshun city administers two district, and four counties (one county and three autonomous counties). In addition, there are two other administrative areas: the Anshun Economic and Technological Development Zone and the national-level Huangguoshu Scenic Area. The Huangguoshu Scenic Area is a prestigious 5A-level national scenic area in Anshun, Guizhou Province, China, centered around the majestic Huangguoshu Waterfall, Asia's largest waterfall. The area features 18 waterfalls, dramatic karst landscapes, underground lakes, and the unique Water Curtain Cave, offering opportunities for hiking, photography, and experiencing the area's natural beauty and fresh air.

Anshun City		Prefectural city
County level	Districts (2): Xixiu District, and Pingba District Counties (4): Puding County Zhenning Buyei and Miao Autonomous County Guanling Buyei and Miao Autonomous County Ziyun Miao and Buyei Autonomous County	
Township level	Sub-districts (26): Towns (48): Townships (6): Ethnic township (10): Xinchang Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Yanla Miao & Bouyei Ethnic Township, Jichang Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Yangwu Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Huangla Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Shizi Hui & Miao Ethnic Township, Yangchang Bouyei & Miao Ethnic Township, Bulang Miao Ethnic Township, Houchang Miao & Gelao Ethnic Township, and Maodong Miao & Gelao Ethnic Township	

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Guizhou

Cultural Heritage Protection program in China

China's Cultural Heritage Protection programs encompass national legislation like the Law on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage, government-led efforts to list and promote heritage, international cooperation through organizations like UNESCO, and the work of NGOs like the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center. These programs focus on both tangible and intangible heritage, with strategies including surveys, education, restoration projects, and leveraging heritage for sustainable development.

The Cultural Relics Protection Law was passed in 2002, providing a legal basis for preserving cultural heritage. The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Law adopted in 2011, and efforts by entities like the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) to conserve historical sites and support cultural revitalization for ethnic minorities. Key aspects involve restoring traditional structures, creating public parks, training inheritors of traditional practices, and integrating cultural preservation into development and poverty alleviation plans. The Chinese government also funds national ICH projects, fostering innovation and collaboration between education, industry, and communities. Programs focus on restoring traditional buildings, old housing, and urban infrastructure, as well as creating parks on disused land and spaces for commercial activity.

The government provides dedicated funding for national-level ICH projects and inheritors. The Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center works to revitalize traditions among ethnic minorities and integrate them into poverty alleviation efforts. Universities like the Nanjing University of the Arts conduct training programs for ICH inheritors and offer international cooperative programs in heritage conservation. Centers work closely with local communities to develop sustainable heritage management practices. Educational programs, such as the "Walking with History: Time Travel Novel Competition," promote awareness and appreciation of culture among the public. Research centers focus on diverse aspects of Chinese culture and maintain comprehensive databases. Emphasis is placed on the practical

application and commercialization of ICH to facilitate its preservation. Media Training Programs are designed to increase media understanding of cultural heritage and encourage coverage of important artifacts and sites.

China has 60 World Heritage Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list, ranking second in the world, just below Italy with 61 sites. Of these 60 sites, 41 are listed for their cultural, 15 for their natural and 4 sites for both cultural and natural significance. In addition, China also has 60 sites on its tentative list.

SN	Site	Location	Listed
01	Mount Taishan	Shandong	1987
02	The Great Wall	Beijing, Hebei, Gansu	1987
03	Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing & Shenyang	Beijing, Liaoning	1987
04	Mogao Caves	Gansu	1987
05	Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor	Shaanxi	1987
06	Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian	Beijing	1987
07	Mount Huangshan	Anhui	1990
08	Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area	Sichuan	1992
09	Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area	Sichuan	1992
10	Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area	Hunan	1992
11	Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, Chengde	Hebei	1994
12	Temple and Cemetery of Confucius & the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu	Shandong	1994
13	Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains	Hubei	1994
14	Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa	Tibet	1994
15	Lushan National Park	Jiangxi	1996
16	Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area	Sichuan	1996
17	Old Town of Lijiang	Yunnan	1997
18	Ancient City of Ping Yao	Shanxi	1997
19	Classical Gardens of Suzhou	Jiangsu	1997
20	Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing	Beijing	1998
21	Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing	Beijing	1998
22	Mount Wuyi	Fujian	1999
23	Dazu Rock Carvings	Chongqing	1999
24	Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System	Sichuan	2000

25	Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui – Xidi and Hongcun	Anhui	2000
26	Longmen Grottoes	Henan	2000
27	Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties	Beijing, Liaoning, Jiangsu	2000
28	Yungang Grottoes	Shanxi	2001
29	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas	Yunnan	2003
30	Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom	Jilin	2004
31	Historic Centre of Macao	Macao	2005
32	Yin Xu	Henan	2006
33	Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries - Wolong, Mt Siguniang & Jiayin Mountains	Sichuan	2006
34	Kaiping Diaolou and Villages	Guangdong	2007
35	South China Karst	Yunnan,Guizhou,Chongqing, Guangxi	2007
36	Fujian Tulou	Fujian	2008
37	Mount Sanqingshan National Park	Jiangxi	2008
38	Mount Wutai	Shanxi	2009
39	Historic Monuments of Dengfeng in "The Centre of Heaven & Earth"	Henan	2010
40	China Danxia	Hunan, Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Guizhou	2010
41	West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou	Zhejiang	2011
42	Chengjiang Fossil Site	Yunnan	2012
43	Site of Xanadu	Inner Mongolia	2012
44	Xinjiang Tianshan	Xinjiang	2013
45	Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces	Yunnan	2013
46	Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor	Henan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Xinjiang	2014
47	The Grand Canal	Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Henan	2014
48	Tusi Sites	Hunan, Hubei, Guizhou	2015
49	Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape	Guangxi	2016
50	Hubei Shennongjia	Hubei	2016
51	Qinghai Hoh Xil	Qinghai	2017
52	Kulangsu: a Historic International Settlement	Fujian	2017
53	Fanjingshan	Guizhou	2018
54	Archaeological ruins of Liangzhu City	Zhejiang	2019
55	Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of	Hebei, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai	2019

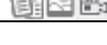
	China		
56	Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China	Fujian	2021
57	Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er	Yunnan	2023
58	Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes	Inner Mongolia	2024
59	Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital	Beijing	2024
60	Xixia Imperial Tombs	Ningxia	2025

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_China

China has a robust Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) preservation program that includes a legal and institutional framework, financial support, and digital initiatives to safeguard and promote traditional cultural practices. The program involves a hierarchical national catalog system (a multi-layered listing system), the Protection Center of China ICH, and the establishment of a national special fund. It also emphasizes documentation, capacity building for inheritors, public awareness campaigns, and the use of digital technologies and exhibitions to ensure cultural continuity and engagement for younger generations and a global audience. With 43 UNESCO-listed ICH projects, the country is a global leader in safeguarding cultural practices, employing policies that foster cultural confidence, and promoting the practical application and commercialization of ICH to support its vibrant development.

The central government provides dedicated funding for the protection and promotion of national-level ICH, including funding for inheritors and cultural ecological protection zones. China has a comprehensive system for listing ICH at national, provincial, municipal, and county levels, with a total of over 100,000 items. China has 44 projects inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage lists, demonstrating its global standing in this field. The establishment of ICH programs in universities and the integration of ICH education in curricula help foster cultural consciousness and develop professional roles in heritage conservation among students, according to Research Gate.

There is a deliberate policy effort to integrate ICH with tourism development, as seen in the development plans of Beijing and other districts. The program also embraces digital cultural creation to ensure ICH aligns with contemporary needs, which is seen as a crucial component for fostering innovation and resonance between the heritage and the public. Policies aim to empower communities by involving them in the stewardship of their traditional knowledge and providing economic incentives, such as stipends for transmission bearers and cultural tourism revenue-sharing frameworks. China emphasizes the importance of commercializing ICH to facilitate its preservation and on-going development, allowing it to better connect with the public and reach a wider audience.

2024 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Spring festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of traditional new year	
Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering	
Qiang New Year festival	
Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges	
2022 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China	
2020 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Taijiquan	
Ong Chun/Wangchuan/Wangkang ceremony, rituals and related practices for maintaining the sustainable connection between man and the ocean	
2018 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Lum medicinal bathing of Sowa Rigpa, knowledge and practices concerning life, health and illness prevention and treatment among the Tibetan people in China	
2016 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
The Twenty-Four Solar Terms, knowledge in China of time and practices developed through observation of the sun's annual motion	
2013 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Chinese Zhusuan, knowledge & practices of mathematical calculation through the abacus	
2012 Register of Good Safeguarding Practices	
Strategy for training coming generations of Fujian puppetry practitioners	
2011 List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding	
Hezhen Yimakan storytelling	
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Chinese shadow puppetry	
2010 List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding	
Meshrep	
Watertight-bulkhead technology of Chinese junks	
Wooden movable-type printing of China	
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Peking opera	
Acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine	
2009 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Grand song of the Dong ethnic group	
Xi'an wind and percussion ensemble	
Sericulture and silk craftsmanship of China	
Nanyin	
Craftsmanship of Nanjing Yunjin brocade	
Traditional handicrafts of making Xuan paper	
Yueju opera	
Gesar epic tradition	
Traditional firing technology of Longquan celadon	
Regong arts	
Tibetan opera	
Manas	
Mongolian art of singing, Khoomei	

Hua'er	
Farmers' dance of China's Korean ethnic group	
Chinese calligraphy	
Art of Chinese seal engraving	
Chinese paper-cut	
Chinese traditional architectural craftsmanship for timber-framed structures	
Dragon Boat festival	
Mazu belief and customs	
China engraved block printing technique	
2008 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	
Kun Qu opera	
Guqin and its music	
Uyghur Muqam of Xinjiang	
Urtiin Duu, traditional folk long song	

Source: [https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists?text=&country\[\]=00045&multinational=3#tabs](https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists?text=&country[]=00045&multinational=3#tabs)

Officially recognized Ethnic groups

China officially recognizes 56 ethnic groups in total, with the Han being the majority and the largest ethnic group in the world. In addition to the Han, there are 55 officially recognized ethnic minority groups, each with their own distinct languages, cultures, and traditions. These minority groups primarily reside in the vast western, southwestern, and northwestern regions of the country. Soon after the establishment of the People's Republic of China, 39 ethnic groups were recognized by the first national census in 1954. This further increased to 54 by the second national census in 1964, with the Lhoba people added in 1965. The last change was the addition of the Jino people in 1979, bringing the number of recognized ethnic groups to the current 56.

SN	Standard Romanization	Mandarin Pinyin	National Shares	Population of 2020	Year of recognition
01	Han ^[a]	<i>Hànzú</i>	91.1098%	1,284,446,389	1954
02	Zhuang	<i>Zhuàngzú</i>	1.3801%	19,568,546	1954
03	Uyghur (Uyghur)	<i>Wéiwú'ěrzú</i>	0.8352%	11,774,538	1954
04	Hui ^[b]	<i>Huízú</i>	0.8070%	11,377,914	1954
05	Miao ^[c]	<i>Miáozú</i>	0.7851%	11,067,929	1954
06	Man (Manchu)	<i>Mǎnzú</i>	0.7394%	10,423,303	1954
07	Yi	<i>Yízú</i>	0.6973%	9,830,327	1954
08	Tujia	<i>Tújiāzú</i>	0.6801%	9,587,732	1964
09	Zang ^[d] (Tibetan)	<i>Zàngzú</i>	0.5008%	7,060,731	1954
10	Mongol	<i>Měnggǔzú</i>	0.4461%	6,290,204	1954
11	Bouyei	<i>Bùyīzú</i>	0.2537%	3,576,752	1954
12	Dong ^[e] (Kam-Sui)	<i>Dòngzú</i>	0.2480%	3,495,993	1954
13	Yao (Dao)	<i>Yáozú</i>	0.2347%	3,309,341	1954
14	Bai (Pai)	<i>Báizú</i>	0.1484%	2,091,543	1954
15	Hani ^[f] (Ho)	<i>Hānizú</i>	0.1229%	1,733,166	1954
16	Chosŏn (Korean)	<i>Cháoxiǎnzú</i>	0.1207%	1,702,479	1954
17	Li (Lizu/Hlai)	<i>Lízú</i>	0.1136%	1,602,104	1954
18	Kazak (Kazakh)	<i>Hāsàkèzú</i>	0.1108%	1,562,518	1954
19	Dai ^[g]	<i>Dǎizú</i>	0.0943%	1,329,985	1954

20	Lisu	<i>Lìsùzú</i>	0.0541%	762,296	1954
21	She	<i>Shēzú</i>	0.0529%	746,385	1964
22	Dongxiang	<i>Dōngxiāngzú</i>	0.0550%	774,947	1954
23	Gelao	<i>Gēlǎozú</i>	0.0481%	677,521	1964
24	Lahu	<i>Lāhùzú</i>	0.0354%	499,167	1954
25	Sui (Shui)	<i>Shuǐzú</i>	0.0352%	495,928	1954
26	Wa	<i>Wǎzú</i>	0.0306%	430,997	1954
27	Naxi (Nakhi ^[h] /Nashi)	<i>Nàxǐzú</i>	0.0230%	323,767	1954
28	Qiang	<i>Qiāngzú</i>	0.0222%	312,981	1954
29	Tu (Monguor)	<i>Tūzú</i>	0.0200%	281,928	1954
30	Mulao ^[i]	<i>Mùlǎozú</i>	0.0197%	277,233	1964
31	Kirgiz (Kyrgyz)	<i>Kē'ěrkèzǐzú</i>	0.0145%	204,402	1954
32	Xibe	<i>Xībóuzú</i>	0.0136%	191,911	1954
33	Salar	<i>Sālǎzú</i>	0.0117%	165,159	1954
34	Jingpo ^[j]	<i>Jǐngpōuzú</i>	0.0114%	160,471	1954
35	Daur (Dagur)	<i>Dáwò'ěrzú</i>	0.0094%	132,299	1964
36	Blang (Plang)	<i>Bùlǎngzú</i>	0.0090%	127,345	1964
37	Maonan ^[k]	<i>Máonánzú</i>	0.0088%	124,092	1964
38	Tajik ^[l]	<i>Tǎjìkèzú</i>	0.0036%	50,896	1954
39	Pumi	<i>Pǔmǐzú</i>	0.0032%	45,012	1964
40	Achang (Ngac'ang)	<i>Āchāngzú</i>	0.0031%	43,775	1964
41	Nu	<i>Nùzú</i>	0.0026%	36,575	1964
42	Ewenki (Tungus)	<i>Ēwēnkèzú</i>	0.0025%	34,617	1954
43	Gin (Vietnamese) ^[m]	<i>Jīngzú</i>	0.0024%	33,112	1964
44	Jino	<i>Jīnuòuzú</i>	0.0018%	26,025	1979
45	Bonan	<i>Bāo'ānzú</i>	0.0017%	24,434	1954
46	Deang ^[n] (Ta'ang)	<i>Dé'ángzú</i>	0.0016%	22,354	1964
47	Russ (Russian)	<i>Ēluósīzú</i>	0.0011%	16,136	1954
48	Yugur (Yughur)	<i>Yùgùzú</i>	0.0010%	14,706	1954
49	Uzbek	<i>Wūzībìkèzú</i>	0.0009%	12,742	1954
50	Monba	<i>Ménbāzú</i>	0.0008%	11,143	1964
51	Oroqen (Orochen)	<i>Ēlúnchūnzú</i>	0.0007%	9,168	1954
52	Derung (Drung)	<i>Dúlóngzú</i>	0.0005%	7,310	1964
53	Hezhen (Nanai) ^[o]	<i>Hèzhèzú</i>	0.0004%	5,373	1964
54	Lhoba	<i>Luòbāzú</i>	0.0003%	4,237	1965
55	Tatar (Tatars)	<i>Tātǎ'ěrzú</i>	0.0003%	3,544	1954
56	Gaoshan ^[p]	<i>Gāoshānzú</i>	0.0002%	3,479	1954

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ethnic_groups_in_China

a. Also included are the Chuanqing, b. Also includes Utsuls of Hainan, descended from Cham refugees, c. One subset of which is also known as Hmong and other include Hmu, Xong and A-Hmao. Some of the related languages and groups of peoples are not necessarily classified under the Miao umbrella, which makes this term somewhat vague. d. Including Amdowa and Khampa, as well as roughly half of Pumi speakers, the remainder of whom are classified as a separate Pumi ethnicity. e. Also known as Kam, f. Also included are the Sangkong, g. This category includes several different Tai-speaking groups historically referred to as Bai-yi. In fact, the Dai nationality consists of speakers of varieties of Shan languages. For instance,

the Tai Lue and Tai Nuea peoples are actually subgroups of the Shan people. Despite this, speakers of Bumang are also included in the Dai nationality. h. Also included are the Mosuo. i. Also included are the Qago, j. Known as Kachin in Myanmar, k. Also included is the Then. l. They are not Tajik people but Pamiri people, m. The same group as Vietnamese or Kinh people in Sino-Vietnamese, n. Known as Palaung in Myanmar, o. The same group as Nanai on the Russian side of the border, p. A collective name for all Taiwanese aborigine groups in Taiwan. In fact, the numbers of Gaoshan in census covers only those who lives in mainland China (mainly in Fujian) and consists of Amis (autonym: Pangcah), Paiwan and Bunun peoples.

Some scholars have estimated that there are over 200 distinct ethnic groups that inhabit China, compared to 56 groups that are officially recognized. There are in addition small distinct ethnic groups that have been classified as part of larger ethnic groups that are officially recognized (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unrecognized_ethnic_groups_in_China accessed on 9 August 2025).

National Ethnic Affairs Commission

The National Ethnic Affairs Commission (NEAC), also called the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), is a body under the leadership of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party that is responsible for administering the Chinese ethnic policies, researching ethnological theories, carrying out ethnic work and education, supervising the implementation and improvement of the system of regional ethnic autonomy. In 1949, the Ethnic Affairs Commission of the Central People's Government was established. In 1954, it was renamed the Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China. In 1970 this commission had replaced by The State Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China. Since 1978, it has been a constituent department of the State Council. The National Ethnic Affairs Commission was put under the leadership of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in March 2018 as part of the deepening the reform of the Party and state institutions. The National Ethnic Affairs Commission remains as a constituent department of the State Council.

On August 31, 2020, according to the National Development and Reform Commission's "Implementation Opinions on Comprehensively Pushing Forward the Reform of Delinking Trade Associations and Administrative Organs", the China Association of Ethnic Folk Crafts and Arts Artists, the China Ethnic Economy Promotion Association for Foreign Cooperation, and the National Association of Ethnic Secondary Education, formerly under the supervision of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, were separated from the State Ethnic Affairs Commission. In 2022, the NEAC launched a publication titled Deep China—along with its domestic Chinese edition, Dao Zhonghua—to engage in strategic communication and foster public conversation in support of the CCP's ethnic policies. In 2025, the State Council supported the NEAC in developing and piloting a new ethnographic program at 15 universities, focusing on fostering understanding and a sense of community between Han and non-Han ethnicities in mainland China. According to the Provisions on the Functional Configuration, Internal Organizations and Staffing of the National Ethnic Affairs

Commission and the Approval of the Central Editorial Office on Adjusting the Organizational Establishment of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission, the NEAC has set up the following organizations.

Internal Organizations: General Office, Division of Coordination and Promotion, Division of Theory and Research, Division of Policies and Regulations, Division of Promotion of National Unity, Division of Joint Development, Division of Culture and Publicity, Division of Education, Division of International Exchange (Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office), Division of Personnel, Division Party Committee of Organizations, and Bureau of Retired Cadres. Directly Affiliated Organizations: Public Opinion Center, Ancient Book Processing and Research Office and Organization Service Center (Organization Service Bureau). Directly Affiliated Cultural institutions: Central Academy for Ethnic Cadres, China Nationalities Language Translation Center (China Nationalities Language Translation Bureau), China National Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble, Publishing House of Minority Nationalities, Journal of National Unity, Cultural Palace of Nationalities, China Ethnic Museum, and China Ethnic Newspaper. Directly Affiliated Higher Education Institutions: Central University for Nationalities (Minzu University of China), South–Central Minzu University, Southwest University for Nationalities, Northwest University for Nationalities, North Minzu University, and Dalian Minzu University. Directly Affiliated Enterprise Units is China National Culture Publishing House Ltd.

The NEAC is tasked with formulating and implementing policies related to ethnic minorities, promoting their development, and ensuring their rights and interests are protected. This includes addressing issues like language, culture, education, and economic development in ethnic minority regions. The NEAC provides guidance to local ethnic affairs commissions and oversees their work. In China, ethnic affairs are managed at the national, provincial, and local levels by various government bodies. At the national level, the National Ethnic Affairs Commission (NEAC) is the primary body responsible for implementing ethnic policies. Below the national level, the structure continues with provincial-level ethnic affairs commissions, followed by commissions at the district and township levels. Each province, autonomous region, and municipality has its own ethnic affairs commission or bureau, which implements national policies and handles local ethnic issues. Ethnic affairs are also managed at the district and township levels through relevant government bodies or committees, although specific titles and structures may vary.

On-site Instruction and Symposium

On-site instruction generally refers to providing training or guidance directly at a specific location, while a symposium is a gathering of experts or interested parties to discuss a specific topic. They can be combined, for example, in a live on-site learning experience where participants observe and learn about a specific program or intervention in a real-world setting. Purpose On-site Instruction is to deliver training, guidance, or instructions directly at the location where the knowledge or skill will be applied. Benefits of On-site Instruction are hands-on experience, immediate feedback, contextual learning, and addressing specific site-related issues. Purpose of Symposium is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among experts and interested parties on a specific topic. Typically involves presentations, discussions, and workshops, often with a focus on interaction and networking among participants. Benefits of Combined On-site Instruction and Symposium are the practical experience of on-site instruction with the knowledge sharing and discussion facilitated by a symposium, offering a comprehensive learning experience with specific learning outcomes. AIBO has scheduled five 'On-site instruction and Symposium' during the seminar. There were three On-site instructions and Symposium scheduled in Beijing city and two in Guizhou Province.

On-site Instruction 1: Common Prosperity of China's Multi-ethnic Cultures, Visit to Minzu University of China

It was scheduled on Friday 16 May 2025. As per the pre-scheduled program, 24 participants of 8 countries with seminar coordinator of AIBO Ms. Wang Yang, official Mr. Li Zhennan and a guide arrived at Minzu University at 2 pm. We attended symposium with the Minzu University on Conference Hall of Zhonghui Building. Mr. Zang Ning, Deputy Director, the office of International Relations welcomed us and Mr. Wang Zhi, Vice President, Minzu University (Standing Committee of the Party Committee), briefly introduced the ethnic education of China and Minzu University.

The Chinese Communist Party first established a Nationalities Institute in its Civil War stronghold of Yan'an, in central China, in October 1941. In 1950-1952, this was merged with other ethno-linguistic and sociological departments, including elements of Peking University and Tsinghua University. The result was the Central Institute for Nationalities, which was established in 1951 and officially opened on 11 June 1952. Both the Yan'an and Central institutes were intended to train officials for ethnic minority areas, as well as providing a liberal arts education for promising students from the minorities. The officials were to be trained so they could serve as liaisons between their minority communities and the Chinese government. Their research was and is intended to support the policies of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission. The Central University for Nationalities changed its name to Minzu University of China in 1993. In 1999, it was granted "key university" status, as part of Project 211, which was supposed to identify 100 Chinese universities that would play leading roles in the 21st century. Since 2004, the university has been a participant in Project 985, a major national programme to raise 39 universities to world-class status. The campus has been almost completely reconstructed as part of this programme.

The Minzu University of China (MUC) is affiliated with the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of China. The university is part of Project 211, Project 985, and the Double First-Class Construction. Minzu University ranked first in China among universities for ethnic minority studies. It aims to be one of the best universities of its kind in the world for inheriting and promoting the excellent culture of all ethnic groups. With the strong support of Chinese government, it has developed rapidly over the years. MUC is one of the most prestigious universities in China in ethnology, anthropology, ethnic economies, regional economics, religion studies, history, dance, and fine arts. The university is renowned for promoting ethnic diversity and offering quality education to students from China's 56 ethnic groups. The motto of Minzu University is "Diversity in Unity, Theory in Practice". This motto reflects the university's commitment to celebrating the diverse ethnic groups within China while emphasizing the practical application of knowledge. "Unity in Diversity, Theory in Practice" encapsulates the idea that diverse elements can come together harmoniously to achieve a common goal, with the understanding that this concept is not just an ideal but something actively applied and realized. It emphasizes "unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation," fostering a richer human interaction where differences are seen as assets rather than divisions.

This On-site instructions and Symposium was structured to allow University officials to share their findings and for participants to interaction and observation. In this symposium Ms. Gulibanumu Kebaituli, Vice Dean School of international and regional studies of Minzu University, Interpreter Che Chang office of international relation, and Ms. Wang Xuedi Analyst at level-3 of Department of International Relations of NEAC were participated. After the symposium, the participants observed the University Museum. The Museum of Ethnic Cultures at Minzu University of China is a comprehensive ethnology museum specializing in the collection, display, and study of the cultural relics of China's 56 ethnic groups, making it the only museum among colleges and universities in China to house such a broad collection of all 56 groups' cultural artifacts and the only museum in northern China exhibiting Gaoshan people's cultural relics. It offers a unique opportunity to explore diverse ethnic traditions and artistry. It houses approximately 30,000 articles across 14 categories, including cultural relics, books, clothing, and production tools. The museum prominently features the clothing and personal adornments of various ethnic minorities, showcasing their textile, printing and dyeing, and leather-tanning skills.



On-site Instruction 2: Ethnic Work in Guizhou Province, Symposium with the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province

On-site Instruction 2 was scheduled on Monday 19 May 2025. Symposium started on Conference Hall of Guizhou Provincial Museum at 2:30 pm. Mr. Wu Wei, Director of Executive Department, officials Ms. Wang Yang and Ms. Zhang Siyu of AIBO, MOFCOM, 24 participants of 8 countries, and Mr. Wang Xingou, Director General, Mr. Gu Changhua, Deputy Director General, Ms. Groug Guizhan, Provincial ERA and other officials of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province were attended in symposium. DG, DDG, and Department officials of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province briefly presented on the topics of Ethnic Demographics, Cultural Preservation and Education, Religious Affairs, Policy and Governance, and Geographic Significance. Guizhou is noted for its significant ethnic minority population, particularly the Miao, Buyi, Tujia, Dong, Yi, Shui, Zhuang, and its diverse cultural landscapes. The Miao minority is being the largest group in this province. Ethnic work in Guizhou encompasses a range of activities and considerations, including the promotion and preservation of ethnic cultures, the challenges and opportunities presented by ethnic tourism, and the broader context of national ideology and community building within these minority areas. Guizhou is a hub for various ethnic minority cultures, evident in its traditional songs, dances, operas, and festivals. Efforts in ethnic work often involve preserving these cultural forms, as well as promoting them through tourism and other cultural initiatives. The province has seen a rise in ethnic tourism, which can be both a source of economic development and a catalyst for the standardization and commercialization of cultural practices. This involves a "sense of place" that can be shaped by the interaction of ethnic tourism and local realities. Guizhou faces challenges in maintaining the vibrancy of intangible cultural heritage, with concerns about the decline of traditional practices and the impact of modern communication. However, there is also a focus on industrializing the inheritance of ethnic culture to create popular cultural products and support the local economy. Initiatives like the "Ancient Miaojiang Corridor" in ethnic history are recognized and supported by national-level commissions, indicating a value placed on specific aspects of ethnic heritage.

The development of national ideology in Guizhou's ethnic-minority areas is a significant aspect of "ethnic work," aiming to strengthen the sense of a Chinese nation community. This involves integrating revolutionary culture and ideological education to achieve unity and support for national goals. Guizhou's history includes periods of war and poverty, which have shaped the experiences and cultures of its diverse ethnic groups. Understanding this history is crucial for comprehending the current dynamics of ethnic relations and development within the province. Significant efforts have been made in Guizhou, as in other ethnic minority regions, to promote development and alleviate poverty, with preferential policies and increased investment in these areas. China has established a comprehensive educational system for ethnic minorities in regions like Guizhou, with increased enrolment rates and significant financial assistance from the government to improve education in these areas.



Guizhou Provincial Museum, Lincheng East Road, Guanshanhu District, Guiyang City



Dinner at Hyatt Regency by Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province
Hon. Dr. Min Shris of INC and Director General, Mr. Gu Changhua of ERAC Guizhou

On-site Instruction 3a: Visit Longjing Village in Huaxi District, Investigate the Protection of Ethnic Villages and the Development of Ethnic Handicrafts.

On-site Instruction-3a and 3b were scheduled on Tuesday 20 May 2025. Longjing, which literally translates as "dragon well", is said to have named after a well that contains relatively dense water, and after rain the lighter rainwater floating on its surface sometimes exhibits a sinuous and twisting boundary with the well water, which is supposed to resemble the movement of a Chinese dragon. "Huaxi" is a Mandarin Chinese term that primarily refers to places in China, with its most common meaning translating to "flower brook" or "flower stream". It is used as the name for various locations, including a district in Guiyang, Guizhou province, and towns in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces. Longjing Village is located in the Huaxi District of Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province in Southwest China. The village is named after its clear, sweet springs, which were historically important for drinking water, irrigation, and making Bouyei liquors. It is a national key rural tourism village and a traditional village renowned for its strong ethnic heritage, primarily the Bouyei people. The village has transformed significantly in recent years, moving from a polluted area due to past manufacturing to a thriving rural tourism destination.

Longjing Village in Huaxi District of Guizhou Province is actively engaged in the protection of its ethnic (primarily Bouyei minority) heritage and the development of its ethnic handicrafts, largely through the promotion of rural tourism and cultural activities. This approach aims to revitalize the village by leveraging its rich cultural assets, attracting visitors, and providing economic opportunities for its residents, while also addressing challenges like population loss and preserving traditional architecture. Longjing Village is a traditional

Bouyei ethnic village with a history of 500 years, where the Bouyei population accounts for 98% of its residents. The village has expanded and strengthened rural tourism, focusing on cultural tourism as its core, to showcase Bouyei customs, traditions, and arts. Celebrations like the Spring Festival are organized to highlight Bouyei customs, including activities such as bamboo pole dancing, folk singing, and traditional food and drink (glutinous rice cakes and wine), attracting visitors and maintaining cultural vitality. China has launched Digital Museum of Traditional Villages to display and preserve information about outstanding national traditional villages, which would include Longjing Village. Efforts are made to counteract issues like rural depopulation and the disrepair of traditional dwellings through the development of tourism and related economic activities. The development of rural tourism, centered on cultural experiences, creates avenues for residents to engage in handicraft production and sales, supporting local livelihoods. Longjing has developed a robust rural tourism model centered around cultural experiences, including pottery studios, embroidery and batik workshops, silver forges, and distilleries. Visitors can participate in workshops and learn about traditional crafts. Ethnic handicrafts can be integrated into tourism offerings, enriching the visitor experience and providing a market for local artisans. The development of industries within the village, including handicrafts, is crucial for its long-term activation and protection, especially in light of the risks of "empty villages" without industry. Mechanisms for encouraging local people's participation in development projects and ensuring their involvement in decision-making processes are important for the success of handicraft initiatives and village revitalization. Longjing has successfully transitioned to a strong tourism economy, attracting a large number of visitors and generating significant revenue through its cultural and rural tourism offerings. The Huaxi district has implemented measures to improve the village's infrastructure and governance, leading to awards such as National Civilized Village and Town, and National Rural Governance Demonstration Village.



Rural tourism village Longjing, Huaxi District, Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province

On-site Instruction 3b: Visit Qingyan Ancient Town, Investigate the Protection and Inheritance of Ethnic Culture, Cultural and Tourism Integration Development, and the Exchange and Integration of Ethnic Groups (Less Developed Areas Investigation)

On-site Instruction-3b was scheduled after the On-site Instruction-3a on Tuesday 20 May 2025. Qingyan Ancient Town is a famous historical and cultural site near Guiyang, China, notable for its stone buildings, temples, and pavilions from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Qingyan can also be a proper noun, such as the name of a garden in Huai'an, China, where it means "Clear River and peaceful sea". In a broader sense, "Qing" often means clear, pure, or clean, and "Yan" can mean rock or cliff, and its name means "clear rock" or "pure rock," derived from its local karst landform. Qingyan is a town located in the Huaxi District of Guiyang, Guizhou, China, with an area of 92.3 square kilometers (35.6 square miles). As of the 2017 census it had a population of 30,707. It is surrounded by Yanlou Township and Maling Township on the west, Qiantao Township on the east, and Huishui County on the south. Eleven ethnic groups, including Han, Miao, Bouyei, Dong and Zhuang, live in the town. Qingyan is residents and home to several ethnic groups, including Han, Miao, Bouyei, Dong, and Zhuang.



In early Ming dynasty (1368–1644), Qingyan was a military outpost. In the Tianqi period (1621–1627) of the Ming dynasty, Ban Lingui, a Bouyei tusi, founded a castle. In 1687, in the 26th year of Kangxi era of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), Qingyan came under the jurisdiction of Guizhu County. In 1914, Qingyan was incorporated as a town and upgraded to a district in 1931. It was under the jurisdiction of Yanlou District of Guizhou County in 1941. After the establishment of the Communist State in 1949, the Second District was set up in the town. In 1953, it was reverted to its former name of "Qingyan Town". In 1958, it was changed to a People's Commune. In 1984, it was renamed "Qingyan Township" and two years later it was reverted to its former name of "Qingyan Town". In 2016, it was listed as the first batch of "Small Towns with Chinese Characteristics" by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. On February 25, 2017, it was rated as a National 5A Tourist Attraction.

Qingyan Ancient Town presents a complex scenario when considering the protection and inheritance of ethnic culture, cultural and tourism integration development, and the

exchange and integration of ethnic groups, requiring a balanced approach to preserve cultural heritage while leveraging tourism for economic benefits and promoting intercultural understanding. Protecting the unique architectural, traditional practices and ethnic identity of Qingyan Ancient Town is crucial. This involves careful restoration efforts, community engagement in decision-making, and education initiatives to ensure authenticity. Integrating tourism development with cultural preservation can be tricky. Over tourism can negatively impact the local environment, traditional way of life, and cultural artifacts. Sustainable tourism practices, such as community-based tourism and responsible marketing, are essential. Qingyan Ancient Town likely has a diverse ethnic population. Fostering intercultural dialogue, ensuring equitable benefits from tourism development, and respecting different cultural traditions are key to achieving harmonious integration. Involve local residents in tourism planning and decision-making processes to ensure their needs and perspectives are considered. Cultural Interpretation Centers is most important in rural tourism promotion. It helps to establish educational facilities to inform tourists about the history, traditions, and cultural significance of tourist area and community. Implementation of eco-friendly practices, support local businesses, and promote responsible tourism behaviors, which support for Sustainable Tourism Development.



Hon. Dr. Min Shris and official of Guiyang Bureau of Culture and Tourism

On-site Instruction 4: Visit the "Exhibition of Cultural Relics and Ancient Books on Forging a Strong Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation" at the Cultural Palace of Nationalities

On-site Instruction 4 and 5 was scheduled on Friday, May 23, 2025. The Cultural Palace of Nationalities is located in Beijing's Xicheng District, on West Chang'an Avenue. It is one of the Ten Monumental Buildings built in 1959. The whole area of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities is 11 acres (45, 058.8 square meters). In the museum, there are five showrooms, covering 3,588 square yards (3,000 square meters). The Cultural Palace of Nationalities also has an exhibition hall, an ethnic library, a theater, and a painting academy to help visitors have a comprehensive idea of Chinese nationalities. The purpose of the exhibition is to highlight materials that contribute to understanding and fostering a strong sense of community within China. The museum has collected the representative items to give visitors a better understanding on ethnic groups. The exhibition demonstrates the traditional culture of different nationalities through three main aspects, namely national dress, musical instruments and craftworks.

The Cultural Palace of Nationalities has a museum, demonstrating these differences with more than 50,000 items, including clothes, musical instruments and craftworks. This exhibition showcases precious artifacts and texts, including rare items like the *Xinan Yi Zhi* (Chronicles of the Yi Ethnic Group in Southwest China), a Qing Dynasty book about the ancient Yi people, and the bilingual Tibetan Buddhist canon, *Kangyur*. The *Kangyur* is a particularly rare and valuable exhibit, with only eight Mongolian copies existing worldwide, and this marks its first public display to the general public. The clothes culture of ethnic groups is an important part of Chinese clothes culture. Every minority has its own unique clothing style. The palace has collected over 10,000 pieces of clothes, including the wedding dress of Mongol women, Tujia women's clothes, formal dress of Miao women, and clothes of Yi children. The collection basically reflects the overall clothing style of every nationality. The kinds of national musical instruments are also abundant. There are more than 100 kinds of instruments displayed in the museum, totalling over 1,000 pieces.

The craftworks of minorities all have a strong connection with people's life and work. The craftworks are mainly of practical arts. The items exhibited in the Cultural Palace of Nationalities can be divided into seven categories: ceramics; knitting technique; sculpture craft; metal technique; spinning, dyeing and embroidering; lacquer arts; folk painting and paper-cutting. Idols, ritual implements and scriptures are also exhibited in the museum. Religion brings a profound influence on minorities' life in many different aspects, such as social activities, production, culture, art and customs. The exhibition features cultural relics and ancient books that explore the forging of a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation.



The Cultural Palace of Nationalities, Xicheng District, West Chang'an Avenue, Beijing

After observation the Cultural Relics and Ancient Books of the ‘Cultural Palace of Nationalities’, a courtesy meeting with the officials of the NEAC was held. Later on, we participated in the luncheon organizes by the NEAC, PRC. The courtesy meeting and luncheon was attended by officials from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia. The courtesy meeting was attended by Hon. Dr. Min Bdr. Shris, Mr. Resham Gurung and Mr. Nurahari Khatiwada from Nepal, Mr. Manoj Munasinghe and Ms. Sanduni Ariyawansa from Sri Lanka, Ms. Norwahidah Zinalibdin from Malaysia and Ms.Amanah Asri, Mr. Redo Frandika, Ms. Krisdayanti Aprilia from Indonesia. Mr. WEI Guoxiong Director General of International Department of NEAC, Ms. QIU Peng Director of International Department of NEAC, Wang Xuedi and Zhao Jing of NEAC were attended from host.



On-site instructions 5: National Ethnic Affairs Departments and Achievements in Ethnic Policies of Various Countries

The last On-site instructions and Symposium was held at Conference Hall of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing on Friday, May 23, 2025. On the pre-scheduled title ‘National Ethnic Affairs Departments and Achievements in Ethnic Policies of Various Countries’ Nepal, Cuba, Ecuador, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Gambia presented brief information about Achievements in Ethnic Policies of respective countries. Li Yuancheng, Department of National Solidarity, Mr. Zhang Jianbo, Department of Culture and Publicity, Ms. Maliyemugnli Wubuli Kasi, Department of Education, and Ms. Chen Xiufeng, Department of Human Resources presented about Achievements in Ethnic Policies of respective Departments of NEAC, PRC.



Officials of various Departments of NEAC, PRC and participants of seminar from eight countries at Conference Hall

Study Tour

A study tour, also known as an educational tour or study visit, is an educational program that involves travel to different locations to gain practical, hands-on learning experiences related to academic subjects or professional fields, often complementing formal seminars and lectures by providing real-world context and application of knowledge. These tours are typically organized by educational institutions or professional bodies and can include visits to various sites, expert lectures, workshops, and interactions with local organizations and professionals. Study tours are designed to go beyond traditional classroom settings and seminars, offering immersive learning experiences that connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Study tour encompasses visits to trade and enterprises, museums, development projects, cultural heritage site, rural tourism area, or other relevant institutions to observe operations and discuss specific topics. Study tours are valuable for developing skills beyond academic content, including leadership, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and global perspectives. Beyond academic objectives, study tours often provide opportunities for participants to explore new environments and engage with different cultures. Study tour offer first-hand information about society, culture & developments, enhance understanding of environments, foster relationships between academia and real world, and contribute to holistic development. AIBO has scheduled seven ‘Study Tours’ during the seminar. There were two Study Tours scheduled in Beijing city and five in Guizhou Province.

Study Tour 1: Visit to a World Cultural Heritage Site-The Great Wall



According to the schedule we travelled to the Great Wall, Huairou District, Beijing by bus from AIBO premise at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025. AIBO officials Ms. Wang Yang, Mr. Li Zhennan and a tour guide accompanied us. The Great Wall of China around Beijing is composed of the main 8 sections, including Badaling, Mutianyu, Jinshanling, Simatai, Jiankou, Huanghuacheng, Gubeikou, and Juyongguan. Each section offers its own unique features and historical significance. By far the most famous, most visited (and most restored section) of the

wall is Badaling. At only 68 km northwest of Beijing it appears on nearly all tour groups and guides hit list. We visited the Badaling section of World Cultural Heritage Site-The Great Wall.

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world. Stretching for more than 21,000 kilometers, it crosses many provinces, mountains, deserts, and rivers in China. This wall was built to protect the country from northern invasion. The construction of the Great Wall is believed to have begun 2,300 years ago, when China was ruled by the Han and Ming dynasties. The Great Wall was continuously built from the 3rd century BC to the 17th century AD on the northern borders as a great military defence project of Chinese dynasties. The Great Wall utilized watchtowers, troop barracks, garrison stations, signalling capabilities through the means of smoke or fire, and its status as a transportation corridor. Other purposes of the Great Wall have included border controls and the regulation of trade. This great wall is believed to have been built with the thousands of workers, soldiers, and prisoners. It is made of rock, mud, wood, and bricks. This wall is considered a symbol of the courage, hard work, and commitment of those workers, soldiers, and prisoners.

Successive dynasties expanded the wall system; the best-known sections were built by the Ming dynasty. Badaling Great Wall was built in the Ming Dynasty. It is the site of the most visited section of the Great Wall of China, approximately 80 kilometers northwest of Beijing's city center, in Badaling Town, Yanqing District. It was the first section of the wall to open to tourism. Every year, about 10 million tourists come to China to see this amazing wall. The immediate area has seen significant development, including hotels, restaurants, and a cable car. The Great Wall is not only a wall, but also a living symbol of Chinese civilization, history, courage, and unity. This structure continues to amaze the entire world today. The Great Wall is now not only a national pride of China, but also a historical heritage listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Photo of Hon. Dr. Min Shris (member of INC) climbing & descending the Great Wall

Study Tour 2: Visit to a Chinese Commodity Market-Longde Plaza

After visiting the Great Wall, we travelled to the Chinese Commodity Market-Longde Plaza, located at 186 Litang Road, Changping District, Beijing, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025. We explored Longde Plaza and Guoguo Supermarket, where we had lunch and bought some groceries. We faced some language barriers in the market, and it would have been easier if we had installed a Chinese translation app on our phones, but we hadn't. Nevertheless, we had the opportunity to gain some understanding of the Chinese commodity market and local society.



China has become a dominant force in global commodity markets, driven by its rapid industrialization and economic growth, making it a major consumer of raw materials like metals and energy, while also developing a significant domestic commodity futures market that increasingly interacts with international investors. China's demand for commodities, particularly metals and energy like iron ore, steel, copper, crude oil, and coal, has risen dramatically, impacting global prices. China has a growing and increasingly sophisticated commodity futures market, with exchanges like the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange and the Shanghai Futures Exchange listing a wide range of products, including agricultural commodities, metals, and chemicals. China is actively promoting its commodity futures markets by opening trading to foreign investors and extending trading hours, aiming to enhance its role in global commodity trading. China's economic activity and policies related to commodity markets have a significant impact on global commodity prices, affecting inflation and trade terms worldwide. While China plays a less prominent role in global agricultural markets compared to other commodities, its focus on food security has historically led to government stockpiling of key products. China's commodity consumption has evolved significantly with its economic reforms, transforming from a largely agrarian society to a global industrial powerhouse with increasing demand for various goods.

In 1988, China officially began preparing its own futures market. After 30 years of development, China futures market has gradually become a mature derivatives trading market with great international influence. By the end of 2023, a total of 131 futures and options products have been listed, including 79 commodity futures, 52 commodity option. The nominal value in the Commodities market is projected to reach US\$27.45tn in 2025. It is expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2025-2030) of 2.51% resulting in a projected total amount of US\$31.07tn by 2030. From a global comparison perspective, it is shown that the highest nominal value is reached United States (US\$60.23tn in 2025). In the Commodities market, the number of contracts is expected to amount to 6.22bn by 2030. There are 71 futures and 27 options that can be traded across China's five exchanges, namely, Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE), Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE), Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE), Shanghai International Energy Exchange (INE), and China Financial Futures Exchange (CFFEX).

China's major exports include machinery and electrical products, high-tech products, automatic data processing equipment, mobile phones, clothing, and textile products. Commercial services, particularly telecommunications, computer, and information services, also represent a significant portion of China's service exports, reaching over 100 billion US dollars in 2024. China's export values are substantial and continue to grow, with the value of general trade reaching RMB 23.09 trillion (US\$3.23 trillion) in the first 10 months of 2024, driven by strong demand for Chinese goods and efficient trade practices like bonded logistics and processing trade. While the overall export value is significant, specific price data, like the annual export price index, shows a slight decrease in 2025 compared to 2024, but has been active since 2005 with historical highs and lows. Processing trade saw a 4% growth in exports to RMB 4.13 trillion (US\$0.58 trillion), and bonded logistics showed a significant 14% increase in trade volume to RMB 5.09 trillion (US\$0.71 trillion), with exports rising by 11.5% to RMB 1.96 trillion (US\$0.28 trillion). The annual Export Price Index (fob: USD) was reported at 1.194 USD mn in 2025, a decrease from 1.215 USD mn in 2024, while the monthly export price index showed a considerable drop in 2023 and remained negative through the first half of 2024. ASEAN was the leading export market in 2024, with exports exceeding four trillion yuan, followed by the United States and European Union, each with exports surpassing 3.6 trillion yuan. New markets in the Middle East and Africa have also emerged due to the Belt and Road Initiative.

In 2024, China's total exports amounted to approximately \$3.4 trillion, with the United States, Hong Kong, and South Korea being among the top destinations. Specifically, China's exports to the United States were valued at around \$525.65 billion in 2024, making it the largest export market. The US goods trade deficit with China was \$295.4 billion in 2024. Notable export categories from China to the US in 2024 included vehicles other than railway, articles of iron or steel, and articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted. In 2024, Hong Kong was China's second-largest export market, accounting for 8.1% of its total exports, valued at \$287.5 billion. In May 2025, South Korea received \$12.6 billion in exports from China, making it a significant trade partner.

China's total trade with Russia reached a record high of \$240.1 billion in 2023, driven by increased imports of manufactured goods like vehicles and electronics, while Russia primarily exports energy resources to China. The value of these imports has significantly increased, particularly in categories such as machinery, vehicles, plastics, and critical materials like alumina. Russia's primary exports to China include fossil fuels and other natural resources. However, in recent years, China's imports from Russia have also included significant amounts of manufactured goods, particularly since the invasion of Ukraine. China's exports of cars and tractors to Russia have surged, with Chinese trucks holding over 50% of the Russian market by January 2023. Russian imports of Chinese-made electric components, circuit boards, and modules have seen a significant increase. Chinese exports of base metals and alumina have also grown substantially. Japan typically runs a trade deficit with China, indicating higher import values from China than its exports to China. China's total Exports in 2024 were valued at US\$3.58 Trillion, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. China's main export partners were: The United States, Hong Kong and Vietnam. The top three export commodities were: Electrical, electronic equipment; Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers and Vehicles other than railway, tramway.

China Exports By Country	Value	China Exports By Country	Value
United States	\$525.65B	Paraguay	\$2.54B
Hong Kong	\$290.87B	Yemen	\$2.47B
Vietnam	\$161.85B	Tunisia	\$2.38B
Japan	\$152.01B	Nepal	\$2.16B
South Korea	\$146.23B	Lebanon	\$2.11B
India	\$120.46B	Lithuania	\$1.99B
Russia	\$115.28B	Honduras	\$1.94B
Germany	\$107.06B	North Korea	\$1.83B
Malaysia	\$101.46B	El Salvador	\$1.79B
Netherlands	\$91.20B	Republic of the Congo	\$1.65B
Mexico	\$90.23B	Afghanistan	\$1.54B
Thailand	\$86.03B	Madagascar	\$1.41B
Singapore	\$79.10B	Zambia	\$1.41B
United Kingdom	\$78.90B	Uganda	\$1.38B
Indonesia	\$76.67B	Zimbabwe	\$1.37B
Brazil	\$72.07B	Bahrain	\$1.35B
Australia	\$70.75B	Papua New Guinea	\$1.33B
United Arab Emirates	\$65.59B	Bahamas	\$1.27B
Philippines	\$52.27B	Nicaragua	\$1.16B
Saudi Arabia	\$50.05B	Albania	\$1.14B
Canada	\$46.45B	Cyprus	\$1.12B
Italy	\$46.20B	Mauritius	\$1.08B
France	\$45.01B	Jamaica	\$1.08B
Spain	\$40.88B	Mauritania	\$1.04B
Poland	\$40.05B	Turkmenistan	\$1.03B
Turkey	\$38.11B	Bolivia	\$1.01B

China Exports By Country	Value	China Exports By Country	Value
Belgium	\$32.97B	Mali	\$1.01B
Kazakhstan	\$27.95B	Guyana	\$978.00M
Bangladesh	\$22.88B	Somalia	\$968.44M
South Africa	\$21.81B	Benin	\$965.77M
Chile	\$20.65B	Latvia	\$865.68M
Pakistan	\$20.23B	Sudan	\$833.04M
Kyrgyzstan	\$19.90B	Estonia	\$815.29M
Nigeria	\$18.90B	Sierra Leone	\$810.93M
Czech Republic	\$17.54B	Gabon	\$720.84M
Egypt	\$16.80B	Brunei	\$709.45M
Iraq	\$15.99B	Burkina Faso	\$686.27M
Cambodia	\$15.33B	Trinidad And Tobago	\$648.39M
Colombia	\$14.78B	Cuba	\$644.63M
Israel	\$14.31B	Maldives	\$619.69M
Peru	\$13.95B	Namibia	\$533.17M
Liberia	\$13.06B	Rwanda	\$508.85M
Panama	\$12.77B	Fiji	\$506.18M
Greece	\$11.81B	Haiti	\$449.99M
Algeria	\$11.68B	Luxembourg	\$434.65M
Uzbekistan	\$11.65B	Gambia	\$434.23M
Hungary	\$11.41B	Syria	\$386.36M
Sweden	\$10.07B	Chad	\$374.02M
Ghana	\$9.84B	Suriname	\$363.30M
Denmark	\$9.40B	Bermuda	\$344.64M
Romania	\$9.33B	Moldova	\$337.24M
Argentina	\$9.31B	Macedonia	\$315.60M
Myanmar	\$9.21B	Bosnia And Herzegovina	\$289.61M
Iran	\$8.95B	Iceland	\$277.21M
Kenya	\$8.58B	East Timor	\$265.57M
Tanzania	\$8.17B	Malawi	\$251.64M
Morocco	\$7.74B	Botswana	\$239.91M
New Zealand	\$7.74B	Niger	\$232.21M
Switzerland	\$7.52B	Belize	\$212.10M
Belarus	\$6.58B	Solomon Islands	\$208.41M
Slovenia	\$6.13B	Vanuatu	\$187.00M
Portugal	\$6.11B	Barbados	\$186.53M
Ecuador	\$5.97B	Montenegro	\$171.72M
Oman	\$5.80B	Equatorial Guinea	\$170.42M
Marshall Islands	\$5.31B	South Sudan	\$166.22M
Ireland	\$5.27B	Eritrea	\$159.88M
Norway	\$4.99B	Palestine	\$154.56M
Sri Lanka	\$4.97B	French Polynesia	\$141.90M
Guatemala	\$4.94B	Lesotho	\$123.89M

China Exports By Country	Value	China Exports By Country	Value
Jordan	\$4.93B	Antigua and Barbuda	\$114.82M
Kuwait	\$4.83B	Cape Verde	\$113.89M
Venezuela	\$4.80B	Samoa	\$111.54M
Senegal	\$4.73B	Guinea Bissau	\$97.58M
Dominican Republic	\$4.63B	Comoros	\$96.60M
Mongolia	\$4.52B	New Caledonia	\$92.64M
Congo	\$4.35B	Burundi	\$90.08M
Qatar	\$4.17B	Aruba	\$86.81M
Ivory Coast	\$4.16B	Seychelles	\$84.27M
Austria	\$4.10B	Cayman Islands	\$77.35M
Malta	\$4.06B	Tonga	\$70.80M
Slovakia	\$3.95B	Bhutan	\$69.20M
Guinea	\$3.93B	Central African Republic	\$61.60M
Macau	\$3.93B	Kiribati	\$53.83M
Finland	\$3.71B	Swaziland	\$50.72M
Ukraine	\$3.70B	Dominica	\$46.64M
Laos	\$3.68B	Palau	\$42.13M
Cameroon	\$3.64B	St Vincent and the Grenadines	\$33.50M
Libya	\$3.59B	Grenada	\$27.40M
Tajikistan	\$3.51B	St Kitts and Nevis	\$26.88M
Serbia	\$3.45B	Sao Tome And Principe	\$20.92M
Mozambique	\$3.38B	San Marino	\$11.86M
Costa Rica	\$3.38B	Andorra	\$11.07M
Togo	\$3.28B	Greenland	\$6.23M
Uruguay	\$3.27B	Faroe Islands	\$2.66M
Angola	\$3.24B	Georgia	\$9.79M
Ethiopia	\$3.14B	Azerbaijan	\$1.72M
Djibouti	\$3.04B	Armenia	\$466.30K
Bulgaria	\$2.83B	Mayotte	\$77.71M
Croatia	\$2.69B	Netherlands Antilles	\$104.07M

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/exports-by-country>

China's imports are dominated by manufactured goods, particularly machinery and apparatus, with semiconductors, computers, and office machines being significant components. Chemicals and fuels, including crude oil and natural gas, are also crucial imports. Specific high-value imports include integrated circuits, crude petroleum, gold, iron ore, and computers. Other important categories are mineral fuels, chemicals, and agricultural products like corn and beef. The primary sources for China's imports are within Asia, including South Korea, and Japan. The United States and Australia are also significant import partners, though trade tensions and tariffs can influence these relationships. China's total Imports in 2024 were valued at US\$2.59 Trillion, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. China's imports have seen fluctuations, with a decrease of 3.02% from April

to May 2025. The top imports of China are Crude Petroleum (\$319B), Integrated Circuits (\$200B), Iron Ore (\$112B), Gold (\$87.8B), and Petroleum Gas (\$83.7B), importing mostly from South Korea (\$162B), United States (\$154B), Japan (\$138B), Australia (\$137B), and Russia (\$129B). China's main import partners were: South Korea, the United States and Japan. The top three import commodities were: Electrical, electronic equipment; Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products and Ores slag and ash.

China Imports By Country	Value	China Imports By Country	Value
South Korea	\$181.50B	Sudan	\$560.85M
United States	\$164.59B	Dominican Republic	\$559.28M
Japan	\$156.24B	Trinidad And Tobago	\$517.89M
Australia	\$140.79B	Slovenia	\$510.02M
Russia	\$129.88B	Tunisia	\$505.55M
China	\$117.32B	Malta	\$482.09M
Brazil	\$116.14B	Eritrea	\$451.79M
Malaysia	\$110.58B	Jordan	\$441.94M
Vietnam	\$98.69B	Guyana	\$427.00M
Germany	\$94.80B	Ethiopia	\$409.42M
Indonesia	\$71.05B	Solomon Islands	\$396.74M
Saudi Arabia	\$57.53B	Sri Lanka	\$391.80M
Switzerland	\$55.47B	Greenland	\$376.92M
Thailand	\$47.95B	North Korea	\$346.95M
Canada	\$46.56B	Tajikistan	\$343.32M
Chile	\$40.90B	Estonia	\$335.25M
Iraq	\$38.28B	Luxembourg	\$314.83M
United Arab Emirates	\$36.28B	South Sudan	\$299.97M
France	\$35.17B	Latvia	\$285.82M
Singapore	\$31.89B	Cuba	\$270.29M
Oman	\$30.95B	Madagascar	\$265.85M
South Africa	\$30.60B	Croatia	\$264.21M
Peru	\$29.31B	Kenya	\$237.48M
Italy	\$26.35B	Togo	\$212.69M
Congo	\$21.59B	Lithuania	\$211.23M
Qatar	\$20.05B	Albania	\$203.46M
United Kingdom	\$19.57B	El Salvador	\$177.11M
Philippines	\$19.33B	Macedonia	\$174.33M
Mexico	\$19.16B	Iceland	\$165.71M
Netherlands	\$18.80B	Rwanda	\$159.76M
Hong Kong	\$18.51B	Benin	\$141.48M
Ireland	\$18.14B	Faroe Islands	\$134.99M
India	\$18.00B	Moldova	\$128.61M
Angola	\$17.65B	Bosnia And Herzegovina	\$126.93M
Kazakhstan	\$15.91B	Bahrain	\$126.85M
Mongolia	\$13.73B	Liberia	\$105.59M
New Zealand	\$12.43B	Honduras	\$96.55M

China Imports By Country	Value	China Imports By Country	Value
Kuwait	\$11.47B	Guatemala	\$95.81M
Turkmenistan	\$9.62B	Lebanon	\$92.66M
Spain	\$9.23B	Nicaragua	\$91.13M
Sweden	\$8.82B	Panama	\$81.04M
Israel	\$8.40B	Uganda	\$79.31M
Austria	\$8.15B	Macau	\$73.57M
Ecuador	\$8.00B	Mali	\$73.39M
Guinea	\$7.64B	Gambia	\$61.18M
Myanmar	\$7.07B	Suriname	\$60.98M
Argentina	\$7.04B	Burkina Faso	\$55.18M
Colombia	\$6.24B	Paraguay	\$55.16M
Belgium	\$6.23B	Montenegro	\$54.90M
Denmark	\$6.06B	Afghanistan	\$42.17M
Slovakia	\$5.77B	Nepal	\$37.11M
Czech Republic	\$5.69B	Central African Republic	\$33.09M
Zambia	\$5.24B	Lesotho	\$29.31M
Norway	\$5.14B	Fiji	\$27.92M
Poland	\$4.90B	Cyprus	\$25.48M
Hungary	\$4.80B	Burundi	\$22.91M
Turkey	\$4.75B	Djibouti	\$20.55M
Laos	\$4.55B	Yemen	\$19.99M
Finland	\$4.50B	Mauritius	\$19.36M
Iran	\$4.44B	Vanuatu	\$19.29M
Costa Rica	\$4.38B	Malawi	\$14.35M
Ukraine	\$4.30B	Barbados	\$11.12M
Republic of the Congo	\$4.21B	Jamaica	\$7.96M
Romania	\$4.12B	Marshall Islands	\$7.75M
Uruguay	\$3.32B	Haiti	\$6.13M
Papua New Guinea	\$3.26B	San Marino	\$5.38M
Portugal	\$3.17B	Antigua and Barbuda	\$5.13M
Nigeria	\$3.00B	French Polynesia	\$4.92M
Gabon	\$2.91B	Somalia	\$3.11M
Pakistan	\$2.82B	Syria	\$2.82M
Kyrgyzstan	\$2.80B	East Timor	\$1.03M
Cambodia	\$2.50B	Samoa	\$1.03M
Zimbabwe	\$2.45B	Belize	\$923.99K
Serbia	\$2.29B	Swaziland	\$557.26K
Brunei	\$2.10B	Bahamas	\$440.74K
Uzbekistan	\$2.01B	Dominica	\$269.04K
Ghana	\$2.00B	St Kitts and Nevis	\$265.18K
Mozambique	\$1.83B	Comoros	\$224.16K
Belarus	\$1.81B	Seychelles	\$206.71K
Bolivia	\$1.73B	Andorra	\$164.86K

China Imports By Country	Value	China Imports By Country	Value
Venezuela	\$1.60B	Tonga	\$73.93K
Mauritania	\$1.37B	Palestine	\$50.75K
Morocco	\$1.30B	Bhutan	\$43.43K
Bulgaria	\$1.22B	Cayman Islands	\$37.75K
Bangladesh	\$1.17B	Maldives	\$30.43K
Libya	\$1.16B	Bermuda	\$29.12K
Senegal	\$1.09B	Aruba	\$21.96K
Cameroon	\$1.07B	Sao Tome And Principe	\$17.48K
Greece	\$1.06B	Cape Verde	\$13.76K
Equatorial Guinea	\$986.27M	Grenada	\$3.63K
Sierra Leone	\$952.83M	Palau	\$3.58K
Ivory Coast	\$897.80M	St Vincent and the Grenadines	\$1.04K
Namibia	\$832.85M	Guinea Bissau	\$867
Algeria	\$800.19M	Kiribati	\$862
Botswana	\$768.63M	Georgia	\$7.63K
Chad	\$755.19M	Armenia	\$446
New Caledonia	\$719.37M	Azerbaijan	\$240
Tanzania	\$704.41M	Mayotte	\$1.12K
Niger	\$604.27M	Netherlands Antilles	\$24.5K
Egypt	\$577.18M		

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/imports-by-country>

Total Exports were valued at US\$3.58 Trillion and total Imports were valued at US\$2.59 Trillion. In 2024, China had a trade surplus of US\$991.41 Billion. The overall trade scenario is influenced by global economic conditions and specific trade policies, such as US tariffs on Chinese goods, which can lead to redirection of trade flows. In May 2025, China maintained a significant trade surplus, with exports (\$316 billion) exceeding imports (\$213 billion).

Study Tour 3: Guiyang City Construction Tour



Guiyang city, the capital of Guizhou Province and Journey Light Hotel

According to the seminar schedule, we departed from Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) at 12:55 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2025, for Guiyang. Our group included 24 participants from eight countries, accompanied by Mr. Wu Wei, Director of the Executive Department, and officials Ms. Wang Yang and Ms. Zhang Siyu from AIBO, MOFCOM. We landed at Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport (KWE) at 5:00 p.m., where representatives from the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province warmly welcomed us. From the airport, we travelled to the Journey Light Hotel on Liyuan Road, Guanshanhu District. Along the way, we completed the Guiyang City Construction Tour program.

Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, has undergone rapid urban transformation over the past two decades, shifting from a relatively modest inland city into a modern, green, and strategically positioned hub in southwest China. Its city construction reflects a mix of economic development goals, environmental priorities, and ethnic-cultural integration. Guiyang is built in a mountainous and karst landscape, so its urban planning involves adapting to hilly terrain and integrating natural scenery into the cityscape. Major projects include expressways, bridges, and tunnels linking districts and surrounding towns. Several mega-bridges connect the city's scattered plateaus and valleys. High-rise commercial and residential buildings dominate central districts like Yunyan and Nanming, while Guanshanhu District has emerged as the new administrative and business center.

Guiyang is a key junction linking coastal China to the southwest, with high-speed trains to Chongqing, Chengdu, Kunming, Guangzhou, and Beijing. Longdongbao International Airport has been expanded to handle growing passenger volumes, with plans for greater international connectivity. A metro system (Guiyang Metro) is gradually expanding, improving mobility in the dense urban area. Guiyang brands itself as China's "Forest City" and focuses on green urban planning. Numerous parks, river greenways, and wetland restoration projects integrate nature into urban spaces. Environmental policies aim to control industrial pollution and preserve biodiversity. The city is a big data hub, hosting China International Big Data Industry Expo annually. Development zones like Guiyang National High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and Guiyang New Area attract investment in tech, finance, and logistics.

As Guizhou is home to many ethnic minorities (Miao, Buyi, Dong, etc.), urban spaces incorporate ethnic architectural styles in public buildings, squares, and tourism zones. Cultural tourism projects highlight both modern city life and Guizhou's heritage. Guiyang's approach to ethnic-cultural integration is multi-pronged, celebrating traditions through mass events, supporting villages in cultural preservation, blending heritage with urban development, and promoting everyday multicultural living. It's a rich tapestry where the past informs the present, and diverse identities coexist in harmony.

Study Tour 4a: Visit to Jinyuan Community in Guanshanhu District, Guiyang City

On Monday, May 19, 2025, at 9 a.m., we departed from the Journey Light Hotel on Liyuan Road and travelled to Jinyuan Community in Guanshanhu District, Guiyang City. After a 10-minute bus travelled, we arrived at Jinyuan Community, where officials from the Jinyuan Community Center welcomed us. We observed various activities and aspects of the daily lives of senior citizens. A 75-year-old man demonstrated a traditional game similar to spinning a top, and some members of our group joined in. Afterwards, we observed the seniors practicing Tai Chi, with a few of our group members also participating and enjoying the experience. We then visited the Jinyuan Community office, where we learned about the services and facilities available to senior citizens, as well as government policies and programs. The female head of the office provided detailed information about these services. Afterward, in the community center hall, we observed a traditional Uyghur dance performed by elderly women and also joined them in the dance. Ms. Sung Yang, the tour guide for this study tour, provided special assistance throughout the visit.



Jinyuan Community is a residential neighborhood under Guanshanhu District in Guiyang, Guizhou Province. It is one of several communities within the district's subdivisions. The community comprises approximately 3,585 households, with a total population of 11,135 residents. Roughly 17% of the residents are aged 60 or older. Senior citizens in Jinyuan Community engage actively in cultural and fitness activities. These include calligraphy, Tai Chi, yoga, and playing traditional Chinese instruments. The community also features a school for the aged, serving as a hub for these regular activities.

According to Jinyuan Community officials in April 2021, the community hosted the “A Date with China” international media tour, where participants experienced traditional Chinese handwriting and other cultural experiences. In February 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Jinyuan Community ahead of Lunar New Year. He interacted with residents, observed community services, and participated in making traditional paper-cuts and Spring Festival couplets, highlighting the community’s role in grassroots civic engagement.

Elderly Care Service System in China

Since 2015, China has prioritized integrating health and elderly-care services. A guiding document introduced five models of integration, from linking medical institutions with care facilities to delivering healthcare services within communities and homes PMC (PubMed Central). In essence, this concept refers to bringing together two traditionally separate parts of the health system, public health and primary care, so they work collaboratively and more efficiently to improve both individual and community health

outcomes. Piloted in 2016 across 15 cities, the Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI) program has expanded to around 49 cities, covering approximately 145 million people.

In May 2023, the State Council issued “Opinions on Promoting the Construction of the Basic Elderly Care Service System” with a target to set clear service standards and expand support to seniors in need by 2025 (chinadevelopmentbrief.orgETHHealthworld.com). Broad guidelines called for enhancing care services at home and via communities, especially for incapacitated or disadvantaged elderly, promoting “Internet plus nursing”, and integrating medical services with care delivery. In June 2024, China introduced its first rural-specific elder-care guideline. It mandates a three-tier network (county, township, and village), creation of mutual-support stations and “happiness homes” for social interaction, and ensuring at least one county-level facility per county for the most vulnerable seniors by 2025. By 2029, the aim is for all seniors to have access to basic elderly-care services.

In early 2025, China announced investments totaling over 560 billion yuan in pension and elderly-care services, with an 11% annual growth rate. Tax incentives for senior-care institutions, accessible institutional care, home modifications, and technological solutions (humanoid robots, AI, brain-computer interfaces) are central to these reforms. China has launched a sweeping silver-economy strategy aimed at capitalizing on its aging population. Valued at roughly 7 trillion Yuan (USD 982 billion) today, it is expected to climb to 30 trillion yuan by 2035. The plan includes smart healthcare, financial services for seniors, anti-aging innovations, and infrastructure development like industrial parks.

Traditional retirement ages in China have been low—60 for men and 50–55 for women. Reforms now propose gradually raising retirement ages toward 63 for men and up to 58 for women over the next 15 years, aligning with broader pension system stress and demographic trends. New directives proposed raising minimum old-age benefits for rural and non-working urban residents, increasing basic pensions, expanding public elder-care services (especially in rural areas and for seniors with disabilities), and continuing prudent retirement age reform Reuters. China's elder-care framework aims for 90% of seniors to be cared for at home, 7% through community health centers, and 3% via nursing homes, supporting the cultural preference for aging in place PMC.

China's approach to senior-citizen policy unites multiple strategies: expanding integrated care, addressing rural-urban disparities, fostering the silver economy, reforming pensions and retirement, and embedding technology in elderly services. Despite notable gains in infrastructure, funding, and system design, challenges persist, especially in ensuring affordability, ensuring rural access, and adapting to shifting social structures.

Senior-citizen programs and elderly-care policies in Guizhou Province

In 2019, the World Bank approved a US \$350 million loan, complemented by €100 million from France's AFD and nearly US \$2 billion from local governments—to establish a comprehensive aged-care policy and institutional framework in Guizhou. The initiative, under the “Guizhou Aged Care System Development Program-for-Results (PforR),” focuses on expanding equitable access to basic elder-care services and improving service quality and system efficiency (World Bank).

Guizhou's senior-citizen programs are remarkably multi-tiered and forward-looking. The province combines international financial support, policy innovation, massive infrastructure investment, and a focus on care delivery, from medical integration to adaptive housing, facility expansion, public-private collaboration, and professional workforce development. Notable goals include 100% monthly monitoring of vulnerable seniors, widespread deployment of standardized elder-care facilities, and creating an efficient, responsive elder-care system by 2025.

Guizhou Province is focusing on institutional innovation and public-private cooperation in elderly care. It promotes models such as "publicly built, privately operated" facilities, attracting well-known domestic and international senior living operators as well as local brands. At present, there are 209 public-private partnership (PPP) facilities and 136 private facilities, providing a total of 36,000 beds. The province aims to establish 20 medical-nursing "demonstration counties," equip 60% of secondary hospitals with geriatric departments, and provide standardized community services to 65% of seniors by 2025 (eguizhou.gov.cn). The province has also built 800 age-friendly medical institutions.

The province is expanding community-based elderly services, including long-term care, short-term care, and temporary assistance at nearby, accessible locations. It will establish 100 model sites for at-home elderly support across the province. Seniors who are very old, disabled, or living in poverty can receive subsidies for home renovations to make their living spaces safer and more accessible. Medical institutions are encouraged to offer at-home care, provide or rent rehabilitative equipment, and promote health education and aging-prevention programs.

Study Tour 4b: Visit to Guizhou Provincial Museum



After observing Jinyuan Community, we visited the Guizhou Provincial Museum on Lincheng East Road, Guanshanhu District, Guiyang, on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. According to the museum website it is a provincial-level comprehensive museum featured various aspects of the province's minorities. The museum owns a collection of over 60,000 items of relics and samples, which are classified into four degrees as following: Natural Specimen, Historical Relics, Minority Culture Relics and Modern Culture Relics. The main exhibition hall, covering an area of 7,800 square meters, presents over 200,000 precious fossils, pictures, weapons, handiworks, videos, and models. The prehistoric relics in the Guizhou Provincial Museum include human teeth and skull fossils from the Paleolithic

Period, along with a variety of characteristic stone implements and bone tools. The collection also features fossils of marine reptiles such as *Keichousaurus*, *Thalattosaur*, and *Ichthyosaur*, as well as crinoids.

Historical relics of almost all dynasties of ancient China are displayed in the Museum, including weapons and sacrificial vessels of Yelang State of the Warring States Period (475–221 BC), bronze chariots of the Han Dynasty (202–220), the clay pot carved with long inscriptions made in the Southern and Northern Dynasties (220–589), and golden crown of the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). Visitors can also observe lacquer ear cups, colored enamel figures, as well as iron swords with bronze handle. There are also some relics demonstrating the modern history of Guizhou from 1840 to 1949 including armor of the Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864), announcements and documents of the government, as well as printing machines and leaflets of that period.

The most typical and important exhibition of Guizhou Provincial Museum is the ethnic relics. Since various kinds of ethnic groups are distributed among Guizhou Province, ethnic culture has become the essence of this land. There are over 1,000 ethnic objects displayed in the museum including embroidery, batik, cross-stitch works, brocade, silver jewelry. Among them, the most precious ones are wooden marriage notes and wine cups of Miao people, headmen's clothes of Yi people, as well as the carved burial stones of Shui nationality. Miao nationality has the largest population and the longest history, so Miao's dresses and jewelry cover the majority of exhibits there. Besides these fixed exhibitions, temporary displays or activities of various themes and forms will be held in Guizhou Museum from time to time. Sometimes, there will be singing and dancing performance played by the Miao people (from <http://www.gzmuseum.com/> accessed on 17 August 2025).

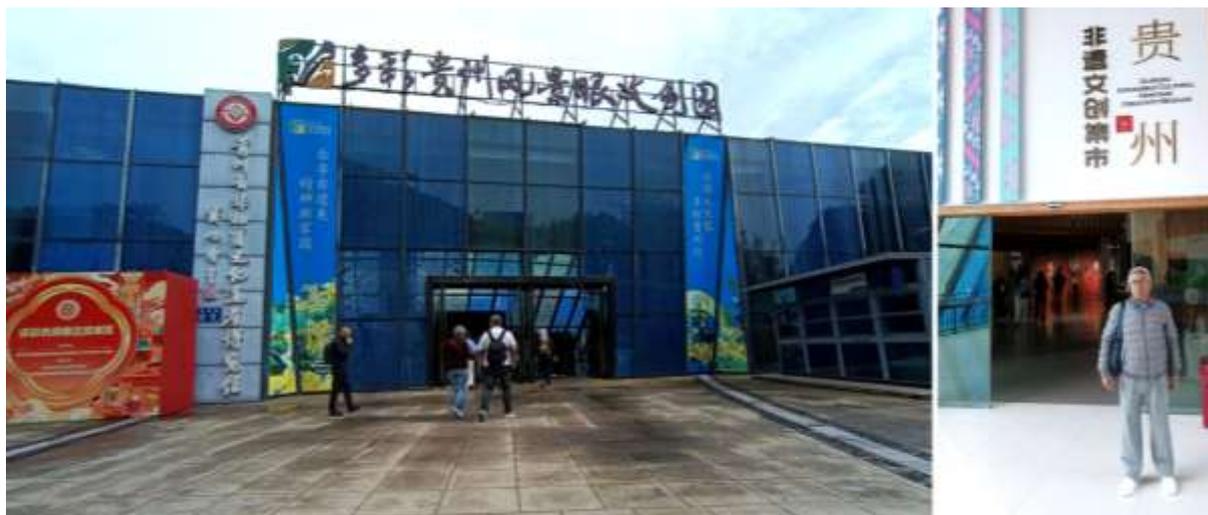
Guizhou Provincial Museum was first planned in 1953 and officially opened to the public in 1958. The museum relocated to its new site in 2013 from its former location at Beijing Road in Yunyan district. With a total investment of 600 million yuan (\$84.47 million), the new site has three major areas. The public service area is used for a variety of exhibitions and conferences. The core functional area is a three-layer exhibition hall, including a museum, a dining hall and an antique storeroom. The last area is for the museum's administrative staff members (from http://english.guiyang.gov.cn/guanshanhu/2022-05/09/c_490150.htm accessed on 17 August 2025).

Study Tour 5: Investigate Guizhou Ethnic Trade and Handicraft Enterprises - Colorful Guizhou Guiyang Industrial Development Co., Ltd. (Cultural and Creative Park of Guizhou Scenery Eye)

Colorful Guizhou Town is a regional initiative aimed at promoting tourism development in Guizhou Province through the creation of a tourism hub -a new town inspired by and showcasing the region's rich cultural and natural diversity. Reflecting the lifestyle and traditions of local ethnic minorities, the strategy emphasizes preserving the integrity of the province's historical and natural landscapes. EDG led the vision planning, master planning, programming, and feasibility study for the overall development, which spans more than 300 hectares. The project includes a Culture Park, a 35,000-square-meter Festival Walk retail and

entertainment zone, an international conference center, a creative industries cluster, six affiliated hotels, over 10,000 residential units, a Sky Link airport connection, and a public park (from <https://edgcompany.com/destination/colorful-guizhou-town/>, accessed on 4 August 2025).

As a 5A-level tourist attraction, Colorful Guizhou City warmly welcomes visitors from all directions under the themes of “Colorful Guizhou Scenery Eye,” “Sharp Guiyang Parlor,” and “Colorful Night City.” It serves not only as a showcase for Guizhou’s natural landscapes and ethnic culture but also as a comprehensive tourism complex that blends traditional charm with modern entertainment, ensuring that every visitor can discover their own unique experience. Upon entering Colorful Guizhou City, visitors are immersed in a rich cultural atmosphere -from the wonders of Polar Ocean World to the nostalgic appeal of the 1958 Cultural and Creative Park, each area tells a distinct story. It offers foreign tourists an authentic taste of Guizhou, while also providing local residents with a vibrant space to enjoy everyday life. Whether you're savoring local snacks, shopping for specialty goods, or enjoying street performances and art exhibitions, Colorful Guizhou City caters to the diverse interests of all its visitors (from <https://www.lcf-led.com/articledetail/2878.html> accessed on 4 August 2025).



Colorful Guizhou: Guizhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Creativity Bazaar & Museum Expo Hall Xingye West Road in the Nanming District of Guiyang, at 9:50 AM on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The journey took 40 minutes by bus from the Journey Light Hotel in the Guanshanhu District of Guiyang. The park is divided into two main sections. One side features the Guizhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Creative Bazaar, which showcases the unique style of Guizhou. It mainly caters to tourist groups, offering silver jewellery, local specialties, and exhibitions introducing various aspects of Guizhou’s culture. The other section is the Guizhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum Expo Hall, which houses a collection of traditional costumes, silver ornaments, artworks, and handicrafts. It also includes cultural relics from several ethnic minority groups, including the Miao, Dong, Bouyei, Shui, Yao, and Gelao.



Traditional costumes, ornaments, artworks, and handicrafts of Creativity Bazaar & Museum

At the museum's expo hall, visitors can view traditional clothing and ceremonial costumes from various ethnic groups in and around Guizhou and Southwest China. The hall also showcases antiques such as utensils, stone carvings, wood carvings, and old furniture. Visitors have the opportunity to learn traditional crafts -such as embroidery and batik -through the museum's cultural experience activities. In addition to exhibitions, the museum serves functions related to the protection of intangible cultural heritage, academic research, research and development, production, as well as cultural and tourism promotion.

In the adjacent building, named *Show*, visitors can enjoy live Miao embroidery demonstrations. This exhibition is part of a Miao embroidery -themed trade and handicraft enterprise in Guiyang. Miao embroidery is a significant element of China's intangible textile cultural heritage. The exhibition showcases hundreds of traditional Miao embroidery pieces, along with Miao costumes and silver ornaments. It highlights the Miao people's exploration of the universe and the world, while vividly illustrating the richness and diversity of Chinese civilization.



Miao Embroidery and Batik

Study Tour 6: Travel to Anshun City, Guizhou Province, Visit Balinghe Bridge and Bridge Museum, Investigate Guizhou's Transportation Development in Boosting Socio-Economic Growth and Enhancing Exchanges, Integration, and Interactions Among Ethnic Groups



Source: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202411/20/WS673d3ba9a310f1265a1ce881.html>

We checked out from Journey Light Hotel, Liyuan Road, Guanshanhu District, Guiyang at 8 am on Wednesday 21 May 2025 and travel to the next city Anshun. Anshun City is located in west-central Guizhou Province, China, nestled within the watersheds of the Wu River and Beipan River systems, and is renowned for its extensive and classic karst landforms. This region features a landscape crisscrossed by rivers and gorges, with peaks forming stone forests, forest lakes, and underground rivers and springs, supporting over 100 waterfalls and more than 1200 surface karst caves, creating a "splendid, colorful three-dimensional picture". Anshun is a prominent destination within Guizhou, often highlighted for its unique geological formations and natural wonders, contributing to the province's growing tourism industry, according to Trip.com. It is also known as "China's hometown of waterfalls" and "the city with an average temperature of 21°C." Anshun governs six districts and counties: Xixiu District, Pingba District, Puding County, Zhenning Buyi and Miao Autonomous County, Guanling Buyi and Miao Autonomous County, and Ziyun Miao and Buyi Autonomous County,

along with two county-level entities, Anshun Economic and Technological Development Zone and Huangguoshu Tourist Area. Covering an area of 9,228 square kilometers, it has a population of approximately 3 million. The city is renowned as an excellent tourist destination in China, a top summer resort, one of the country's ten most beautiful cities, and a pioneer in climate-based healthcare. Anshun is also recognized as a national model city for ethnic unity, military support, public health, and environmental sustainability.

Anshun is blessed with stunning natural scenery and a favorable climate. Over 12% of the city's area consists of scenic spots, rich in unique tourism resources. It is home to two national 5A-level scenic areas, Huangguoshu and Longgong, 13 national 4A-level spots, and 32 national 3A-level spots. The city's air quality is excellent, consistently above 99%, with an average summer temperature of 21°C and a comfortable climate lasting over nine months, making it a prime tourist destination and summer retreat for visitors from around the world. Anshun also boasts a rich history and cultural heritage. Founded as a city in 1381, it is one of the earliest cities in Guizhou to establish county-level governance. The city is steeped in historical cultures, including Chuandong, Yelang, Zangke, Tunpu, Red, and various ethnic cultures. The Tunpu culture, a living relic of the Ming Dynasty, offers insights into national unity and ethnic integration. For over 600 years, the Tunpu people have preserved distinctive traditions, including wearing Fengyang-style Han costumes, using carved window lattices, performing ground operas, and creating ghost-faced nuo carvings, showcasing the grandeur of the Ming Dynasty and Jianghuai region. Anshun is home to numerous national intangible cultural heritages such as Anshun Dixi Opera, the Epic of King Yalu, the Twelve Tunes of Bronze Drums, and the Miao Flower-Jumping Festival. The city is also historically significant as a key stop on the Red Army's Long March and the birthplace of Wang Ruofei, a revolutionary hero and one of the "100 outstanding figures who contributed to the founding of New China."

Anshun's advantageous geographical location and transportation networks are key to its development. It is a vital hub in the New Western Land-Sea Corridor and a central city within the Central Guizhou Urban Agglomeration. The city is served by several expressways, including the Shanghai-Kunming, Duyun-Xiangyun, Huishui-Xingyi, and Renhuai-Wangmo expressways, with expressway access connecting every county and village. The Guiyang-Kunming Railway and the Shanghai-Kunming High-Speed Railway pass through the area, and with the completion of the Huangbai Railway, all counties will be connected by rail. Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport and Huangguoshu Airport is within an hour's distance from Anshun. It has established a comprehensive "four-in-one" transportation network, encompassing highways, railways, aviation, and waterways, ensuring fast connections to the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. (https://www.anshun.gov.cn/english/travel/201807/t20180716_6861490.html). Guizhou's transportation development, especially its investment in high-speed rail and improved road networks, significantly boosts socio-economic growth by enhancing accessibility, promoting economic convergence, and integrating regional markets, while also facilitating cultural exchange and interaction among its diverse ethnic groups.



Photo source: <https://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0419/c90000-20007839.html>

Guizhou is called the "museum of world bridges" due to its mountainous terrain and the sheer number, variety, and complexity of bridges built within the province, which has transformed its transportation infrastructure. This nickname reflects Guizhou's status as a hub for bridge engineering and construction, housing many of the world's tallest & most impressive bridges. Guizhou is home to several notable long suspension bridges, with the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge standing out as the world's highest bridge. This steel truss suspension bridge will have a total length of 2,890 meters (9,482 feet) and a main span of 1,420 meters, with a deck-to-water height of 625 meters (2,051 feet), significantly reducing travel time across the Huajiang Grand Canyon from two hours to just one minute. The Balinghe Bridge is a 1,560-meter-long suspension bridge in Guizhou, China, known for its impressive height of 370 meters above the Baling River, and it is a popular site for extreme sports like bungee jumping. Adjacent to the bridge is Guizhou's first bridge-themed museum, the Balinghe Bridge Museum, which showcases the history of bridge development in the region and holds world records in engineering. Since 2012, the Balinghe Bridge has been a venue for high-bridge extreme sports events, including bungee jumping, which is offered commercially at a height of 370 meters. Situated in the plateau and hilly area of Anshun City, Guizhou Province, it is a super-large suspension bridge with a main span of 1,088 meters.



Source: <https://english.news.cn/20240516/a39d1e123a134d52bd985216ea41a6f4/c.html>

Study Tour 7: Visit to Anshun Rainbow Community -Observation of Embedded Development Practices of Ethnic Groups. Visit to Awai Village -Investigation on conservation of Traditional Ethnic Villages and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Visit to Huangguoshu Waterfall -Assessment of Ethnic Unity Promotion through Tourism Development.

Study Tour 7A: Visit to Huangguoshu Waterfall -Assessment of Ethnic Unity Promotion through Tourism Development.

Huangguoshu Waterfall is located on the Baishui River in Anshun, Guizhou Province, China, approximately 128 kilometers southwest of Guiyang, the provincial capital. The travel from Journey Light Hotel Guiyang to Huangguoshu Waterfall took around 2 hours by bus. We travelled from hotel at 8 am on Wednesday 21 May 2025 for Huangguoshu Waterfall Study Tour. We halt around 15 to 20 minute on the halfway at express way service center.



Huangguoshu Waterfall located on the Baishui River in Zhenning Bouyi and Miao Autonomous County, Guizhou Province, China, is the largest waterfall in Asia and a popular national scenic area. With a height of 77.8 meters and a width of 101 meters, the main waterfall is 67 meters high and 83.3 meters wide, and it's known for its impressive momentum and the ability to be viewed from multiple angles, including from behind through the unique Water Curtain Cave. It is the largest waterfall in Asia and the third largest by volume globally. It is surrounded by lush forests and is part of a larger scenic area with 18 waterfalls, karst caves, underground lakes, and stone forests. A unique feature is the 134-meter-long Water Curtain Cave located behind the falls, allowing visitors to walk through and experience the waterfall from a unique perspective through its six windows. The waterfall presents different views in summer and autumn, with increased water volume, and becomes more graceful in the dry season of winter. While a popular tourist destination, it is advised to avoid peak seasons due to crowds and wear appropriate footwear as paths can be slippery. Tugela Falls is the second highest waterfall in the world, while Niagara Falls is much lower in height, but is known for its large volume of water. Tugela Falls in South Africa has a total height of 948 meters (3,110 feet). Niagara Falls, composed of three waterfalls, has a height of 176 feet (53.6 meters).

Huangguoshu Waterfall tourism development in Guizhou province supports ethnic unity promotion by showcasing diverse ethnic cultures, highlighting traditional lifestyles, and creating economic opportunities for local communities, particularly the Miao and Dong ethnic groups. This contributes to ethnic unity by fostering cultural understanding and appreciation,

and by providing economic benefits that can reduce inter-ethnic disparities. The tourism development around Huangguoshu Waterfall incorporates and promotes the traditional cultures of the local ethnic groups, such as the Miao and Dong. This includes showcasing their unique architecture (e.g., wooden hanging towers, wind and rain bridges), traditional crafts, dances, and performances. By providing a platform for visitors to experience these aspects of their heritage, it helps to preserve and celebrate these distinct cultural identities. Tourism creates jobs and economic opportunities for ethnic minority communities in the region. This includes employment in hospitality, guiding, and selling local handicrafts and agricultural products, which can lead to improved livelihoods and a greater sense of economic empowerment within these communities. The Huangguoshu Waterfall Scenic Area welcomed over 5 million visitors in 2024, setting a new record for visitor numbers and achieving this milestone 33 day earlier than in 2023, according to the Anshun Municipal People's Government. Particularly during peak seasons which typically run from April to October.

The presence of diverse ethnic groups within the tourism ecosystem encourages interaction and understanding between different communities and with visitors from various backgrounds. Events like parades featuring various ethnic groups and cultural performances create a space for shared experiences and promote a sense of collective identity and pride. Investments in tourism infrastructure, such as roads, transportation, and facilities around the waterfall, also benefit the surrounding ethnic minority villages by improving connectivity and access to services, which in turn supports their integration and development. By exposing visitors to the rich cultural tapestry of the region, tourism plays a role in educating a wider audience about the history, traditions, and contributions of ethnic minorities in China, fostering greater appreciation and respect. While the Huangguoshu Waterfall itself is a natural attraction, tourism in the region often extends to exploring the cultural heritage of the local ethnic minorities, including visits to Miao villages and experiences of their way of life. Guizhou is home to 17 different minority nationalities, and the Miao and Buyi are prominently featured in tourism packages associated with the area.

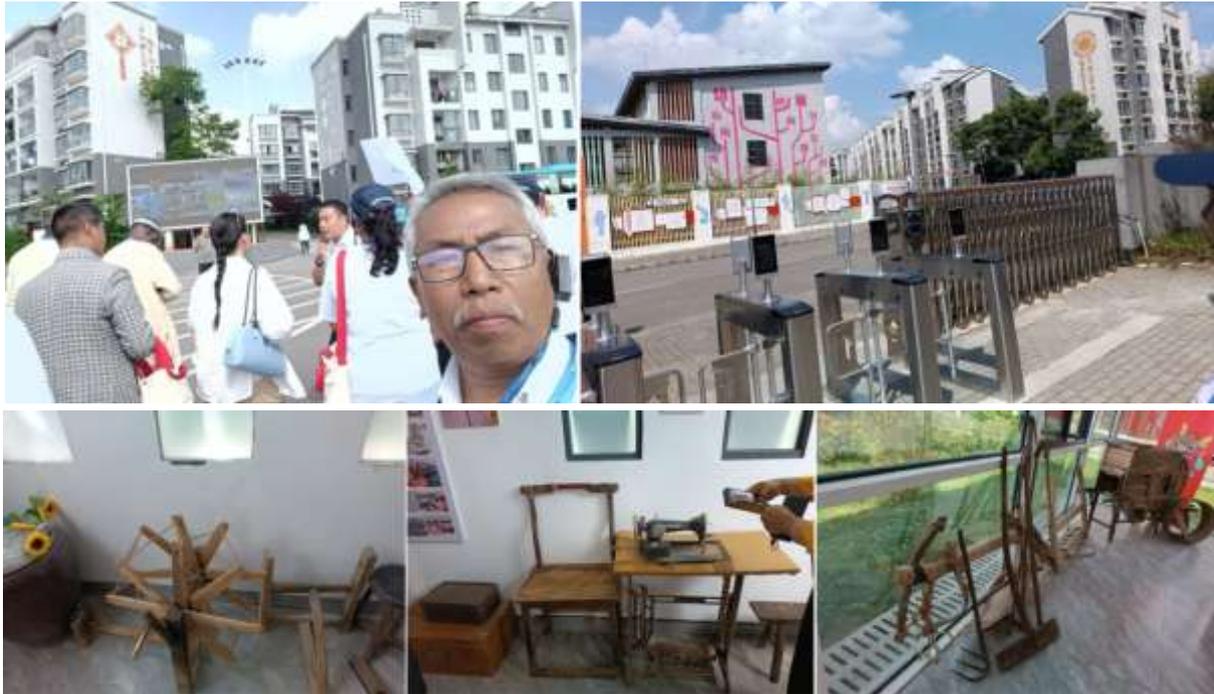


Shengfeng Hotel, Zhonghua South Rd. & Microtel by Wyndham Hotel Xixiu District,

Study Tour 7B: Visit to Anshun Rainbow Community -Observation of Embedded Development Practices of Ethnic Groups.

We returned from Huangguoshu Waterfall and went for lunch at the Shengfeng Hotel, Zhonghua South road, Xixiu District, Anshun city. After that, we went to the Microtel by Wyndham Hotel at 2:20 pm where we lodged. We travelled from hotel to Anshun Rainbow Community at 3 pm for the observation of Embedded Development Practices of Ethnic Groups. Embedded development practices for ethnic groups in relocated communities, particularly in Anshun, China, involve adapting traditional cultural practices, social structures, and information-sharing mechanisms to new living spaces and contexts, with a focus on maintaining ethnic identity and fostering social integration through community support and reconfigured social networks. Relocation significantly alters information sharing dynamics. Before relocation, relationships were often based on kinship and ethnicity. After relocation, information sharing becomes more reliant on industry and geographical proximity, requiring new modes of interaction with professionals like government staff, teachers, and doctors, rather than solely relying on family or ethnic networks. Despite relocation, efforts are made to preserve ethnic cultural heritage. This can involve community support, which plays a crucial role in social integration and maintaining a sense of belonging for relocated communities. Community support is a critical driver for social integration in relocated communities, especially that undergoing poverty alleviation relocation. This support helps address the spatial, economic, & social changes resulting from the move, fostering a more cohesive community. The site selection and spatial arrangement of new settlements can be designed to embody ethnic characteristics and cultural heritage. This involves understanding how traditional living spaces and social networks can be translated and adapted into new built environments. The diverse cultural heritage of ethnic minority groups, including traditional crafts, architecture, arts, & festivals has been encouraged promote in the relocated community too.

Anshun Rainbow Community is the new home to over 6,000 people of 46 ethnic groups from nearby villages. In this community, 1,000 house hold from 17 villages have moved in 2018. They were relocated to a new home from inhospitable mountainous and remote area. Supporting facilities in the relocation community where they live now have become better and better over the past. It used to take their children more than two hours to walk to school by mountainous road, now school now is within the new home premises. Now ethnic minority groups have started a new life. Their new home is equipped with modern appliances, an ultra-thin television and a flush toilet. After taking part in a training course organized by the local government, they are now able to operate their apartment's range hood and washing machine, neither of which they had ever used before. The community center, Jim hall, sport area, vocational training center, swimming pool, and small factory are managed for their facility and engagement. A cultural museum has been built to commemorate their former village. In addition, small farmland has been managed to minimise the desire of the farming they did in their previous village.



Anshun Rainbow Community and cultural museum

Poverty alleviation is an important part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enshrined in SDG number 1 ("No poverty"). This can be achieved by helping vulnerable populations, though increasing their access to basic resources and services, and helping communities affected by conflict and climate disasters. Ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation (ESPAR) is a national initiative taken by the Chinese government which aims to help the poor in inhospitable and development-restricted environments by moving them into new communities with improved transportation, medical care, education, living environment, etc. The ESPAR takes the sustainable development of migrant communities as the goal, and always emphasizes "moving out of bad environments, obtaining stability, living security and gradually achieving prosperity" (The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation & Development, 2020). The Ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation (ESPAR) program is an important policy initiative taken by the Chinese government to eliminate poverty. In a short time, a large number of migrants have moved to new communities for a better standard of living and opportunities for improving their condition. To reduce poverty, China has started a massive plan to relocate 10 million people from their rural homes to nearby towns by 2020.

In an effort to encourage them to move, local governments are providing free housing, job opportunities and integration programs, but some are reluctant to leave their homes. The central government is expected to spend 16 billion yuan (\$2.39 billion) on relocation and building new homes. From November 2012 to November 2020, more than 9.6 million poverty-stricken people have been relocated nationwide, and about 35,000 resettlement communities have been built (National Development & Reform Commission, 2020). ESPAR's efforts to end poverty, including construction of resettlement community, infrastructures, public amenities and new industries, lifted migrants out of poverty trap. There are three different resettlement modes: resettlement in original villages, resettlement in nearby townships, and resettlement in

cities/towns. To attract more villagers to sign up for the project, the government has promised them free houses, training, jobs and the prospect of integration into urban life with all the benefits that entails. The government has pledged to spend 35,000 yuan on every resident who agrees to move.

What Guizhou is doing is part of an ambitious national plan, one of the biggest planned human migrations in history, to relocate 10 million farmers living in poor rural regions in 22 provinces to nearby towns by 2020. Located in the west of China, Guizhou is the most typical mountainous poverty-stricken province with the largest scale of ESPAR. Severe soil erosion, frequent natural disasters, and inconvenient transportation are all causes of chronic poverty. Over 90 percent of Guizhou is mountainous. Life in the mountains is harsh, but local officials say they have had a hard time persuading villagers to move into towns despite the lure of better housing and subsidies. As of the end of 2019, Guizhou province has relocated a total of 1.88 million PAMs (The Poverty Alleviation & Development Office of Guizhou Province, 2020).

Migrants' lives undergo multi-level changes in many ways, especially when moving from rural to urban areas. On the one hand, improvement of the living environment and policy support bring about new development opportunities. On the other hand, many negative consequences such as inadaptability, the change in living habits and the disturbance of lost owned cultivated land may have negative impact on the physical and mental health of migrants and hinder the achievement of the sustainable poverty reduction goals. The study analysed the ethnic cultural integration of the inter-ethnic nested communities in Guizhou Province and analysed the factors of cultural integration. The results of the analysis showed that interpersonal relationships had the greatest influence on immigrants' cultural integration. This was followed by cultural affiliation, social support, language communication skills, community involvement, and identity. This study accordingly suggested recommendations to promote cultural integration, which provided a new perspective to address the issue of immigrant integration in ethnic, inter embeddedness. Cultural integration supports the development of cultural pluralism because a culture needs not only the vertical transmission of the historical achievements of its own culture but also the horizontal exchange, learning, and absorption of other cultures in the process of innovative development (Sustainable Cities and Society, 2021).

Study Tour 7C: Visit to Awai Village -Investigation on conservation of Traditional Ethnic Villages and Intangible Cultural Heritage

After visiting the Rainbow Community, we headed on a study tour to Awai village at 4 pm. It took about 45 minutes by bus to reach Awai village from Rainbow community. During the bus journey to Awai village, I saw tombs on the sloping land on the left of express way. The Miao people in Guizhou, China, like many ethnic groups, have their own unique burial traditions and practices that are often integrated into their villages and ancestral lands. China Discovery mentions that some Miao villages, like Dali Dong Village, feature "ancient tombs" (their ancestral practices and burial customs) within their historical layouts. Awai Village is located under the administration of Xixiu District, Anshun City in central Guizhou, China. It is one of the traditional Bouyei villages in this region. The Bouyei

ethnic minority is also known by names such as Buyei, Buyi, and previously Puyi. The group has also been known by other names, including Zhongjia. Government officials and representatives of Awai village welcomed us and guided to travel entire village.

The village is distributed along the highway in a belt-like pattern, and hilly topography. It is located at an altitude of 1280 meters. Awai village is known for its traditional architecture, often featuring stone houses with slate roofs, and are surrounded by agricultural landscapes like rice fields. This Village is home to the 100 households (1072 members) of Bouyei ethnic minority. The village blend architecture, culture, and living traditions that flourish. The mountains were breath-taking, as if painted by an artist on a canvas, adding to the charm of the experience. This village was designated as a National Key Cultural Heritage Protection Unit. These prestigious recognitions solidified Awai village's status as one of China's valuable cultural treasures, attracting tourists from around the globe. China, the world's most populous country, is known for its remarkable development. It offers a unique experience for tourists, blending natural beauty and rich historical significance.



On Wednesday, May 21, 2025: At the Entrance of the Awai village.

We observed cultural museum, library, Musical museum, traditional healing center, theatre, auditorium, traditional enterprises, exhibition hall, guest house, and homestay of the Awai village. We participated in Bouyei unique music performance and food exhibition. We explored traditional bamboo and wood materials, paper, Bouyei vibrant batik textiles, pottery, and jewellery making techniques and products.



Music Performance by the Bouyei Ethnic couple at conference hall of the Awai village

This was my first visit to China, and on this trip, I observed three villages: Longjin village, Qinyan Ancient Town, and Awai village. These villages offered me a glimpse into the country's ancient past. I had studied Chinese history as an optional paper during my undergraduate and postgraduate courses. So I had always been curious about Chinese society. This visit satisfied much of that curiosity. These villages reminded me a lot of those in Nepal. The houses, built with traditional designs unique to Chinese culture, were eye-catching. The craftsmanship and engineering were remarkable, with details that caught my attention. I saw men and women dressed in traditional attire, doing their daily tasks. Watching them brought back fond memories of my childhood in a village of Gulmi in Nepal. It was a nostalgic and heart-warming experience.



Bouyei Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum of the Awai village

Guizhou Province is home to the majority of the Bouyei people, with many villages situated in the Qianna Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefectures, Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefectures, and some also located in Anshun, Guiyang, Liupanshui and other regions across Guizhou Province. The Bouyei ethnic minority group is the second largest minority group in Guizhou Province. This Province accounts for 87.94% of the Bouyei population in China and 20% of the minority population in the province. A total of 757 villages in Guizhou have been included in the List of Chinese Traditional Villages. The unique natural environment of central Guizhou has constrained transportation and economic development, and preserving many original characteristics of the villages. However, in recent years, traditional villages in central Guizhou have faced challenges such as the disruption of spatial patterns and threats to cultural heritage due to rapid urbanization. Bouyei people's residential areas are located in karst landscapes. The karst geomorphologic landscape is made up of stone forests, rock clusters, high-altitude forests, dissolving mounds, waterfalls and so on. The home of the Bouyei people has beautiful scenery, including the Huxi River, Huangguoshu Waterfalls, the Dragon King's Palace in Anshun city, Maling Gorge in Xingyi city, Hujiang Gorge on Guangling Mountain, and Zhangjiang Gorge in Libo county. The unique natural landscape and ethnic style of Bouyei residential areas have become an attractive tourist resource. Tourism is becoming a new economic growth point in the area.

Their spiritual beliefs encompass a blend of animistic practices, ancestor reverence, and elements of Buddhism. Their unique culture and religious practices, which include Shigongism or Moism (Mo Belief), an animistic spirituality with many gods and spirits. Shigongism is a term sometimes used for the traditional animistic religion of the Zhuang people, also known as Moism. Moism is a polytheistic faith where spirits are

believed to be present in everything, and it is centered on ancestor worship, nature spirits, and a belief in three elements: sky, earth, and water. In contrast, Mohism was a school of thought in ancient China that emphasized universal love, meritocracy, and rationalism, and is a completely separate philosophy from the Zhuang religion. The Bouyei people's emphasis on natural harmony, their Mo Belief Culture, and their connection to the environment are mirrored in their village spatial layouts. This suggests their cultural values, which promote neighbourly harmony and environmental conservation, are embedded within their traditional architectural planning and the broader spatial organization of their communities.

Buyi villages are always located near rivers and the villages are fairly small. Their houses are made of stone. The Buyi people are primarily farmers and are proficient at growing foods as well as animal husbandry. The clothing of the Buyi minority group is unique. Men traditionally a long sleeved short shirt with long pants. Young men like to wear a headdress of which consists of scarves of black or lattice cloth. In the northwest of Guizhou women wear a short black jacket. The jacket is tied with a band of cloth. The cuffs and front have batik on them. The jacket is worn with a pleated skirt, an apron, and a turban. They also wear silver accessories. The central style of clothing consists of long green pants, silver ornaments, and an apron. In the southwest, the women wear long pants with a long sleeved blue jacket, or an embroidered coat, and a long pleated skirt. The sleeves and shoulders of the coat are normally decorated with batik or embroidery. The eastern style includes a dress and pants trimmed in lace and a turban. Girls are taught at a young age to do embroidery and to make the Buyi minority batik. The Buyi batik has been famous for thousands of years and the Buyi people are taught to create it at a young age. Batik is created by painting patterns on white cloth with wax. Common designs used in batik production are flowers, waves, and chains. In recent years, more modern designs have been created. Buyi people are also known for their embroidery. Originally used only for their own clothing, in recent years, the Buyi people have started selling their embroidered cloth to the public. The Buyi ethnic minority group like all of the minority groups in Guizhou is very unique. Its ancient customs and traditions have been kept alive and even in today's modern age, the Buyi people still continue to wear their traditional clothing. Their colorful customs have intrigued visitors very many years, and Guizhou's minority groups are starting to draw more visitors each year.

The Bouyei are recognized for their unique music and dance, vibrant batik textiles, and diverse culinary traditions centered on rice. They take rice, corn, wheat and buckwheat as their staple foods. They especially like glutinous rice food, such as glutinous rice cake and Zongzi, a traditional Chinese rice-pudding. The Bouyei people eat glutinous rice at every festival. Their non-staple foods include vegetables, beans and meat. Sour pepper and tofu are some of their most famous dishes. Every Bouyei household brews glutinous rice wine, regular rice wine and corn wine. Some rice wines, which are used to entertain guests, are brewed with wild resveratrol fruit and are rich in nutrients. The brewing technique of wild resveratrol fruit wine has a history dating back hundreds of years. It has evolved into a bulk commodity and sells well throughout the country. The Bouyei are also gifted singers and dancers. They sing celebratory songs, build houses, welcome guests and remember sad occasions. The Bouyei drama and lantern plays are their most unique dramas. Bouyei drama

is famous in Guiyang, Changshun and southwestern Guizhou province. It is usually staged during the Spring Festival. Lantern plays are renowned in Dushan, Pingtang and Sandu counties and evolved from lantern singing and dancing and Guangxi's local opera.

The Bouyei have many traditional festivals. Besides the traditional New Year Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival, the Double Third Day, Eighth of the Fourth Month and Double Sixth Festivals are also celebrated by the Bouyei. To Bouyei people, November marks the beginning of a new year. During the Twelfth lunar month, Bouyei people brew wines, make glutinous rice cakes, pickle meat and make new clothes to welcome the New Year. On New Year's Eve, people enjoy a sumptuous feast in honor of their ancestors, light firecrackers, and stay up until dawn. The third day of the third lunar month it is when the Bouyei offer a sacrifice to the gods of land and mountains. The eighth day of the fourth lunar month is the Ox-God Festival, where residents relax their cattle and feed them cake. On the sixth day of the sixth lunar month, the Bouyei worship the Gods of the field, land and mountains; on the 14th day of the seventh month they honor the dead. The Buyi festivals revolve around forming new and renewing old friendships. The festivals are usually held in the forests, or on the hills surrounding the village. The festivals are huge community parties which include singing, dancing, games, and courtship activities. The Chabai Singing Festival is held on the 21st to the 23rd day of the 6th lunar month on the Chinese calendar. Tens of thousands of visitors from neighboring villages, provinces, and even countries come to witness and participate in the festival. The main activity during the festival is singing contests. During the day, the singing contests are held in the villages 'open areas, but in the evening it is performed in the courtyards and houses of the locals'. The Ox King Festival is held on the first day of ploughing. The most interesting part of the Ox King Festival is the multi colored rice that is eaten. Each family takes rice and dyes it into five different very bright colors. The rice is then steamed. The rice is offered to the ancestors, and then the half of the rice is fed to their oxen which are then allowed to rest for the remainder of the day. The festival known as the March 3rd Festival celebrates the local mountain and village gods (From https://www.zhangjiajeholiday.com/Provinces/Guizhou/Guizhou_Guide/1601.html accessed on 2 August 2025).

Basic Chinese Practice



According to the seminar schedule, Sunday, 25 May 2025, was designated for Basic Chinese Practice. Therefore, we planned a field visit to the Beijing market area, where participants would engage in shopping activities, practice conversational Chinese with local vendors, and observe the dynamics of Chinese society. This visit aimed not only to enhance

practical language skills but also to provide cultural exposure, helping participants gain first-hand experience of daily life, social interactions, and commercial practices in a typical Chinese urban setting. On the evening of May 24, while we were at the AIBO Convention Center to purchase some supplies, we inquired with the staff about nearby Chinese markets and available transportation options. The staff kindly provided us with information on local markets, location maps, and details about buses, taxis, and trains for travel.

On the morning of May 25, at 9:00 a.m., our group, comprising 3 participants from Nepal (Dr. Min Shris, Resham Gurung, and Nurhari Khatiwada), 3 from Indonesia, 1 from Malaysia, 1 from Sri Lanka (Manoj), and 2 from Ecuador, gathered at the AIBO reception for a market tour. We first took a bus to the train station, paying ¥2 per person, and then boarded a train to the Silk Market (Xiu Shui) 8 east Xiushui Street, Chaoyang District, which cost ¥5 per person. The trip was guided by a young Indonesian female officer, the youngest among the seminar participants (around 30 years old). She used a Chinese language translation app on her mobile phone, which proved very helpful for asking questions and navigating with the location map during the journey.

After exiting the train station, our group visited a nearby luxury shopping mall. The products available were of high quality but very expensive. The shopkeepers there could communicate in English, as the mall primarily catered to foreigners and affluent customers. We also visited other large and high-end malls before proceeding to explore local shopping centers where goods were more affordable. During this part of the tour, we experienced challenges in communication, particularly when trying to request a taxi on the street. A young Chinese man, who spoke English, kindly assisted us by booking two taxis through his mobile application. In appreciation, participants from Indonesia and Sri Lanka presented him with small monetary gifts from their countries. He, in turn, generously paid our taxi fare, for which we expressed our sincere gratitude. Subsequently, we visited a large shopping mall known for reasonably priced goods. Interestingly, most of the shopkeepers communicated in Russian, and even the name of the mall was displayed in Russian. Some vendors were able to use basic English, which enabled limited interaction. We purchased several items there before continuing to another local market. Communication in English proved more difficult in that setting, yet we managed to complete a few transactions.

On our return journey, we again required a taxi. A young Chinese woman assisted us by booking one through her mobile application. The fare was ¥80, which we reimbursed to her in cash. This observation tour provided valuable insights into Chinese urban society, shopping culture, and transportation systems. It also highlighted the importance of basic Chinese language skills for effective communication in local settings.

Summary of Study and Questionnaire

The final day of the seminar took place on May 26, 2025, beginning with the ‘Summary of Study and Questionnaire’ session from 8:00 to 11:00 am. The program began with a brief opening by the coordinator, Ms. Wang Yang, who introduced the guests and provided an overview of the seminar’s theme, objectives, and overall relevance. She then delivered a concise summary, emphasizing its aims, key findings, and major conclusions. In closing, she outlined several recommendations for future practice and policy. Following her remarks, questionnaires were distributed to the participants to gather their feedback on the seminar.

The Questionnaire Session is usually held towards the end of a seminar. Its main purpose is to collect feedback, assess participants’ understanding, and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the seminar. It also provides valuable data for organizers, presenters, and participants. The significance of the questionnaire lies in its ability to provide direct participant feedback, help organizers assess effectiveness and satisfaction, create a record for quality assurance and reporting, and generate insights for improving future seminars.

In this session, paper questionnaires were distributed to the participants. The questionnaire format included both closed-ended questions (such as rating scales, multiple-choice, and yes/no responses) and open-ended questions (for detailed suggestions and opinions). Distributed questionnaire had covered several key themes, including content and relevance, seminar topics and research findings, presentation quality, logistics and organization, learning outcomes, and suggestions for improvement.

Closing Ceremony



During the closing ceremony of the seminar, closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Wu Wei, Director of the Executive Department at AIBO, MOFCOM, and Mr. Yosvanis Fornaris Gavcell, Director of the National Museum of Decorative Arts, Havana, Cuba, representing the participants.

Closing Remarks by Mr. Wu Wei, Director of Executive Department at AIBO, MOFCOM

Over the past two weeks, you have engaged wholeheartedly in learning and exchange, gaining deeper insights into China's approaches and practices in ethnic policies, social governance, coexistence of multiple ethnic groups, and cultural integration. Whether through in-depth discussions in the classroom or immersive field visits in ethnic regions in Guizhou Province, I believe these experiences have brought you inspiration and valuable perspectives.

In the academic sessions, you attended lectures on topics such as "China's National Conditions and Chinese Modernization," "General Secretary Xi Jinping's Important Thoughts on Ethnic Affairs," and "Policies and Practices for Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress in China." These provided you with a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations and institutional strengths of China's ethnic governance. Through face-to-face exchanges with scholars and experts, you gained a systematic view of China's efforts in building a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, promoting ethnic unity, and advancing social integration.

In the field visit, we organized trips to Minzu University of China, where you experienced the educational practices of multi-ethnic coexistence and integration. You also explored historical and cultural sites such as the Great Wall to appreciate the inclusive and enduring spirit of Chinese civilization. In Guizhou, you conducted several days of field research, learning how local ethnic regions advance socio-economic development through cultural preservation, industrial integration, and tourism. These visits offered insights into effective pathways for integrating ethnic unity and regional revitalization.

While in Guizhou, you witnessed how people of various ethnic groups live in harmony and how grassroots governance is steadily progressing. At the Guizhou Provincial Museum and through discussions with the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission, you gained a systematic understanding of the region's ethnic history and policy implementation. In places like the Colorful Guizhou Cultural Park and Longjing Village, you had the opportunity to experience intangible cultural heritage such as Miao embroidery and traditional silverwork leaving a strong impression of the region's ethnic handicrafts and cultural industries. At Qingyan Ancient Town and Huangguoshu Waterfall, you saw how cultural tourism serves as a powerful platform for ethnic exchange and integration.

In the Caibong Community of Anshun and Awaizhai Village, you explored innovative models for cultural preservation and embedded development in ethnic communities, deepening your understanding of the harmony embodied in the idea that "each culture shines in its own way, and together they flourish." This seminar has been more than a journey of learning--it has also been a journey of cross-cultural exchange. All of you come from diverse countries with different cultural backgrounds and governance experiences, but we are united by a shared commitment to ethnic unity, social stability, and sustainable national development. Through mutual exchange, we have shared best practices and addressed common challenges. This spirit of mutual learning and support embodies the essence of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

President Xi pointed out that the concept of "forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation as the main thread of the Party's work on ethnic affairs in the new era"

underscores the importance of cohesion through shared identity, cultural integration, and a shared future. We sincerely hope that this seminar has not only deepened your understanding of China's ethnic governance philosophy but also provided new perspectives on relevant issues in your own countries.

Of course, this seminar marks just the beginning of our exchanges. In the future, we look forward to deepening practical cooperation and expanding academic and policy dialogues with partners from all countries. As an old Chinese saying goes, "Though miles apart, kindred spirits are never far away." May the friendships we have built here remain in our hearts, and may we work together to contribute wisdom and strength to promoting ethnic unity and social harmony across nations.

Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations on your successful completion of the seminar. I wish you great success in applying what you have learned to your future work and hope your time in China becomes a cherished memory. Let us stay in touch and keep the friendship alive! Thank you!

Closing Remarks by the participants (Mr. Yosvanis Fornaris Gavcell, Director of the National Museum of Decorative Arts, Havana, Cuba)

Hello everyone, I should say 'companions' but I feel that we can, today, well say 'brothers and sisters! Fate has allowed that through the Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries, we have converged distinct cultures that have become united in a common feeling. We have undergone a process of great learning and also a professional and personal growth guided by academics from universities specialized in integrative work and the safeguarding of the multi-ethnic identity of this nation. We have been able to learn about your ethnic groups their history, and the social project that you are developing for the care of these groups. But at the same time, just as we learned about the particularities of China, we also learned about the policies and ethnic groups of the countries present in the seminar such as Malaysia, Ecuador, Laos, Nepal, Gambia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Cuba.

The program has been a true luxury, with experts of the highest level, we have been able to delve into the various cultural, legal, infrastructure, sustainability experiences, and the protection of the ethnic cultural values that characterize and distinguish this great country. The experiences lived in the province of Guizhou guided us in understanding the community work developed for the personal realization and dissemination of ethnic groups and their members, as well as the preservation of their identity, values and cultural traditions in museums of the highest level. In addition, we were able to appreciate the implementation of strategic for economic sustainability, quality of life, and identify in each of the towns inhabited by these minorities. Witnessing the members of these communities in their daily lives, both in the practice of sports, games, and dances, as well as in the crafting of typical artisanal works, was an enriching experience and irrefutable evidence of the high quality of life achieved by these groups.

Another surprising aspect has been the close relationship of ethnic minorities with their environment and the tourism and cultural work they have been able to exploit as an

identity symbol in total harmony with the environment. The exceptional policies for relocating minorities to low-risk areas, greater interconnectivity, access to basic and universal services, as well as productive centers, guarantee the sustainability of these projects.

We have not only been passive witnesses to what China is doing in terms of the protection of ethnic minorities, but we have also mutually learned from the particularities of this matter in each of the countries participating in the seminar. The internal exchange has been as instructive as the lectures received; we not only learned from China, but we also took with us in our minds and heart the experiences of other nations.

We cannot close this chapter without expressing our most sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), to the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), but especially to our dear friends Wang Yang (Amber), Zhang Siyu (Serena), Li Zhenman (Leon), Mr. Wu Wei, and the translators who did such excellent work. We return home with new ideas, knowledge, and experiences that will enrich our work, but above all, we leave with a new family the AIBO 2025 family.

A fraternal hug to each and every one of those who made this seminar possible. May these words be a 'see you later and not a 'goodbye. Thank you very much to you all.

Certificate Distribution and Gift Presentation

Mr. Wu Wei, Director of the Executive Department at AIBO, MOFCOM, formally presented Certificates of Appreciation to 24 participants representing eight countries who attended the Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries (May 13–26, 2025). Following this, Mr. Noorhari Khatiwada, Secretary of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission of Nepal, offered the traditional Nepali Dhaka Topi to Mr. Wu Wei, as well as to AIBO officials Ms. Wang Yang (Amber), Ms. Zhang Siyu (Serena), and Mr. Li Zhenman (Leon), as a gesture of cultural goodwill.



Mr. Wu Wei, Director of AIBO, formally presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris, Member of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission, Nepal



From right to left – Mr. Resham Gurung, Mr. Wu Wei, Mr. Nurahari Khatiwada, and Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris.



Mr. Noorhari Khatiwada, Secretary of the INC, offering the Nepali Dhaka Topi to Mr. Wu Wei

In continuation of this exchange, Hon. Dr. Min Bahadur Shris, Member of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission of Nepal, presented a statue of Siddhartha Gautam Buddha, the universal messenger of peace, to Mr. Wu Wei, Director of the Executive Department at AIBO, MOFCOM, on behalf of the Commission, symbolizing Nepal's enduring commitment to peace, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.



Farewell Luncheon

The Farewell Luncheon, hosted by AIBO, was held at the Grand Banquet Hall of the AIBO restaurant from 12:00 to 13:30. The event brought together participants from eight countries along with AIBO officials, who formally bid farewell to one another while reaffirming their commitment to maintaining mutual contact and coordination. During the luncheon, Mr. Resham Gurung, Vice President of the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal, proposed the selection of Mr. Demba Jallow IT officer from the Gambia, as coordinator for future engagements. He further suggested that participants convene virtual meetings every three months via Zoom to sustain ongoing communication and cooperation. The proposal received unanimous support from all participants.

To formally welcome the newly appointed coordinator, Mr. Noorhari Khatiwada, Secretary of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission of Nepal, presented him with a traditional Nepali Dhaka Topi, which was met with warm applause from the gathering. Following the conclusion of the luncheon, participants returned to their hostel rooms to make preparations for their respective departures to their home countries.

After the Farewell Luncheon, four of us, three participants from Nepal and one from Sri Lanka (Mr. Manoj), visited the Beijing market. After purchasing some items, we returned to AIBO in the evening. The taxi fare was 40 yuan each way, totaling 80 yuan for the round trip.



Return to Nepal

A return ticket on China Southern Airlines, scheduled for 12:30 pm, was arranged for the three Nepali participants. I checked out of AIBO's VIP Hotel, Room No. 8207, at 7:30 am and proceeded to the reception area. At 8:30 am, three Nepali participants and six Laotian participants boarded the AIBO shuttle bus and departed for Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX). Owing to heavy traffic in Beijing, we reached the airport at 10:30 am.

Following a flight of approximately 3 hours and 10 minutes, we arrived at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport at 2:40 pm. There, we remained in transit for 4 hours and 25 minutes. The subsequent flight from Guangzhou to Kathmandu, scheduled at 8:30 pm, carried a majority of Nepali passengers returning home from the Republic of Korea. The journey to Kathmandu took four and a half hours.

For the seminar, a business-class ticket had been arranged for my travel to and from China. The aircraft landed at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Kathmandu, at 10:30 pm Nepali Standard Time. I reached home at approximately 12:00 midnight.

Outcomes of the Seminar

The Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries (May 13–26, 2025) provided a valuable platform for academic exchange and practical engagement among 24 participants representing eight countries. The program culminated in a joint declaration that emphasized collaborative frameworks for ethnic policy coordination, the expansion of cultural exchange initiatives, and the establishment of cooperative platforms for heritage tourism. By fostering mutual learning and encouraging innovative approaches to policy, the seminar underscored the Belt and Road Initiative's commitment to inclusivity and cultural diversity as central pillars of interconnected and equitable global development. The seminar achieved the following key outcomes:

- **Knowledge Enhancement:** Participants gained a deeper understanding of China's ethnic policy framework, governance philosophy, and modernization pathway. Lectures illuminated the principles underpinning the system of regional ethnic autonomy, the role of law in safeguarding ethnic unity, and the guiding vision of the Communist Party of China in fostering harmony among diverse communities.
- **Exposure to Best Practices:** On-site instructions, field visits, and symposiums provided first-hand insights into China's strategies for promoting cultural diversity, protecting intangible heritage, advancing tourism as a means of integration, and strengthening socio-economic development in multi-ethnic regions.
- **Practical Perspectives on Ethnic Work:** Direct interaction with local communities and institutions allowed participants to observe how heritage conservation, infrastructure development, cultural industries, and grassroots governance operate in practice. These experiences enriched comparative perspectives and broadened participants' approaches to ethnic policy and practice.
- **Strengthened Academic Exchange and Cooperation:** The seminar fostered dialogue between participants, Chinese scholars, government officials, and local communities,

enhancing cross-cultural understanding and laying the groundwork for sustained cooperation among BRI partner countries in the field of ethnic affairs.

Overall, the seminar contributed not only to knowledge-sharing and professional development but also to building networks of trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to inclusive development across the Belt and Road partner nations.

Conclusion

The Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries underscored the shared importance of ethnic inclusivity, cultural revitalization, and equitable development within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. By combining academic lectures, policy dialogues, and field-based observations, the program offered a multidimensional platform for exploring approaches to ethnic governance and cultural preservation.

The discussions highlighted China's experiences in harmonizing ethnic diversity with national unity, safeguarding cultural heritage while advancing modernization, and fostering integration through inclusive socio-economic development. These insights provided participants with valuable comparative perspectives on balancing tradition and progress in multi-ethnic societies.

The seminar further affirmed that the management of ethnic affairs is a nuanced yet vital dimension of national governance. Inclusivity, cultural preservation, and people-centred development emerged as guiding principles for promoting ethnic harmony and advancing sustainable growth.

Equally significant was the program's role in facilitating mutual learning. By bringing together participants from varied cultural and political backgrounds, it fostered meaningful dialogue, encouraged the sharing of best practices, and strengthened the spirit of cooperation among BRI partner countries. In doing so, the seminar contributed not only to a deeper understanding of ethnic policies but also to the broader goals of intercultural exchange, solidarity, and collaborative development.

Suggestion

Building on the insights of the Seminar on Ethnic Policies and Practices for BRI Partner Countries (May 13–26, 2025), the following broad suggestions are offered for future consideration:

1. **Sustained International Dialogue:** Encourage periodic exchanges to promote continued academic engagement and policy dialogue on ethnic affairs among BRI partner countries.
2. **Collaborative Research:** Foster joint research initiatives among universities, research institutes, and ethnic affairs commissions to share experiences and identify best practices in governance.
3. **Capacity Enhancement:** Design future seminars with targeted training modules to strengthen the professional skills of policymakers, administrators, and community leaders engaged in ethnic affairs.

4. **Cultural Exchange:** Broaden cultural and people-to-people initiatives that highlight diverse traditions and heritage, thereby fostering deeper mutual understanding and respect.
5. **Contextual Adaptation:** Support participants in drawing on China's experiences while tailoring approaches to their own national contexts, traditions, and governance systems.
6. **Digital Knowledge Platforms:** Develop online mechanisms to share seminar materials, case studies, and policy resources, ensuring wider access and sustained learning beyond the seminar.

Based on the insights gained from the Seminar, the following suggestions are proposed for government of Nepal to strengthen its indigenous policies, promote inclusivity, and foster sustainable socio-economic development:

1. **Strengthening Inclusive Governance:** As a multi-ethnic and federal republic, Nepal should enhance the effectiveness of its governance system by ensuring broader representation and participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes. Drawing lessons from China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy System, Nepal could further empower provincial and local governments with greater authority and resources to address the specific needs of indigenous groups.
2. **Operationalizing Special, Protected, and Autonomous Areas:** Nepal's Constitution (Article 56[5]) and the Local Government Operation Act, 2074, provide legal foundations for creating autonomous areas, though they remain underutilized. Criteria such as language, cultural identity, and socio-economic disadvantage should be actively applied in their designation. Pilot programs in regions with concentrated indigenous populations could serve as practical models of cultural and developmental autonomy. In particular, the government should consider designating a 'Raute Protected Area', encompassing the traditional settlements and roaming zones of the endangered Raute community.
3. **Strengthening Cultural and Linguistic Rights:** Multilingual governance should be expanded in provinces and municipalities with significant indigenous populations. Establishing 'Indigenous Cultural Councils' would help safeguard languages, cultural heritage, festivals, and traditional institutions such as Bheja and Badhgar.
4. **Targeted Socio-Economic Development Programs:** Additional budgetary allocations should be directed toward autonomous and protected areas, with a focus on infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Affirmative measures, such as scholarships, reserved quotas, and special grants for indigenous nationalities, could be introduced, drawing inspiration from China's bonus-point system in education.
5. **Cultural Heritage Protection and Revitalization:** The government should establish Indigenous Cultural Heritage Zones in provinces with significant indigenous populations (Koshi, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini). These zones should promote the preservation of intangible heritage, such as handicrafts, performing arts, culinary traditions, festivals, and traditional sports, through state support, community participation, and cultural tourism. Additionally, creating Ethnographic 'Open-Air Living Museums' in each

province would provide immersive platforms to showcase traditions, sustain livelihoods, and ensure intergenerational transmission of living heritage.

6. **Tourism for Ethnic Unity and Development:** Tourism can serve as an effective tool for fostering ethnic integration and economic advancement. Developing ‘Model Cultural Heritage Villages’, community-based tourism models incorporating homestays, culinary festivals, cultural performances, and eco-tourism, should be prioritized in culturally rich provinces such as Koshi, Bagmati, Lumbini, and Gandaki. These initiatives would ensure that indigenous communities act as direct stakeholders and primary beneficiaries.
7. **Cultural and Creative Industries Development:** The government should establish ‘Indigenous Craft Industrial Parks’ across provinces to provide artisan training, strengthen cooperatives, and connect local products to both domestic and international markets. Public–private partnerships could also facilitate e-commerce platforms for traditional products such as bamboo crafts, woodwork, wool and felt items, pottery, and indigenous textiles.
8. **Promoting Ethnic Unity through Education:** Government should strengthen its education system by introducing multi-ethnic and multilingual curricula that celebrate diversity, fostering social harmony while promoting national identity. Establishing ‘Indigenous studies and cultural research centers’ within Tribhuvan University and provincial universities would institutionalize academic engagement with issues of ethnic integration, cultural preservation, and heritage research.
9. **Institutional Strengthening:** To ensure long-term sustainability, the government should establish ‘Indigenous Nationalities Academies’ in provinces with significant indigenous populations, such as Koshi, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini. These academies would play a central role in preserving and promoting the history, culture, and literature of indigenous communities, while fostering inter-ethnic understanding and academic scholarship.

Reference

- Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), Ministry of Commerce [MOFCOM]. (2025). *Seminar on ethnic policies and practices for BRI partner countries: Seminar guidebook (May 13–26, 2025)*. China Aid.
- Beijing Municipal Government. (n.d.). *Eight World Cultural Heritage Sites*. Retrieved August 14, 2025, from https://english.beijing.gov.cn/beijinginfo/culture/cultural_treasures/sevenculture/
- China Daily. (2024, November 20). *Improved highways boost development in Guizhou*. *China Daily*. Retrieved from <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202411/20/WS673d3ba9a310f1265a1ce881.html>
- CGTN. (2024, September 26). *President Xi Jinping's key quotes on ethnic unity*. *CGTN*. Retrieved August 21, 2025, from <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-09-26/President-Xi-Jinping-s-key-quotes-on-ethnic-unity-1xdpEZas4yk/p.html>
- EDG Company. *Colorful Guizhou Town* [Web page]. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://edgcompany.com/destination/colorful-guizhou-town/>
- Great Wall of China. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 11, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China
- Guiyang Government (2022, May 9). *Guiyang Municipal Government (English)*. Retrieved August 17, 2025, from http://english.guiyang.gov.cn/guanshanhu/2022-05/09/c_490150.htm
- Guizhou's 59.6 billion high-speed project remarried, who will spend it? (2020, April 16). *Seetao*. Retrieved August 10, 2025, from <https://www.seetao.com/details/22346.html>
- Guizhou Provincial People's Government. (n.d.). *Guizhou, China*. Retrieved August 19, 2025, from <https://www.eguizhou.gov.cn>
- Han, Y.-W., Chen, Y.-B., Zhao, S., Chen, J., & Peng, D. (2024). Geographical factors influencing public participation in architectural heritage conservation: A case study of Chinese wooden arch corridor bridges. *Buildings*, 14(9), Article 2669. <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings14092669>
- Improved highways boost development in Guizhou*. (2024, November 20). *China Daily*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202411/20/WS673d3ba9a310f1265a1ce881.html>
- LCF-LED (2024, October 3). *LCF LED display shines in Colorful Guizhou City with Full Mountain Running Music!*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from https://www.lcf-led.com/article_detail/2878.html
- National Ethnic Affairs Commission. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 20, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Ethnic_Affairs_Commission
- Nepal Law Commission. (2017, October 15). *स्थानीय सरकार संचालन ऐन, २०७४ [Local Government Operation Act, 2074]*. Nepal Law Commission. Retrieved August 25, 2025, from <https://lawcommission.gov.np/content/12760/12760-local-government-regulation-ac/>
- Policy Research Office of the CPC Anshun Municipal Committee. (2025, March 19). *Introduction to Anshun City*. *Anshun Municipal Government*. Retrieved from https://www.anshun.gov.cn/english/travel/201807/t20180716_6861490.html
- Regional ethnic autonomy system of China*. (n.d.). *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 6, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_ethnic_autonomy_system_of_China
- Shutterstock. (n.d.). Search results for “dong villages.” Retrieved August 9, 2025, from <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/dong--villages>

- State Council of the People's Republic of China [gov.cn]. (2021, December 15). *[Photographs illustrating government activities]*. Retrieved August 7, 2025, from https://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202112/15/content_WS61b94755c6d09c94e48a23d9.html
- The State Council of the PRC. (2021, December 15). *Aerial view of bridges in Guizhou*. Retrieved from https://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202112/15/content_WS61b94755c6d09c94e48a23d9.html
- Trading Economics. (n.d.). *China exports by country*. Retrieved August 18, 2025, from <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/exports-by-country>
- Trading Economics. (n.d.). *China imports by country*. Retrieved August 19, 2025, from <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/imports-by-country>
- UNESCO. (n.d.). *UNESCO intangible cultural heritage lists: China*. Retrieved August 9, 2025, from [https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists?text=&country\[\]=00045&multinational=3#tabs](https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists?text=&country[]=00045&multinational=3#tabs)
- Wikipedia contributors. (2024, March 19). *Qingyan*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 12, 2025, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qingyan>
- Wikipedia contributors. (2024, September 2). *List of administrative divisions of Beijing*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Beijing
- Wikipedia contributors. (2025, June 17). *Minzu University of China*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 15, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minzu_University_of_China
- Wikipedia. (n.d.). *List of administrative divisions of Guizhou*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Guizhou
- Wikipedia contributors. (n.d.). *List of World Heritage Sites in China*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 9, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_China
- Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Administrative divisions of China*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_China
- Wikipedia contributors. (n.d.). *List of ethnic groups in China*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 9, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ethnic_groups_in_China
- Wikipedia contributors. (n.d.). *Unrecognized ethnic groups in China*. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved August 9, 2025, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unrecognized_ethnic_groups_in_China
- Xinhua News Agency. (2022, June 1). *Guiyang-Huangping Highway in SW China opens to traffic*. *Xinhua*. Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20220601/3f27abed81434a56b5124b48d9010b9c/c.html>
- Xinhua News Agency. (2024, May 16). *Bridges inject new vitality into tourism sector in mountainous province*. *Xinhua*. Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20240516/a39d1e123a134d52bd985216ea41a6f4/c.html>
- Zhu, D. (2021). Place attachment in the Ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 75, 103358. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2021.103358>
- Zhangjiajie Holiday. (n.d.). *Guizhou Guide*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from https://www.zhangjiajeholiday.com/Provinces/Guizhou/Guizhou_Guide/1601.html
- गौतम, राजेश. (२०४१). *चीन र जापानको इतिहास*. काठमाडौं: रत्न पुस्तक भण्डार ।
- विद्यालंकार, सत्यकेतु. (सन् १९९२). *पूर्वी और दक्षिण-पूर्वी एशिया का आधुनिक इतिहास*, (तेरहवाँ सं.). नई दिल्ली: श्री सरस्वती सदन ।