Tourism meeting to focus on rural areas
Guizhou province continues with efforts to alleviate poverty in remote communities. Zhao Shijun reports.

Social welfare key in developing, improving economic conditions
By HAO NAN

A mountainous county in southeast Guizhou province has placed tourism at the top of its agenda in recent years, launch- ing a series of large-scale projects supported by government policies to increase social welfare in the area. Earlier this year, Congjiang county poured 500 million yuan ($70 million) in investment in rural tourism projects, including the building of terraced fields, drum towers and tourist service agencies and the media will help promote the meeting's role in poverty alleviation, said Zhao, who added that a total of 55,200 rural residents have increased their incomes through working for or operating tourism and related businesses. The prefecture-level officials said standardisation of service, protection of ethnic cultures and use of the latest information technologies will be crucial for ensuring sustainable tourism growth in Congjiang.

Zhao said his tourism authority has recently issued three regulations to standardise the tourism industry. Zhao said, noting “We will use these regulations to improve tourism services and related businesses.

He said that a number of tourism-related regulations will be established to make tourism both convenient and safe for tourists. He said efforts to develop tourism have benefitted many local residents, most of whom have earned significant incomes by opening restaurants, or tenant farmers, where tourists eat locally produced food and experience a more rural lifestyle.

As a result, a woman of the Dong ethnic group from Xiashui town, noted she has made $120 every month since 2016. She said she has been able to buy a television set and a refrigerator.

Congjiang is located in the southeast of Guizhou province, about 1,000 kilometers from the provincial capital of Guiyang and about 280 kilometers from the city center of Kaili and about 160 kilometers from the county city of Leishan.

Termed paddies and old-style farmhouses in Jiabang, Congjiang county, provide a playful paradise for photographers and tourists alike.

Tourist information signs in Xiaohe County.

The scenic areas of Congjiang.

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