

# Oasis of natural beauty opening up to tourists

### Province boasts ultraclean plateau, ancient cultural heritage and rich mineral resources

Northwest China's Qinghai province is increasing efforts to allow more people from across the world to learn about its natural beauty and unique culture.

The province got its name from Qinghai Lake, China's largest inland saltwater lake, said Wang Jianjun, local Party secretary.

Qinghai is the source of three of China's most important rivers: the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang. The first two are known as the mother rivers of China.

Qinghai is located on the "plateau's third pole" — the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The plateau has the world's largest stretches of alpine wetlands, grasslands, shrubs, forests and other ecosystems.

Moreover, Qinghai's proven lithium reserves reach 12.28 million tons, accounting for 83 percent of the total area. The plateau was



Modern face of Xining, capital of Qinghai province in Northwest China. LI UOJIAQIANG FOR CHINA DAILY

## Hand-pulled noodles and Tibetan medicine helping Qinghai win fight against poverty

By LIANG KAIYAN liangkaiyan@chinanews.com.cn

Qinghai province has made remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation in recent years, local officials said.

Government statistics show that since 2013, Qinghai has helped 1.05 million people escape poverty. The incidence of poverty has decreased from 24.6 percent in 2012 to 2.2 percent at the end of 2018.

The per capita disposable income of farmers and herders in impoverished areas increased from 2,594 yuan (385.00) in 2012 to 10,393 yuan in 2018.

"Areas of extreme poverty are the most difficult corners of poverty alleviation in Qinghai and the province has set a goal to eliminate absolute poverty by the end of this year," said Ma Fengsheng, head of the Qinghai Poverty Alleviation and Development Commission.

Since 2015, the Qinghai provincial government has spent more than 75 percent of its annual budget to promote social welfare including education, employment, medical care, culture and infrastructure.

Kezai Village in Nanqen county at the Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefecture in Qinghai is a poverty-stricken area. Living on 253 households in the village suffered from poverty.

To date, the province has more than 450 traditional Tibetan medical institutions and opened public Tibetan medicine hospitals in 70 percent of its counties.

"Tibetan medicine is not only a medical science but also contains profound wisdom of the Chinese nation," said Doudrub, head of the Qinghai Province Administration of Traditional Chinese and Tibetan Medicine.

Qinghai will continue to promote the culture of traditional Tibetan medicine, and develop traditional Tibetan medicine and related health tourism, Doudrub said.

In the village over the past two years, he added.

"As a calling card of Qinghai, the *lamian* (hand-pulled noodle) sector has offered another approach to fighting poverty.

Home to the noodle, Haidong in the northeast of Qinghai province, is such an example. In the city, one out of three people is engaged in operating noodle businesses, and in its rural areas, one out of every two families runs such a business," said Ma Jinxing, head of the Haidong employment bureau.

To date, the city is home to 578 companies engaged in the noodle business, which have created 97,966 job opportunities, Ma said.

The noodle industry has become the most difficult corners of poverty alleviation in Qinghai and the province has set a goal to eliminate absolute poverty by the end of this year," said Ma Fengsheng, head of the Qinghai Poverty Alleviation and Development Commission.

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Tibetan children are excited by their new home after a welfare institute was opened in Tianqun county, Qinghai province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A sanitation worker in Qinghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A herdman who injured his leg receives treatment in a hospital in Qinghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Qinghai is a major welfare production hub in China. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Baichuanhe Wetland Park in Xining province is a popular destination for locals and tourists to relax. LI UOJIAQIANG FOR CHINA DAILY

# MONUMENTAL QINGHAI



From left: Rural students at school in Baiyuan village in Qinghai's Fuzhu Tu autonomous county. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY; Cyclists from China and abroad compete during the Tour of Qinghai Lake 2018. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



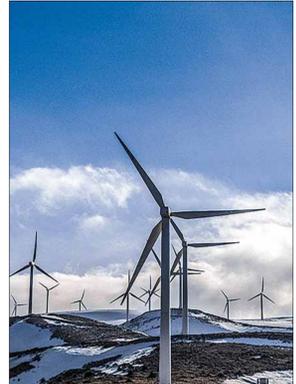
Villagers show their gratitude for their improved lives after they benefited from rural tourism, running rural breakfast-and-bed businesses and selling traditional handicrafts and other local specialties, since they were relocated from their original mountainous dwellings in 2016. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A clean energy power station in Qinghai features photovoltaic panels and hydropower. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Rich in rivers, Qinghai has distinct advantages in developing the hydropower industry. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A wind power farm in Qinghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



From left: Rural students at school in Baiyuan village in Qinghai's Fuzhu Tu autonomous county. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY; Cyclists from China and abroad compete during the Tour of Qinghai Lake 2018. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



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## Taking steps to promote coexistence and social development

By ZHANG DANAN zhangdanan@chinanews.com.cn

Paying close attention to local ethnic groups' cultural protection and living environment, Northwest China's Qinghai province has made great strides in promoting multicultural coexistence and boosting economic and social development.

With ethnic groups making up 47 percent of its total population, Qinghai is a province of multi-ethnic gathering, multireligious coexistence and multicultural integration.

Therefore, the integrated development of all ethnic groups is the cornerstone of Qinghai's economic development and social stability, according to the local government.

Statistics of the Qinghai Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism show that by the end of 2018, the province had six items listed among intangible cultural heritage of humanity, and 73 national-level and 253 provincial-level intangible cultural heritage items.

As the only province nationwide with three national-level experimental areas of cultural ecology protection so far, Qinghai has taken the lead in protecting local culture, according to an official at the Qinghai Tibetan Buddhism research center.

Due to rapid changes in the natural and social environment, some intangible cultural heritage cannot find a proper use in modern life, resulting in a danger of losing inheritance, experts said.

To solve the problem, the Golog Tibetan autonomous prefecture in Qinghai province introduced a three-year plan of training 1,000 people in intangible cultural heritage crafts in 2016.

The autonomous prefecture has held 18 training sessions on intangible cultural heritage, involving more than 740 participants.

By collaborating with top universities in China, the Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefecture in the province has made efforts to promote the sustainable development of intangible cultural heritage.

Last year, the autonomous prefecture organized 30 inheritance traditional Yushu costume to visit to the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology.

In 2017, 20 inheritors of local Tibetan traditional craft from Hushu got the opportunity to visit the Academy of Arts and Design at Tsinghua University.

Development is the key to solving various problems in ethnic groups. Qinghai officials said. The province has stepped up efforts to develop the local economy.

Qinghai province is home to access of ethnic groups. LI UOJIAQIANG FOR CHINA DAILY



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## Recognition of traditional crafts has rural economy all sewn up

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Zhu Erni, a 53-year-old Qinghai farmer, was taught traditional embroidery — also known as Qing embroidery — by her mother throughout childhood. Thanks to that, she founded her own company.

On Aug. 30, she was invited to a forum on traditional crafts and rural revitalization as an inheritor of Qing embroidery. The inheritance and innovation of Qing embroidery became a major topic of the event.

At the forum, Zhu displayed the embroidery on her clothes that she made herself. Attendees were amazed at her handcraft and skills.

Zhu said she didn't expect that the "ordinary" skills in her eyes had become a representative item of intangible cultural heritage in Qinghai.

"Embroideries like me are rising the wave (of national support for traditional crafts)," Zhu said. Besides Zhu, about 100 other inheritors of Qing embroidery participated in the event.

"With the support of the government and living environment, Northwest China's Qinghai province has made great strides in promoting multicultural coexistence and boosting economic and social development.

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Qinghai residents promote Tibetan-style blankets. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



An embroiderer shows her Qinghai-style embroidery work. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

work for family workshops, embroidery competitions and art studios.

Weaving Tibetan-style blankets is another intangible cultural heritage item in Qinghai. The province has established a reputation as a key Tibetan blanket production center.

Riding high on the Belt and Road Initiative, a growing number of Qinghai-made Tibetan blankets are exported to Europe. This helps to promote Qinghai's culture and crafts.

Qinghai Daily quoted Ma Xiumin, board chairman of Qinghai Tibetan Sheep Carpets (Group) as saying.

Reqing in Qinghai is famous for *thangka*, a kind of Tibetan scroll painting, and has made advances in protecting its intangible cultural heritage.

With a total of 520 intangible cultural heritage items, 128 demonstration families, 207 representative inheritors and 3,070 cultural industry practitioners, local people have increased efforts in commercializing their crafts and engaging with industry.

"Intangible cultural heritage is a symbol of a nation's wisdom," said Shu Xiaobo, an official from the Qinghai culture and tourism department.

In the future, the province will launch more projects to protect heritage items. Such projects include establishing the intangible cultural heritage list, increasing the group of inheritors and making a digital record of the items, Shi said.

earned less than 2,000 yuan (280) a year. Isolation made it difficult to send children to school.

More than 200,000 travelers visited food and entertainment venues in the village last year, generating 1 million yuan and supporting 4,000 jobs, Li said.

Qinghai is keeping a close eye on the ecological environment. Since 2016, it has built 1,579 monitoring stations as part of a comprehensive network. Cameras installed at the source of the three rivers, known as Sanjiangyuan, also monitor wildlife and human activity, including illegal fishing, hunting and camping. Video surveillance and motorcycle patrols, which are underway 24 days a month, attract tourists as well as punish violators, said monitoring center staff member Loshan Dashi.

On July 1, Zhimusiang, a village in Guamiu township, opened a garden where visitors can enjoy flowers and cultural activities. Local authorities plan to cut down more scenery and, in particular, restore mountainside vegetation, according to village Party secretary Li Chuan-gong.

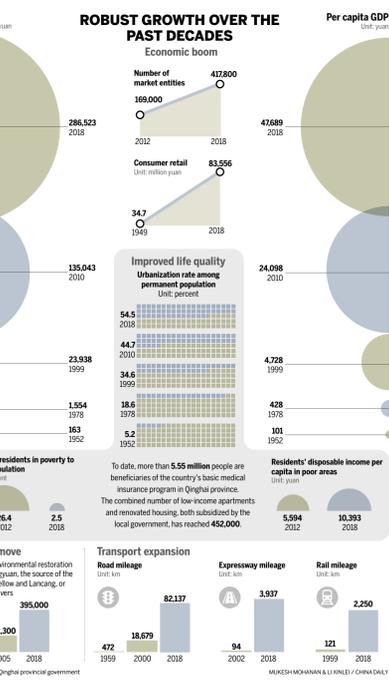
So far, every mountain ridge has received driving warmer months. On average, they 3,000 yuan per mu (1/15th of a hectare).

Qilian Mountains Forest Park in Qinghai. ZHANG SHUNHUI FOR CHINA DAILY

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Source: The Qinghai government

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