



Guizhou enters the high-speed railway era in 2014 and has since become an important crossroad for high-speed transport in western China.

Transportation network puts region on road to success

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Transportation has played a key role in driving Guizhou's economic development and will continue to do so and remain a big focus for the local government, officials said.

The province in Southwest China has built what it calls a three-dimensional traffic network, comprising of highways, expressways, high-speed rail, waterways and aviation.

Total investment in Guizhou's highways from 1949 to 2018 stands at 112 trillion yuan (\$157.4 billion). Making up large parts of the total investment were more than 100 million yuan in 1988, over 1 billion yuan in 1996 and more than 100 billion yuan in 2014.

Because of such large-scale investment the province's GDP in 2018 was 1.8 trillion yuan, rising at an average rate of 11 percent over the past six years.

Since the first Five-Year Plan in 1953, the region has rebuilt two important highways connecting it to two of its neighbors, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Yunnan. Guizhou has also made concerted efforts to build roads leading to remote areas.

After the reform and opening-up policy was adopted in 1978, highway construction in the province surged, and by the end of 2018 the road network stretched 197,000 kilometers.

Construction on high-quality and high-capacity roads in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, and Huangguoshu, a tourist destination known for its waterfalls, in 1986, opened up a new chapter for the province's road network. In 2001, the province's first expressway, from Kaili to Majiang, opened to traffic.

Guizhou took the lead in making sure each county had access to expressways among its western regions in 2015. By the end of 2018, expressways alone stretched 6,453

km and superhighways extended 2,082 km. The province launched a three-year project building pitch and cement roads in rural areas in 2017. The mileage reached 27,980 km that year and 77,482 km in 2018, enabling 39,900 villages with more than 30 households each to have access to such roads. As of June, the roads reached 78,688 km.

Guizhou's waterways and canals have also been lengthened, with 2,802 km in use in 1978 rising to 3,780 km by the end of 2018.

Three major water channels into the province have also been renovated in that time, including the Wuyang River channel which reopened to traffic in January 2017 after being closed for 13 years.

High-level waterways in the province — those that cater to a large capacity of traffic — flow for more than 900 km.

As of June, Guizhou's water conservancy projects were capable of supplying 12.29 billion cubic meters of water annually.

China's high-speed railway has acted as its backbone for economic rise, many say. Guizhou entered the high-speed railway era in 2014 and has become an important crossroad for high-speed transport in western China, local officials said.

The Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway, expected to be completed in late 2023, will extend 482 km and have a top speed of 350 km/h. It will start from Gui'an and travel through Longli, Guiding, Duyun, Dushan and Libo in Guizhou, before arriving in Nanning, capital of neighboring Guangxi.

After it opens to traffic, Guiyang will become a central hub in western China reaching south to the Beibu Gulf region. It will be much easier for visitors to travel to Libo in Qiannan Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefecture, taking them only one hour from Guiyang to Libo, authorities in Guizhou said.

All nine cities and prefectures in the province have airports open to traffic and had a combined passenger throughput exceeding 27.99 million in 2018.

As planned, Guizhou will have connected all its counties to airports by the end of 2025. By that time, it will have formed a comprehensive airport network covering popular scenic areas, key agricultural production areas and important forests and reserves.

Guizhou's diverse geography has meant that bridges and tunnels have played an important role in the construction of the transport network.

Chishuihe Bridge, located in Yanzhai village in Xishui county, is planned to open to traffic during the weeklong National Day holiday that begins Oct 1. The suspension bridge links Jiangjin district in Chongqing and Gulin county in Sichuan province.

The main span of the bridge is 12 km and its main support towers 243.5 meters tall. It spans the Chishui River at the provincial boundaries and connects to an expressway in Sichuan.

After almost two and a half years of construction, Dongwan Tunnel extending 4,515 meters is now open, marking a big step in the building of the Zheng'an-Xishui Expressway, the longest expressway in the city of Zunyi.

The expressway will pass through several areas with an altitude of more than 1.5 kilometer and across a 100-meter valley. As of April, 21 of the expressway's planned 25 tunnels have been completed. As a result of the comprehensive construction and updating of Guizhou's transport network, the province has become a key passageway of Belt and Road Initiative business and the Yangtze River Economic Belt, officials said.

Tech focus helps Guizhou lead with high-quality growth

Province using big data across all sectors of industry, investing in digital economy, **Li Xin** reports.

“The ultimate goal of setting up a telemedicine platform in Guizhou is to take advantage of big data to allow people get good medical services at the door of their house and obtain real benefits.”

An Shihai, deputy director of Guizhou Provincial Health Commission

24.6 percent

year-on-year growth of Guizhou's digital economy in 2018

102

big data projects

were launched to support real economy in Guizhou last year

1.12

trillion yuan

total investment in Guizhou's highways from 1949 to 2018

During the 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Guizhou province has achieved unprecedented progress in its high-quality development since the launch of its big data initiative in 2013, especially in the tech field, said local officials.

Statistics from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology show that the digital economy accounted for 26.9 percent of provincial GDP in 2018.

The digital economy had a growth rate of 24.6 percent year-on-year in 2018, ranking first in China for four consecutive years.

The employment growth rate in the province's digital industry has ranked first nationwide for two years. To develop the big data industry into a world-leading ecosystem, Guizhou prioritizes the inclusion of big data into all aspects of life.

The province adheres to supply-side structural reform and has intensified support for big data enterprises to attract investment.

A number of big names such as Alibaba, Huawei, Tencent, Baidu and JD have settled in Guizhou. They sit alongside international behemoths like Apple, Microsoft, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Oracle.

Last year, the province constructed 102 big data benchmark projects, 1,050 demonstration projects and helped in the integration of 1,625 enterprises.

This indicates that applying big data into the real economy has accelerated to the intermediate stage, officials said. Guizhou is building “digital villages” and promoting the application of modern information technology.

Big data, for example, is being applied to rural production management services to accelerate digitization and intelligence in the region.

All villages in the province have achieved 100 percent optical fiber broadband and 4G coverage. This has passed the target set by the State two years ahead of time.

The province has also established a platform for the production and marketing of agricultural products.

More than 70 county-level e-commerce operation service centers were set up together with 10,250 village-level e-commerce service sites, which cover all township logistics in the province.

This solved the problem of “small farmers and big markets” and realized the maxims of “Guizhou goods out of the mountains” and “agricultural goods into the city”.

Guizhou provincial government has taken a people-centered development approach, making use of big data to promote safety and improve people's livelihoods.

It focuses on promoting equality and improving the efficiency of public services.

Currently, 83.1 percent of the provincial government affairs can be handled online.

It has ranked among the top three nationally in terms of e-governance for three consecutive years.

Guiyang, capital of Guizhou, has applied big data into the real economy as a powerful force for industrial transformation and development.

In the medical industry, Guiyang Longmaster Information Technology participated in the establishment of the 39 Internet Hospital.

It became the first internet hospital fully certified as a medical institution. The company offers technologies such as mobile terminals and internet connection related to telemedicine, a system where diagnoses and treatment can be carried out



Beipanjiang Bridge in Southwest China's Guizhou province is one of the world's highest bridge with 565.4 meters above Beipanjiang Grand Valley. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

remotely, to people in areas with poor medical and health facilities.

“Over the past two years, a lot of patients have enjoyed the medical service from specialists in large city hospitals through consultations, remote rounds, remote instruction and field operations, which is beneficial to both doctors and patients,” said Director Pi Shengming of the Sixth Hospital of Guiyang.

“The ultimate goal of setting up a telemedicine platform in Guizhou is to take advantage of big data to allow people get access to good medical services on their doorstep and obtain real benefits,” said Deputy Director An Shihai of the Guizhou Provincial Health Commission.

The technologies have benefited thousands of patients from 24 provinces, municipalities and auton-

mous regions by 2018.

The telemedicine model makes more efficient use of quality medical resources, improving primary healthcare institutions, say officials. Guizhou is China's first national big data comprehensive pilot area.

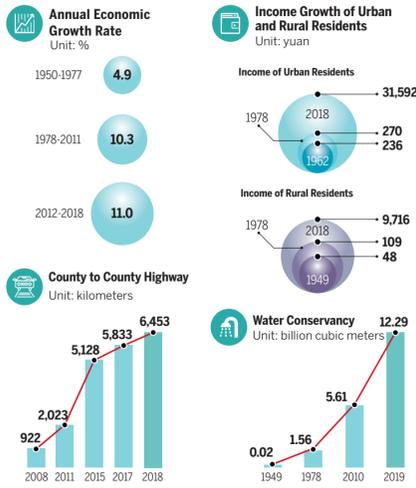
Its mission is to accumulate practical experience for China's big data strategy.

In the past few years, Guizhou has

advanced and explored all things big data, and has been recognized by the national government and society for its achievements.



DATA ON GUIZHOU OVER 70 YEARS



Sources: Guizhou Provincial Government



From left: The 2019 China International Big Data Industry Expo becomes an international platform to promote cooperation and communication globally. This year's expo attracts more than 26,000 participants from 61 countries and regions around the world. A staff member introduces the big data applications at an exhibition center in Guiyang, Guizhou province.



Guiyang's development strategy attracts capital

By LI XIN
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Since the launch of its big data strategy in 2013, Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, has become a hotbed for venture capital investment and an example for the nation's big data industry.

The city's digital economy is an important engine for high-quality development.

One example is PIX Moving, a key project on autonomous driving. It was launched at the end of March on the Big Data Avenue, an important platform for Guiyang's autonomous driving in the sector.

Walking into the PIX Moving factory, a black-and-white driverless car catches visitors' eyes. “This is the PIX driverless car that we independently developed and manufactured,” said Cao Yuteng, chief operating officer of PIX Moving.

He added “to speak more vividly, it is a ‘mobile space’ with a driverless chassis that can be used in various ways, such as for logistics, ride-sharing, security patrol and even for retail and leisure.” PIX Moving has been pursuing one

vision since 2013: to make cities better places.

“We hope to change the shape of cars through driverless operation and then change the city in order to make urban spaces flexible and solve many urban problems in the process of movement,” said Cao.

In the factory, there are several offices separated by glass where a diverse workforce focus on the vehicles of the future.

Chuan Yu, CEO of the company, said that Guizhou has magnetism with tech companies.

“Because big data in Guizhou is developing rapidly, the local industry in Guiyang is attracting the same industry and related industries into Guiyang and even Guizhou in a faster and more direct way.”

“Take the 2018 International Big Data Industry Expo as an example, PIX Moving has established coopera-

tion intentions with enterprises such as Udacity from the United States, Gefertec from Germany and Sasken from India.” Chuan said: “It is because Guizhou is developing big data and China Unicom is building a 5G base station in Guiyang that PIX Moving benefits from 5G networks, providing assurance for the driverless system.”

Guiyang has not only the enthusiasm for developing big data but also the policies and resources to grow the industry. “Provincial, municipal and district governments attach importance to the development of the big data industry and have introduced policies to solve our problems of driverless test areas and test section demarcation.”

“Because of the advantageous conditions of climate and electricity prices, Apple, Huawei and Tencent have set up data centers in Guizhou,” said Chuan.



From left: An autonomous driving car is displayed at at the 2019 China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang. An intelligent robot attracts attention during the event.



Fanjing Mountain in Tongren, a city in Guizhou renowned for its tea industry, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Reporter's log: An appetite for a drink I had avoided all my life

By EOGHAN NORRIS MCNEILL
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I thought I knew what tea smells like. Fundamental to the reductive and often cloying stereotypes the Irish willingly buy into is that we're a nation of tea drinkers.

No more than many stereotypes, it's one that carries with it some truth. Behind Turkey we're ranked second worldwide in per capita tea consumption.

One of the country's best-known institutions, Irish-written TV sitcom *Father Ted*, features the character of housekeeper Mrs Doyle.

Her catchphrase — “Will you have a cup of tea? Ah, go on” — is as well known as any of Ireland's cultural exports. Its influence speaks to the space tea occupies in the country's national identity.

I've never been a tea drinker myself but I've been surrounded by it. Cups brewed from tea bags produced by Barry's or Lyons, Ireland's two most popular tea brands and inspiration for a certain tribalism, the latter being English-owned and thus carrying a

certain colonial connotation.

Full-fat Irish milk diluted the tea that gave its scent to teachers' staff rooms or Gaelic football clubhouses, or anywhere that adults congregated in my childhood.

At some stage I decided I didn't like it. I wasn't a man for tea or its aroma.

Ireland cannot compete with China for outright volume of tea consumption. The Chinese put away about 725 million kilograms of it a year.

Southwest China's mountainous Guizhou province is looking to become the country's largest tea exporter by 2020. It aims to ship about 50,000 tonnes of the stuff a year.

The province is home to almost half-a-million hectares of tea plantations and its altitude, comparatively mild climate and clean air make it ideal for growing tea.

I was in Guizhou in early August and headed for a Fanjing Mountain green tea plantation high above the village of Datun.

The journey took on a constant but comfortable incline, taking in the occasional corkscrew turn with a few vehicles passing on the other side,



Scenery of a tea plantation in Yinjiang county, Southwest China's Guizhou province.

green valleys left behind. I arrived at the plantation but the climbing continued as I walked to the facility's summit and into the middle of its crops. I smelled it. Tea. It was a small essential and irreducible, unlike the imitation hanging around Ireland.

I met with You Hui, who works at the plantation. We sat by an open fire with a porcelain jug in the middle from which we poured green tea into our bowls. This was the way to drink tea, You said, the way that local people had drunk it for thousands of years. We drank and sat, chatting. You told

me that men in the village live long lives because they've little taste for beer. Social life revolves around an open fire rather than the local bar.

Irish social life occurs primarily in bars. If Mrs Doyle's cup of tea catchphrase speaks to a fundamental of Irish identity, so too does another of the show's catchphrases: Father Jack's repeated calls for (alcoholic) “Drink”.

Sat high in Guizhou's mountains with the first cup of tea I had enjoyed and a smell I thought I'd known but hadn't, I could understand the appeal of staying away from the pub.