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SHARING EXPERIENCE

GUIZHOU

2024 ZHI&XING GUIZHOU SILK ROAD YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Bridging Campus and Community • Experiencing the “Super” Ability of Rural Areas by Integrating “New Agriculture, Culture, Tourism, and Sports”

2024 知行贵州——校地融合“农文旅体新”，体验乡村“超”能力日程安排

17-23th July 2024, Guizhou University, Guizhou Province, China



2024 “Zhi & Xing Guizhou” Silk Road Youth Exchange Program (ZXC)

Sharing Exchange Experience
during one week with Guizhou university
Guizhou, China

Reported by

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Letter of thanks

Even though this is my first time in China, Guizhou province is also. As the candidates of Suranaree University of Technology, I am very grateful for such a great opportunity that SUT, the CIA, Asst. Prof. Wipawee Usaha, PhD., Asst. Prof. Tapany Patcharawit, PhD. and Guizhou University (GZU) has given me, to take me and other foreign fellows to 三宝侗寨 [Sanbao Dong village], 乐乡村 [Lexiang village], 大利村 [Dali village], 百香果种植基地 [Passion fruit planting base], and 村超 [Village super league]. It is an eye-opening experience to see such a beautiful city, the real world of minority tribes, and the development of Guizhou in many dimensions, such as agriculture, sport, tourism, and culture, so that they can bring prosperity to people with the help and support of GZU's support, which also helps children from ethnic minorities get a good education. I also sincerely hope that there will be good activities like this in cooperation between Suranaree University of Technology with Guizhou University, and more.

Sincerely,
Phakphicha Srisatrasana

What's the meaning of "Unity of "Zhi" and "Xing"?"

Wang Yangming [王阳明] (1472-1529), a famous Ming Dynasty philosopher, introduced the concept of "the unity of Zhi and Xing (knowledge and action)" after attaining enlightenment in Longchang, Xiuwen County. He taught that "Zhi" [知] (knowledge) represents moral awareness, and "Xing" [行] (action) represents moral practice. He believed that true knowledge is only complete when expressed through action.

What is the "Zhi & Xing Guizhou" Silk Road Youth Exchange Program

Since 2021, the "Zhi & Xing Guizhou" Silk Road Youth Exchange Program (ZXC) has been running. Each year, it invites at least 100 young people from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative to participate in short-term exchange and study visits in Guizhou, either online or in person. Through this program, participants learn about Guizhou, build friendships, and embody the unity of "Zhi" and "Xing."



- 1) The logo; Butterfly pattern
- 2) The logo; Hundred birds cloth
- 3) The logo; Drum tower
- 4) The logo; Chinese banyan tree
- 5) The logo; Fish pattern
- 6) The logo; Dragon pattern
- 7) The word; Sanbao Dong village gate and tower
- 8) The word; Famous bridge and Duliu river

Rongjiang County, in southeastern Guizhou Province, is known for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance. It is indeed a national key ecological zone and a hub for revolutionary culture. The county excels in agriculture, producing high-quality citrus and Xili Rice, and is a major tourist area in Guizhou. In 2020, Rongjiang was removed from the list of impoverished counties, and in 2021, it was designated a key area for national rural revitalization.



The Rongjiang Village Super League, organized by the Rongjiang County Football Association, Guizhou Province.

They features eight village teams from Sanbao Dong Village. The league is co-organized by local cultural associations and tourism companies, with participation from various townships and neighborhoods.



Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, is a key city in southwestern China, located on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau at about 1,000 meters elevation. Known for its mild winters and cool summers, it's often called "Cool and Refreshing Guiyang." The city is rich in karst landscapes, with 85% of its land featuring peaks, gorges, and caves. With 41.78% forest coverage, Guiyang was China's first "National Forest City." It is home to 17 ethnic groups, including Han, Miao, and Buyi, who live together in a culturally diverse environment.

Flying. ✈️

I had 2 flights: **BKK-CAN**, and **CAN-KWE**
My first layover was in Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (Guangzhou, China) for 3 hours, then flew about 1 more hour to Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport (Guiyang is the key city of Guizhou Province)



This is me! at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport.

To the university..

The university had pick us up from the airport. I have got this snacks as a welcome set.



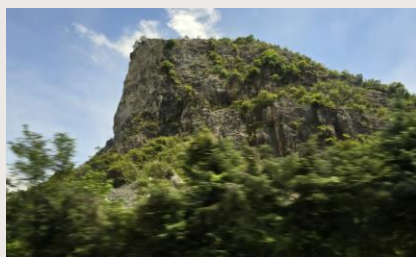
This is a picture of us three, captured at Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport.

ARRIVED AT GUIZHOU UNIVERSITY

With area of 309.17 hectares and includes 65.69 hectares of farmland for teaching and experiments.

Guizhou University

(GZU) was established in 1902 as the Guizhou Institute of Higher Learning. The other used names have included, Provincial Guizhou University, National Guizhou College of Agriculture and Engineering, and National Guizhou University. The name "Guizhou University" was formally adopted in October 1950.



Guizhou has many mountains, the view on both sides of the road that we will see along the way.

This cube was made for 120th establish year anniversary of the university.

This is the university's hotel name "Guizhou Tobacco Commercial Bureau Education Training Center" we have to checked into.



This watermelon is the one of the famous fruits in Guizhou.

I never see any Thai watermelons has as big-long size as Guizhou watermelon before.

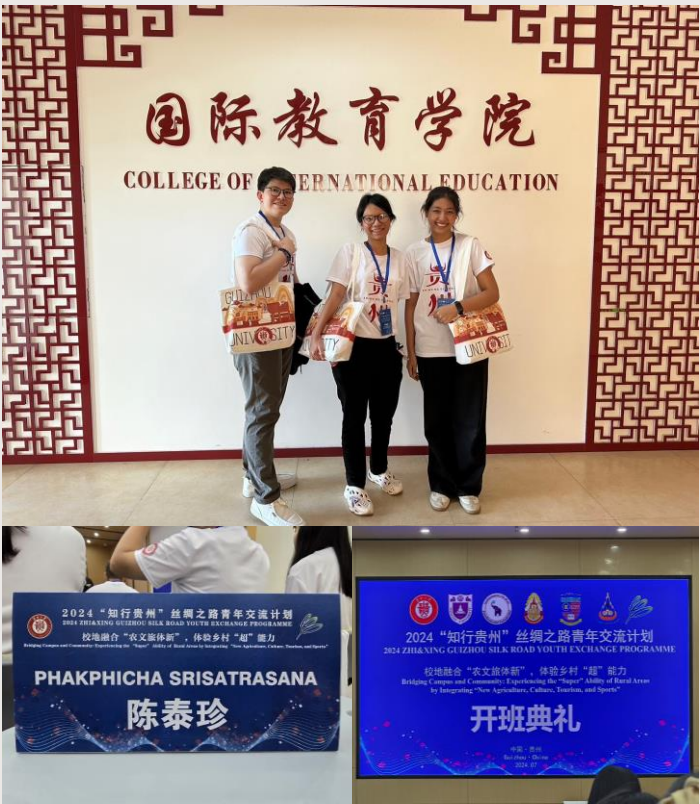


This is a community behind the university. There are many shops, a small supermarket, and it is also close to the subway station.

International Education College [国际教育学院]

Participation to the opening ceremony

The 2024 "Zhi" & "Xing" Guizhou Silk Road Youth Exchange Program showcases Guizhou University's role in rural revitalization by integrating agriculture, culture, tourism, and sports. Participants will experience firsthand the university's contributions to national initiatives and visit modernized rural areas praised by President Xi Jinping. The program also includes thematic activities that introduce foreign youth to Guizhou's intangible cultural heritage and traditional Chinese medicine, highlighting the blend of modern rural life with ancient Chinese traditions.



We were participated in the opening ceremony of this program. We got a briefing about Guizhou, China, and the university's assistance to Rongjiang County's modernization.

IT'S FREE TIME!



We go explore around the university to get a new vibes. We found this underground crossing road!

Traditional Chinese Medicine Class



We were introduced to traditional Chinese medicine or (TCM), by comparing with the modern medicine. The professor taught us the origins of traditional Chinese medicine, general overview of TCM including the underlying concepts, treatments, and issues to consider when using TCM. We have had the experience of trying moxibustion and acupuncture ourselves.



Welcome herbal tea



Acupuncture kits



Demonstration of moxibustion



Example of herbs

Discovering Sanbao Dong Village [三宝侗寨]



Sanbao Dong Village in Guizhou's Rongjiang County is renowned as "the best (NO.1) Dong village in the world." The village's centerpiece is the Sanbao Drum Tower [三宝侗鼓楼], the tallest, largest, and most-storied Dong drum tower globally, recognized by the Guinness World Records. Originally built during the Qing Dynasty and rebuilt in 2001, this 21-stories wooden structure is notable for its nail-free construction. The village also features ancient Dong houses, the revered Sama Temple, and centuries-old banyan trees, adding to its cultural significance.

"Sama" [萨玛] means great grandmother in Dong. Locals revere Sama due to a legend of Sha Sui, a heroine from the matriarchal clan era who died defending her people. She was later deified, with a shrine built in her honor and annual rituals held to commemorate her bravery.



The Sama temple [萨玛祠]



The couple statue, the professor said that there is a legend of a sad love story between a man and a woman, like the Romeo and Juliet story.

These banyan trees are very old, and their history can be traced back to the Tang and Song dynasties. It is said that Rongjiang County got its name because of the numerous banyan trees.



The village placed across the river, these are village's ancient Dong houses.



Visit the passion fruit farm [百香果种植基地]

Rongjiang county, southwest China's Guizhou Province. The county has a population about 380,000, out of which more than 80 percent are people from the Miao and Dong ethnic groups. They started passion fruit plantation in 2019, when locals were mobilized to participate in the emerging industry. The crop is grown over 2,800 hectares across Rongjiang county in 2021. "The county strives to expand the passion fruit industry and there is a plan to increase the plantation area to 13,333 hectares by 2025.

I asked the farmer, How long does it take to get the passion fruit? She said it normally takes about three months, and it depends on the weather.



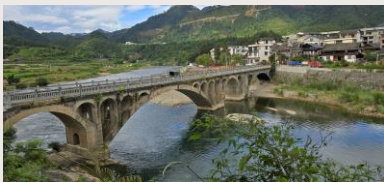
This is a passion fruit flower.



So sweet, and delicious!

Discovering Lexiang Village

[乐乡村]



Lexiang Village in China has made significant progress in fighting poverty and modernizing its community through several key strategies:

it promotes its natural beauty and cultural heritage to attract tourists, generating income and creating jobs for locals. Community involvement ensures that development projects meet the real needs of residents, while government support provides essential financial aid, infrastructure improvements, and supportive policies. Additionally, investing in education and skills training equips residents with the knowledge needed to capitalize on new opportunities and contribute to the village's growth.



Batik and study tour house



The drum tower of Lexiang village is beside the banyan tree.



The oldest banyan tree is in front of the village.



Most of the women in the village live inside their houses.



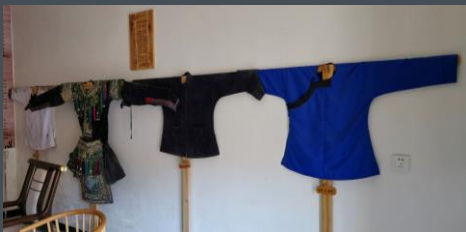
Agriculture: They use new farming techniques and grow different crops to boost productivity and increase farmers' incomes.

Visit Lexiang's Guizhou batik and it's museum

Male: Dong men wear long-sleeved jackets with standing collars, Chinese toggle closures, wide trousers, and 4-meter indigo-dyed or white headwraps. For festive occasions, they accessorize with silver crowns, necklaces, bracelets, and rings.

Female: Dong women wear their hair in buns with silver accessories and don indigo jackets with colorful accents, pleated skirts, and fabric-wrapped calves. Special occasions feature elaborate costumes with silver jewelry, purple coats, and embroidered shoes.

I asked the village headman, Why haven't I seen any men wear Dong ethnic clothes? He said that because men have to work outside (e.g., as carpenters), it is an inconvenience for them to wear the clothes.



Women costumes in Lexiang village museum



Guizhou Batik: A traditional textile art from Guizhou, China, where Miao and Buyi ethnic groups use wax-resist dyeing to create intricate, symbolic patterns, often using indigo or smartweed dyes.

Embroidery Patterns: Guizhou embroidery features detailed, symbolic designs inspired by nature and mythology. Common motifs include flowers, animals, and geometric shapes, hand-stitched onto fabrics to reflect the cultural heritage of local ethnic groups like the Miao and Dong.





Dali Village

[大利村]



The Dali Village Project documents and preserves the cultural and architectural heritage of a 600-year-old Dong ethnic minority village in China. It highlights the village's unique timber architecture, traditional agriculture, and the impact of recent eco-tourism and infrastructure developments on its economy and social fabric. The project aims to balance modern progress with the preservation of Dali's cultural identity.



Guzhou NO.4 Primary School
[榕江县古州镇第四小学]

This primary school was opened with the support of Guizhou University, accepting students from six grades and gathering ethnic minority children from all four ethnic groups, with around 2000 students. Aimed to provide a proper education for them.



Foshan East-West Cooperation Project Building (Rongjiang County Moon Hometown Cultural and Creative Center, Guizhou Qingyulan Agricultural Investment Co., Ltd.)
[佛山市东西部协作项目(榕江县月亮故乡文创中心, 贵州青于蓝农业投资有限公司)]

The company, established in 2019, focuses on investing in agriculture, especially in indigo dyeing. The company works to improve the local farming industry and support economic growth in Guizhou Province.
And this is their handcrafting study tour, which is their main source of income.



--- Participated in the parade
at Village super league [村超]

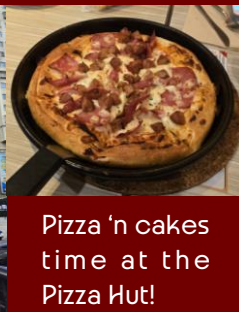
So crowded with thousands of people, the festival will be held until 12 p.m. There will be a huge fireworks display to celebrate the final competition.





Back to Guiyang!

We're on the uni's bus to come back to Guiyang. The professors took us to the mall to grab a snack after finishing it, then some free time!



We took the bus to the luxury mall.

Pizza 'n cakes time at the Pizza Hut!

ChongQing hotpot
[重庆社区火锅]
How can you miss hot pot when you come to China?



Us, 6 took the subway to go back to the university. It costs you only 2 RMB (~10 Baht).

Certificate 'n photo time with the professors!



We follow the staff's
recommendation to
take a taxi to the...

Qingyun Road [青云路, 毕节]



The walking street Qingyun Road in Nanming district
of Guiyang, Southwest China's Guizhou province.

Road of Guizhou's souvenirs, and foods.



Chinese tea culture and traditional making tea class

The professor taught us
that there are 5 types of
tea, black, green, red,
yellow, and white. Orders
by the intensity of tea. I
have had the experience
of making many kinds of
tea myself. And my all-new
life lesson is the used tea
leaves can be reuse for
five to ten times. I thought
I saw the professor tears
into her eyes.



On the departure day...

The university took us to the airport; the atmosphere is quite different compared to the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (CAN) or Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK), which are so crowded feel like they never sleep.



I just realized that there was the KFC in the airport, so we tried it once.



It's time to farewell to Guizhou province, and China. I will miss you.

Thank you for
everything!

The whole two flights together took around five hours. Finally, this is our BANGKOKKKKK!!! And that's all for the whole adventure trip.

