

# CHINA DAILY

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China playing key role in building rail links across region to help realize Belt and Road's plan for greater connectivity

By **ALFRED ROMANN** and **DAVID HO** in Hong Kong  
*For China Daily Asia Weekly*

**U**sing Chinese funding and know-how, Thailand is set to start building a key stretch of railway that will eventually link Bangkok to Kunming in Southwest China's Yunnan province. This rail line will go through Laos and may eventually connect with Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia.

China's push to build more trade infrastructure is helping to rapidly step up railway connectivity in Asia and around the world.

"The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road essentially integrate Asia, Europe and Africa," explained Gan Chong Chieh, head of the China desk at law firm MahWengKwai and Associates.

"This (Belt and Road) Initiative will also see Chinese corporations building roads, railway lines and ports needed in many parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, which in the long run increases connectivity within countries."

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