

## **Dunan Village in Leishan , Guizhou , Organizes Community Activities for the Eating New Holiday**

From September 27 to October 3, 2010, Dunan village and Jing village in the Zigen target region of Leishan in Guizhou province raised funding from various sources to present a series of local cultural events on the occasion of the annual Eating New holiday and the opening ceremony for the road from Jidanggu to Xiaodunan. The events included horse racing, cock fighting, fishing, *lushen* (local wind instrument) competition, as well as modern competitive team activities like basketball, long distance running, and Chinese chess. Zigen wishes to unearth, protect, promote, and pass on local intangible cultural heritage, like folk songs, to create more harmonious villages.

Additional information:

“Eating New,” also called “Tasting New,” is a holiday among the Miao ethnic group known as *nongxmol* in the local language. People use glutinous rice to make *zongba* a few days before the Miao Eating New holiday. For the holiday, each community will slaughter one or two pigs or cattle to sell to each family. Each family will also sacrifice a few chickens and ducks to the ancestral spirits and protective deities Yanma and Huashu (Mandarin transliteration). The holiday meal occurs in the afternoon. In addition to the *zongba*, plain glutinous rice is served. Before the meal, each family will go to its rice field and pick 7 to 9 rice shoots to put in the glutinous rice and serve to the ancestral spirits, praying for a full harvest in the fall and for the family’s health. Only then does the meal begin. The family is arranged around the dinner table according to seniority. In addition, young men can go to other villages to court young women in other villages through songs during this holiday. The village also organizes events that teach viewers the history and traditions of Miao society.

Southern Office Event Director      Ni

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