International artists inspired by Chinese minority

By He Jianwei

Yesterday, 18 choreographers and composers from 13 Asian and European countries flew to Guizhou Province from Beijing to observe the ancient dance and music traditions of the Miao Minority, who live in the remote rural areas of the province.

These choreographers and composers were chosen from 96 people in Asian and European countries to participate in a project called, “Pointe to Point, the 5th Asia Europe Dance Forum,” from this Wednesday to next Saturday. The aim of this year’s Pointe to Point project is to provide an avenue for new inspiration and discovery. The project will explore the relationships between traditional and contemporary dance in urban and rural contexts and between dance and music.

Jethro Pioquinto, a choreographer and a dancer from the Philippines, felt excited about her trip to Guizhou Province. “I have been to the province of Ifugao, which is in the northern part of the Philippines, and enjoyed the original tribe dances,” Pioquinto sai

He believes that cultural preservation is the most important thing for humankind. “The Ifugao’s dance is all about the relationships between nature and humans showing how they grow rice,” he sai. Ifugao is best known for its rice terraces, which can be found in almost all the municipalities of the province. Considered one of the eight wonders of the world, the famed terraces are a marvelous engineering feat achieved by the ancients to maximize use of the land for food production.