

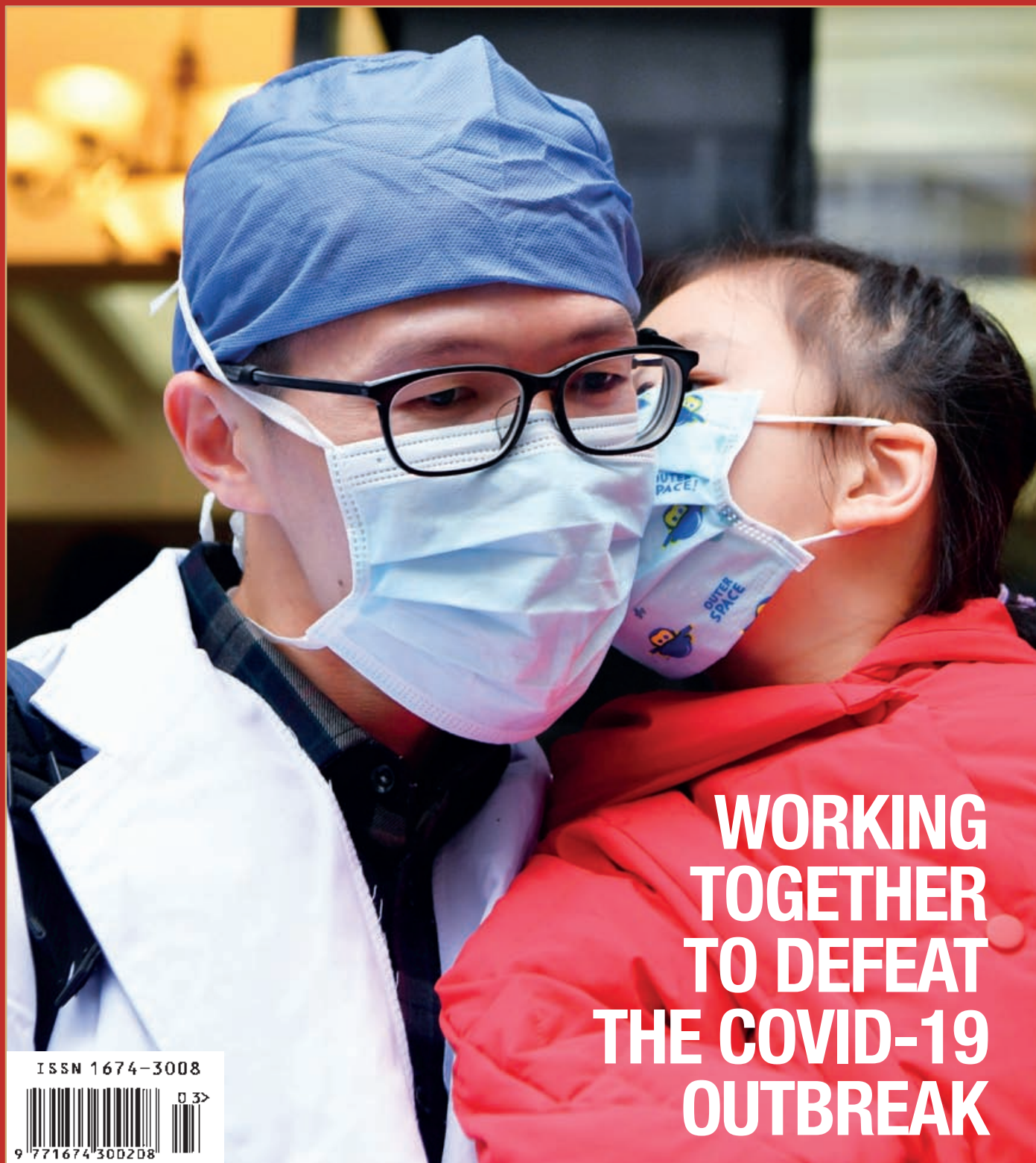
# NPC



VOL.43 ISSUE 1 · 2020

《中国人大》对外版

National People's Congress of China



**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
TO DEFEAT  
THE COVID-19  
OUTBREAK**

ISSN 1674-3008



9 771674 300208









President Xi Jinping (fourth from left) talks to a community worker about daily necessities at the Donghu Xincheng community in Wuhan, Hubei Province on March 10. Xie Huanchi





## 8 How China curbs COVID-19

# Contents

### United We Win

6

Working together to defeat the COVID-19 outbreak

8

How China curbs COVID-19

14

Stories of the people's war



23

United we win

25

Fighting as one

### NPC's Anti-Epidemic Efforts

28

Thorough ban on illegal wildlife trade timely amid epidemic

30

Top legislator calls for improving public health legislation, law revision

31

'Two sessions' postponed for better advancement

32

Support and assist the international community to fight the epidemic







## 30 Top legislator calls for improving public health legislation, law revision



## 40 Pressing the resume button



## 43 Staying on track

ISSUE 1 · 2020

## 33

Providing legal guidance in response to social concerns

## 35

Lawmakers play important role in fighting against epidemic

## Work Resumption

## 38

Coordinating epidemic control, economic work, achieving development goals

## 40

Pressing the resume button

## Poverty Alleviation

## 43

Staying on track

## Focus

## 45

Top legislature firmly opposes US signing Taiwan-related act into law

## 46

Governance strengths to ensure China's victory in two-front battle

COVER: Lin kai (left), a member of the medical team and a nurse in charge of the operation room of the Fujian Medical University Union Hospital, says goodbye to his family in Fujian Province, February 13. Wei Peiquan



VOL.48 ISSUE 1 March 2020

Administered by General Office of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress

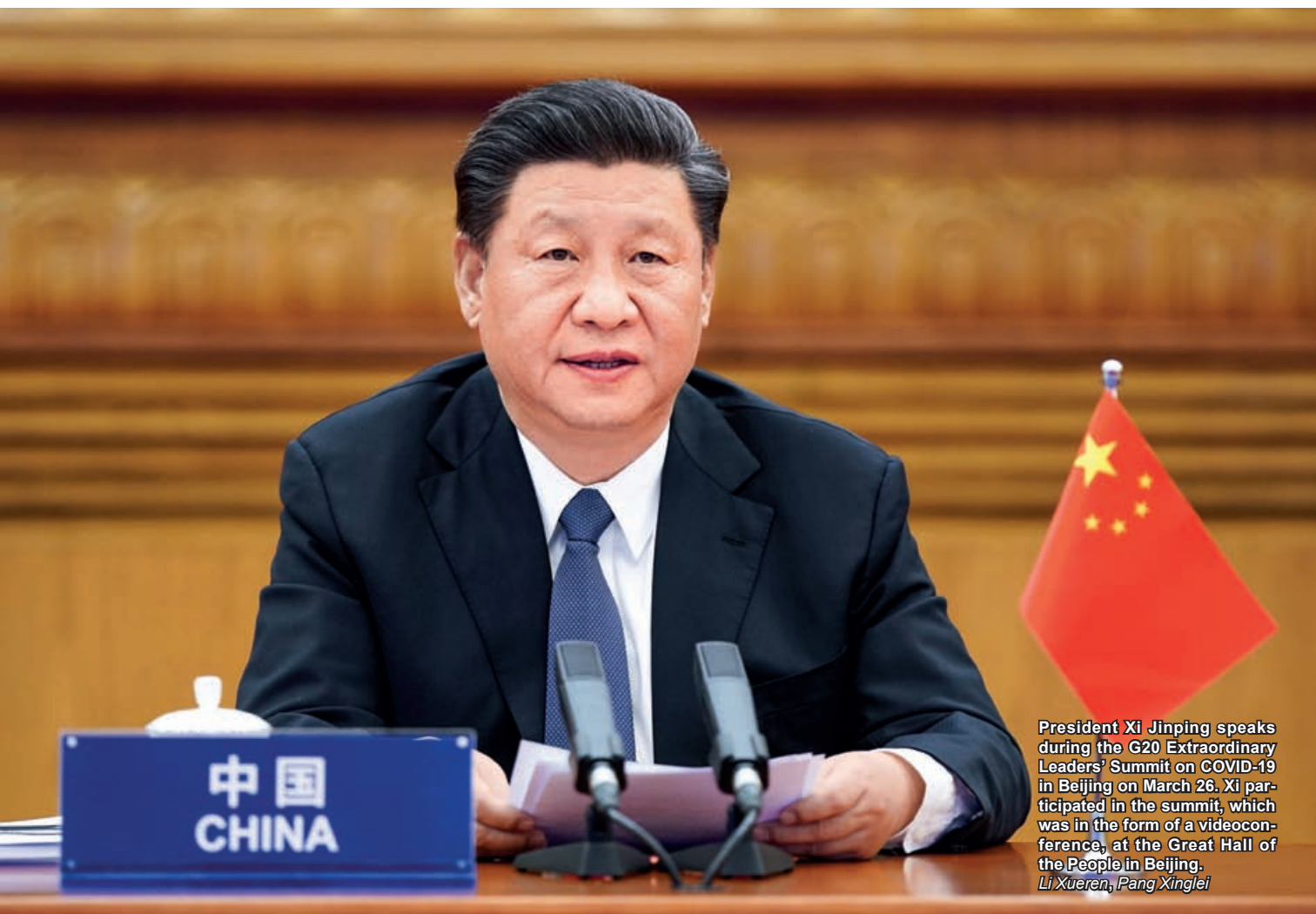
Chief Editor: Wang Yang  
General Editorial  
Office Address: 23 Xijiaominxiang,  
Xicheng District Beijing  
100805, P.R.China  
Tel: (86-10)5560-4181  
(86-10)6309-8540  
E-mail: zgrdnpc@npc.gov.cn

ISSN 1674-3008

CN 11-5683/D

Price: RMB 35

Edited by The People's Congresses Journal  
Published by The People's Congresses Journal  
Printed by Beijing Zhong Ke Printing Co., Ltd. in China



President Xi Jinping speaks during the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 in Beijing on March 26. Xi participated in the summit, which was in the form of a videoconference, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.  
*Li Xueren, Pang Xinglei*

# Working together to defeat the COVID-19 outbreak

Remarks by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China,  
at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit  
Beijing, March 26, 2020

Your majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,  
Dear colleagues,

It is good to join you. Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to His Majesty King Salman and Saudi Arabia for having done tremendous work of communication and coordination to make this summit possible.

Facing the COVID-19 outbreak that caught us all by sur-

prise, the Chinese government and Chinese people have been undaunted as we took on this formidable task. From day one of our fight against the outbreak, we have put people's life and health first. We have acted according to the overall principle of shoring up confidence, strengthening unity, ensuring science-based control and treatment and imposing targeted measures. We have mobilized the whole nation, set up collec-



tive control and treatment mechanisms and acted with openness and transparency. What we fought was a people's war against the outbreak. We have put up a strenuous struggle and made tremendous sacrifices. Now the situation in China is moving steadily in a positive direction. Life and work are quickly returning to normal. Yet, there is no way we will lower our guard or relax control.

At the most difficult moment in our fight against the outbreak, China received assistance and help from a lot of members of the global community. Such expressions of friendship will always be remembered and cherished by the Chinese people.

Major infectious disease is the enemy of all. As we speak, the COVID-19 outbreak is spreading worldwide, posing enormous threat to life and health and bringing formidable challenge to global public health security. The situation is disturbing and unsettling. At such a moment, it is imperative for the international community to strengthen confidence, act with unity and work together in a collective response. We must comprehensively step up international cooperation and foster greater synergy so that humanity as one could win the battle against such a major infectious disease.

For that to happen, I would like to put forth four proposals.

First, we need to be resolute in fighting an all-out global war against the COVID-19 outbreak. The community of nations must move swiftly to stem the spread of the virus. In this regard, I propose that a G20 health ministers' meeting be convened as quick as possible to improve information sharing, strengthen cooperation on drugs, vaccines and epidemic control, and cut off cross-border infections. G20 members need to jointly help developing countries with weak public health systems enhance preparedness and response. I propose a G20 COVID-19 assistance initiative for better information sharing and policy and action coordination with the support of the World Health Organization. Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China will be more than ready to share our good practices, conduct joint research and development of drugs and vaccines, and provide assistance where we can to countries hit by the growing outbreak.

Second, we need to make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level. This is a virus that respects no borders. The outbreak we are battling is our common enemy. All must work together to build a strongest global network of control and treatment that the world has ever seen. China has set up its online COVID-19 knowledge center that is open to all countries. It is imperative that countries pool their strengths and speed up research and development of drugs, vaccines and testing capabilities in the hope to achieve early breakthrough to the benefit of all. Discussions are also needed regarding the establishment of regional emergency liaison mechanisms to enable quicker response to public health emergencies.

Third, we need to support international organizations in playing their active roles. China supports WHO in leading the global efforts to develop science-based and proper control and treatment and minimize cross-border spread. I call on G20 members to enhance anti-epidemic information sharing

with the support of WHO and to promote control and treatment protocols that are comprehensive, systematic and effective. The G20 platform for communication and coordination may be used to increase policy dialogue and exchange, and a high-level meeting on international public health security may be convened in due course. For China, we will be happy to join other countries and scale up support for relevant international and regional organizations.

Fourth, we need to enhance international macro-economic policy coordination. The outbreak has disrupted production and demand across the globe. Countries need to leverage and coordinate their macro policies to counteract the negative impact and prevent the world economy from falling into recession. We need to implement strong and effective fiscal and monetary policies to keep our exchange rates basically stable. We need to better coordinate financial regulation to keep global financial markets stable. We need to jointly keep the global industrial and supply chains stable. What China will do in this regard is to increase its supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, daily necessities, and anti-epidemic and other supplies to the international market. What's more, we also need to protect women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and provide for people's basic needs. China will continue to pursue a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy. We will continue to advance reform and opening-up, widen market access, improve the business environment, and expand imports and outbound investment to contribute to a stable world economy.

I want to call on all G20 members to take collective actions - cutting tariffs, removing barriers, and facilitating the unfettered flow of trade. Together, we can send a strong signal and restore confidence for global economic recovery. The G20 needs to draw up an action plan and promptly set up communication mechanisms and institutional arrangements for anti-epidemic macro policy coordination.

Dear colleagues,

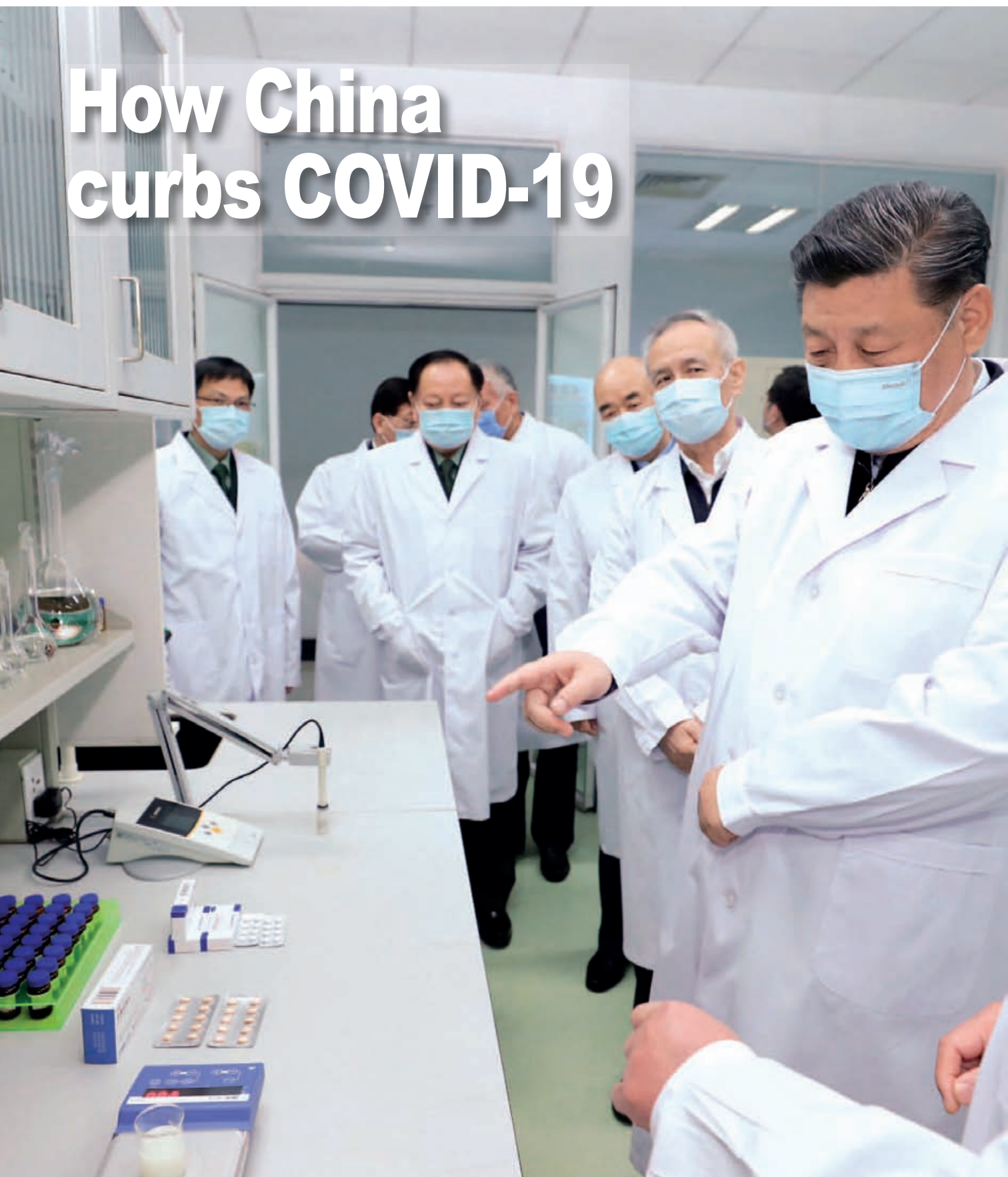
Now is a crucial moment, a time for us to rise up to challenge and act with swiftness. I am convinced that through solidarity and mutual assistance, we will prevail over this outbreak and we all will embrace a brighter future for mankind!

Thank you. ■



President Xi Jinping participates the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 on March 26. The summit was in the form of a videoconference, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Pang Xinglei

# How China curbs COVID-19







President Xi Jinping (center) talks to researchers on the development of COVID-19 vaccine and antibody at the emergency prevention and control office of the Academy of Military Medical Sciences in Beijing on March 2. *Ju Peng*

Standing in a hospital hall, a man wearing a medical respirator waved to a big screen. On it, a patient lying in bed flanked by two gowned medical workers waved back.

“What you should do now is to stay confident. We all should be confident that we will win this war,” the man said through a video link at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, in Central China’s Hubei Province.

“Victory for Wuhan, victory for Hubei, and victory for China!” He declared with a clenched fist.

The man of the hour was President Xi Jinping, commander-in-chief of China’s war against COVID-19, who flew into Wuhan on March 10 to inspect the epidemic prevention and control work on the ground.

For Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, this represents one of the biggest tests in his eight years of governance, as 80 percent of the infections – including more than 3,000 deaths – have been in China.

The COVID-19 outbreak is the hardest major public health emergency since the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, he said.

Xi declared a “people’s war” to fight this invisible enemy by mobilizing the whole country.

**“China has the full confidence and capability to win the battle against the virus with concerted efforts, scientific containment and targeted policies under the strong leadership of the CPC.”**

Party leadership, people-centered approach, openness and transparency, technology and science, early treatment, cooperation with the international community, and targeted and agile approach, stories of the country and its people can be reviewed in the five respective.

### **Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping**

Meeting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Beijing on January 28, Xi said he has been personally directing the outbreak response and devising prevention and control measures all along.

Epidemic response was on the agenda in a series of Party leadership meetings Xi chaired since early January, including seven meetings of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Xi also took the lead to make a donation to the cause.

During this period, Xi convened two teleconferences for officials from across the country. The biggest was attended by an unprecedented audience of 170,000.

Before coming to Wuhan, Xi had made two epidemic-related inspections in Beijing, on neighborhood prevention and



control measures, patient treatment in designated hospitals, and scientific research.

He also made oral or written instructions every day. On January 22, Hubei Province, of which Wuhan is the capital city, was asked to impose full and strict control over outbound population flows. "Making this decision requires huge political courage. Time calls for resolute action. Otherwise, we would be in trouble," Xi said.

A day later, Wuhan suspended all urban public transportation and cut off outbound flights and trains. Putting a mega-city with over 10 million residents under quarantine was unprecedented but effective.

Tedros said the "serious measures" taken at the epicenter not only protected Chinese people, but also prevented the spread of the virus to other countries.

On March 10, Xi again called the people of Wuhan "heroic," saying that today's positive trend in epidemic control would not be possible without their sacrifices and devotion.

"Xi is the backbone of this battle," said Liu Jingbei, a professor at the China Executive Leadership Academy in Pudong, Shanghai. "His leadership is crucial for the country to ultimately beat the epidemic."

## Party leadership at time of crisis

For China, the COVID-19 outbreak is a major public health emergency considered to have spread the fastest, caused the most extensive infection and has been one of the hardest epidemics to contain over the past 70 years. Defeating an invisible enemy of such ferocity would be impossible without the strong leadership of the CPC.

As WHO chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted, political commitment is needed in every country and an all-of-government and all-of-society approach should be adopted.

Under the unified and centralized leadership of the CPC Central Committee, China formed a central leading group on the epidemic, dispatched a central guiding team and demanded a State Council inter-agency task force play its full role in coordination. The country mobilized the whole of government and stayed aggressive in stemming the virus, with



The State Council holds a press conference on the latest development of vaccine and testing reagents against the novel coronavirus in Beijing on March 17. A joint prevention and control mechanism has been established by the State Council to curb the spread of COVID-19. *Pan Xu*



President Xi Jinping sends regards to medical workers who have been fighting the epidemic on the frontlines day and night, by video calls at the Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, March 10. *Ju Peng*

the Chinese people showing a deep commitment to collective action in the face of the common threat.

With President Xi Jinping as the commander-in-chief, Party committees and governments at all levels act in a coordinated national response and follow unified command, coordination and dispatch. They unite as one like a fortress, fully implement the joint prevention and control measures, put up entrenched defense lines and build a strong synergy against the virus.

The solidarity of provinces and cities in support of the most vulnerable populations and communities has been remarkable. Despite ongoing outbreaks in their areas, governors and mayors have continued to send thousands of medical workers and tonnes of vital personal protective equipment supplies into Hubei Province and its capital city Wuhan, the epidemic epicenter.

China's progress in containing the virus should be attributed to government leadership and the cooperation of its people at the same time, Tedros told Xinhua. "It cannot happen without the strong commitment from the government and strong cooperation by the people."

Since the outbreak, the CPC Central Committee has taken the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough prevention and control measures to resolutely curb the spread of the virus in Wuhan and Hubei.

"All prevention and control measures taken by the CPC Central Committee against the virus are to prevent more people from being infected and save more patients' lives," said President Xi, on March 10 during his inspection tour in Wuhan.





## Renmin: the people

Praising the people of Wuhan, Xi said the positive trend in epidemic control could not have been achieved without their sacrifice, devotion, perseverance and efforts. He also sent condolences to the families of people who died in the epidemic and people who sacrificed their lives fighting on the front line on behalf of the CPC Central Committee.

The war on the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 is a people's war in essence. The country has been closely relying on "renmin" – the people – to win the people's war against the epidemic.

The people in Wuhan actively minimized outdoor exposure, canceled public gatherings and accepted travel restrictions, which for them meant staying at home most of the time and suspending normal routines.

Even so, they went to extra lengths to help. The city saw private business owners supplying free coffee and goggles to hospital staff while their businesses stalled, couriers offering to drive medical workers to and from hospitals and grocery store tallymen packing and delivering staples for each household to put food on the table for the city's 10 million residents.

About 20,000 volunteers have been serving as deliverymen, drivers, coordinators and community workers in grocery stores, neighborhoods and hospitals in Wuhan, with an additional 24,000 recruited since late February to meet the delivery needs of neighborhoods in the city, official data showed.

"China's success rests largely with a strong administrative

**Xi pointed out that the most crucial task for the moment is to carry out the arrangements to the details and called for prompt and resolute actions in containing the spread of the epidemic.**

system that it can mobilize in times of threat, combined with the ready agreement of the Chinese people to obey stringent public health procedures," said a recent editorial by The Lancet, a prestigious medical journal.

With their concrete actions, Wuhan people have demonstrated the strength and spirit of China, as well as the Chinese people's love for family and the nation, which enables them to stick together through thick and thin, Xi said.

## Openness and transparency

When it comes to stemming an epidemic, honesty is the best policy. Xi has stressed frequent release of authoritative information by relevant agencies at different levels, addressing existing problems squarely and responding to public concerns in a timely and specialist manner with a clear aim.

Since January, the State Council Information Office and the National Health Commission have regularly held live press conferences regarding the joint efforts in virus prevention and control. The inter-agency task force under the joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council held press conferences daily. At the same time, many provincial-level regions including Hubei also hold press conferences every day.

On February 25, the State Council Information Office moved the pressroom to Wuhan, so as to facilitate the release of timely, comprehensive and accurate information regarding the forefront of the epidemic battle. Besides, press conferences also frequently gave the floor to frontline personnel including medics, police officers and volunteers, whose stories of devotion to duty touched so many hearts.

By releasing the latest information about the epidemic, prevention and control measures and effects, these press conferences have taken the initiative in responding to public concerns and quashing rumors and thus have further improved the effectiveness of information disclosure.

As a responsible major country, China has also from the start acted openly and transparently in releasing relevant information to the world and seeking international cooperation to prevent the spread of the epidemic worldwide.

## Technology and science

Xi has said science and technology are humanity's most powerful weapon against diseases. China gave full play to indigenous solutions.

It has capitalized on the use of technology, big data and AI





With the last batch of 49 patients leaving the Hongshan Stadium, Wuchang Fangcang makeshift hospital officially shuts down on March 10. From February 5, the hospital has received a total of 1,124 patients, transferred 291 of them. A total of 833 people were discharged after treatment. The closing of the hospital marks the closing of all makeshift hospitals in Wuhan. *Ke Hao*

for COVID-19 response. Authoritative and reliable information, medical guidance, access to online services, provision of educational tools and remote work tools have been developed in and used across China. These services have increased accessibility to health services, reduced misinformation and minimized the impact of fake news.

For example, it has launched a new batch of programs to develop testing products for COVID-19, including more sensitive and rapid detection kits for nucleic acid and antigen and antibody testing.

It promoted treatment with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). TCM has been involved in treating 92.5 percent of confirmed COVID-19 cases nationwide, as studies confirmed that TCM and Western medicine work better when combined than used independently in improving the recovery rate and reducing the mortality rate.

It also promptly enlisted new information technologies. Telecom enterprises use big data to analyze the people flows, and the epidemic situation in key areas during important periods, map close contacts and ensure timely supply and distribution of key medical materials.

The AI technology is applied to support COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment, no-contact delivery and drug selection as well as vaccine development, while 5G-empowered robots have been providing medical services such as remote care, body temperature tests, spraying disinfectants, cleaning and drug delivery.

Chinese researchers have also developed an AI-assisted computed tomography analysis system, offering a more accurate distinction of a patient with COVID-19 or common

viral pneumonia amid the intensive clinical demands in the anti-epidemic fight.

## Early treatment

Speed is everything. China's progress in curbing the epidemic has proved the approach of early detection, reporting, isolation and treatment the most primitive yet the most effective.

Xi has reiterated the importance of the approach. He urged more efforts to resolutely curb the spread of the epidemic, hospitalize all confirmed patients, conduct thorough tests of all suspected patients and isolate all close contacts. He demanded to track and manage every potential risk without leaving any blind corners.

To leave no COVID-19 patient unattended and snap the spread of the illness, Wuhan built two hospitals, Huoshenshan and Leishenshan, in two weeks, as well as 16 temporary hospitals converted from sports stadiums and exhibition halls. The 16 temporary hospitals have been closed by March 10 as all patients were discharged.

The country also saw factories built in six days to replenish the supply of face masks, while auto and apparel makers adapted their production lines for medical supplies.

Chinese scientists and public health experts have been refining their response in tandem with the latest clinical discoveries at what a China-WHO joint mission team on COVID-19 called a "remarkable speed," which provided the vital evidence base for China's strategy, gaining precious time for the response.

## Cooperation with international community

Xi noted that public health security is a common challenge to human beings as a whole, and all countries need to join hands to deal with it.

Amid its no-holds-barred domestic battle against the virus, China has actively and voluntarily cooperated with and shared information with the international community, buying time for a global response to the virus and offering help when needed.

Tedros commended China's quick moves in identifying and sequencing the novel coronavirus pathogen and sharing the sequence with the rest of the world, which has enabled the world to prepare for testing, diagnostics and other actions.

China has donated testing kits, masks, hazmat suits, thermometers and other supplies to countries including the US, Iran, Iraq, Japan and the Republic of Korea, while doctors in Wuhan shared treatment experiences with their Italian counterparts in a teleconference.

To help fortify public health systems in developing countries, China announced a donation of 20 million US dollars to the WHO in support of the global fight against COVID-19.

## Targeted, agile approach

"When Wuhan wins, Hubei wins. When Hubei wins, China wins." In a pep talk to frontline medical staff in the epicenter of the outbreak in early February, Xi had clarified how the country would break the chains of transmission and resolutely win the people's war against the epidemic.

The priority given to Wuhan and Hubei reflects a fundamental strategy – the country prioritized coordinated national response as well as local flexibility. Differentiated policies have been adopted for epidemic control and restoration of economic and social order in different places.

"In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history," according to a report by the China-WHO joint mission team which investigated COVID-19 in China in February.

The strategy that underpinned this containment effort was initially a national approach that promoted universal temperature monitoring, masking and hand washing. However, as the outbreak evolved and knowledge was gained, a science and risk-based approach was taken to tailor implementation. Specific containment measures were adjusted to the provincial, county and even community context, the capacity of the setting and the nature of novel coronavirus transmission there, the report said.

Hubei Province and the city of Wuhan are required to take more stringent, more targeted and more effective measures to curb the spread of the epidemic within their jurisdictions and beyond, and ensure the supply of all kinds of materials and necessities for the local people.

In this two-front war – combating the outbreak and bolstering economic and social development – China tries to outmaneuver the difficulties with measures tailored to the local context. The recovery of China's economy has gained momentum thanks to the approach. (Xinhua) ■

### Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

This is because of the government's leadership and at the same time the cooperation of the people of China. It cannot happen without the two, this strong commitment from the government and strong cooperation by the people.

### Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General

It is a very big challenge. The response has been a very strong and very impressive response.

The measures put in place by the Chinese government "is a gigantic effort and we are very confident that efforts will allow for the progressive reduction of the disease." It is always difficult to have a quick solution, but China has made a "very strong and very impressive response."

### Kristalina Georgieva, IMF Managing Director

We are confident that China's economy remains resilient. We have deep sympathies to all those affected by the serious situation related to coronavirus and support for China's efforts to respond, including recent fiscal, monetary, and financial actions.

### SCO member states

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states voiced support for China to fight against the virus and spoke highly of the decisive measures taken by the Chinese government and people to fight the epidemic and prevent its spread.

In a statement, the SCO member states confirmed their willingness to provide China with necessary assistance and called on the international community to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the WHO to ensure international and regional public health security.

### Martin Jacques, British scholar and political commentator

The Chinese government's been extraordinarily effective in handling the situation.

It's capable of thinking big and thinking strategically. And it's capable of mobilizing the people and the resources. It enjoys great authority. I think the governing system arguably is the most effective in the world.

### Sudheendra Kulkarni, former chairman of Observer Research Foundation Mumbai, India

Everyone has taken it up as a people's war against the coronavirus. The common people of China are cooperating as if it is everybody's responsibility.

### Yasir Masood, former director of Media and Publications at the Center of Excellence of Pakistan

China's government has taken the strictest measures of safeguarding not only Chinese people's health and safety, but the global populace.



# Stories of the People's War

*People across China have answered the call to fight the virus.*

*Some head to the frontline, some stay home, and others do whatever is needed in the war.*

*You can hear again and again from everyone in China, it's our responsibility to do this for the world, not just for ourselves.*

Builders work at the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province on January 30. Zhang Chang



Workers from the China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co. Ltd. work at the construction site of Leishenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province on February 4. Xiao Yijiu







Builders work at the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province on January 28, when the city received sunshine after days of rain. Xu Mingbo

## The China speed

*People worked day and night to build two new hospitals from scratch in just two weeks.*

*16 exhibition halls, sports venues and other public facilities were converted into makeshift hospitals.*

*60,000 beds for COVID-19 patients were opened up in Wuhan in just a month.*



Workers from the China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co. Ltd. work at the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province on January 30. Cai Yang

A photo taken on February 17 shows the makeshift hospital, or Fangcang Hospital, at the Wuhan Sports Center. Xiao Yijiu





### In harm's way: doctors and nurses on the frontline

*Starting from January 23, 346 medical teams were sent from nationwide.*

*42,000 medical workers were sent from across China to Hubei, including military medics.*

*They call themselves warriors.*



Cheng Min

*More than 30 medical staff from Wuhan Union Hospital Affiliated to Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology take an oath in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province on January 22. The hospital dispatched a special medical team to combat the novel coronavirus pneumonia at the Wuhan Red Cross Hospital.*





A nurse at the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University has her hair cut before entering the wards on February 5. Gao Xiang

A COVID-19 patient gives a thumbs-up to the medical team from the Naval Medical University on February 2. Chen Jing

Zhang Nuofu, vice president of the First Hospital Affiliated to Guangzhou Medical University, makes an online diagnosis on two cases of COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, Hubei Province on February 11. Zhang Chang

108 Members of Yunnan's fifth batch of medical team take a group photo before boarding a flight bounding for Wuhan, Hubei Province on February 16. So far, Yunnan had sent 809 medical aid workers to Hubei. Hu Chao



Ke Hao

Zhang Dingyu, director of Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, leads more than 600 doctors and nurses fighting against the novel coronavirus pneumonia, which has caused more than 4,500 of deaths in Central China's Hubei Province.

Zhang, 57, has been suffering from ALS since October 2018. ALS is a disease that gradually blocks the connection between brain and body. People with ALS become partially paralyzed which might eventually lead to respiratory failure.

While working with handicapped legs, his wife, working in another hospital, was confirmed to have infected with the virus. The bad news brought him to his knees, and he cried for the first time after the virus broke out. Fortunately, the good news came that his wife had recovered 10 days after treatment.

"Life is always short. I need to do more to finish the things that I might leave behind, then I would leave without too many regrets," Zhang said. "We are at the center of a storm, so we need to give all we have to protect our city, and our Wuhan people."







### Pooling strength nationwide

19 provinces paired up with cities in Hubei to offer assistance. And nationwide, a top-level public health emergency response was activated. Outside the hard-hit zone, the manufacturing of medical supplies was in full swing.

In a short time, everything from surgical masks to advanced life support systems arrived at the frontline.

A staff member of the Blood Center in Hebei Province counts the number of blood transport boxes in Shijiazhuang on March 2. The center dispatched a total of 600,000ml of red blood cells and 220,000ml of plasma to Wuhan, Hubei Province, to support the frontline anti-epidemic efforts. *Mou Yu*



Workers from the Guangzhi Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. in Mengcheng county, Anhui Province fill the bottles of medical alcohol on January 30. The company recalled workers and opened all-weather production mode to speed up the production of disinfectant and alcohol supplies. *Hu Weiguo*

Employees from Yunfeng Co. in Qingyun district, Wuhan, disinfect the boxes which were used to transfer medical wastes on March 4. *Cai Yang*







● Shao Yuchun, a police officer at Dazhi Street Police Station in Jiang'an district, Wuhan carries a patient to a police car and takes him to hospital on January 30. *Xinhua*

## Backbone of effective community services

*In the community, grass-roots workers have been doing a good job of epidemic prevention and control, personal information registration, taking temperature, sending protective equipment, publicizing and explaining policies.....*

*Under the command of the central leadership, the power of the people, together with the country's resources, were pooled together and unleashed to confront the virulent virus.*



● Volunteers from Huajin community in Wuhan, pack vegetables for community residents on February 23. *Cheng Min*

● Two Party member volunteers take temperature for migrant workers returning to the city at the residents' committee of Furong Community in Hefei, Anhui on February 21. *Cao Li*





### Volunteers: ready, willing and able

*"If every one of us does something, then we will be pooling our strength together and having a huge power," said Hua Yuchen, a music teacher.*

*A community worker has helped 60 residents buy drugs. "There are many people like me, working on the front line, including these volunteers. Many of them are much more tired than I am."*

...



Volunteers in Yibin, Sichuan Province, brave the rain to load donated vegetables overnight and transport to Wuhan, Hubei Province on February 2. Peng Minxiang

Staff members in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province prepare the epidemic prevention supplies package. Bei Ning



Courtesy of Wang Yong

*"Work will finish at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, no bus no subway. Four hours have passed and no taxi driver has answered our call."*

*The night of January 24 was the New Year's eve of the Chinese Spring Festival, when Wang Yong noticed a message for help sent by a doctor of Jinyintan Hospital.*

*"Nobody wants to go, will I go?" Wang made a decision. The next day, he rushed to Jinyintan Hospital before dawn, the nurses in his car were moved to cry.*

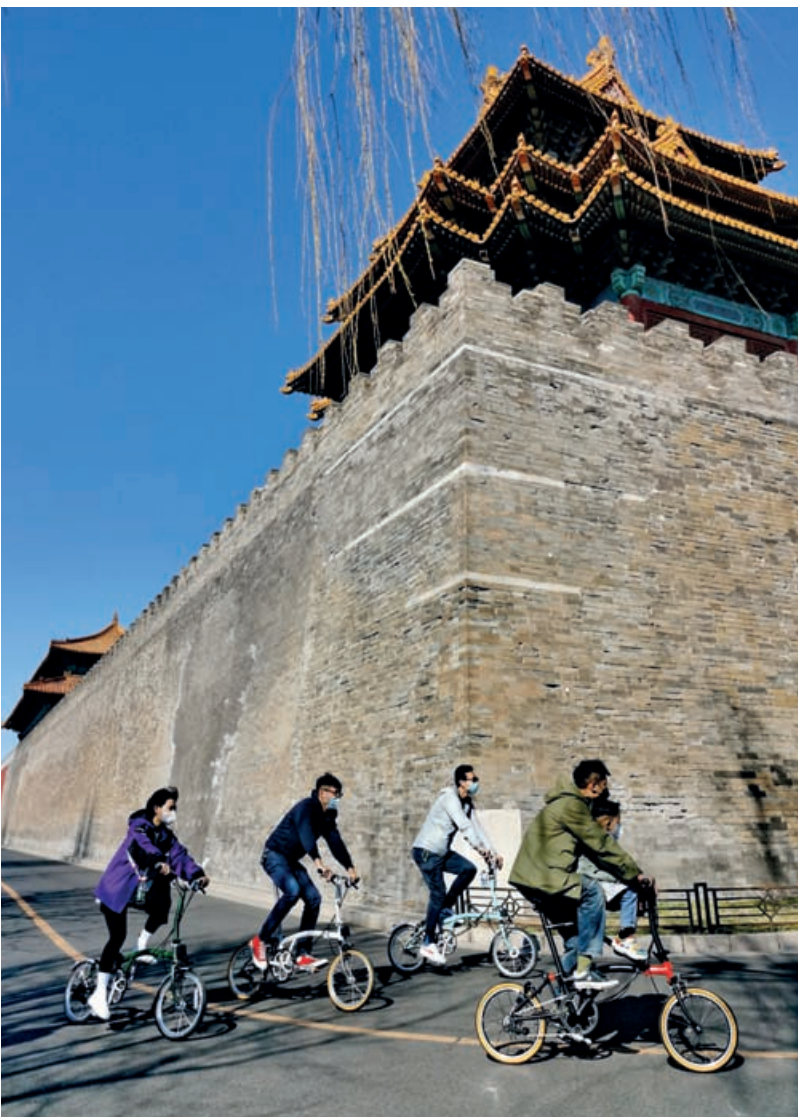
*On the first day of the New Year, he sent 30 people back home. The delivery man thus turned into a volunteer. One person's strength is not enough, so he decided to set up a team of volunteers.*

*The team has managed to meet all types of transportation demand of medical staff in Jinyintan Hospital.*

*"Everyone has a family, and I am also afraid of getting my family infected," Wang said. "I'm helping the people who help save lives."*







Several cyclists ride out of the southwestern watchtower of the Forbidden City in Beijing on March 15.  
Yu Xiangjun



A primary school student in Pengzhou, Sichuan Province in Southwest China, watches TV to learn about epidemic prevention and control knowledge at home on March 9. Xinhua

## Power of the people

People have shown courage and bravery while beating off fears and anxiety, by working from home, protecting themselves, and supporting, helping each other.

With the cooperation of the people, the anti-epidemic measures in all aspects soon showed results.



Wang Zheng

Yang Yiran, a student at Chilechuan Greenfield Primary School in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, makes a video phone call with his mother, who went to Wuhan to help fight the COVID-19 with a medical team, on March 1.

As the epidemic is being brought under control, shopping malls in Beijing begin open one after another. Dong Ning





## Turning crisis into opportunity

*With the support of local governments at all levels, enterprises and other organizations have actively resumed their production while strictly following the epidemic prevention and control measures to ensure economic and social development and people's welfare not to be disturbed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*



Workers are busy on the production line of the Fuxing high speed train at the Sifang Co. Ltd. under the CRRC on March 25. Located in Qingdao, Shandong Province, the company has gradually resumed production since February 10 while implementing strict epidemic prevention and control measures. The company has resumed full production capacity, including the Fuxing high speed trains and other 20 product projects, as planned. *Li Ziheng*



Spectators visit the Tianjin Natural Museum on March 26. A number of museums, including Tianjin Museum, Tianjin Library, Tianjin Art Museum, Tianjin Natural Museum and other cultural venues reopened on the same day. To prevent and control the spread of novel coronavirus pneumonia, these venues have adopted online real-name reservations, visitor cap, phased opening and other measures. *Zhou Runjian*



Customers purchase flowers at the Flower, Bird and Fish Market in Qingxi township, Hefei, Anhui Province on March 25. The market has resumed its operation in an orderly fashion in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. *Zhou Mu*



# United we win

## Only shared efforts can defeat COVID-19 in the era of globalization

By Wen Qing

**W**ei Shanshan, who lives in Jiangnan District in Wuhan, received a call saying there was a package for her from Kyoto, Japan. It was the 26th day of the sealing off of the city in Hubei Province, central China, which is the epicenter of the novel coronavirus disease outbreak. On her way to fetch the package at the gate of her community, Wei thought to herself, maybe it is from a friend studying in Japan. But she was not sure because her friend studies in Tokyo, not Kyoto.

Wei got the package and opened it quickly. There were 165 masks, some chocolates, a bottle of disinfectant fluid and a postcard, which read, "Wish you good health, from Aoki," in both Chinese and Japanese.

When she saw the sender's name, she couldn't help crying. Lady Aoki was the owner of a kimono shop in Kyoto where Wei had rented a kimono during her trip to Japan last April. Aoki recorded customers' addresses and phone numbers as a keepsake. "I was moved because we hadn't talk to each other after I returned to China. I would like to personally thank her after the epidemic ends," Wei said, teary-eyed.

Wei's case is one of many across China since the outbreak of the virus. China has received material and moral support from across the world.

As of March 2, 62 countries and seven international organizations have promised to donate medical supplies for China to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among them, 46 countries and six international organizations have delivered materials to China, 16 countries and one international organization announced to provide epidemic prevention and control materials, 12 countries and international organizations have provided or planned to provide food, cash and other material support to China.

Contagious viruses respect no borders. In an interconnected world, no country is an island. Humanity shares a common destiny, Koh King Kee, President of the Center for New Inclusive Asia, a Malaysia-based think tank, said.

### Neighborhoodly help

After the outbreak in China, neighboring countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were also under pressure as a result of the frequent personnel with China.

But they all lent a helping hand right the first time.

To better help China fight the epidemic, Japan mobilized money and supplies. Cities like Tokyo, Oita and Kumamoto donated some of their own emergency stockpiles.

On February 8, a 14-year-old Japanese girl wearing a cheongsam took to a Tokyo street with her mother, calling on people to donate money for Wuhan. A video recording the scene went viral on Chinese social media platforms later, touching many viewers.

The ROK was among the first countries to deliver assistance to China. It offered large amounts of medical and anti-epidemic materials, including 2 million face masks, 1 million medical masks, 100,000 hazmat suits and 100,000 pairs of goggles.

As neighbors linked by mountains and rivers, ASEAN countries have stood together with China since the outbreak. When some countries overreacted and imposed travel bans on Chinese travelers, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen changed his schedule to pay a special visit to China on February 4.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha made a video to convey the deep friendship between Thailand and China.

The Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 was held in Vientiane, Laos, on February 20, and issued a statement expressing ASEAN's full support for China's fight against the epidemic. Parallel to the meeting, clinical specialists from China and ASEAN countries held a video conference where they exchanged therapeutic plans and treatment experiences.

Along with providing an enormous amount of urgently needed medical supplies, Russia also sent a delegation of anti-epidemic experts to China to jointly carry out research and development on vaccines and drugs.

To defeat the virus, humanity must unite and the international community must cooperate, said Kazuteru Saionji, a visiting professor at Higashi Nippon International University in Japan. "The fight against the virus is tough and challenging. But I believe China will win," he said.

### Assistance from afar

Known as one of the world's leading "virus hunters," Columbia University professor Walter Ian Lipkin arrived in China on January 29 to assist with the efforts to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. This is not the first time he has come to China's aid. During the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003, Lipkin was invited to assess the state of the epidemic, identify scientific gaps and develop a strategy for containing the virus and curtailing infections and deaths.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged up to \$100 million in emergency funding, much of which will help China bolster epidemiological research, emergency intervention and the research and development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics. To express the Chinese people's gratitude, President Xi Jinping replied to a letter from Bill Gates, saying he appreciated the generosity of the foundation and Gates' letter of solidarity to the Chinese people at such an important moment.

European leaders have also shown support for China's fight. French President Emmanuel Macron has called Xi twice



to discuss the outbreak and cooperation. Premier Li Keqiang and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged closer cooperation in winning the battle against the virus during a phone call. The EU and its members delivered 12 tons of much-needed personal protective equipment to China, while the French Consulate General in Wuhan decided not to leave the city to show its solidarity with the affected population.

Many multinational corporations have pitched in to fight the epidemic. Microsoft China announced a 1-million-yuan (\$145,000) donation to the Hubei Red Cross Foundation for relief efforts, while computer maker Dell committed to a 2-million-yuan (\$290,000) donation.

African countries have expressed their support in various ways. At the end of its 36th ordinary session on February 7, the African Union Executive Council released a statement expressing solidarity with China.

They are also doing their part to concretely help China, with countries such as Equatorial Guinea making monetary donations and Ghana donating protective masks. Moreover, the Ethiopian Student Association in Wuhan issued a public proposal to support China and Wuhan, while some African students in China have gone to the frontline of the epidemic to serve as volunteers.

## International recognition

China's efforts to contain the novel coronavirus have been highly commended by experts and leaders worldwide. Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said on February 19 that his country appreciates and respects China's arduous efforts and sacrifices, adding that his country would continue to firmly support China.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin said his government and the people speak highly of and support the effective measures China has taken to fight the epidemic, and will do their best to work for unity and cooperation between China and ASEAN.

On February 24, the World Health Organization (WHO)-China Joint Mission held a press conference on COVID-19 after its weeklong field investigations in Beijing, Guangdong Province, Sichuan Province and Hubei. The team, made up of experts from various nations, said China's unprecedented response has yielded notable results in blocking human-to-human transmission and preventing, or at least delaying, hundreds of thousands of cases. China has played a critical role in protecting the international community, buying precious time for countries to adopt active prevention and control measures and providing them with worthwhile experience.

"This approach of all-of-government and all-of-society is very old-fashioned and has averted and probably prevented at least tens of thousands even hundreds of thousands of cases. It is extraordinary," said Bruce Aylward, a senior adviser to the WHO director general and head of the foreign expert panel. He also said that mass isolation, shutting down transportation and mobilizing the public to abide by hygienic practices have proven effective in curbing a contagious and mysterious disease.

"To the people of Wuhan, it is recognized that the world is in your debt. When this disease is over, hopefully we will have a chance to thank the people of Wuhan for the role they have played," he added.

## Concern and cooperation

In the face of the fierce virus, China has spared no effort in epidemic prevention and control, and has built a "first front-line of defense" for global epidemic prevention. It has not only won precious time for the world, but also accumulated valuable experiences, said Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui at a press conference on March 26.

"The epidemic has spread in many parts of the world. While continuing to do a good job in domestic prevention and control, China has actively shared its experience and China's plan with the international community," Luo said. (Beijing Review-NPC) ■



A Japanese girl wearing a cheongsam in Tokyo, Japan, raises money to help people affected by the novel coronavirus in China on February 8. *Xinhua*



Staff members transfer medical supplies provided by the United Nations Development Programme to help China combat the novel coronavirus in Beijing on February 12. *Xinhua*

# Fighting as one

By Xu Ruiqing and Yin Xiaosheng

China, where the COVID-19 cases are trending downward, is lending a helping hand to the world's worst-hit countries, returning the kindness that they have offered when China was at its nadir in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

As cases of the novel coronavirus disease are trending downward in China, other countries now have a major battle on their hands.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 110 countries and regions had reported 118,326 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of March 11, including 37,371 cases outside China.

While leading China to prevent and control the epidemic, President Xi Jinping attached great importance to the global anti-epidemic effort and urged to participate in global epidemic prevention and international cooperation. Xi talked with visiting Prime Minister of Cambodia, President of Mongolia, President of Pakistan and Director General of the WHO, and exchanged telephone calls with 22 foreign leaders and heads of international organizations in the past months. He also telephoned the leaders of South Korea, Italy, France, Spain and many other countries.

President Xi pointed out that the international community should step up its efforts to effectively carry out joint international cooperation and condense the strong resultant force to overcome the pandemic.

For countries that had supported and helped China fight the epidemic, we will never forget their kindness. At the same time, different countries have different national conditions and capabilities. China thanks its friends for their material assistance, as well as their political and moral support, said Deng Boqing, the vice minister of the China International Development Cooperation Agency at a press conference on March 26.

## Continued government support

China has been joining hands with the world to fight COVID-19 by donating medical supplies as well as sharing information and experience, among others.

Starting from March 3, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the National Health Commission and the Red Cross have held video conferences with health experts and government officials from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Italy, and 10 Pacific island countries to share China's anti-epidemic experience.

As of March 25, China had held nearly 20 expert video conferences with more than 100 countries in Northeast Asia, South Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific and other regions, as



Cambodian Minister of Health Mam Bunheng (second from front right) and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian (third from front right) welcome the Chinese medical team at the Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, March 23. A team of Chinese medical experts arrived in Cambodia to help the country fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The seven-member Chinese medical team, from South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, came over with tons of medical supplies including ventilators, medical masks, test kits and others. Huang Yaohui

well as with ASEAN, the EU, African Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other international organizations, statistics showed.

On March 25, China held a video exchange meeting with more than 200 experts and officials from the 25 countries that had established diplomatic relations with China in Latin America and the Caribbean. So far, the relevant video conferences organized by China have achieved global coverage in the region.

Since February 27 when the first medical expert group was sent to Iran, China has sent dozens of medical expert groups to countries including Iran, Iraq, Italy, Serbia and Cambodia. They received warm welcome by the local government and people.

China has published seven guidelines on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment and six guidelines on prevention and control, all of which have been translated into multiple foreign languages.

According to the National Health Commission, China has so far shared such epidemic prevention and treatment guidelines with more than 100 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations around the world.

More than 20 technical exchanges have been held between China and those countries and organizations through teleconferences and other means to share China's anti-epidemic experiences in a timely manner.

China has also provided some countries with detection kits and donated anti-epidemic supplies through the Red Cross and other channels.

As of March 11, the Chinese government has donated 1.1 million masks and other medical materials to the Republic of Korea, a batch of detection kits, 5,000 sets of protective suits and 100,000 masks to Japan, and 5,000 detection





Preventive medical supplies donated by the Chinese government arrive at Kuala Lumpur Airport in Malaysia on a chartered plane on March 28. Courtesy of the Chinese Embassy to Malaysia

kits and 250,000 masks to Iran, as well as 12,000 detection kits to Pakistan.

While holding a phone talk on March 10 with Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that even though China still needs a large amount of medical supplies, China, despite its difficulties, stands ready to provide Italy with medical supplies and accelerate the export of supplies and equipment to meet Italy's urgent needs.

"With openness, transparency and a high sense of responsibility for global public health security and people's well-being, we will continue information-sharing with the international community," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang told a news briefing on March 11.

"We would like to collaborate with other countries in medicines, vaccines and testing reagents, contributing China's experiences and proposals to securing an early global victory over the virus."

## Goodwill gestures of Chinese people

A cargo plane loaded with 3.86 million pieces of disposable masks, N95 respirators, goggles, latex gloves, and other protective clothing left East China's Zhejiang Province for Italy on March 11 to help overseas Chinese in Italy fight the novel coronavirus.

"Since the outbreak, overseas Chinese of Zhejiang origin have tried every means to purchase epidemic prevention materials and support their hometown to fight the epidemic," said Zhang Weiren, vice-chairman of the Zhejiang Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese. "Overseas Chinese are now in difficulty, and their relatives in the motherland should give them the utmost support."

While holding a phone talk with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on March 10, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said that the overseas Chinese living in Italy have played an active role in the fight against the epidemic, and Italy will continue to take full care of their health and safety.

On March 4, experts from Wuhan Tongji Hospital shared with doctors from Nicuarda Hospital in Milan, Italy, the experience of treating COVID-19 patients in Wuhan via video conference.

In the over one-hour exchange, Wuhan experts shared in detail the key points of prevention and control, the protective measures of medics and the Tongji treatment plan for patients.

In the meantime, Chinese non-governmental organizations are moving to help hard-hit regions across the world combat the epidemic.

The Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma Foundation have donated millions of masks and other medical supplies to hard-hit countries such as the US, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Iran.

"We have received tremendous help from many countries over the past month when we were in urgent need of supplies," said Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba in an open letter. "We've just been through this, and we know what we should do at the very moment."

On March 11, Ma said on the Chinese social media platform of Weibo that the two foundations will donate another 1.8 million masks and 100,000 testing reagents to Italy, Spain and some other European countries that have seen rising cases of COVID-19.

"It's lucky that our eWTP smart logistics hub at Liege Airport, Belgium, still operates well at this difficult time. More medical supplies can get to where people need them the most through this lifeline," Ma said.

Jack Ma Foundation has also allocated a scientific research fund of 100 million yuan (about \$14.29 million) to support Chinese and overseas research institutes to expedite the creation of a vaccine against COVID-19.

Alibaba Group announced that free access would be offered to its artificial intelligence computing power for public research institutions around the world to develop COVID-19 vaccines and new drugs.

## Online efforts

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise and spread around the world, China is also gearing up to offer online help for overseas Chinese.

Chinese embassies in Italy and Japan have opened free online medical consultation services at Alibaba Health to assist overseas Chinese.

East China's Zhejiang Province is home to more than 2 million overseas Chinese all over the world, half of whom are in European countries.

On March 10, the internet hospital platform of Zhejiang launched health consultation services for overseas Chinese. Nearly 70 hospitals at the platform provide services for overseas Chinese in hard-hit countries, including psychological counseling assistance.

Zhejiang has also launched such services on China's social media platforms. Wencheng county has set up 24 WeChat groups to provide health consultation services to more than 10,000 overseas Chinese.

Chinese medical doctors have also reached out to help overseas Chinese that are stranded in European countries through WeChat counseling.

Zhao Hong, a doctor at the Second Hospital of Anhui Medical University in East China's Anhui Province, was invited to a WeChat group consisting of overseas Chinese from Anhui by her husband, who currently works at Anhui Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese.

"My husband asked me to share knowledge of the virus with and offer counseling to the stressed-out overseas Chinese who are trapped in Italy due to the epidemic," said Zhao.

After a brief self-introduction, Zhao spent two hours explaining the symptoms and course of the disease as well as the prevention and control measures. Despite the 7-hour time difference between China and Italy, Zhao answered everyone's question in the group with patience.

"Thank you so much for your information. It really reassured us," said a member of the group.

Zhao has been invited to two more WeChat groups composed of Chinese nationals in Belgium, continuing sharing virus-related information. (Xinhua-NPC) ■



Medical experts from the First Hospital Affiliated with the Medical School of Zhejiang University, members of the second Chinese medical group hold an online conference with their Italian colleagues to exchange views on the fight against the novel coronavirus on March 27. Li Chenyun

## World must build strong solidarity to fight pandemic

The G20 special summit was held, reflecting the actual desire of countries to cooperate in fighting the pandemic. The summit reached some agreements, bringing hope to the international community.

The spreading outbreak of novel coronavirus has severely impacted many of the daily functions of the international system. The global transport system is paralyzed, and organizations like the European Union have become dysfunctional. Borders between member states have once again prevented the movement of people, and interception of medical supplies has continued to occur.

The biggest human weakness exposed to the pandemic, which has not yet reached its climax, is the lack of the capacity for unity and coordinated action. There are already many organizations in the world, and global links such as trade, finance and information are well developed. But none of this has produced the real solidarity needed to fight a crisis like a pandemic, and the international system is riddled with fragility.

The fundamental reason why China was able to effectively contain the epidemic in a short period of time is that the country has a high degree of coordination and unified action. The virus was able

to spread around the world because the international system had no unified strategy to fight it. Even in Europe, collaboration between different countries is weak with each country fighting on its own. The lines of defense that each has built become a Maginot Line that doesn't really work to address the grave situation posed by the virus.

It is conceivable that most of the most dangerous challenges of the future will come from the nature. Since the beginning of the new century, we have experienced devastating natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes. This time, it was hit by novel coronavirus completely beyond imagination with global economy grinding to a halt. However, the total global expenditure on preventing natural disasters is far less than the total military expenditure of each country.

The world is facing major challenges. Although there are few practical levers to push for unity, the convening of the special G20 summit shows that most countries are unwilling to give up hope. No matter how difficult it is to push the world toward unity, everyone is willing to try.

Human beings need to step up to build the ability to meet common challenges. This unprecedented global public health crisis should be an opportunity for us to recognize the urgency and take practical steps to build this capacity. So many people can't die in vain, so many companies can't go bankrupt for nothing. The world needs to learn from past failures, acknowledge the risks we are facing, and take concrete actions. United we prevail. And then we shall be able to emerge from this novel coronavirus crisis much stronger than ever. (Global Times)



China joins hands with the international community to combat the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. This collage photo shows (from left to right) the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Freedom Tower in Tehran, Iran, Saladin Castle in Cairo, Egypt, and the Tower of Tokyo, Japan, all lit up with "Chinese Red". Xinhua



# Thorough ban on illegal wildlife trade timely amid epidemic

By Liu Caiyu

**C**hinese lawmakers agreed on February 24 to thoroughly ban the illegal wildlife trade and eliminate bad habits of eating wild animals in China, the decision was hailed as “timely” and demonstrates a “global impact” experts agreed.

The decision will “thoroughly ban illegal wildlife trade and eliminate bad habits of eating wild animals to safeguard people’s health and livelihoods.” The decision was made on February 24, on bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature.

The decision expands the legal sphere and establishes a system for the future of “complete prohibition of wild animals.” The current Wildlife Protection Law is only limited to national protected animals or other wild animals that have no legal source and have not passed quarantine inspection, according to the legislature.

But comprehensive revision of the wildlife protection law requires a process. The special decision on February 24 is to clear and comprehensively prohibit the consumption of wild animals in a timely manner before the relevant laws are amended. This provides strong legislative guarantees to win the war against the epidemic and protect the lives and health of individuals, Chinese lawmakers said.

Violators of Wildlife Protection Law shall be given harsher punishment and face crackdowns and stricter monitoring,

lawmakers said.

Some illegal wildlife venues are still not prohibited and wildlife markets in some places are prevalent during the outbreak. Experts said the decision helps to crackdown on such illegal behavior and curb disease originating from animals that can be transmitted to human beings.

“It’s a big step toward the complete ban on the wildlife trade in China. It expects to help some regions to alter their bad habits of eating wild animals and fundamentally change the industry,” a research fellow from the Beijing Forestry University’s College of Nature Conservation Wildlife Institute said on the condition of anonymity.

The research fellow suggested that the government shall release specific lists on what animals are included in the ban and highlight those wild animals that may pose health risks to human beings.

The ban doesn’t include wildlife products and wildlife in medicine use. Wild animals such as pangolin scales are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine to promote lactation and impotence.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, issues regarding wild animals and their hidden dangers to public health have attracted widespread attention. Many believe the coronavirus was transmitted from wild animals, such as bats and pangolins, before it spread to humans.

“Thoroughly banning the illegal wildlife trade will provide an example for neighboring countries, forcing them to change their views on the wild animal industry as a whole. It will strengthen China’s ecological and environmental governance,” said Sophia Zhang, assistant secretary general of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation.

Before the nationwide ban on the illegal wildlife trade, many local governments, including Northern China’s Tianjin Municipality and Southeast China’s Guangdong and Fujian Provinces announced a ban on trading and indiscriminate consumption of wildlife after the coronavirus outbreak.

The Law on Wild Animal Protection, which went in effect in 1989, was amended in 2018. The law prohibits the consumption of protected animals, bans hunting and killing key protected animals, as well as selling, buying and using these animals and their products. (Global Times) ■



## China bans illegal wildlife trade and eliminates the practice of eating wild animals.

On February 24, the Standing Committee of the 13th NPC, China’s top legislature, approved a draft decision on thoroughly banning illegal wildlife trade and eliminating the bad habits of eating wild animals to safeguard people’s lives and health.

The Decision shall enter into force as of the date of promulgation.

### The Decision stipulates:

Expand the list of protected species, include more species that are not in the national protection list; Renew the national protected animal list as soon as possible;

Build a system to trace and mark all captive-bred animals, ensure that every captive-bred animal can be traced back in database, avoid the possibility that criminals hunt wild animal and forge them to be captive-bred;

Ensure the transparency of information and public supervision.

Infographic: Zhu Yu

# NPC to amend law on wildlife protection

Shuang Long, a wildlife protection volunteer, sets free an eagle owl to the wild on the Hulun Buir Grassland in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on April 13. *Xinhua*

Potential public health security risks caused by trading and eating wild animals have drawn worldwide concern.

China's top legislature will amend the law on the protection of wildlife this year, an official said on February 10.

Efforts will also be made to accelerate the amendment of laws on animal epidemic prevention and other areas, Wang Ruihe, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said at a press conference in Beijing.

Potential public health security risks caused by trading and eating wild animals have drawn worldwide concern, Wang said, stressing the need to improve laws and regulations related to wildlife, tighten supervision over law enforcement and toughen the crackdown on wildlife trafficking.

Despite the proven effects of the law on the protection of wildlife after its revision in 2016, there are still some problems in its implementation, Wang said.

He pointed out that relevant supporting regulations related to the law are yet to be rolled out and improved. Supervision, inspection and law enforcement should be strengthened to ensure that wildlife trade markets are banned and closed.

Wang also stressed the importance of improving the law on the protection of wildlife and other relevant laws and regulations, citing the need to expand the scope of the adjustment to the law and toughen the crackdown on and punishment for the illegal hunting and

eating of wild animals.

The Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee will make a decision on the legal issues soon, Wang said. (*Xinhua*)



A teacher from the No.10 Primary School in Zhangshu, East China's Jiangxi Province explains wildlife knowledge to her students in multimedia classroom by using live streaming on March 2. March 3 is the World Wildlife Day. *Zhou Liang*





Li Zhanshu (center), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, speaks at a symposium on strengthening and improving legislation and revision of existing laws in public health. The conference was held by the NPC Standing Committee in Beijing on March 26. Wang Ye

# Top legislator calls for improving public health legislation, law revision

**C**hina's top legislator Li Zhanshu called for efforts to strengthen and improve legislation and revision of existing laws in public health.

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, made the remarks at a symposium held by the NPC Standing Committee on March 26.

Li underlined the importance and the urgency of improving public health legislation and law revisions to guard against major public health risks in light of the weak links

exposed in the coronavirus outbreak.

Stressing the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee and a people-centered approach, Li called for enhancing law-based governance capacity in public health.

Li said a coordinated mechanism for legislation and law revision and a special task group should be set up to review the implementation of relevant laws to push for scientific and effective legislation and revisions.

Advice and suggestions put forward to address the problems revealed in epidemic response, in particular, should be taken into consideration, he added. (Xinhua) ■

# ‘Two sessions’ postponed for better advancement

China will postpone the “two sessions,” a key event in the country’s political calendar, amid concerted efforts to contain the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic while maintaining economic and social development.

The Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, on February 24 adopted a decision to postpone this year’s annual session. The National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top political advisory body, has been advised by its Chairperson’s Council to postpone its annual session.

Following relevant laws, rules and procedures, the moves were made responsibly. They are necessary and timely, conforming to the Constitutional principles and the current situation of epidemic control. The moves also demonstrate the concept of putting the people’s interests as the top priority.

The openings of the annual sessions of the NPC and the CPPCC National Committee had been held on March 5 and March 3, respectively, since 1998. By postponing the sessions, China will have a wider window to fight COVID-19, to identify how to minimize the impact of the epidemic on development and to prepare policies more precisely to boost growth.

The current situation remains complex. Among nearly 3,000 national lawmakers and more than 2,000 political advisors, many are scientists, researchers, professionals, medical staff, workers, farmers and officials of various levels. They are fighting at the frontlines against the COVID-19. No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win.

Besides, the epidemic prevention and control work in Beijing, where the sessions are held, should be carried out with all-out efforts. Imported cases and spread within the city should be prevented.

Postponing the two important political meetings that cover every aspect of China’s development and the people’s wellbeing is a temporary measure that is aimed at achieving better development in the long run.

During the “two sessions,” growth targets and reform goals will be set. National lawmakers and political advisors are expected to discuss a series of policies and measures, including strengthening the regulation role of macro-economic policies, ensuring employment, continuing the task of poverty reduction, as well as keeping foreign trade and invest-

ment stable so as to put the economic and social development back on track.

All the decisions and measures must be made based on an exact review on the impact of the epidemic and a clear vision on long-term development. It takes time to make judgment calls, and it is worth doing so.

The dates of the “two sessions” will be set later. It will not be long as the positive trend in the prevention and control work is expanding. For instance, more than 20 provincial-level regions, including Beijing and Shanghai, had reported single digit infections in the past few days.

The political, economic and social order will be back to normal. The move to postpone the “two sessions” will become a prelude to China’s success of rising from a pandemic and advancing more courageously. (Xinhua) ■



The 16th Session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee concludes at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on the afternoon of February 24. Li Zhanshu, chairman of the 13th NPC Standing Committee, presided over the meeting. A total of 114 people attended the meeting, 57 people participated by video through the internet, making the number of participants in line with the quorum. Liu Weibing





Li Zhanshu (right), chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, meets with visiting Pakistani President Arif Alvi at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on March 17. *Shen Hong*

# Support and assist the international community to fight the epidemic

## Chairman Li Zhanshu meets Pakistani President

**C**hairman Li Zhanshu said on March 17 that Pakistani President Arif Alvi's visit to China at this special period of time demonstrated the firm support of Pakistan's government and people for China.

Li, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, briefed Alvi on the overall situation of China's prevention and control of the COVID-19 epidemic during their meeting in Beijing.

Li said China's progress in containing the epidemic demonstrated significant advantages of the leadership of the Communist Party of China and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

He also expressed the confidence in winning the battle against the COVID-19, and maintaining the steady and healthy development of the economy.

Noting that humanity is a community with a shared future, Li said China will actively support and assist the international community including Pakistan to fight the epidemic.

Alvi commended China's major progress in curbing the COVID-19, and its great contribution to the global battle against the epidemic.

He also expressed appreciation for China's assistance and said Pakistan will always stand alongside China to jointly address challenges. (Xinhua) ■

# Providing legal guidance in response to social concerns

*The spokesperson of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee and relevant officials from the commission have addressed the media a few times in response to public concerns, providing guidance to the whole society to better understand, implement and effectively comply with relevant laws in China.*

## **Epidemic prevention and control measures must be in accordance with the law**

With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), all prevention and control measures must be carried out in accordance with the law and in an orderly manner.

The law-based execution of these measures is an important guarantee to win the battle against the epidemic, said Yuan Jie, director-general of the Office of Administrative Laws under the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, on February 10.

According to current laws and regulations, governments and departments at all levels should take necessary actions to prevent and control the spread of the epidemic, including isolating confirmed or suspected cases, suspending mass gatherings and carrying out health checks on public transportation, said Yuan.

But the measures can only be implemented by governments and relevant departments in accordance with the law, Yuan stressed.

"No other units or individuals may, without approval, set up checkpoints, cut off roads, block traffic or carry out other acts that infringe on people's lawful rights and interests," Yuan said.

The measures adopted should also be in line with the nature, extent and scope of the social harm the epidemic might

cause, Yuan added.

In addition, they should be conducive to the maximum protection of the rights and interests of citizens, legal persons and other organizations, Yuan emphasized.

With protective supplies in short supply and scrutiny not as strict, it must be made clear to manufacturers that it is illegal to produce or sell fake or inferior products, warned Wang Ruihe, director of the Office of Economic Law under the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.

As early as 1993, China adopted the Law on Product Quality, which stipulates product quality supervision, the responsibility and obligations of producers and sellers, as well as compensation and administrative penalties for violators, Wang said.

For example, Article 13 of the law states that industrial products that may endanger human health and the safety of persons and property must comply with national and industry standards, while the production and sale of industrial products that fail to meet these standards and requirements are prohibited.

Wang pointed out that hoarding protective supplies and price hikes during epidemic prevention and control are serious violations of the Price Law and must be punished.

Article 14 of the Price Law stipulates that no operator shall engage in any act of fabricating or disseminating information on price increases, inflating prices or promoting excessive price hikes.



Zang Tiewei (right), spokesperson of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, talks to CCTV. Courtesy of Spokesperson's Office of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.



Yue Zhongming, spokesperson of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, talks to CCTV. Courtesy of Spokesperson's Office of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.





An employee from the department of pharmacy of the Shandong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine produces TCMs in Jinan, East China's Shandong Province. The hospital spared no effort in the epidemic prevention and control work, using modern machines to produce epidemic TCM drugs. *Wang Kai*

Moreover, Article 40 of the law states that if an operator commits such an act, he shall be ordered to correct the wrongdoing, have the illegal income confiscated and may also face a fine of no more than five times the illegal income. If the violations are serious, the regulatory authority may order the suspension of business for rectification or revoke the business license.

China's Criminal Law and its relevant judicial interpretations have played an important role in ensuring the smooth operation of epidemic prevention and control work since the outbreak of COVID-19, said Wang Aili, Director of the Office of Criminal Law under the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.

On February 6, 2020, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice jointly issued the Opinions on the Prevention and Control of the Epidemic of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia, which explained and guided the relevant provisions of the Criminal Law in handling COVID-19-related cases.

According to the Criminal Law and the aforementioned judicial interpretations, violations can lead to criminal responsibility.

First, the production and sale of shoddy protective products and materials or medical equipment that do not meet national and industry standards, or the sale of medical equipment that is knowingly not in accordance with standards, constitutes a crime in accordance with Article 140 of the Criminal Law. For the crime of selling fake or inferior medical equipment that does not meet standards, violators shall be convicted and punished.

Second, hoarding or coaxing up the prices of protective equipment such as face masks, protective suits, disinfectants and other equipment urgently needed for the prevention and control of the epidemic, disturbing the market order, cases of gross violation constitute a crime of illegal business operation, according to Article 225 of the Criminal Law.

Third, the sale of epidemic prevention and control supplies in the name of fraud or other crimes will be punished as a crime of swindling in accordance with Article 266 of the Criminal Law.

## Chinese law supports SMEs affected by COVID-19 to resume production

Guo Linmao, director of the Office of Social Law under the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, said that some enterprises, especially SMEs are currently facing many difficulties in their production and operation since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Recently, relevant departments of the central government introduced a number of policies to support enterprises resuming production, and many areas have introduced specific measures to encourage resumption, Guo said.

In 2017, the NPC Standing Committee revised and promulgated the Law on the Promotion of SMEs, aiming to accelerate the quality development of SMEs by creating a fair market environment and ensuring the healthy progress of the real economy.

Since then, Guo noted that the state has adopted a series of measures to promote the development of SMEs, such as setting up special funds to provide financial support, reducing tax and fees, encouraging fundraising in an effective and fair way, and easing burdens according to the law.

In view of other difficulties SMEs may face in their development, the law also makes specific provisions for the improvement of the management system, support for startups, entrepreneurship, innovation and market development, and protection of legal rights and interests through supervision and inspections, Guo said.

Speaking at a recent meeting on epidemic prevention and economic and social development, President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, pointed out that we should continue to study the introduction of phased, targeted tax and fee reduction policies, increase support for the resumption of work in some industries and help SMEs tide over during their difficulties. Xi's speech helped guide a way out for SMEs to further resume production and operation, Guo noted.

The number of SMEs accounts for more than 90 percent of the total number of enterprises in China, providing more than 80 percent of urban jobs, fulfilling more than 70 percent of invention patents, creating more than 60 percent of the GDP and providing more than 50 percent of taxes to the state, statistics showed. SMEs are playing an irreplaceable role in increasing employment and promoting economic growth, scientific and technological innovation, and social harmony and stability.

## Precise legislation at local level

On March 5, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee called for local legislatures to contribute in any form possible to help curb the COVID-19. Local-level legislatures should listen to the suggestions from professional personnel and the public to improve the quality of related legislation, the commission said.

Noting that the NPC Standing Committee will revise laws relating to the prevention and control of COVID-19 and future epidemics, the committee urged local legislatures to promptly follow up and modify relevant local laws and regulations for better legal guarantees of public health. (NPC-Xinhua) ■

# Lawmakers play important role in fighting against epidemic

**F**rom submitting epidemic-related suggestions to legislative bodies at various levels to fighting the disease on the frontline as pioneering professionals or volunteers, lawmakers have made a difference in the country's novel coronavirus (COVID-19) battle.

Among them, nearly 3,000 are deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature in China.

## Making suggestions

NPC deputy Dang Yongfu proposed to establish a five-tier mechanism in epidemic prevention and control by mobilizing officials from province, city, county, township and village levels, and tracking and screening returning personnel to rural areas in a timely manner.

He made the proposal based on his extensive research on the epidemic situation in rural areas as millions of migrant workers returned to their hometowns during the Spring Festival holiday.

As of March 10, the General Office of the NPC Standing Committee had received 133 suggestions from NPC deputies on epidemic prevention and control, statistics showed. Their suggestions offer valuable insights from different perspectives for the decision-making process in China's battle against the epidemic.

NPC deputy Nie Pengju, who is also an entrepreneur, suggested accelerating the production of face masks and encouraging domestic companies to invest in the production of masks.

Cai Weiping, a doctor working on the frontline, proposed expanding hospitals dedicated to the treatment of infectious diseases to better handle possible outbreaks in the future.

Ma Yuhong, an NPC deputy working in the auditing sector, submitted a suggestion on giving financial aid to small and medium-sized enterprises in the near term. Major financial measures should be adopted to help work resumption among these enterprises, Ma proposed.

Their suggestions also include placing a full ban on illegal trade of wild animals, revising the laws on infectious disease prevention and treatment, and improving major public health emergency response mechanisms.

In late February, the NPC Standing Committee swiftly adopted a decision on completely banning the illegal trade of wildlife to protect people's health.

## Fighting on the frontline

Coming from different walks of life, deputies to people's congresses at various levels serve on a part-time basis. Along with exercising their duty as members of legislative bodies,



Zhang Boli (fourth from front left), a deputy of the National People's Congress and academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and president of Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, pays a field visit to Jiangxia Fangcang makeshift hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province on February 12. *Xinhua*



many of them are also fighting on the frontline in their professional fields, especially those with medical expertise.

On January 27, NPC deputy Zhang Boli, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering who was directing epidemic prevention work in north China's Tianjin Municipality, flew to the outbreak epicenter in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, on short notice, devoting himself to battling the virus ever since.

Having pushed himself to the breaking point, Zhang, in his 70s, fell ill and had to have his gallbladder removed on February 16. However, only three days after the surgery, he chose to return to work.

NPC deputy Chen Jingyu, who is a cardiothoracic surgery expert and Vice President of Wuxi People's Hospital in East

China's Jiangsu Province, led a team in treating critically ill COVID-19 patients.

In his legislative capacity, Chen also submitted a suggestion on establishing a special medical team to treat COVID-19 patients in Wuhan with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machines.

He said he had prepared well to go to the frontline to fight against the deadly virus.

Moreover, a number of NPC deputies such as Li Weimin, Luo Jie, Lei Dongzhu, Zhang Rongzhen, Cai Weiping, Zhou Songbo and Hu Chunlian, and provincial deputies Wang Maosheng and Zhou Yixing also fought on the frontline against the epidemic, putting themselves in harm's way to save others.



### **Dai Lizhong:** Leader of a team that provided one of the first testing kits for the novel coronavirus

By Yu Hao

Dai Lizhong, chairman of a Hunan-based biotechnology company, led a team to work on prevention and control immediately after the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak began in Wuhan. It successfully produced nucleic acid testing kits for the new virus on January 14, and the kits were approved by China's drug watchdog two weeks later, making it one of the first of six Chinese companies to provide testing kits.

The kits from Dai's company have been sent across China and to over 60 countries around the world to help detect COVID-19. The company has also donated 32-million-yuan worth of disease-control supplies.

"We can do our part to fight against the outbreak," Dai said. "It is our responsibility to join the efforts to contain this epidemic."



### **Wen Yanchang:** Village official acts fast to keep people safe

By Li Xiaojian

Wen Yanchang knows where her duties lie and the challenges they pose. As one of only six people who serve on both the local Communist Party of China and village committees in her hometown of about 2,000 people in Guangdong Province, Wen headed a disease prevention and control team made up of village officials, residents and volunteers to contain the outbreak.

She made sure her team thoroughly sterilized every corner of the village and set up checkpoints for health screenings. She also visited her fellow villagers and gifted them daily necessities and face masks, which have been in short supply since the outbreak.

"There's no time to waste during prevention and control. We have to win this battle no matter how hard it is," Wen said.



### **Zhuang Yan:** Taking on extra workload to fight COVID-19

By Shu Ying

Sanitary worker Zhuang Yan, volunteering for the mask disposal job after the coronavirus outbreak. She has been working non-stop since the Chinese New Year holiday.

Although she had her concerns, Zhuang went ahead with her work nevertheless because as a National People's Congress deputy, she believed she should set up an example.

"I would be lying if I told you I wasn't scared. But somebody has to do the job," Zhuang said during an interview.

Apart from her daily routine which involved removing garbage for over 1,000 households, Zhuang also had to empty dozens of garbage cans full of disposable masks multiple times every day.

Zhuang kept up her hard work even after Liaoning province cleared all its local transmitted cases on March 22. "Our country worked so hard to bring the situation under control, we can't slack on the handling of used masks. I will not stop until it's safe for people to take off their masks," she said.

## Making joint efforts

Deputies from non-medical fields are also making contributions. Some company executives volunteered to deliver medical masks to the epicenter, some offered hotel rooms to accommodate people under medical observation, and some ensured the production of essential drugs during Spring Festival.

On January 24, Yao Jingbo, an NPC deputy and chief executive of 58 Group, delivered 40,800 medical masks to Wuhan.

Shi Jubin, an NPC deputy and Chairman of Haoxiangni Jujube Co. Ltd., transformed the company's hotels into medical observation sites for self-isolation.

Wu Xiangjun, who is the chief executive of Yiling Pharmaceutical based in Shijiazhuang, North China's Hebei Province, demanded the company work around the clock to produce medicines in these times of difficulties.

Deputies working at local levels can be found engaged in containment efforts in communities, including recording residents' health conditions and discouraging public gatherings.

Ji Mingdong, an NPC deputy and village-level Party chief in Hubei, led village officials to knock on door to door to persuade every family in the village to hold off on having any banquets until the outbreak was brought under total control.

NPC deputy Zhang Liansheng, also a community Party chief in East China's Fujian Province, promoted epidemic prevention facts on a livestreaming platform with catchy jingles. (People's Daily) ■



### Luo Jie: Saving life and racing against clock

By Wang Ling

Luo Jie, director of Taihe Hospital in Shiyan, Hubei Province, worked around the clock on the frontline during the coronavirus outbreak. He reorganized the diagnosis and treatment processes to reduce the mortality rate of severe COVID-19 cases.

Luo was appointed head of the expert team in Shiyan, Hubei Province. He helped designated hospitals get ready to receive patients, chaired consultations among his group of experts, and assigned medical teams to help save lives.

In the face of COVID-19, Luo remained committed to his duties of a doctor and insisted on supervising all frontline

"We must follow the general prevention and control plan to treat patients as best as we can. We must work harder to race against the clock to save lives," Luo said.



### Wang Lan: Hospital staff member takes on double duties to fight the outbreak

By Zhang Baoshan

Wang Lan is the chief of the Wuhan Blood Center, but she also doubled as a staff member of Huoshenshan Hospital during the peak of the coronavirus outbreak.

"Huoshenshan is a designated hospital for treating COVID-19 patients. My team and I have to do our jobs well to facilitate treatment," Wang said.

Wang executed emergency contingency plans and coordinated supplies to make sure there was enough blood for patients.

She and her team have been taking plasma from patients who are recovering from COVID-19 and the chief appreciates the support they have received from patients, some of whom donated their plasma more than once.

Wang Lan stressed protection during their work and no one on her team got infected by coronavirus on the job.



### Huang Jiusheng: For the things that I can't buy in the market

By Zhao Zhenqi

Huang Jiusheng shed a few silent tears of happiness after the first protective medical suits finally rolled off the production line at his clothing company.

Huang was inspired by a TV program which featured a garment factory that was turned into a mask production line during the coronavirus outbreak. He struck a deal with one of the local managers of a garment workshop in his hometown of Xinyang, Henan Province, which borders Hubei, the province at China's epicenter of the outbreak.

Huang prepaid for all the materials and the costs including those for equipment, electricity and hiring workers.

He was also involved in applying for a production license, examining the products and packing them for transportation. It only took Huang 11 days before he sent the first 10,000 suits to four hospitals in Xinyang.

The factory now has a daily output of 3,000 medical suits and at least 50,000 face masks. "I will continue to make 'armors' for our angels in white," Huang promised.





# Coordinating epidemic control, economic work, achieving development goals

President Xi Jinping (second right) visits the Xixi National Wetland Park during an inspection tour to Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang Province on March 31. Yan Yan

**M**ore efforts should be made to accelerate and further expand work and production should be resumed in an orderly manner on the premise of strictly implementing COVID-19 control measures, Xi said.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed coordinating efforts for the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) control and economic and social development, and striving to achieve this year's goals for economic and social progress.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks during an inspection tour for COVID-19 control and work resumption in East China's Zhejiang Province from March 29 to April 1.

On March 29, Xi visited the Chuanshan port area of the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, whose throughput has recovered to normal levels due to the timely measures it adopted to resume production.

The Ningbo Zhoushan Port took the lead in resuming production, which was of great significance to promoting Chinese enterprises to resume work and production as well as restoring the logistics system and the global industrial chains, Xi said.

He called for efforts to cope with and blunt the adverse impact on cargo shipping brought by restrictive measures adopted by various countries to fight coronavirus.

He also urged facilitation for the country's smooth trade flow.

Xi said Zhoushan port plays an important role in the building of the Belt and Road, the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the integration of the Yangtze River Delta.

As one of the world's top container ports, the Zhoushan Port handled about 1.12 billion tonnes of cargo in 2019.

Leaving the port, Xi visited an industrial park that produces high-end auto parts and molds in the city of Ningbo, where he inspected resumption of work and production at a privately-owned manufacturer.

By the assembly line, Xi asked the workers if they encountered any difficulties on their way back to work or in daily life, and if they got their paychecks on time.

"Normal production of enterprises can keep the national economy on track and create employment opportunities for the public," Xi said.

Stressing that China's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are smart, full of vitality and good at braving chal-



President Xi Jinping (fifth right) chats with villagers from the Yucun village in Anji county, East China's Zhejiang Province on March 30. Huge changes have been made through the implementation of a green development strategy. *Ju Peng*

Challenges and striving for greatness, Xi said the SMEs will surely pull through the hard times and embrace better development with support from the Party, the government and society.

## Green, smart development

On March 30, Xi went to Yucun village in the county of Anji, where he was greeted with applause and cheers of villagers thronging along the village roads to welcome his visit.

In 2005, it was in this mountainous village that Xi, then secretary of Zhejiang provincial committee of the CPC, put forward the concept that “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.”

Yucun has adhered to that concept and pursued green development for the past 15 years.

Revisiting the village, Xi said economic development should not be achieved at the expense of the ecological environment.

To protect the ecological environment is to develop the productive forces, Xi said.

He stressed the equal importance of urban and rural modernization.

Leaving the village, Xi went to Anji's mediation center to learn about how primary-level social disputes are resolved.

Xi stressed adopting diversified methods to prevent, mediate and resolve social disputes, for example through a mechanism where people file their complaints and Party members and officials can reach out to them more effectively.

On March 31, Xi visited the Xixi National Wetland Park in the provincial capital of Hangzhou. Along the way, Xi was greeted by people touring the park, and he waved back to express his regards.

Stopping by vendor booths that make Hangzhou's well-known Longjing tea and sell local signature cultural products, Xi encouraged the vendors to inherit and develop traditional handicrafts and other forms of intangible cultural heritage.

He asked Hangzhou to better lay out production, residence and environmental functions in urban planning to create a

residents-friendly city where humans and nature coexist and thrive in harmony.

Xi then visited the City Brain, a smart city platform aiming to improve urban management, and learned how Hangzhou uses the technology to ease traffic congestions, manage the city and fight the COVID-19 epidemic.

Advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance requires stepping up modernizing the system and capacity for urban management, Xi said.

Xi stressed utilizing big data, cloud computing, block chain, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies to innovate in the methods, models and visions of urban management and to make cities “smarter.”

## Opportunities amid challenges

While hearing work reports made by Zhejiang provincial committee of the CPC and provincial government on April 1, Xi said the epidemic situation in China is moving steadily in a positive direction, and the peak of the current COVID-19 outbreak is over in the country.

The risk posed by imported cases, however, has sharply risen as the pandemic is accelerating its spread across the world, said Xi, stressing intensified management of asymptomatic virus cases in China.

China will make preventing imported cases the top priority in its COVID-19 response at present and even for a “prolonged” period of time, he said.

Though the increasingly fast spread of COVID-19 abroad has disrupted international economic and trade activities and brought new challenges to China's economic development, it has also provided fresh opportunities for expediting the country's development in science and technology and advancing industrial upgrading, Xi noted.

More efforts should be made to accelerate and further expand work and production resumption in an orderly manner on the premise of strictly implementing COVID-19 control measures, he said.

Xi called for efforts to smooth global supply chains to ensure normal economic and trade activities.

While seizing the opportunities of industrial digitization and digital industrialization, China also needs to expedite the construction of “new infrastructure” projects such as 5G networks and data centers, and deploy strategic emerging sectors and industries of the future including digital economy, life health services and new materials, he said.

Xi also stressed the importance of expanding reform of important areas and key links.

Efforts must be made to improve the mechanism for major epidemic prevention and control and the public health emergency response and management system, said Xi, stressing carrying out extensive patriotic health campaigns.

He called for putting in place sound systems and policies for promoting integrated urban-rural development, and speeding up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

Xi demanded efforts to guarantee an adequate supply of food with stable prices for urban residents and ensure sufficient income for rural people.

Calling the anti-virus fight a “test” for the Party's governance capacity, Xi urged better Party building work at all levels. (Xinhua) ■



# Pressing the resume button

China moves toward normalcy as the spread of the novel coronavirus is contained

By Yuan Yuan

**F**or Lu Dalei, a hairdresser in Beijing, the second day of the second lunar month is normally a busy day as it is a traditional time for the Chinese people to get their first haircut after the Lunar New Year. But not this year.

Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), his shop was closed on that day, February 24.

As the domestic spread of the disease has been largely contained, Lu has reopened his shop. He said that he has noticed an obvious increase in the number of customers, some of whom postponed their first haircut of the new year by one month.

As the natural world revives with the arrival of spring, people's life is regaining vitality with the ebbing of the epidemic in China.

## Back to school and work

Many places have scaled down their emergency response level. On February 22, Liaoning Province in northeast China became the first province to downgrade the COVID-19 emergency response from level one, the highest level, to level three, which allowed the opening of entertainment venues including cinemas and karaoke clubs with certain epidemic prevention measures.

Many other provinces followed suit. By March 24, only two municipalities, Beijing and Tianjin, as well as two provinces, Hebei and Hubei, still had level-one emergency response in place.

Students in some regions, after being tied to home for about two months, are gradually getting back to school, shifting the classroom from online back to offline.

Jiangsu Province in east China, after zero new confirmed cases of coronavirus for 31 consecutive days, announced on March 23 that grade nine and grade 12 students should go back to school from March 30 to prepare for the university and senior high school entrance exams, bidding farewell to their prolonged winter vacation of about 70 days. Students in other grades will return to school after April 7, while colleges will open after April 13.



Employees work at the welding workshop of the Nanjing Iveco Automobile Co. Ltd. in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province on March 11. Production has been recovered in many places. Li Bo

Jiangsu is not the first to take this step. Some high schools and secondary vocational schools had already resumed classes in Qinghai Province on March 9, making it the first area in China to do so. On March 16, students in their final year of senior and junior high schools in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province all returned to school. In Shanxi Province, grade 12 students resumed classes on March 25.

As of March 25, 17 provinces and autonomous regions had announced the dates for students to get back to school.

The Ministry of Education has issued a series of guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control in kindergartens, primary and middle schools and higher education institutions, covering the period before and after the reopening.

The schools have adopted all the possible measures to ensure the safety of the students, providing sufficient protective masks and disinfection products.

All students and teachers are required to wear masks in the classroom and have their temperatures checked a few times every day. Students are divided into small classes to keep a distance of one meter from each other. This is also the distance they maintain in the canteen.

"I miss my school a lot," Luo Jialong, a senior student of Xingling Experimental School in Taiyuan, capital city of Shanxi Province, told the reporter. "The college entrance



**“Even though we have been taking online classes at home during the winter break, the classroom offers a better environment for study.”**

exam is just about two months away. Even though we have been taking online classes at home during the winter break, the classroom offers a better environment for study.”

While the effect of the epidemic on students like Luo is just a delay in the start of the semester, for the 1.15 million art students who are about to take the college entrance exam this year, the changes are more profound. Normally, such students go to the colleges they apply to for on-site art exams in March and then prepare for the entrance exam in June.

This year, due to a ban on large gatherings, the Ministry of Education suggested off-site methods such as online interviews. Schools and majors that must hold on-site art exams have been asked to organize them later.

Some major art colleges including Beijing Film Academy, the Central Academy of Drama and the Central Academy of Fine Arts announced that they will cancel art exams for cer-

tain majors and enroll students according to their entrance exam scores alone, and put off some exams after the entrance exam.

“This has largely altered our original plan,” Xu Jingtao, an applicant to Beijing Film Academy, told ThePaper.cn. “We spent most of our time preparing for the art exam before. Now we have to change the plan.” Some experts, though, saw this as a change in the enrollment system of art colleges that could be continued in the future.

Along with schools, factories and enterprises have also started to get back on track. At a press conference on March 25, Xie Shaofeng, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said that China will take key measures to speed up new infrastructure construction to offset economic slowdown and foster high-quality development. New infrastructure construction will be a key step to support the economy in the future.

Even in Beijing which still has its emergency response at level one, companies are taking active steps to resume work. In the Beijing Haidian Overseas Students Pioneer Park, about 85 percent of over 220 enterprises had resumed work by March 25. The park reduced rent and property costs totaling 5 million yuan (\$704,000) for all enterprises in February and will further cut the rent and property costs by half in March to relieve leasers’ financial stress.

In Shanghai, 89 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) had resumed operations with 79 percent of all their employees reporting to work by March 23, according to the figures from the local government.

Zhang Jianming, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, said at a press conference on March 24 that Shanghai had provided a 2-billion-yuan (\$283 million) financing service for small and micro enterprises and a 500,000 yuan (\$71,500) award to SMEs that plan to get listed.

Changsha, capital of Hunan Province in central China, has begun to normalize its economy and urban life. On March 14, the last novel coronavirus patient in the city was discharged from hospital and no new case has been reported since then.

The municipal government began to prepare for work resumption much earlier. Since early February, video conferences have been held every day to schedule the resumption of major projects. Changsha officials divided the city into six areas and sent six working groups to help accelerate the resumption.

A total of 310 workers were recruited from across Hunan to resume the construction of a tunnel in the city. Before the outbreak, most of the workers came from neighboring Hubei Province, but due to travel restrictions after the outbreak, they could not come back. With locally recruited workers, a major part of the project was completed on March 10.

As of March 23, 97.8 percent of major projects had been restarted in Changsha.

## **Out for fun**

Parks, museums, movie theaters, libraries and tourism attractions are gradually opening in many places for people to have fun and enjoy the spring.

Many world-famous sites including the Great Wall in Beijing and the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breed-





A technician from the Nanjing Fulian Planting Cooperative in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province changes battery of a drone, which is used to spray pesticide for rape field on March 11. After achieving a phased victory in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, China has adopted “regional classification” method to resume production. *Li Bo*

## Wuhan, the hardest-hit city, has resumed the operation of 117 bus routes, 30 percent of its total, since March 25.

ing, located in Chengdu, capital city of Sichuan Province in southwest China, have reopened for visitors.

In Shanghai, most of the top tourist attractions and all libraries had reopened by March 25. The Shanghai Disney Resort has partially resumed operations.

Companies and individuals in the hard-hit culture and tourism industries have made full use of online and livestreaming platforms to survive. China's largest online travel agency, Ctrip.com, started a revival plan with investment of 1 billion yuan (\$143 million) from partners at home and abroad.

The Shanghai Municipal Government has provided financial aid to revive culture and tourism industries. Ctrip.com also launched presales in March, including more than 1,000 travel routes and tickets to over 300 places of attraction.

Many provincial-level regions have introduced a health code monitoring system to ensure visitors' health and set limits on the number of daily visitors to scenic spots, while the latter have been offering discounts to attract visitors. In Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, many ski resorts have waived or halved entrance fees. The Shennongjia National Park in Hubei promised free entry for all visitors before the May Day holiday on May 1. The entrance fee in normal times is 140 yuan (\$20).

Discounts are also being provided by cinemas. But the number of people stepping into movie theaters is still low due to lack of new releases and concerns over the epidemic.

## Recovery is the keyword

Wuhan, the hardest-hit city, has resumed the operation of 117 bus routes, 30 percent of its total, since March 25. The city declared unprecedented traffic restrictions from January 23.

Before boarding a bus, passengers are required to wear masks, register with their real names, scan a QR code with smartphones, and have their temperature checked. A supervisor is present on each bus to ensure that all passengers follow these steps. Those with no smartphones need to have a health certificate issued by the health authorities.

Delivery services have gradually resumed in the city as well. Since January 23, most courier companies except a few large ones had suspended their delivery services in the city.

On April 8, commercial flights—except for international flights and flights connecting Beijing—will be resumed in Wuhan.

Meanwhile, other areas in Hubei have been reopening railways, waterways and long-distance bus services as well as highways in an orderly manner since March 25.

Along with the closure of makeshift hospitals treating COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, the medical services in the city are going back to normal.

On March 20, the State Council issued a notice urging all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities to speed up efforts to resume normal medical services.

On the same day, Beijing announced that all district-level medical institutions in the city would stop receiving newly confirmed novel coronavirus patients from March 21. Such patients will instead be admitted in designated municipal-level hospitals.

However, while the domestic spread of the disease has been brought under control, imported cases have created new risks. On March 23, among the 78 new confirmed cases reported across the country, 74 were imported. The total number of imported cases reached 595 by March 26.

Beijing and Shanghai, the two major hubs in China for international flights, announced stricter prevention measures for inbound travelers beginning March 25.

Beijing requires all overseas arrivals to take a nucleic acid test before being quarantined in designated facilities for 14 days. Travelers need to cover the costs of the quarantine themselves.

Also starting March 25, all inbound flights previously scheduled to land at the Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport will be diverted to Shanghai Pudong International Airport so that quarantine measures can be better coordinated.

“China is facing a mounting threat from imported infections,” Wu Zunyou, an epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a news conference in Beijing on March 24. “The pressure to screen travelers has been increasing, particularly in transportation hubs and major port cities.”

By World Health Organization standards, a viral epidemic can be declared eliminated in a region only when two consecutive incubation periods pass with no new infection. In the case of COVID-19, the period is 28 days. (Beijing Review) ■



Local officials participate in a live streaming to promote the sales of local farm products in Leping, Jiangxi Province on March 15. Zhu Dingwen

# Staying on track

Island province empowers residents to rise out of poverty despite epidemic

By Ji Jing

Over the past month, He Dexin, a resident of Ruilian in Chengmai, a county in Hainan Province in south China, has risen before dawn every morning to harvest and sell the vegetables he planted last winter, among them cabbages, peppers and beans.

Chengmai is a fruit and vegetable distribution center. Growing vegetables in winter is an important way for local farmers to increase their income.

He's family was previously registered as impoverished. His finances were strained by lack of advanced agricultural techniques and the cost of providing for a school-age child. Thanks to a training program organized by the local government, his farming skills have improved, and so has his income.

In 2016, the per-capita income of his household was only 2,000 yuan (\$282). That figure rose to 12,000 yuan (\$1,692) in 2019.

"My income will increase further this year if I expand the planting scale and find a job operating excavators," He said.

In recent years, Chengmai has attached great importance to improving farmers' skills and has hosted nearly 100 training sessions on construction, excavator operation, and animal husbandry. Through these workshops, he has not only improved his vegetable-growing skills, but also obtained a

license for operating excavators.

According to He, he has already made over 30,000 yuan (\$4,229) selling vegetables this year and expects to make more with his remaining beans. He plans to renovate his house to improve his quality of life.

## Boosting development

Since last year, the Chengmai County Government has promoted the development of industries for poverty alleviation by scouting talent, especially among university graduates.

Cai Yuxu, one such graduate, has started a rural cooperative to raise cattle in collaboration with seven other graduates who have returned to the county.

Cai has established ranches in Ruixi and Jinjiang, two townships in Chengmai. Last July when applying to build a new ranch in Zhongxing, another town in the county, that town's government helped him rent land and accelerated official approval for the project. In less than half a year, the new ranch with over 500 cattle went into operation.

The township government has already committed 4.72 million yuan (\$665,332) to a poverty alleviation fund to buy shares for 565 impoverished households in the rural cooperative.



## “Being lifted out of poverty is not an end in itself but the starting point of a new life and a new pursuit.”

Local farmers saw collective returns of 175,600 yuan (\$24,753) in 2017 and 670,000 yuan (\$94,443) in 2018. The cooperative also offered skill training to impoverished households before recruiting them to work at the farms.

Lai Peng, a partner of Cai, said the cooperative has established a complete industrial chain including planting forage grass, fodder production, cattle breeding and treatment and utilization of manure. The cooperative provides technological guidance to local farmers in growing forage grass and herding to help them rise out of poverty.

### Mitigating epidemic's impact

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus has posed new challenges to Hainan's fight against poverty. At a recent meeting, Li Jun, deputy secretary of the Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, said that the results of poverty alleviation should be consolidated and that epidemic control and poverty alleviation should go hand in hand.

Many Chengmai locals have been working as migrant workers in other places, and the novel coronavirus outbreak has prevented them from returning to work. In Mailing Village, 24 impoverished people have been unable to return to work due to the epidemic. To ensure these people continue to have an income during the epidemic, village officials have arranged for some to work at a local vegetable farm, and eight were hired to work at the village's epidemic prevention checkpoint.

More than 1,000 people in Chengmai's 11 townships have been assigned to posts for epidemic control with a wage of 200 yuan (\$28) per day.

At the same time, the poverty alleviation office of Chengmai has registered the impoverished individuals unable to resume work because of the epidemic, publishing recruitment

advertisements online to help them find jobs.

Cai Yongquan, a 50-year-old villager in Wanning, has three children. He sank below the poverty line several years ago as a consequence of his children's education expenses. With the help of the local government, his children have access to educational sponsorship. He exchanged his land for shares in a local rural cooperative and receives a dividend every year. He also found a job nearby to supplement his income. In time, Cai Yongquan and his family managed to rise out of poverty, but the epidemic has brought new pressure on his finances.

On hearing about his difficulties, poverty alleviation official Yang Fang reported his case to the government. The local government has created 1,300 temporary jobs in epidemic prevention and control and gave priority to hiring people in financial difficulty.

Wanning has improved its tropical agriculture, an important source of income for local farmers. However, since the start of the epidemic, difficulty in selling the produce dealt a heavy blow to those who have only just risen out of poverty. The local government has mobilized departments and local officials to offer one-on-one assistance to 542 affected farmers by purchasing their products and helping them sell produce online.

Zhou Defeng, deputy director of the Wanning Poverty Alleviation Office, said they will continue to optimize their work method and more accurately calculate farmers' losses due to the pandemic

### Promoting self-reliance

In 2019, Hainan accomplished its yearly target of lifting 45,000 people out of poverty, according to the annual provincial government work report released in January. Last year, the province's incidence of poverty dropped from 0.79 percent to 0.01 percent. On February 29, it announced that all its poor counties had shed poverty.

In April 2018, at a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Hainan Province, President Xi Jinping announced the decision to develop the island into a pilot free trade zone (FTZ) and eventually, a free trade port with Chinese characteristics.

Six months later, the Central Government released an overall plan on the development of the Hainan FTZ. China's largest FTZ, it focuses on sectors such as medical care, education, sport, telecommunication and finance.

The eradication of absolute poverty will lay the groundwork for Hainan to become China's first free trade port, which represents the highest level of opening up.

Motivating impoverished residents to rise out of poverty is a crucial and challenging part of poverty alleviation. In 2019, Hainan started televised training programs for local farmers.

Wang Dawen, a farmer in Longhua District in Haikou, Hainan's capital, learned how to grow bitter melon from such training programs and rose out of poverty in 2019 by growing the vegetable.

“We shouldn't rely on the government for everything. Only by working hard can we become rich,” Wang said.

The province has also launched a campaign to encourage local farmers to help themselves in the battle against poverty. (Beijing Review) ■



Pan Mei (right), owner of a clothing store, and her daughter show off their Miao clothes covered with birds for sale in Guzhu township, Rongjiang county, Guizhou Province on March 21. Amid the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments in China have promoted both online and offline sales among businesses. Wang Bingzhen

# Top legislature firmly opposes US signing Taiwan-related act into law

**C**hina's top legislature on March 27 expressed strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition after the United States signed the so-called "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019" into law.

The act was signed into law despite stern representations from China, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress.

This act is in serious violation of the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, and goes against international laws and basic norms governing international relations, said the statement.

It also grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and sent a gravely wrong signal to "Taiwan independence" separatists.

The Taiwan question concerns China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests. The act disregards the basic facts that the one-China principle is universally recognized by the international community and that the United States established formal diplomatic ties with China 41 years ago.

By groundlessly obstructing other countries from establishing diplomatic ties with China and helping Taiwan expand the so-called "international space," the act runs counter to the one-China policy long held by the US governments since the establishment of China-US diplomatic ties and the important consensus between the heads of state of the two countries.

The act will seriously disrupt China-US relations and cooperation in major fields and will eventually hurt the interests of the United States.

There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

The one-China principle is the political foundation of China-US relations and a common consensus of the international community, the statement said.

"We strongly urge the US side to fully recognize the highly sensitive nature of the Taiwan question and adhere to the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques," the statement said. "The US side should refrain from implementing the act, prudently handle Taiwan-related issues, and take concrete action to safeguard China-US relations and cross-strait peace and stability." (Xinhua) ■



Sun Moon Lake. VCG



# Governance strengths to ensure China's victory in two-front battle



"Wuhan must win" and other slogans appear on high-rise buildings near the Northwest Lake in Jiangnan district of Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province on February 12. Wang Yuguo

**T**he year 2020 is bound to be monumental for China as it strives to hit a historic landmark in the country's long-running story of progress. The sudden strike of the novel coronavirus epidemic only makes the endeavor more epic.

To win this two-front battle, combating the outbreak and bolstering economic and social development, are no doubt difficult, but victory is predetermined. And President Xi Jinping has made an important speech at a meeting in Beijing on February 23 to showcase China's confidence in winning.

That confidence originates from the unique strengths in China's governance system, revealed in the country's resolute response to contain the outbreak and ensure its development engine is back up and roaring.

The governance system, under the top leadership in Beijing, is able to oversee the big picture and marshal the necessary strength to achieve the country's targeted goals.

The system has demonstrated its efficiency in the country's previous battles against natural disasters like earthquakes and floods. The current battle against this deadly disease adds further proof of the system's viability.

Over the past few weeks, the entire country has been mobilized. Tens of thousands of doctors and nurses nationwide have been sent to China's Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak. Face masks, protective suits and other badly

needed medical resources have been handed to those fighting on the frontlines. Hospitals have been built from scratch.

Clearly, these measures have proven effective. The number of newly confirmed cases in China has dropped and more patients have been cured. China's decisiveness has also provided a golden window of opportunity for countries around the world to prevent a global epidemic.

One other feature of this system is its flexibility, allowing local authorities, notably those at the grassroots, to improvise according to their different needs, thereby ensuring substantial results.

Flexibility allows local authorities across the country to take effective measures to stem the spread of the disease, keep all communities and markets sanitized, and guarantee people's safe access to fresh groceries and other daily necessities.

More importantly, China is such an expansive and diverse country that its policies need to accommodate a variety of needs. China's leaders in Beijing understand this quite well.

To ensure that China can achieve this year's economic and development goals – elimination of extreme poverty and the completion of building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects – Beijing has called for a return to work and resumption of industrial production and manufacturing on a situational basis.

For example, regions with relatively low epidemic risks could see the public return to work sooner rather than later; medium-risk cities and provinces could resume economic activities in an orderly manner; and high-risk areas should continue to be fully committed to epidemic prevention and control.

The central government has also swiftly rolled out a series of targeted interim policies such as cutting taxes and fees to help micro, small and medium-sized firms tide over difficulties, ensuring a stable job market, and boosting consumption.

While the outbreak has indeed exposed some weak links in the ability to deal with major public health emergencies, it has also offered the country a valuable chance to patch up them.

The epidemic has so far shown that China's governance system remains resilient and productive enough to navigate the country through these uncharted waters.

The Chinese nation has in recent history faced down all kinds of hardships. By working more closely with the international community and continuing to nurture economic and social development, the country and its people will come out emerge from formidable test even stronger. (Xinhua) ■





A small boat sails on the creek in the Xixi Wetland in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on April 1. With the rising temperatures, the Hangzhou Xixi National Wetland Park ushered in the annual "Xixi Flower Festival." Different flowers including azaleas, peonies, lilies and oriental cherry are in a bloom. *Weng Xinyang*





**DANZHOU** 

*A city of charm*

Danzhou·China