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7th March

Dear All

Please find below the update 12 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

- HOPE'S **Online UK Education fair** is to be held from 21st-31st March with 10 UK universities and 10 UK schools. Those have not been invited for this fair can still join our online seminar sessions in April. Please contact Alice Zhang to apply a convenient date and time slot for the seminar: a.zhang@hope-studyabroad.com.
- Apart from the Charity Photo Competition, HOPE is continuing to support autistic children and their teachers in long term by donation of books and toys, and teachers training. If you have special education professionals and are able to provide training, or if you are interested in linking with Chinese institutions in this area, please feel free to contact us.
- With more Novel Coronavirus cases in Europe and the UK, some of our students and parents start to worry and consider to come back during Easter holiday which is contradictory to most of schools' and universities' previous policy. We are grateful if you could keep on sending us your updated school policy so that we can send to parents to help you guide them through during this difficult time for all of us.

News on local media

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Kind regards

Daniel

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Sunset scene of doctor, patient liked by netizens

By Wang Keju in Beijing and Liu Kun in Wuhan | China Daily | Updated: 2020-03-07 03:41



An 87-year-old COVID-19 patient and his doctor, Liu Kai, watch the sunset on their way back from a CT scan on Thursday at Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University in Hubei province. GAN JUNCHAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Sunset pictures can be heartwarming, though some may consider them a cliché.

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Yet a picture of a doctor standing beside the bed of an 87-year-old, seriously ill patient who had been wheeled out to enjoy the waning light of the day has become popular on social media.

It was the first time that the novel coronavirus pneumonia patient in Wuhan, Hubei province — the center of the outbreak of the disease — had the chance to watch a sunset outside the ward during his month of treatment at Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University.

"The elderly man had been stuck in the isolation ward for nearly a month, which made him a bit depressed. I thought the rays of the sun might cheer him up," said his doctor, Liu Kai. He said he stopped the wheeled hospital bed outside on their way back from a CT scan on Thursday afternoon.

The patient was admitted on Feb 9. He has required oxygen and has not felt like talking to anyone, Liu said.

But under the care of his 27-year-old doctor and his colleagues from Zhongshan Hospital affiliated with Fudan University in Shanghai, who went to Wuhan to help, the patient's condition has greatly improved.

After Liu and a volunteer worker took the patient for his scan to check on his lungs, the doctor noticed the beauty of the sun casting golden rays on them as they returned to the patient's room.

The idea of pausing to enjoy the sunset popped into Liu's mind, and the patient gave a quick nod of approval.

"The idea lit up my imagination when I saw the sunlight. Since coming to Wuhan, we have been working shifts around the clock. I also wanted to enjoy it awhile," he said. "Even though we only spent five minutes outside, the patient's mood improved and he soon fell asleep after returning."

As the picture was gaining likes online, netizens called it "the warmest scene during the epidemic" they had seen, with many expressing their best wishes for the medical workers and the patient.

"I hope the senior patient will recover soon and that the medical workers will be able to take a break soon, too," Weibo user Xiaoxingxing_dream wrote. "I hope everyone

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can enjoy such a beautiful sunset every day." The comment had about 1,000 likes as of 4 pm on Friday.

"The patient, who also is a violinist, is now recovering and has begun singing every day. He promises us to perform the song When Will You Return? on the day he is discharged," Liu said. "I also made a deal with him to see the cherry blossoms together after the epidemic."

Virus on animal: Owners urged not to abandon pets

By Chen Zimo in Hong Kong | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-03-06 11:26



The Hong Kong government and experts on Thursday urged members of the public not to abandon their pets during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus — as no evidence yet suggests pets can be a source of COVID-19 infections.

The appeal came after the city reported the world's first case of an infected dog, which belongs to a COVID-19 patient.

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The dog repeatedly tested weak positive for the novel coronavirus beginning Feb 26, which indicated a low level of infection of the virus, Thomas Sit Hon-chung, assistant director (inspection and quarantine) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, told during a daily press conference.

Experts from local universities and the World Organisation for Animal Health also agreed that it was most likely a case of human-to-animal transmission. The dog's owner, a 60-year-old female, became the 85th person to have contracted the disease, on Feb 25.

The dog shows no symptoms relating to COVID-19. It does not need treatment and now has a chance to heal itself, said Sit.

The department strongly advises that mammalian pets from households with infected patients or their close contacts should be put under quarantine in AFCD facilities.

Ho Pak-leung, president of the Carol Yu Centre for Infection at the University of Hong Kong, called on the public to stay calm and fight the epidemic together with the pets.

Ho recalled that eight cats and one dog tested positive for the SARS virus in Hong Kong in 2003. However, neither a transmission of the SARS virus from pets to human beings, nor an outbreak among animals, was found anywhere worldwide.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a local animal welfare group, said the past month saw no increase in animals being abandoned in the city. There were about 10 cases of this being reported each week, the same as before the pneumonia epidemic, the group told China Daily.

The group praised Hong Kong pet owners for continuing to protect their animals during these trying times.

The group also reminded dog owners to observe good hygiene when taking their dogs for walks. For example, pet owners should clean up their dogs' excrement with newspapers or plastic bags, and wash the urine with water mixed with white vinegar.

In addition, owners must wash hands thoroughly with soap after handling a dog's excrement, the group stressed.

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Ken Chan, 40, is an owner of two shiba inu dogs. Chan, who works in the shipping industry, said he does not worry about his pets being infected and definitely will not abandon them, although he has heard of other dog owners expressing the concerns.

Pets are innocent, said Chan. It is time for human beings to take full responsibility in the care for their pets, he added.

Bullfrogs, some turtles exempt from meat ban

By LI LEI | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2020-03-06 09:56



The Bullfrog with Chili Pepper.

Authorities on Thursday exempted the bullfrog and certain breeds of turtles from a recent ban on wildlife consumption triggered by the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The move has assuaged concerns of massive job losses in the breeding sector.

In a circular on its website, the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs said bullfrogs and some shelled reptiles would be treated as domesticated aquatic animals, which are allowed to be bred within the framework of the country's fishery law.

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Breeders said they felt further relieved at the message as authorities had recently stressed that aquatic products are largely immune to the ban, given that harvesting natural fish resources is a common international practice.

The circular was the latest effort by authorities to clarify the boundary between protected wild animals and species that had begun to be domesticated for consumption in recent years.

The murky status of a wide range of animals has confused those who have bred such species for decades.

Last month, central authorities suspended the trading and consumption of all animals falling outside the conventional livestock reservoir after the novel coronavirus was allegedly traced to a seafood market in Wuhan, Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak. The trading of wild animals had occurred in the market.

The move has caused anxiety among many breeders as disruptions in sales of animals including bullfrogs and soft-shelled turtles have led to huge financial losses.

Last week, the top legislature officially passed a resolution to outlaw wildlife consumption. With a complete list of approved animals yet to be ironed out, the ban has exacerbated uncertainties surrounding the fate of such animals.

To ease concerns, Yang Heqing, a senior legislator, told a news conference following the ban's announcement that animals that have been bred for an extended period of time and have been well-received by the public would be added to the exemption list.

He added that local authorities would dole out appropriate compensation to breeders who have to shift to other businesses.

Yu Aizhi, a professor at Central University of Finance and Economics who specializes in rural economy, said it is essential for central authorities to see to it that damages are compensated, which helps add to the government's credibility.

"Some of the species that could be banned were promoted by the government in the first place," she said.

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Virus hinders employment for nannies

By Li Wenfang | China Daily | Updated: 2020-03-07 08:51

Measures to limit travel and contact between people harms recruitment



Nannies learn how to take care of babies at a training center in Jimo, Shandong province. [Photo/Xinhua]

The inconvenience of travel and concerns about the novel coronavirus have made it difficult to recruit nannies in Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

Residential communities have restricted access and people who want nannies have largely complied with the government's advice to stay indoors and limit close people-to-people contact.

Only 20 percent of the housekeeping companies in the city have resumed business since the Spring Festival ended on Jan 30, and only 20 percent of the domestic helpers have come back to work, according to Guangzhou Housekeeping Association.

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Many domestic helpers from outside Guangdong cannot come back and many residential communities have restricted access, Zhu Deyi, chairman of the association, was cited as saying by Information Times on Tuesday.

Also, because of employers' concerns about the virus, the demand for housekeeping services has shrunk, with services paid for on an hourly basis especially hard hit, Zhu said.

The demand remains significant though, especially for nannies caring for elderly people, small children and patients in hospital.

Housekeeping companies are recruiting domestic helpers online, but they may not be able to come, and even if they do they cannot receive regular training.

Although the government has arranged chartered trains to help people return to work, domestic helpers live in many different places and can only take such trains if they pass their homes.

Normally, about 500,000 domestic helpers work in Guangzhou, and the city has an estimated demand for about 1 million of them.

The company 51 Housekeepers planned to hire 2,000 domestic helpers this year, but due to the epidemic has cut that in half. Even the new target is hard to fill.

"We hired 40 people in February, but that is how many we hire a day in other years," said Xu Weihua, chief operating officer of the company.

In a survey of 132 member companies of Guangzhou Women and Children Social Service Center on Feb 11, about 65 percent had received less than 30 percent of their domestic helpers back.

The center, which manages a platform for the housekeeping sector, proposed several measures for helping the sector, which include rental and tax cuts, lending support, protective goods supply, venues for isolation of domestic helpers from outside the city, online training and psychological support to domestic helpers.

To help housekeeping companies cope with the impact of the epidemic, Guangzhou's commerce bureau has allocated some masks to those companies and some companies have applied for low-interest loans, he said.

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The center has helped refer housekeeping companies to novel coronavirus testing organizations as some families require such tests on domestic helpers.

People can upload their health information through a WeChat mini program and receive a QR code for accessing residential communities.

At a news conference on Feb 26, an official with the Ministry of Commerce said housekeeping associations had been told to give guidance on managing the epidemic.

Local commerce departments were required to coordinate the supply of protective goods and venues for isolation.

Some housekeeping companies were expanding services for cleaning public venues and some were generating revenue from online training, said Xian Guoyi, director-general of the department of trade in services and commercial services under the ministry.

No new coronavirus cases in 1/3 of Wuhan communities

By Hou Liqiang | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-03-07 13:24



Volunteers of BlueSky Rescue, a nonprofit civil rescue organization, disinfect a residential building in Wuhan, Hubei province, the epicenter of the virus outbreak, on Feb 22.

About one-third of residential communities in the Hubei provincial capital

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Wuhan, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak, have had no newly confirmed cases in the past two weeks as of Thursday, according to the city's epidemic prevention and control headquarters.

As of 6 pm Thursday, 2,076 residential communities in the city had been listed as epidemic-free communities, the headquarters said on Friday.

A community could win the title if they report no additional cases for at least two weeks and have no resident still on the list of high-risk people - suspected cases, people with fever and close contacts with confirmed infections - in the past 14 days.

Meanwhile, communities that fail to roll out adequate prevention and control measures, including lockdown management, timely disinfections and support of daily necessities to residents, will not be qualified to be laureates, according to the headquarters.

Hu Yabo, vice-mayor of Wuhan, told a recent news conference that there are a total of 7,148 residential communities in the city.

It also said there are 1,171 epidemic-free rural villages in Wuhan as of Thursday.

The headquarters have made public all of the epidemic-free communities and villages online for public supervision and will update the list every three days