1st June

Please find below the update 22 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

1. Visa application centres in China are re-opening from 1st June. As the number of applications will come up to the peak in July and August, we have suggested to our students to prepare well in advance for the visa application. At the same time, UK institutions may expect a peak season in issuing CAS for students from June. We will work closely with you to speed up the process so that students can get all documents ready for the visa application.



Please also be aware, that due to restrictions still in place globally, we are not currently able to offer the following services: Super Priority Visa, Priority Visa Service (visit) or Priority Visa for settlement or migration Service.

Customers exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including fever (higher than 38 degrees Celsius), cough or difficulty breathing will be helped to reschedule their application submission for another day and will be advised to seek medical attention at the nearest healthcare facility of

observe social distancing, undergo temperature checks or be required to wear

facemasks/gloves, subject to local authority guidelines.

their choice

We strongly advise all customers to <u>purchase Courier Return of their documents</u>, so they do

2. Due to CAAC's "Five one" policy (one flight from one airline of each country per week) and UK government's 14-day quarantine policy for international arrivals, there might be delays or difficulties for students coming to the schools on time. We understand some schools in the UK are opening their accommodation from mid-August, we are also expecting CAAC to review this policy to make it more friendly to international travelers, particularly the students to the UK. We will feedback to you when we hear the updates.





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3. We heard from Rossall School a good news that UK schools are working with BSA to design a Covid Safe Charter. It is a good initiative to protect students' safety when they return to schools. The following are the message we received from Rossall School:

"On Thursday 14th May we called a meeting with a select number of schools to discuss the proposition of a charter (minimum set of requirements) that all UK schools could sign up to. Following that meeting, We have been liaising with the BSA with regards to the design of a BSA Covid Safe Charter, which you will have received yesterday on their newsletter. This is a big step forward for the sector, and I am delighted that our efforts have enabled this charter to be established quickly and in detail (namely specifically allowing masks to be worn and considerations around isolation and testing)."

"To support the creation of the BSA charter, Rossall has developed the Safe Schools UK initiative (www.safeschoolsuk.org). The objective of the initiative is to provide a fast, easy and simple communication tool for you to share with your families/clients and for them to easily see if their chosen UK school has committed to ensuring a minimum level of safety. A website landing page has been set up, along with hashtag #safeschools and opinion poll. All schools that have signed up will be listed on the landing page. Early adopters are Rossall, Taunton, Scarborough, Rishworth along with Aegis and Brightworld Guardians."

4. We are very grateful to the following partner institutions for the support to our conversion and Q&A briefing on 9th, 10th and 12th June: University of Glasgow, Newcastle University, University of Southampton, University of Leicester, University of Sheffield, Loughborough University, University of Edinburgh, University of York; Berhamsted School, John Leggott College, Brockenhurst College and Rossall School.

Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng
Managing Director
HOPE Study Abroad Service/HOPE International Education

News on local media

Index

- Xi exetends int'l Children's Day greetings;
- Wuhan reports no new asymptomatic cases for 1st time;
- No new domestically transmitted Covid-19 cases reported;
- Symbol of Old China education;
- It's all right on the night at Anyi Road street fair.

Xi extends Int'l Children's Day greetings

Xinhua14:07 UTC+8, 2020-05-31

Chinese President Xi Jinping has greeted children of all ethnic groups across the country on International Children's Day, which falls on June 1.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, called on children to study hard, firm up their ideals and convictions and develop strong bodies and minds to prepare for realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Xi noted that children nationwide have experienced a special period during the country's fight against COVID-19 as all Chinese people stand united.

Witnessing the great feats of Chinese people working together and rising to challenges, the children have followed the call of the Party and the





Shanghai Hangzhou Nanjing Ningbo Qingdao Jinan Wuhan UK

government to support the anti-epidemic battle with their concrete actions, demonstrating the fine spirit of the country's children, Xi said.

He stressed that China's children today are not only undergoing and witnessing the realization of the country's first centenary goal, they are also a new force for achieving the second centenary goal and building China into a great modern socialist country.

Xi urged Party committees and governments at all levels as well as the society to care for children and create favorable conditions for their growth.

Wuhan reports no new asymptomatic cases for 1st time

Xinhua10:03 UTC+8, 2020-06-01

Wuhan, the city in central China's Hubei Province previously hard hit by the novel coronavirus, reported no new asymptomatic cases Sunday, the first time since the provincial capital released figures on the virus carriers showing no symptoms.

The city conducted more than 60,000 nucleic acid tests on Sunday, finding no new asymptomatic cases, according to a statement issued Monday by the municipal health commission.

Wuhan started a campaign on May 14 to expand nucleic acid testing in order to better know the number of asymptomatic cases or people who show no clear symptoms despite carrying the virus.

No new asymptomatic cases reported for the first time indicates the campaign has seen apparent effects, said the statement.

No new domestically transmitted COVID-19 cases reported

Xinhua10:02 UTC+8, 2020-06-01

Chinese health authority said Monday that no new domestically transmitted COVID-19 cases were reported on the Chinese mainland on Sunday.

A total of 16 imported cases were reported on the mainland. Among them, 11 were reported in Sichuan Province, three in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and two in Guangdong Province, the National Health Commission said in its daily report.

No deaths related to the disease or new suspected cases were reported, according to the commission.

On Sunday, three people were discharged from hospitals after recovery, while the number of severe cases remained three.

As of Sunday, the overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 83,017, including 76 patients who were still being treated, and 78,307 people who had been discharged after recovery.

Altogether 4,634 people had died of the disease, the commission said.

By Sunday, the mainland had reported a total of 1,756 imported cases. Of the cases, 1,694 had been discharged from hospitals after recovery, and 62 remained hospitalized, no in severe conditions. No deaths from the imported cases had been reported.

The commission said three people were suspected of being infected with the virus, all were imported from overseas.

According to the commission, 4,723 close contacts were still under medical observation after 914 people were discharged from medical observation Sunday.

Also on Sunday, 16 new asymptomatic cases were reported on the mainland. No cases were re-categorized as confirmed cases, and eight asymptomatic cases were discharged from medical observation.

The commission said 397 asymptomatic cases, including 34 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

By Sunday, 1,084 confirmed cases including four deaths had been reported in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 45 confirmed cases in the Macao SAR, and 442 in Taiwan including seven deaths.

A total of 1,037 patients in Hong Kong, 45 in Macao, and 423 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospitals after recovery.

Symbol of old China's education

Tan Weiyun16:40 UTC+8, 2020-05-26



Biyong Hall is the main architecture in Guozijian, or the Imperial Academy.

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Now that the coronavirus outbreak is under control in China and restrictions are being eased, students are returning to school. This is good news for the Confucian Temple and Guozijian (the Imperial Academy) in Beijng, as more children will once again return to visit. Guozijian was once the highest institute of learning and China's top administrative organ of education during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. It was a combo of today's education ministry and the Peking or Tsinghua universities. It was a place where emperors regularly visited to read Confucian classics to more than 4,000 officials and followers, who thronged by the front gate, central square and nearby streets. But without a loudspeaker, how did the emperors make themselves heard in a class of so many students? There were several servants who made sorties to repeat each sentence of the supreme teacher as he spoke from the inner classroom to the outside.

Past the main entrance Jixian Gate, or Gate of Talent Gathering, China's only glazed memorial arch in honor of education stands at the front. Its golden yellow-glazed tiles shine with inscriptions of Emperor Qianlong (1711-99) on the back and front sides, showing how greatly the royal family valued education.

Cross the Zhuangyuan (top scholars in the highest imperial examinations) Bridge, and you will find the Biyong Hall, the main architecture in the imperial academy. It was built in 1784 and used to be the place for emperors in the Qing Dynasty giving lectures.

Sitting in the center of the Imperial Academy, the square-shaped hall with yellow-glazed tiles, surrounded in a round pond, implies the old Chinese philosophy that the Earth was square and the Heaven was round. This architecture was co-designed by the prime minister Liu Yong (1720-1805) and a high-ranking official He Shen (1750-99), two of Emperor Qianlong's trusted cabinet men.

On the two sides of Biyong Hall, there are six halls, or classrooms, with 33 rooms.

Yilun Hall, situated in the north, used to be a library in the old days, covering an area of 600 square meters. With a 400-square-meter open terrace, it's the largest hall building in the Imperial Academy. But after a renovation project in 2008 the architecture was turned into a conference ballroom with modern audio and visual equipment that can house about 200 people.



One of the cherished relics in the academy is the 190 stone steles carved with 13 Confucian classics of more than 630,000 characters.





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One of the cherished relics in the academy is the 190 stone steles carved with 13 Confucian classics of more than 630,000 characters. They were compiled and hand copied by the scholar Jiang Heng (1672-1742), who took 12 years to finish the work. The stones are the most complete version of the classic inscriptions on Confucianism and the largest and heaviest books in the world. They were originally set up in the six halls but were relocated to a small lane between the academy and the neighboring Confucian Temple in 1956.

During the Yuan and Ming dynasties, more than 200 cypress trees and pagoda trees were planted, but today only 40 are still living and most are over 700 years old. Among them, two trees are the best-known. The tree named "Reborn" is 15 meters tall and was planted in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and died in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It incredibly came to life again in the summer of 1751 in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when people found some young green leaves sprouting from its bare branches.

In the 60th birthday year of Emperor Qianlong's mother, the tree was then considered to be a good omen. Officials wrote poems and created paintings of the tree and presented them as gifts to the birthday lady. The poems were also carved on stones, which stand together with the Confucian stone steles today.

The "Hunchback" tree on the western side of Biyong Hall by the pond earned its name by a large protrusion on the trunk. One legendary tale reveals that the tree was planted to make fun of the prime minister, Liu Yong, who designed the pond. Liu had a hunched back.

It's all right on the night at Anyi Road street fair

Li Qian18:23 UTC+8, 2020-05-31



The Anyi Road night fair has returned.



Food stalls are popular.



Flower stalls make for a colorful scene.

The much anticipated, weekend-only, Anyi Road street fair returned on Saturday.

The fair, "Green Escape", first opened to the public last October on Anyi Road, making the 264-meter-long, otherwise quiet lane outside the Kerry Center, one of the city's most lively places.

After saying goodbye for more than four months, it has returned this weekend, again proving a hit with the public.

"It was raining cats and dogs in the afternoon. And it's still rainy. I didn't expect so many visitors," said Huang Ning, deputy general manager of Kerry Properties Development (Shanghai) Co.

A fan of the fair, Chloe Chen, added: "I've missed it so much. Finally, it's back. Last year, I visited the fair almost every weekend because it made me





Shanghai Hangzhou Nanjing Ningbo Qingdao Jinan Wuhan UK

feel good. And one important thing was that it's a very good place to take photos with my friends.

Chen, who works and lives in Jing'an District, said this year's fair gave her some new feelings.

"I saw more bars, which I really love. I may try some later, and I will tell my foreign friends to come with me," she said.

There have been some upgrades.

Instead of a pop-up fair that only runs for several months, it will become a regular event. And the operation hours will extend, lasting from noon to 11pm.

Besides food, drink and entertainment, more immersive experiences have also been added, such as interactive games, DIY workshops and photo-taking sites in a neon-lit setting.

"We want to create an international life circle," said Huang.

One innovation, according to him, is the introduction of some popular bars.

"It's common to see foreigners gather together on the roadside, with a cup of beer in hand, chatting with each other. They love the relaxed atmosphere," Huang said. "Also, the introduction of bars increases chances of people making friends with bartenders and other drinkers. It's a kind of interactive experience."

Bartender Paul, from the Sober Company, one of the city's most popular bars, said the fair was quite different from those he had attended before.





Shanghai Hangzhou Nanjing Ningbo Qingdao Jinan Wuhan UK

"It's my first time at the fair," he said. "I'm from Taiwan, which is known for a variety of night fairs. But Green Escape is so stylish, it is not like any others that I've been to before. I really love it.

"We've sold more than 30 cups of drinks in the afternoon, and many are foreign customers."

Aura Lab opened its first store in the Jing'an Kerry Center, and now it operates eight outlets in Shanghai, becoming one of the city's most popular florists for initiating the concept of "Ready to Flower" and selling bouquets.

"Our stall in the last year's fair was running very well," said Peng Xiaowei, in charge of the florist's brand operating day. "We sold flowers and plants priced over 30,000 yuan (US\$4,208).

"Previously, most of our customers were office ladies because we operated in shopping mall. But after we opened the stall in the fair, people from all age groups started to know our brand and become our customers."

Last year, the florist only sold flowers. But this year, it opened a workshop nearby for people to learn flower arranging.

"We hope our customers learn about flower arranging, and they become loyal customers," he added.

To ensure health and safety, the hourly number of visitors will be restricted to 3,500. Stall holders are required to have their temperature taken, present health QR codes and show their whereabouts for the last 14 days. Also, litter bins for waste masks have been installed, and tables, chairs and other facilities are disinfected on a regular basis.

Lin Xiaojue, director of Jing'an's commerce commission, said Anyi Road provides a good example of how to revitalize backstreets. Its success will be copied.

"Next week, Wujiang Road and HKRI Taikoo Hui mall will also hold night fairs," she said.

According to her, the nightlife economy demonstrates a city's vigor. It is not only about night fairs but other places that open until midnight where people can relax.

"So, night reading salons, night running clubs and even night museum activities are all part of nightlife economy," she said.



Time for a selfie.



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Miniature golf proves popular with father and son.



Some rain can't stop the fun.

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