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8th August 2020

Dear All

Please find below the update 27 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

HOPE receive online interview from Sky News, UK

Daniel, Director of HOPE, received an online interview from Sky News on Wednesday 5th August regarding how Covid-19 might affect Chinese students' decision on studying in UK universities this autumn. Christine Megson, an experienced Sky News journalist conducted this 40-minute interview via Zoom, a popular online conference platform. During the interview, Daniel quoted QS's figure after its recent research that only 4% of Chinese students abandon the idea to study abroad, but 70% may have adjusted their plan due to the pandemic. Some decide to defer their study, but some change their destination countries. Daniel also pointed out that the main concern of Chinese students and family to study abroad is the "safety" rather than "finance". Sky News is making an editorial on "how the Covid-19 might make impact on UK universities" and this programme will be broadcasted before this year's A level result is released on 13th August.



Christine Megson

Daniel, Director of HOPE is interviewed by Christine Megson, Sky News, on 5th August

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HOPE's annual management meeting to set new academic year goal



Part of HOPE's management team enjoy a relaxing evening during the two-day meeting

HOPE's annual management meeting was held in Shanghai's HQ office on Thursday and Friday 6th-7th August, attended by general managers of all regional offices and head of counselling, marketing, project and finance team. Daniel, Director of HOPE chaired the meeting and set the company's goal for the new academic year as well as the plan for next 3 years. The main target in the years to come for HOPE is to further diversify the business apart from students' recruitment, but international education with focus on UK will remain unchanged. In the past years, HOPE has already expanded its business to study tours, linking UK and US institutions with Chinese counterparts, short course training including teacher training. Early this year, HOPE also established HOPE Academy, an online tutoring centre, and Teach in China Project, the teachers' recruitment service for international schools in China.

Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng
Managing Director

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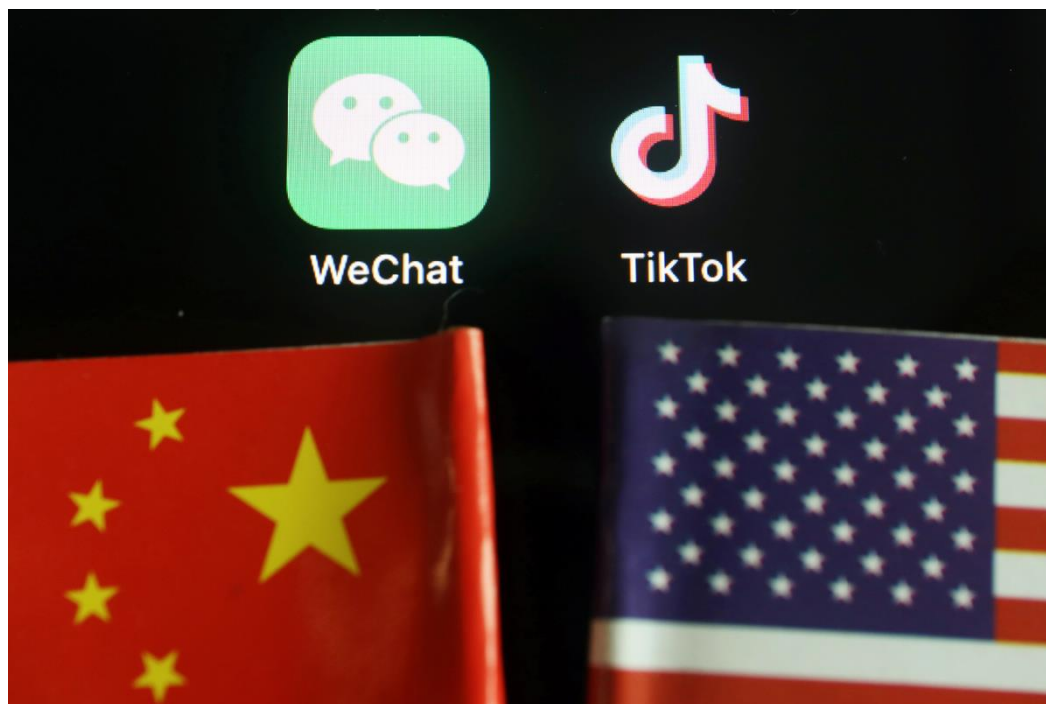
News on local media

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Order banning TikTok, WeChat opposed

By MO JINGXI | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2020-08-08 06:46 [f](#) [t](#) [in+](#)



The messenger app WeChat and short-video app TikTok are seen near China and US flags in this illustration picture taken Aug 7, 2020.

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China expressed firm opposition on Friday to executive orders issued by United States President Donald Trump that would ban the use of social media apps Tik-Tok and WeChat in the US, calling the move "an outright hegemonic act".

"With the pretext of national security, the US is abusing the use of state power to wantonly oppress non-American enterprises," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters at a regular news briefing in Beijing.

The orders, announced on Thursday and effective in 45 days, will ban US transactions with the Chinese owners of the two popular apps. It is the latest move in the US administration's escalating crackdown on Chinese-owned apps over alleged national security concerns.

Wang said the US was engaging in willful political manipulation and oppression by sacrificing the interests of US users and companies, and it will only lose its moral high ground with a damaged image and a deficit of trust.

Noting that many people in the US and from the international community have raised criticisms and doubts about recent US actions, Wang said that China urged the US side to heed rational voices, correct its wrongdoing and stop politicizing economic issues or oppressing related companies.

"We urge the US to provide a fair, just and nondiscriminatory business environment for companies of all countries," he said.

In a statement released on Friday, TikToks parent company, ByteDance, said it was "shocked" by the order and will take legal action in US courts if it is not treated fairly by the US government.

"We will pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded and that our company and our users are treated fairly," it said.

The company reiterated that it had never shared users' data with the Chinese government or censored content at Beijing's request.

Wang also said that China had supplied 26.5 billion masks, 330 million protective suits, 31 million pairs of goggles, 610 million pairs of surgical gloves and 11,500 respirators to the US as of Sunday.

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"We hope that the US will combat the COVID-19 pandemic at an early date," Wang said, adding that China hopes that a handful of US politicians will stop politicizing the virus or shifting blame to China.

Wang made the remarks after US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said during a visit to Shanghai on Thursday that the anti-epidemic materials transported from China to his country saved many lives.

Beijing Badaling Great Wall to offer night tours

Xinhua | Updated: 2020-08-07 22:37



Visitors wearing masks climb the Badaling section of the Great Wall in Beijing

BEIJING - A two-month-long Great Wall cultural festival will open in Beijing Saturday, which will allow tourists to visit the Badaling section of the ancient wall on weekend nights.

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Visitors can reserve night tours of the Badaling Great Wall every Friday and Saturday during the festival that will end on Oct 7, said Chen Mingjie, head of the Beijing municipal administration of cultural heritage, said at a press conference held in Beijing Friday.

An evening gala of the Mid-Autumn Festival, a cultural fair on Chinese traditional costumes and online lectures including one about cultural heritage protection that is co-organized by the Hadrian's Wall of Britain, are also scheduled during the festival, said Chen.

The Great Wall, with a total length of more than 20,000 km, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and consists of many interconnected walls. Beijing has a total of 520 km of Great Wall sections within its territory, of which, the Badaling section is the most visited.

Graduate from British university lives his police dream

Chen Huizhi 17:37 UTC+8, 2020-08-08



Huang holds an English class for his colleagues.

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A graduate of a British university, Huang Jionghua, 33, is living his police dream thanks to the establishment of a new force of police assistants.

Huang, a Shanghai native and masters graduate of Staffordshire University, became a police assistant a year ago.

The new force enables police assistants to become police officers under certain conditions.

After returning to Shanghai from the UK, Huang worked for an international firm before he picked up his childhood dream of becoming a police officer, following in the footsteps of his father.

However, since he was already over 30 years old, he was no longer eligible to be enrolled as a police officer directly. A new path to his dream emerged last year when Shanghai police announced that they were recruiting more than 3,000 police assistants.

The police assistants have no authority for law enforcement. Their jobs are to assist police officers in traffic management, patrolling and combating crime.

But according to new rules, police assistants who are under 35 years old when recruited have a chance to become police officers if they are considered to have “excellent performance” in their annual assessments for three consecutive years.

Huang said he has applied his English skills to helping foreigners during his work. Just last month, he helped a foreign woman get to a post office she was looking for when patrolling on Lingling Road in Xuhui District.

“She couldn’t speak Chinese and feared that she might not be able to communicate with taxi drivers, and with the consent of my supervisor, I accompanied her to the post office,” he said.

Huang said foreigners were often astonished at his language skills, but they were also confused as to whether he is a police officer. His uniform has characters denoting “Police Assistant” on the front and back of a yellow vest and an armband. Also on the armband is the pinyin “*fu jing*” which means the same.

“I had to tell them that I am a part of the police force, but I’m not a police officer,” he said.

Huang’s latest task is to hold English classes for patrolling police officers and their assistants to help his colleagues better communicate with foreigners.

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“I have prepared classes with 45 minutes of content for them, including frequently used expressions in scenarios such as asking for directions and lost and found,” he said.

Huang said he’s satisfied with his new job because he’s good at communicating with people. He said his father and girlfriend fully supported his choice.

At the moment, there are more 3,400 police assistants in Shanghai, with an average age of 30 years old. Traffic police assistants are now seen in over 1,000 intersections in the city. In the past 12 months, they have assisted local police officers in solving over 13,000 cases and caught over 15,000 suspects, police said.



Huang (left) assists police in apprehending an alleged bicycle thief.

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Stella from England: Our oldest 'Expats of Shanghai'

On a normal weekday afternoon, I saw an older foreign woman standing beside our office's reception desk, passionately discussing something with my colleague.

After some conversation, I knew that Stella, from Britain, has stayed in Shanghai for three months of every year for years. As a loyal reader of Shanghai Daily, Stella specially came to ask us why our newspaper disappeared from kiosks near where she stayed, and to find out how to buy it every day. This was not the first time she has popped in for a visit.

I learned she got used to reading Shanghai Daily — she must know Shanghai well — and she loves the city — a great candidate for this series!

I printed out a question list and made an appointment with her. She was willing to come back a week later.

I put those questions to her again when we met for the second time, but she often diverted from the topic to complain about her life in France and England, both places she has lived in for a long time. I stopped her politely, trying to get some more details about Shanghai. Then, to my surprise, she gave me a USB flash disk, telling me she had written down all the answers already, like a well-behaved student doing her homework.

While reading her "homework," I still saw many complaints. But to my surprise, Stella was over 80 years of age. When facing the question about where she will be in ten years, our oldest interviewee for 'Expats of Shanghai' answered frankly and openly: "With luck, I will be in The Happy Hunting Ground..."

She said she would keep coming back to Shanghai to spend her "three-month holidays," something she looked forward to every year.

We decided to give Stella a free, three-month subscription, but she didn't know where she'd be living next year. I wanted to let her know when the story would come out, but without an email address or a cellphone that would be impossible.

I hope I have the chance to meet Stella and show her the article next time she's in town.



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Holin Wang / SHINE

Name: Stella Baum

Nationality: British

Job: Retired

Years in Shanghai: 4 (2004-2007 studying in Shanghai, and from 2010 till now, three months here every year)

Holin: Hi Stella, why did you choose Shanghai as a place to stay for a long period every year?

Stella: I studied Chinese when I was younger and I've forgotten a lot. By the time I retired at the age of 66, I decided it was now or never and came to Shanghai to study Chinese again to keep my brain ticking over in old age.

The reason I chose Shanghai is that I had been trying to come to Shanghai for ages when I was young, but at that time I failed for some reason. I had read previously how international Shanghai had been in the 1930s and was intrigued what it would look like when I saw it.

Holin: Do you have any impressive story related with China or Shanghai?

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Stella: What impressed me most about China was that China had been trying to have General Practitioners as we have in England for years, but could not afford them or may be could not manage to arrange it throughout China as China is so big.

Holin: Yeah, we are still trying to make it even throughout Shanghai.

Stella: Anyway, when I came in 2016, I saw a GP and thought, I must take advantage of that. That was the best thing I could have done, as in Shanghai I found a doctor at the local hospital who actually gave me some tablets that worked. I was more than impressed with your medical system.

Holin: How do you spend your leisure time in Shanghai?

Stella: When I first came obviously I explored the city as I always do when I arrive at a new place. But every time I had just found the kind of shops I wanted, it had disappeared the following year, for obvious reasons — redevelopment.

Now that is a great disappointment when you have spent I-don't-know-how-much-time trying to find a place like that...

Holin: What do you like best about Shanghai?

Stella: I like to read the Shanghai Daily to find out what is going on in Shanghai, and sometimes the world. That keeps me fairly busy when everyone else is working, but it also keeps me up to date with Chinese life, which I like.