

HOPE Updates – 2022 No.3

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*Best wishes to all ladies committing to
education industry!*



科博国际教育
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HOPE interviews new VC of Loughborough University

“What changes and achievements are the Vice-Chancellor hoping to bring to Loughborough University, and what measures have been taken?” “Will there be any new policies and expectations for international students’ recruitment, especially for the China market?” “How do you comment on the 22-year friendship and partnership between Loughborough University and HOPE?”

Prof. Nick Jennings, the new Vice Chancellor of Loughborough University, received a face-to-face interview on campus by Dake Xu, Senior Project Manager of HOPE UK Office on 23rd February. Above were the questions the VC was asked during the interview.



Dake Xu (right), Senior Project Manager of HOPE with VC Nick Jennings (left), and Bai Lu (IO) of Loughborough University

Prof. Jennings, who took the service last autumn, stressed that the University's focus will be on students' experience, research and innovation, and an international outlook during his tenure, although to him, the process is more an evolution than revolution from his successful predecessors. He also reiterated that while the university will maintain a good diversity of international students and staff, it will continue to develop and carry on the close partnership with Chinese colleagues from different disciplines. In terms of the relationship with HOPE, Prof. Jennings calls this over 20 years long standing partnership as "very valuable" and "should continue and continue to flourish!"



VC is interviewed by HOPE on 23rd February.

The interview to the VC is coordinated by the international office of the university, and HOPE is really grateful to the full support offered.

Due to the restrictions to cross-continental travel, HOPE staff in the UK are taking the main responsibilities of visiting our partner institutions and our students currently in the UK regularly, to maintain a close relationship with them. More visits are planned in the months to come.

HOPE organizes local sport company tour as service extends to career planning and job hunting

On 26th February, about 20 students, parents and tennis fans enjoyed a tour to the famous tennis centre owned by Juss Sports that hosts the ATP Shanghai Masters. This is the 4th leg of HOPE's company tour series after PWC, HSBC and AllBright Law Office.



Photo opportunity at the main court of Shanghai Masters

Apart from the introduction from Juss Sport on the operation of ATP Shanghai Masters, the highlight of the visit is the story of Liu Yitong, a Loughborough University alumnus who studied sports media for his master degree and currently works in a local university. His own experience in the UK on study, travel, internship at Chelsea Football Club and career planning and job application attracted all the attention of the visitors.

The visitors also had the opportunity to tour the main court of the game, press conference room and the changing room of Federer, Djokovic, Nadal and Murray.



HOPE's Loughborough alumnus shared his own experience in the UK with visitors

“Really a fantastic opportunity to know a sports company and a top university like Loughborough! Very useful and practical advice on study abroad and career planning from our senior schoolmate, Yitong. Many thanks to HOPE for organizing the tour!” One of the visitors, a student from Shanghai University of Sport commented the event after the tour.

HOPE continues to develop career services for students with both local companies and UK partner institutions, including post-study career planning and guidance, internship and job opportunity. Company tour is just part of our service to students aiming to help them to know various industries and to have a clear career objectives both before and after their university study.



Enchanted by the magnolia-shaped roof.

Opportunity to practice on the “masters” court.

Almost at the same time of the company visit in Shanghai, HOPE UK office attended the on-campus job fair at the University of Leicester on 22nd February. The purpose is to provide more practical information on job market in China, particularly the recruitment demand from international schools in China. On the other hand, HOPE is recruiting bilingual subject teachers on behalf of international schools in China that HOPE works with.



HOPE UK office attended on-campus job fair at University of Leicester on 22nd Feb.

After the job fair at Leicester, Dake Xu, Senior Project Manager of HOPE, also visited and interviewed the career office of both University of Leicester and Loughborough University on 22nd and 23rd February respectively, with the hope that we can jointly work together to provide a better and more practical career services to the students.

Hangzhou Chamber of Commerce visits HOPE

A delegation of 11 directors, general managers and senior management staff from the member companies of Hangzhou Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai (HCCS) visited HOPE on 3rd March.

The delegation, headed by the Secretary General of HCCS, was warmly welcomed by HOPE's management team followed by a brief introduction to HOPE's business and an overview of international education presented by Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of HOPE. Alex Wen, GM of HOPE Shanghai and Judith Zhu, Chief Counsellor, also introduced how parents could help plan their kids' education, and the strength of British education in holistic education. Mr. Xue, Deputy Head of HOPE, used his own experience to tell the guests why he sent his daughter to study in the UK.



Daniel Zheng is giving a presentation on international education to visiting delegation of HCCS.

HCCS is an association of more than 1000 enterprises that have Hangzhou origin. The Chamber regularly organizes member companies to visit each other. HOPE was

selected as the host company as there is a big demand for international education service from the members.



HOPE is hosting a visit of HCCS delegation on 3rd March

During the visit, HCCS also discussed with HOPE the possibility of establishing “International Education Saloon”, of which regular presentation/seminars on study abroad and how to prepare will be organized by HOPE and HCCS for more member companies’ staff and their families.

HOPE Director meets with Malta and Mexico Consul General in Shanghai

Representing local chamber of commerce, Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of HOPE visited Malta Consulate General and Mexico Consulate General in Shanghai on 8th and 10th March respectively.



Meeting with Malta Consul General and present a souvenir from HOPE

As a key member of Hangzhou Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai (HCCS), HOPE is playing an increasingly important role to provide education services to member companies' management staff, including study abroad service. HOPE is requested by HCCS to organize more study abroad salons and seminars for the members.

On the other hand, HOPE is representing HCCS to establish closer contacts with local consulates to enhance more exchange and cooperation in education sector.



Visit to Mexico Consulate General with other members of chamber of commerce

International Women's Day celebrated with afternoon tea and half day holiday for our “queens”

Although the Chinese saying goes as “women hold up half of the sky”, in education sector, women's contribution is probably more than “half of the sky”!

8th March is the International Women's Day (although some people upgrade it to International Queens' Day!), and all ladies at HOPE offices in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing enjoyed an exquisite afternoon tea of their choice followed by half day holiday which they really deserve.

Happy holiday, ladies and



Cake choice of HOPE Shanghai



“Queens” at HOPE Hangzhou

Chinese mainland's daily domestically transmitted COVID-19 infections exceed 1,000 for the first time since Wuhan outbreak

By Global Times Published: Mar 11, 2022 12:55 PM



Residents wait in line for nucleic acid tests at Changzheng Hospital on Saturday.

The Chinese mainland reported 1,100 locally transmitted COVID-19 infections on Friday, including local asymptomatic infections, the first time daily case numbers have exceeded 1,000 since the initial outbreak in Wuhan in Central China's Hubei Province.

A total of 397 local confirmed COVID-19 cases and 703 local asymptomatic infections were reported on Thursday, according to the National Health Commission (NHC) on Friday. Of the new local COVID-19 cases, 121 were reported in East China's Shandong Province, 98 in Northeast China's Jilin Province, and the rest of the cases

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were reported in other provincial-level regions, the NHC said in its daily report.

China has seen [spikes in local COVID-19 cases](#) in recent days with many asymptomatic infections found during this wave of outbreak, affecting at least 19 provincial-level regions, the latest daily report showed on Friday.

Experts stressed that it's still important for China to stick to the "dynamic zero-COVID" policy, which has proved to be effective in preventing severe cases and deaths, despite the number of local infections might continue to increase to some extent.

It has been two years since the outbreak of the coronavirus, but the virus is changing all the time. More studies will be conducted and corresponding research and development such as drugs and vaccine protection need to be strengthened, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said at a press conference after the conclusion of the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress on Friday.

China will continue to timely respond to possible changes and gradually make logistics and personal flows operate in an orderly manner, Li said.

It will take a longer time to control this wave of outbreak if there are multiple outbreak points, Lu Hongzhou, head of the Third People's Hospital of Shenzhen, told the Global Times on Friday. "China has to stick to the 'dynamic zero-COVID' policy to combat the virus," Lu stressed.

Yang Zhanqiu, a professor of the pathogen biology department at Wuhan University, echoed this opinion. "Omicron has the nature of spreading fast with a short incubation period; it would be a common situation to see an increase in more infections," Yang told the Global Times on Friday.

"It will not cause a wide outbreak, and it is likely to be under control in about a week," Yang said.

Experts have agreed that one of the reasons why there are so many asymptomatic infected people is because of mass vaccination and the enhanced immunity of the population. Over 3.17 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered in the Chinese mainland as of Wednesday, the NHC said on Thursday.

The international community should work together, help each other with mutual understanding, and create conditions for the world to return to normal, Li said. China

will adopt more scientific and precise prevention and control measures based on the changing situation of the epidemic, ensuring people's health, normal production and life order as well as the safety of industrial and supply chains, according to Li.

Li also pointed out that since the outbreak of COVID-19, he has had conversations with heads of international organizations and entrepreneurs of multinational companies, and they all want to ensure necessary business contacts. China has opened fast and green channels for enterprises and projects in key areas to ensure normal operation, Li told the conference.

Mayor removed from post in Jilin city

chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-03-12 11:40



A medical worker takes a swab sample from a citizen for nucleic acid test at a testing site in Jilin city, Jilin province, March 10, 2022. [Photo/Xinhua]

Wang Lu, mayor of Jilin city, was removed from his position, according to an official notice released on early Saturday.

Wang's other positions including deputy Party chief of the city in Northeast China's Jilin province was also removed.

Wang Ji was nominated as candidate for the city's new mayor.

As of 1 pm on Friday, Jilin province had reported 526 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 590 asymptomatic carriers in the recent outbreak, which began on March 1, officials announced. Of the confirmed cases, 396 were found in Jilin city.

Shanghai tightens control over latest flare-up of COVID-19 in the city

By Global Times Published: Mar 13, 2022 12:32 PM



Local Shanghai residents queue up for a nucleic acid test at a cultural center in Xuhui district on March 12, 2022. Photo: VCG

Shanghai moved to tighten control over the latest COVID-19 flare-up on Sunday by telling residents not to leave the city if it's not necessary and suspending long-distance

coach transportation services after local infections were reported in communities and on a university campus in the city.

Shanghai reported one local confirmed infection Sunday morning, bringing the accumulated local confirmed cases of the latest resurgence to 432. The local infection, an 18-year-old male student from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, was a close contact of a previously reported silent carrier and tested positive for the virus during centralized quarantine. The university has reported at least two confirmed cases and several asymptomatic carries since Friday.

Meanwhile, the city reported 64 asymptomatic carriers on Sunday, of which 60 were identified during quarantine and the other four were spotted during screening of relevant personnel at high risk.

In order to further step up the control over the sudden surge of COVID-19, Shanghai issued a notification Saturday night, suggesting residents not to leave the city if it's not necessary and those who indeed have to leave must have negative nucleic acid test results obtained within 48 hours. Besides, people who arrive in the city must also have negative nucleic acid testing results obtained within 48 hours.

The Shanghai General Long Distance Bus Station has also suspended operation since Sunday and passengers who had purchased tickets will be fully refunded.

For fear of a flare-up on campus, another renowned university in Shanghai, Fudan University, will also start its quasi-lockdown management from 8 pm on Sunday with the duration expected to last two weeks. Students and teachers staying on campus will take nucleic acid tests.

Besides, the city has also suspended citywide in-person education at local kindergartens, primary schools and middle schools as well as all kinds of training courses since Saturday to stifle spreading of the virus among students.

Based on the epidemiological investigations, gene sequencing alignment and the comprehensive research judgment by experts, the latest surge of COVID-19 cases in Shanghai was caused by the virus carried by imported cases that contaminated the environment, causing local infections and transmission at the five-star Hua Ting Hotel & Towers used as a centralized quarantine site.

China to further promote the Double First-Class Initiative

Source: www.moe.gov.cn, February 16, 2022

In mid-February, MOE issued a *Circular on Further Promoting the Development of First-Class Universities and First-Class Disciplines* jointly with the Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission, followed by the announcement of an updated list of Double First-Class universities and disciplines, marking the official launch of the second phase of the Initiative.

As an important follow-up action after the National Education Congress and the central conference on talent-related work, this Circular further clarifies the directions, basic principles, major tasks and supporting mechanism for the new round of Double First-Class Initiative. It requires universities and disciplines that have been identified as having the potential to become world class to focus on the quality of their development and explore new development models in pursuing solutions to China's issues and serving economic growth and social advancement.

Priorities in the second round of the Initiative include: (1) strengthened overall Party leadership and enhanced responsibility and accountability to improve autonomous governance and create an enabling environment in HEIs; (2) emphasis on the fundamental role of moral education and the building of world centers for talent and innovation; (3) serving the national strategic needs by providing well-trained professionals in urgent need in cutting-edge technologies and critical research fields, optimizing talent training, promoting disciplinary adjustments and increasing collaboration between applied disciplines and industry; (4) building a high-performing teaching force and improving the team building mechanism in support of the cultivation of young talent with innovative potential; (5) deeper integration of science and education, through e.g. the Everest Program for Basic Research in Colleges and Universities, and larger efforts to cultivate high-level innovative talent and promote joint scientific research, as well as to advance the coordination of major scientific research platforms; (6) expanded international cooperation and exchanges to improve competitiveness and fully embrace the global innovation network; (7) optimized management evaluation mechanisms and improved development assessment systems to build a multi-dimensional outcome evaluation system oriented by innovative value, capacity and contribution and a new development model reflecting HEIs' individual features; and (8) a consolidated supportive mechanism based on

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diversified and stable investments and innovative management to implement differentiated financial support to universities and disciplines.

The Double First-Class Initiative is a major commitment made by the Chinese government to improve China's higher education power and international competitiveness. The first round was launched in 2016 and completed in 2020. In this period, reforms were carried out in talent training, performance evaluation, research management and other key areas. A range of achievements had been made by the end of 2020, including a group of major scientific innovations and critical technology breakthroughs, a few HEIs and disciplines such as Materials Science and Engineering that reached world-class ranking, and prominent progress achieved in Quantum Science and other vital research fields.

According to the monitoring data and performance evaluation results from the first round, the second phase of the Initiative listed 147 HEIs for support. The list of disciplines supported under the Initiative includes 59 basic disciplines such as mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, as well as 180 engineering disciplines and 92 philosophy and social science disciplines. Meanwhile, some institutions supported in the previous round of the Initiative have been warned to improve standards in their targeted disciplines and will receive reevaluation in 2023.

Mainland universities maintain their global domination

chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-03-10 15:46



Students attend a campus event to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the founding of Tsinghua University in Beijing on April 25, 2021. [Photo/Xinhua]

Seven universities from the Chinese mainland have secured positions among the top 10 in the Times Higher Education's Emerging Economies University Rankings 2022 for the fifth straight year.

The mainland is not only home to all of the top five positions in the ranking, but also 10 of the top 15.

Peking University overtook Tsinghua University to claim the number one spot. Zhejiang University and Fudan University were listed in third and fourth place, while Shanghai Jiao Tong University maintained its fifth position for the second year in a row.

Other universities from the Chinese mainland in the top 10 are: the University of Science and Technology of China (7th) and Nanjing University (8th).

Overall, 698 universities feature in the 2022 Emerging rankings, up from 606 last year. Among them, 97 universities are from the Chinese mainland, up from 91 last year.

The list is published annually since 2014. This year, the weightings of five major performance indicators were teaching (30 percent), research (30 percent), citations (20 percent), international outlook (10 percent) and industry income (10 percent)

MOE press conference introduces measures to improve vocational education

Source: www.moe.gov.cn

February 25, 2022

On February 23, the Ministry of Education (MOE) held its third press conference of this year, giving an overview of the measures to improve vocational education. Moderated by spokeswoman Xu Mei, the conference was attended by Chen Ziji, director of the MOE's Department of Vocational and Adult Education, Wu Xuemin, Party Secretary of Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology, and senior officials from the education authorities of Shandong and Guangdong Provinces.

2022 is a critical year for the development of China's vocational education, and improving the quality and social status of vocational education are the top priorities. To this end, efforts should be made to enhance school industry partnerships and push forward education reforms. On this basis, work should be done to break down stereotyped societal perceptions about vocational education, increase the attractiveness of vocational education to students, parents and employers, and build a conducive environment for the future growth of vocational education.

Undergraduate-level vocational programs

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According to Chen, today as many as 20% of graduates from higher vocational education institutions are enrolled in undergraduate programs. In its next step, the MOE will provide more vocational school students with high quality undergraduate-level vocational education, and plans to create about 10 undergraduate-level vocational programs of excellence, to set an example for the whole country.

In 2019, Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology became China's first pilot school to offer undergraduate-level vocational programs. The University's Party Secretary Wu Xuemin said the first class of students in these programs would graduate in June this year. At the previous job fairs organized by the University, the participating employers provided an average annual salary of more than 90,000 RMB. Up to now, each student got two job offers on average and half of them had already signed employment contracts.

Vocational College Entrance Examination

From 2013, China has been pushing forward a reform on the examination and enrollment mechanism of higher vocational education, and seven provinces such as Shandong and Jiangsu have set up pilot programs to organize Vocational College Entrance Examination (as complementary to the more widely known National College Entrance Examination or Gaokao). Chen said the MOE would adopt policies to allow more students who passed the Vocational College Entrance Examination to get enrolled in undergraduate-level vocational programs or higher vocational programs. Building on previous experience, the MOE would further refine the process and content of the Examination, making it more standardized, fair and diversified.

Educational tracking

Chen said it was necessary to track students into separate academic and vocational programs after they finished the compulsory 9-year education. The proportion of students enrolled in vocational education should be reasonably established and the conditions of secondary education institutions should be improved. He said the balanced development of secondary vocational schools and regular senior high schools helped to meet the diversified demands of students with different abilities and potential, and provide them with ample room to grow and thrive. Also, the robust development of secondary vocational education helped to create more jobs, promote regional economic development and improve people's livelihoods