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14 February

Dear All

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Please find below the update 9 from HOPE.

News from HOPE



Andrew's extended holiday!!! Making my fingers work!

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Andrew's extended holiday!!! Stench my legs and arms!

News on local media

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Kind regards

Daniel

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Kite cheering for China soars high in New Zealand

Chinaculture.org | Updated: 2020-02-14 05:00

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) + [China Daily App](#) [Download](#)



A red heart-shaped kite bearing the yellow characters “Zhongguo Jiayou”, meaning “China, stay strong” in English, soars high in the sky at the 2020 Otaki Kite Festival, held from Feb 8-9, 2020 in Wellington, New Zealand. [Photo provided to Chinaculture.org]

A red heart-shaped kite bearing the yellow characters “Zhongguo Jiayou”, meaning “China, stay strong” in English, stole the show at the Otaki Kite Festival, held from Feb 8-9 on the Otaki Beach in Wellington, New Zealand.

The kite, made by local Chinese communities under the initiative of the Chinese Cultural Center in Wellington, shows the strong confidence of Chinese people around the world that the nation will prevail over the coronavirus outbreak that is disrupting the country.

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US writer's post backing China's efforts draws global attention

By XING YI in Shanghai | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-02-14 06:30 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

Video: Italian American author Mario Cavolo talks with China Daily online

Author Mario Cavolo of the United States might be known for his books about China, but it is one of his LinkedIn posts that has gone viral on the internet.

Based in Shenyang, Liaoning province, the Italian American writer had on Feb 5 written a commentary on the social networking site about the global reactions to China during the ongoing novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak.

Linked in

"Something's Not Right Here Folks" | A Look at USA 2009 H1N1 Virus Compared to China 2020 Corona Virus

2020 2 5 • 6,057 Likes • 948 Comments



Mario Cavolo | [Follow](#)

Author, Speaker, Art...

The article, titled Something's Not Right Here Folks, delves into the overreaction of some Western governments, the discrimination against Chinese people and Western media coverage that discredits the Chinese government's efforts in controlling the epidemic. Cavolo also compares China's response to the novel coronavirus epidemic

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with the 2009 H1N1 pandemic in the United States, and highlights the contrasting reactions to the two health crises.

An excerpt of his article, which has since been viewed more than a million times, reads, "During 2009 H1N1 outbreak, I don't recall xenophobic anti-America attacks across the globe, do you? Do you recall it took six months for the United States to declare a national emergency? Did any government from the onset in April 2009 through the end in April 2010, including the month of June, when H1N1 was declared an international emergency global pandemic, then send out a notice to its citizens that they should leave the US? Close their borders to American travelers? Nope, not a peep."

In an interview with China Daily on Wednesday, Cavolo explained what compelled him to write the post.



"Every country is great, and every country has problems, but when we read major headlines in the West, we find these negative slams, these negative biases. ... I felt tired of it, so I wrote the article," he said. "Surely enough, I struck a nerve in the hearts of people."

Cavolo said that the majority of the comments on his post have been "super supportive", noting that many people agree with him.

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Maria Vesterlund, a former General Electric senior supply chain manager who is based in Shanghai, is among those who share the sentiment.



Italian-American author Mario Cavolo

"We moved to Shanghai last year in August and now sadly face the same media pollution of gossips and panic information spread. ... I hear friends telling me they don't go to the local Chinese restaurants in Munich or Frankfurt — afraid of the coronavirus," she wrote in her comment on Cavolo's post.

"We stay here and do not run away. ... We feel with the people here, locals and expats who suffer the consequences, closing their shops, missing their incomes for living, staying home for weeks, not meeting friends, missing all the joy of life—to support the stop of spread around."

Born in Yonkers, New York, Cavolo moved to China in 1999 and worked as a consultant for various companies before starting his own business in public relations. He has written two books on China's economic boom and lived in several cities

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across the country, including Chengdu in Sichuan province, Hangzhou in Zhejiang province and Shanghai. He currently resides in Shenyang, his wife's hometown.

While Cavolo noted that China's management of the SARS epidemic in 2003 was not ideal, he pointed out that the authorities have learned from past experience and have responded better to the current crisis.

"Chinese media have been talking more and more about problems happening in the society, and problems of the government are discussed on the news," he added.

"Such things are not being suppressed, which was what the West accuses China of. Such accusations are not sensible and have to stop."

Cavolo said that it is important for people to empathize with the Chinese at this point in time and to seek to uplift their spirits as they work to combat the virus. He also expressed confidence that the epidemic will pass by the time spring arrives.

"I think I will play the piano and do a victory concert in spring," he said. "There will be victory concerts all over the country, and we will have a great time and things will be even better than people expect. Wuhan, stay strong! China, stay strong!" he said.

Working from home not so great, employees find

By WANG KEJU | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2020-02-13 07:47    

Working from home has been a romantic idea for many employees craving more flexible work arrangements and comforts. With the fantasy becoming a reality during the novel coronavirus outbreak, however, quite a few people are finding it is not really a perfect choice.

Amid the ongoing novel coronavirus epidemic, a large number of Chinese companies have ordered employees to work from home, looking to curb the spread of the epidemic as many staffers return from the Spring Festival travel rush.

Bytedance, the owner of videosharing site Douyin, has requested that employees traveling during the Lunar New Year remain at their destinations for the time being and work from home. Chinese e-commerce leader Alibaba took similar steps, as did search engine provider Baidu.

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"It's necessary that businesses take steps to plan for the possibility that the outbreak worsens and to protect their employees from getting infected in the workplace," said Zhang Chewei, head of the Population and Labor Economics Research Institute with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Allowing employees to work from home — even if they are not symptomatic — and enabling virtual meetings could help to limit the spread of the virus and assuage employee fears about exposure to it, he added.

On the other hand, residences filled with distractions such as spouses, parents, children or pets may create problems for people working from home.

Xia Baiqi, who works for an internet company in Beijing, was required to stay at her home in Jilin province until Feb 10.

She found her dreamlike working style a hindrance to productivity.

Her parents, who have not had much to do recently, have suddenly become so concerned about her job and have a book of questions for her. They look to chat with her more often, thinking that working from home is just an "extended holiday".

"I love my mom and dad, but their current mission is just to create added stress and strain on me," she said. "Sometimes, I have to lock myself in my own room to avoid their enthusiasm."

For people who are able to stay as productive as they would be in an office environment, some have also come across the problem of surprisingly longer working hours at home.

Working for an investment company in Shanghai, Zhang Fei said he felt that he could never escape from his job by remotely working at his home in Shandong province, which makes time management a whole lot messier.

"No longer is there a 'work' and 'no work' time. My work comes calling at all hours, which can keep me at a frenetic pace," he said, adding that with the return date drawing near, he has never felt so excited about being back in the office.

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