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1 March

Dear All

Please find below the update 11 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

- HOPE'S **Online fair** is scheduled between mid March and early April with online seminars, one-to-one student interviews and demo classes. Detailed information and invitation letter will be sent out later this week and please contact Alice Zhang, a.zhang@hope-studyabroad.com for limited space of the event.
- a **charity Photography Competition** to support autistic children in Wuhan was launched last week. As representatives our partner institutions, you are qualified and very welcomed to participate. The photos do not have to be professional ones, but need a theme of people's life during anti-coronavirus campaign. Simply wechat me or email your photo to loveuk@hope-studyabroad.com with a title and a short introduction of your work!

We need your helping hand!

The poster is for the HOPE Charity Photography Competition. It features a black and white profile of a young child's face on the right side. The text is in both Chinese and English. At the top, it says '支持武汉! 支持自闭症儿童' (To support Wuhan. To support Autistic Children) and '科博公益摄影大赛 HOPE Charity Photography Competition'. Below that, it lists the participants: '1. 科博学子及其家长 (HOPE students and their parents)', '2. 科博合作的中外院校代表 (HOPE partner institutions' representatives)', and '3. 关注科博的在校大、中学生 (high school and university students)'. The registration time is '2020年2月25日-3月15日 (25 February - 15 March 2020)'. The announcement date is '2020年4月2日世界自闭症关注日 (2 April 2020, World Autism Awareness Day)'. The donation recipient is '武汉地区自闭症儿童康复中心' (Children's Autism Rehabilitation Centre in Wuhan, China). At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'Scan for more information' and 'Lead your helping hand!'.

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News on local media

Index

1. Epidemic easing at its epicenter
2. Celebrity doctor hailed for frank speech style
3. As work resumes in outbreak, brand-new 'normal' emerges
4. China's top swimmer to appeal 8-year ban

Kind regards

Daniel

Epidemic easing at its epicenter

By WANG XIAODONG in Wuhan | China Daily | Updated: 2020-02-29 03:44



Medical workers receive training at the tumor center of the Union Hospital affiliated to Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province. [Photo by Liu Kunwei/Provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

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Thursday saw 313 additional patients in Wuhan, down from 3,910 in two weeks

The novel coronavirus epidemic has been easing in China, including in the epicenter city of Wuhan, in Hubei province, but great uncertainties remain and epidemic control efforts must not become lax in any case, the nation's top health authority said on Friday.

"After arduous efforts, epidemic control in China is in a scenario of steady improvement," Ma Xiaowei, minister of the National Health Commission, said at a news conference in Wuhan. "But we cannot go backward by even one step, and we must lock the outbreak in Wuhan and Hubei firmly."

He asked medical workers in Hubei province, particularly in its capital, Wuhan, to use all their efforts to win the battle against the novel coronavirus to minimize risks to people in China and the world.

In Hubei province, the heart of the outbreak that has caused more than 2,700 deaths in China, the epidemic has been contained, except in Wuhan, said Liang Wannian, head of an expert team organized by the commission to cope with the epidemic. Liang spoke at the same news conference, organized by the State Council Information Office.

On Thursday, only five new confirmed cases of the coronavirus were listed for Hubei outside of Wuhan, down from the peak of more than 1,400 a day on Feb 12, he said. Meanwhile, patients who have recovered and been released from hospitals have outnumbered new confirmed cases every day for the past 13 days, he said.

In Wuhan, where the outbreak was first reported, the rising epidemic has been eased, with numbers for new confirmed cases, suspected cases and fatality rates all in decline, Liang said.

For instance, the number of new confirmed cases in the city was 313 on Thursday, down from 3,910 on Feb 13.

Outside Hubei, the number of new cases reported has been declining rapidly on the Chinese mainland, with only nine new cases reported on Thursday, he said.

"However, epidemic control in China still faces severe challenges and great uncertainties remain, and great efforts are needed to prevent a rebound," Liang said.

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With increasing numbers of people returning to work after the Spring Festival holiday, and production beginning to be restored in many places, outbreaks may occur again in some places, he said.

Ma, health minister, said the ministry will continue its efforts to control the epidemic and successfully treat patients. All newly confirmed patients should be hospitalized for treatment on the same day their infection is confirmed, he said.

The commission will instruct local authorities on different strategies for control of the epidemic in different regions, including Wuhan, Hubei province and Beijing, in accordance with their epidemic risks.

Meanwhile, 19 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions will continue to provide support to cities in Hubei province in treating patients, he said.

Liang said while areas outside Hubei may adopt flexible policies to balance epidemic control and economic development, places in Hubei, Wuhan in particular, should continue with strict quarantine measures.

Yu Xuejun, deputy head of the commission, said the commission has urged provincial authorities across China to draft an epidemic prevention plan and fully be prepared in order to ensure the effective identification and handling of any new cases that arise.

He called for authorities to intensify health monitoring of employees and assist workers in strengthening their ability to protect themselves, adding that the commission will dispatch teams to guide and inspect disease prevention and control across China to ensure outbreaks don't rebound.

China has mobilized national resources to cope with the biggest public health crisis over the past 70 years. More than 78,000 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus had been reported on the Chinese mainland as of Thursday, with nearly half of those patients having recovered, according to the National Health Commission.

Guo Yanhong, a commission official, said at a news conference in Beijing on Friday that although some recovered patients that have been discharged from the hospital have subsequently tested positive for the novel coronavirus, so far they haven't been found to be infectious. Among those patients, some have had negative results in following tests, she said.

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Celebrity doctor hailed for frank speech style

By ZHOU WENTING | China Daily Global | Updated: 2020-02-28 09:00 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

A drawing depicting doctor Zhang Wenhong wearing a mask and a white medical suit while giving a warning to Shanghai residents has circulated widely on social platforms this week.

In the picture, hand-drawn by netizens, Zhang warns in Shanghai dialect: "If you don't stop seeing friends, you will see them again in the ICU."



Zhang Wenhong talks about his insights on the control of the novel coronavirus pneumonia. [Gao Erqiang/China Daily]

It was an epitome of the funny language style and medical professionalism of Zhang, leader of the Shanghai team of experts in the treatment of novel coronavirus cases and director of the department of infectious diseases at Shanghai Huashan Hospital Affiliated with Fudan University.

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Zhang, who has been dubbed "Dad Zhang for Shanghai", described himself as a medical worker who must speak out but will return to keeping a low profile after the outbreak ends.

"I spoke because of the fear among the public, owing to limited knowledge of the contagion. People, however strong, have become fragile in the face of such an epidemic, and this is the time when doctors and nurses must be strong," said Zhang during an exclusive interview with China Daily on Wednesday.

"However, once the curtain of this coronavirus incident falls, it may be hard to find me. I'll just hide myself in a corner, studying complicated patient cases and doing some reading, silently," he said.

Zhang's words first went viral on the internet after he said in late January that he had dispatched doctors and nurses who are members of the Communist Party of China to the front-line hospital to treat coronavirus cases.

"When becoming CPC members, we vowed that we would always prioritize people's interests and press forward in the face of difficulties," Zhang said. "This is the moment we live up to the pledge. All CPC members must rush to the front line. No bargaining."

Such a hard-core declaration of his attitude won wide applause among netizens.

"What one sticks to unswervingly is witnessed more in a critical situation. Nothing could win more recognition from the people than the down-to-earth behavior of the CPC members," said Yang Haiyan, a 32-year-old Shanghai resident.

Chased by media and netizens, he not only shared information about the virus and precautionary measures but also some of his life experiences.

"When you read more, you know more, and you'll be kind to people with less work experience and power. You'll think about pains and gains from their perspectives," Zhang said.

Q&A

What made you become a celebrity for the time being?

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This is how we work in Huashan Hospital: being frank and straightforward. We feel for others and enjoy the feeling of having no need to defend ourselves against one another.

I, in particular, stand against being hypocritical. I'm in my 50s and my work experience as a doctor provides me with abundant opportunities to see different kinds of people. But never have I been willing to get along with others in an insincere way.

I think people like to listen to me because of my job status today. But soon they'll lose interest in me and return to soap operas and star reality shows in their leisure time when life fully restarts. Who'd like to watch me talking at that time?

Would such fame have a positive or negative influence on your future work?

I don't care about the fame at all. I'm not a talkative type and my colleagues don't usually have a sense of my existence in the hospital.

I also want to emphasize that Shanghai provided me with the opportunity to "gain popularity". I didn't expect the kind of feedback I received when I first spoke to the media. What's more, none from the city government or the hospital has ever reminded me what to tell and what to avoid.

I just tell the truth about the epidemic — what happened and what will happen.

As work resumes in outbreak, brand-new 'normal' emerges

By Cao Zinan and Li Danqing | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-03-01 06:30 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

If you saw only a handful of people sitting in a canteen, all separated by more than a meter and under observation by monitors, with talking strictly prohibited, you might think they were taking the college entrance examination, or *gaokao*.

But in fact, they are just normal employees having a meal on an ordinary workday.

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"If one of them carries a bag of *zhacai*, or pickled mustard stems, does it mean he cheated on the 'exam'?" joked some netizens in posts on the internet about this situation.

As many cities have resumed work across China, people are facing some brand-new ways of working amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

For example, dining times have been staggered to avoid peak periods. Quite a few companies, including Haier, check the temperatures of their staff, and encourage employees to bring their own cutlery.

In many cities, authorities have called for flexible office hours and staggered shifts, to help staff members avoid busy public transportation times and peak commuting hours.

Even in the offices of many companies, employees are required to sit more than a meter apart. "The atmosphere is so solemn, like an exam. I don't know if peeking at my colleague's computer screen means 'cheating'," an internet user said.

And some employees may have the chance to play a live version of a tic-tac-toe game in the elevator. Elevators in many companies have been divided on the floor into separated zones, in which only one person can stand.

The most popular employee perk of recent has to be heating pads. Businesses have had to turn off the air-conditioning and fresh air systems due to the epidemic, so these little packets of warmth have become indispensable.

However, the true trendsetters are those who work from home. They've made it fashionable to work in pajamas, even with unwashed hair and faces at times. And they're living proof you don't need a suit and tie to excel at your job.

Meanwhile, teachers and professors who work from home have found themselves forced to take on a new role, as "network anchors" doing live broadcasts every day. "Chinese teachers are so versatile!" a student said.

The smart economy is also booming in China, as intelligent robots have begun shouldering major responsibilities in diverse industries, such as auto manufacturing.



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As spring ploughing arrives, farmers in many provinces across the country are also required to "take exams" on the field, standing more than 1 meter apart and wearing face masks.

Changes in the ordinary state of affairs are necessary for as long as the epidemic continues. But these measures strike a balance between virus prevention and productivity, potentially charting a new course for the Chinese workplace.

China's top swimmer to appeal 8-year ban

By SUN XIAOCHEN | China Daily | Updated: 2020-02-29 03:33



Chinese swimmer Sun Yang. [Photo/Xinhua]

Citing doping control procedures that it said were not properly followed, the Chinese Swimming Association has backed swimmer Sun Yang's appeal of an

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arbitration court's decision banning him from competition for eight years over a controversial drug test.

Sun, a three-time freestyle Olympic champion, was given an eight-year suspension from competition on Friday by the Lausanne, Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport. It said Sun was in violation of doping control rules by rejecting a random drug test conducted by International Doping Test and Management on Sept 4, 2018 in his home city Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

Following the decision that could end his celebrated career, Sun reiterated his innocence in a social media post. He said he had only refused to complete the test over questions about the testers' eligibility, and he is ready to appeal to a higher court.

"I was shocked by the CAS decision, which I feel angry about and couldn't understand," Sun posted on his Weibo account on Friday evening.

"I have asked my lawyer to appeal the suspension to the Swiss Federal Tribunal. I firmly believe in my innocence. The truth will prevail over lies."

The arbitration court's verdict was result of a Nov 5 public hearing.

Participating were Sun, the Federation Internationale de Natation or FINA, which is swimming's world governing body, and the World Anti-Doping Agency. It followed WADA's appeal of an earlier FINA ruling that cleared Sun of any wrongdoing during a conflict over Sun's sample collecting procedure.

In the initial FINA decision, released in January 2019, the governing body agreed that Sun's refusal to cooperate with testers from IDTM, a FINA-hired agency, was reasonable based on an independent FINA panel's ruling that the three IDTM employees failed to show adequate proof of identification and authorization, as Sun claimed. The incident involved the destruction of a blood sample, which was witnessed by his entourage and the testers.

WADA later decided to seek the suspension against Sun and appealed the FINA ruling in March to the arbitration court. The court held a public hearing on the case on Nov 15 in Montreux, Switzerland. In a statement released on Friday, the Chinese Swimming Association voiced strong support for Sun's decision to appeal the ban

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while urging relevant doping control authorities to improve their protocols for the benefit of athletes.

Due to "hiring unprofessional and ineligible employees to conduct samples during testing, the doping control procedure was illegal and invalid", CSA said in the statement.

"We fully support Sun in safeguarding his legal rights. In the meantime, we hope WADA, each sport's governing body and all doping-control agencies improve their respective protocols while strictly following the rules of personnel qualification and certification."

According to the court of arbitration's website, an appeal is "allowed on a very limited number of grounds", such as lack of jurisdiction or violation of elementary procedural rules, within a time limit of 30 days.

According to a CAS statement, the court upheld the WADA appeal after concluding that the testimony by Sun and his legal team in support of his refusal was not compelling enough.

"The CAS panel found that the personnel in charge of the doping control complied with all applicable requirements as set out in the International

Standard for Testing and Investigation," the statement said.

The CAS statement also said Sun's athletic achievements before the verdict would not be nullified.

The 29-year-old Sun has won three Olympic gold medals.