

China insight



Xi Chairs Leadership Meeting On Regular Epidemic Control, Supporting Hubei Development

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on April 29 chaired a leadership meeting on regular epidemic prevention and control and supporting the economic and social development in Hubei Province.

The meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee analyzed the COVID-19 situation at home and abroad.

Xi said arduous efforts have brought a decisive outcome to the fight of defending Hubei and its capital city Wuhan, and the nationwide battle against the epidemic has gained major strategic achievements.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues its explosive growth overseas, Xi said, noting the mounting pressure to prevent imported infections and the growing complexity of stemming domestic epidemic resurgence.

He demanded no relaxation in epidemic control to safeguard the hard-earned achievements.

All regions and departments should implement in detail the regular epidemic control measures to provide a solid guarantee to the full recovery of economic and social order, Xi said.

Stressing epidemic prevention and control in key areas and groups, Xi asked Heilongjiang Province in northeast China to



Chinese President Xi Jinping inspects the local poverty alleviation work in Shaanxi Province in northwest China on April 21

make particular efforts to prevent infections in hospitals and go all-out to treat patients.

Hubei, including Wuhan, should continue strengthening community-level epidemic prevention and control, Xi said, also urging Beijing to continue implementing key prevention and control tasks.

Xi also emphasized epidemic control at transportation facilities and tourist sites during the upcoming five-day May Day holiday and asked schools to reopen in an orderly manner.

The meeting demanded improving the accuracy and effectiveness of measures taken to prevent imported COVID-19 cases.

China will continue to help relevant countries to the best of its ability, step up quality supervision of anti-epidemic supplies and continue to make active contributions to international cooperation on fighting COVID-19.

The meeting noted that people in Hubei, especially those in Wuhan, have made great contributions to and great sacrifices for epidemic control, and the province

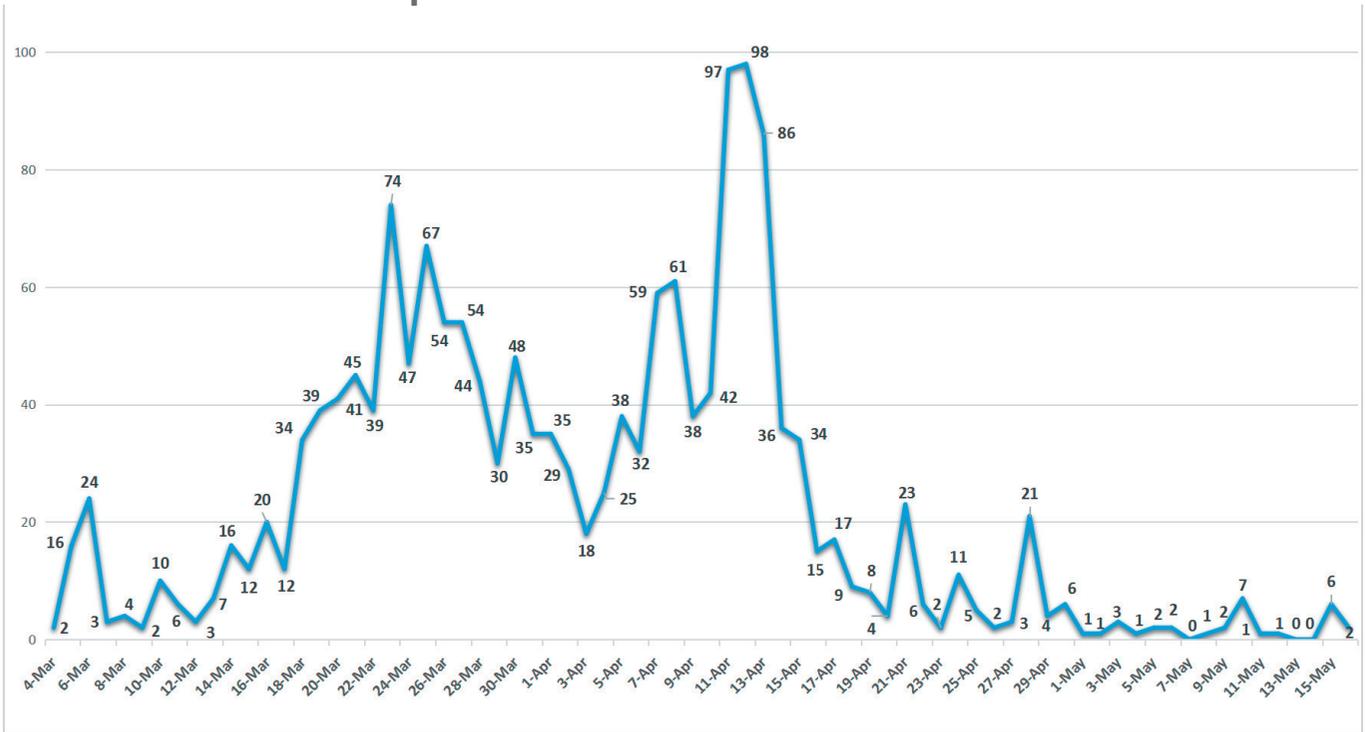


Chinese President Xi Jinping inspects ecological preservation of the Qinling Mountains in Niubeliang National Nature Reserve in Zhashui County, Shangluo City, Shaanxi Province in northwest China on April 20



Chinese President Xi Jinping inspects the assembly line of Shaanxi Automobile Holding Group Co., Ltd. in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province in northwest China on April 22

Imported Cases of COVID-19 in China



is facing difficulties in promoting economic and social development and ensuring people's livelihood.

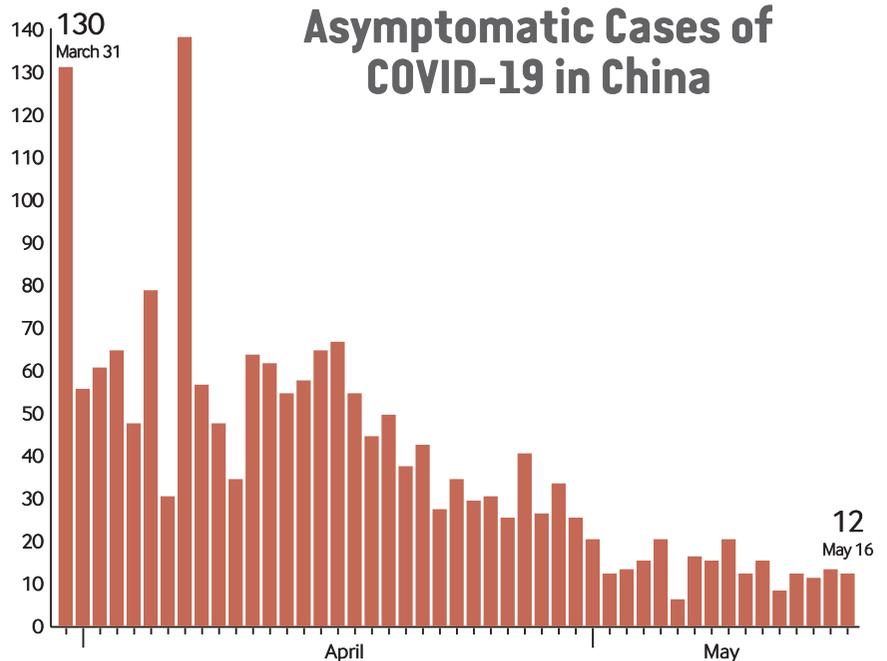
The CPC Central Committee has discussed and endorsed a package of policies for supporting the economic and social development in Hubei, specifying measures in fiscal, taxation, financial, credit, investment and foreign trade aspects.

Party committees and governments at all levels in Hubei were asked to accelerate the return to normal work and life order on the precondition of regular epidemic control.

Residents' employment and basic needs should be guaranteed while policies supporting people most in need should be implemented, the meeting noted, adding that all poor population must be lifted out of poverty.

The meeting also emphasized the need to accelerate work resumption and business reopening, help companies especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises address difficulties, and promote the recovery of pillar industries such as auto manufacturing, electronic information, new materials and biomedicine.

A number of important projects must be launched, and the construction of traditional and new infrastructures such as 5G and



(Source: National Health Commission; designed by Pamela Tobey)

artificial intelligence must be sped up, the meeting said.

It stressed accelerating farm production and expanding sales channels for agricultural

products to boost income for farmers.

It also emphasized enhancing public health and other emergency response systems to better address major emergencies.

A Joint Appeal

The Communist Party of China and more than 230 political parties from over 100 countries issued a joint open letter on April 2, calling for carrying out closer international cooperation to beat COVID-19. This is the first joint appeal of major world political parties for strengthening international cooperation since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Many political parties have issued this open letter through their own channels. The voice of those political parties in leading international cooperation against the epidemic has been heard in every corner of the world and echoed by people.

The United Russia Party, the Serbian Progressive Party, the African National Congress of South Africa and other ruling parties have published immediately the full text on their official websites, and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Communist Party of Cuba have published it on their Party newspapers.

A number of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America, including the Philippine PDP-Laban Party, Ethiopia's Prosperity Party and Argentina Justicialist Party have published the open letter on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. The Cambodian People's Party and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPP) have also encouraged the reports of the letter on their mainstream media.

While issuing the joint open letter, political parties have also expressed their support, solidarity and gratitude to the CPC.

Vojtech Filip, first Vice-Chairman of the Czech Parliament's the Chamber of Deputies and leader of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) expressed appreciation to China in his letter, as he believed that the joint open letter initiated by China offers a way out of the dilemma for the world.

Miguel Mejia, General Secretary of the

Dominican Republic's United Left Movement said that "Putting people's lives first, strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation in fields such as economy and trade, and working together to find a solution is the right choice for all at the moment."

The Communist Party of the Russian Federation made a commentary on this open letter, saying that China's achievements in fighting the epidemic has proved truly that the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity is superior to the values of individualism. And the party fully agrees with and supports the initiatives as stressed in the letter.

Tadatomo Yoshida, General Secretary of Japan's Social Democratic Party, said that in the face of the global pandemic, political parties in many countries have gone beyond their respective positions and ideologies and jointly expressed the political will to strengthen international cooperation and jointly combat the epidemic.

The joint appeal itself is of epoch-making significance, he said. Based on the recognition of a community with a shared future for humanity, it is a gathering of global resources and forces, and it strengthens international cooperation and assistance, Yoshida said.

"All countries should give top priority to the safety and health of their nationals and strengthen mutual support and cooperation to jointly prevent and control the COVID-19 epidemic," he said.

Chandra Prakash Mainali, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) said that countries should cooperate in fighting the epidemic instead of creating prejudice and blaming others. Politicizing the epidemic is quite a wrong choice, he added. 



Hu Zhaoming 中联部发言人胡兆明
@SpokespersonH2M

The International Department of the CPC Central Committee recently announced that it has donated medical supplies and humanitarian aid to more than 70 political parties and party organizations in over 40 countries through inter-party channels.

#COVID19

7:29 PM · Apr 7, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)



Please scan the QR code to read full text of *The Joint Open Letter From World Political Parties Concerning Closer International Cooperation Against COVID-19*



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INTERNATIONAL publié le 02/04/2020

Lettre ouverte conjointe: Des partis et formations politiques du monde pour la coopération internationale plus étroite contre le covid-19



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PAICV E PCC UNIDOS NA LUTA CONTRA O COVID-19

No âmbito dos tradicionais laços de amizade e cooperação entre o PARTIDO AFRICANO DA INDEPENDÊNCIA DE CABO VERDE - PAICV e o PARTIDO COMUNISTA DA CHINA - PCC desenvolveu-se a iniciativa, ao nível de mais de cem Partidos Políticos da mesma família, de lançar um apelo conjunto, a nível mundial, no âmbito do combate à Pandemia do Coronavírus.

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06 apr. 2020

Nemzetközi együttműködés a járvány leküzdésére!

Nemzetközi együttműködés a járvány leküzdésére!

A Kínai Kommunista Párt kezdeményezte, hogy a világ politikai pártjai közös nyílt levelet intézzenek a világ országaihoz, amelyben szálljanak síkra a korona vírus elleni szorosabb nemzetközi együttműködésért. A nyílt levelet 60 ország mintegy 110 pártja írta alá, köztük a Magyar Munkáspárt is.

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SPECIAL REPORTS

Global Political Parties Call For Closer Cooperation In Fight Against COVID-19

By Editorial April 02, 2020 at 7:46 pm

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NDP over Covid-19: Samenwerking essentieel

11 Apr. 19:58

De Nationale Democratische Partij (NDP) ondersteunt de inspanning van de World Political Parties om de gemeenschappelijke bedreigingen en uitdagingen in het kader van Covid-19 te bestrijden en staat achter de uitgegeven verklaring. De Covid-19 pandemie is een ongeziene uitdaging voor de hele Wereld en derhalve is de samenwerking tussen landen onderling meer dan ooit essentieel bij de uitwisseling van medische en andere logistieke middelen om een wereldwijde overwinning in de strijd tegen het coronavirus te verzekeren.

De NDP meldt verder dat deze pandemie een holistische aanpak behoeft ter voorkoming dat deze het leven, de veiligheid en de gezondheid van de mens schaadt, waarbij ook de economische en sociale ontwikkeling van de meeste landen nog meer onder druk wordt gezet. Globalisatie heeft van de wereld een dorp gemaakt waardoor tegenslagen die de ene natie treffen, gevolgen heeft voor anderen.

Verder is de NDP zich ervan bewust dat dit virus geen grenzen kent en het ons noopt tot samenwerken om op deze onprecedente uitdaging te kunnen reageren. In navolging van de World Political Parties roept de NDP, landen hun ervaringen en samenwerking op medisch gebied te delen, inclusief gezamenlijk onderzoek en ontwikkeling van specifieke medicijnen en vaccins. Voorts worden landen aangemoedigd zich meer dan ooit in te zetten voor; de bestrijding van epidemieën, een geïntegreerde aanpak te hanteren om de economische- en sociale ontwikkeling te waarborgen alsmede de levensstandaard en sociale vooruitgang van de samenleving veilig te stellen.

De NDP prijst de Volksrepubliek China voor haar inzet, de hulp die het aan Suriname en andere landen heeft verleend, waaronder het ter beschikking stellen van epidemie gerelateerde informatie, het delen van ervaringen met betrekking tot de behandeling van patiënten, alsook het verstrekken van medische en andere benodigdheden aan de getroffen landen.

湖北省人民政府新闻办公室 Information Office of Hubei Provincial People's Government



Officials attend a press conference in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China on May 1 and announced that Hubei will lower its novel coronavirus emergency response level from the highest to the second-highest starting May 2. After more than three months of precise and tight prevention and control, the virus spread is "basically cut off" in Hubei. Prevention and control measures against the epidemic will also be adjusted following the downgrading of the emergency response level, Yang Yunnan, Vice Governor of Hubei, said at the press conference (XINHUA)

Competence, Confirmation and Confidence Behind Time-Setting Of China's "Two Sessions"

China has decided to start the third annual session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, on May 22.

The third annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, was proposed to open on May 21.

China postponed the "two sessions," a key event in the country's political calendar, for two and a half months to gain a wider

window to fight COVID-19. Now conditions for holding the meetings have been met. The announcement of the time-setting sends at least three strong signals.

Competence

China makes unremitting efforts to fulfill its commitment to putting people's life and health first. The country fights a people's war against the outbreak, mobilizing the whole nation, setting up collective control

and treatment mechanisms and acting with openness and transparency.

The tremendous sacrifices have paid off. The epidemic situation has improved in the country, with life and work quickly returning to normal. China is ready to put the achievement of its anti-virus fight to the test of time and the people.

China has nearly 3,000 national lawmakers and more than 2,000 political advisors. The large-scale gathering in Beijing requires all-out efforts to ensure that the epidemic

will not resurge. No loophole in epidemic prevention and control is allowed. Such courage and action is also a confident reply to those who doubt and smear China's nationwide anti-virus efforts.

Confirmation

The "two sessions" will reconfirm that China will realize its first centenary goal to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled despite the epidemic.

The basic trend of steady long-term growth for Chinese economy remains unchanged. China has registered recovery in industrial production in March. About 84 percent of small- and medium-sized enterprises, the most sensitive to weaker consumer demand, have resumed businesses as of mid-April. The agriculture sector logged robust performance in the first quarter of the year. China has also seen a boom in internet-related industries and the digital economy.

China is determined to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of this year as scheduled. As the number of impoverished people fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019, the country will leave no one behind on its way of development.

Through the test of the epidemic, China has been quick to identify its weak links in the system and capacity for governance. The government is determined to improve the public health emergency management system and mechanisms for governance at the primary level in cities and rural areas. After learning lessons, China will see more effective governance.

The country will also transform external pressure into motivation for deepening reform and furthering opening-up and focusing on running China's affairs well.

Confidence

Once the worst hit by the novel coronavirus, China is now one of the first to restart the economy in a gradual and orderly manner, offering hope to the world still ravaged by the pandemic.

The upcoming "two sessions" are expected to roll out a series of policies and measures which will spur development at home, help stabilize and reactivate the global industrial and supply chains, and boost confidence in the global economy.

The "two sessions" will be held under the context of "normalization of epidemic control and prevention measures" as it is not yet time to think everything is fine. The country still needs to be careful. But the announcement of starting the "two sessions" indicates that with determination, persistence and concerted efforts, a victory will eventually be secured. **C**



Cai Qi (second right), Secretary of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee inspects the hotel where political delegates to the "two sessions" will stay later this month in Beijing on May 13



Medical staff disinfect the check point at the hotel where political delegates to the "two sessions" will stay later this month in Beijing on May 13

Guarding the Border

Frontier city in northeast fights to contain imported coronavirus cases

As most areas in China started to lift lockdowns and incrementally resume normal life, Suifenhe, a sleepy border city in the northeast of the country, was put on the map by a surging number of imported coronavirus cases.

The inconspicuous county-level city in Heilongjiang Province has received an influx of Chinese nationals from Russia since late March, of whom hundreds have later tested positive for the coronavirus. This has brought the town, with a population of about 70,000, into the spotlight.

Li Entai, a 76-year-old who has lived in the area his entire life, remembered the last time the city got national attention was in 1987 when it bartered apples and thermal flasks for flatfish and walleye pollock with the neighboring city of Pogranichny in Russia.

It was the first trade deal for the two cities since the start of the reform and opening-up policy, marking a new step in trade between

China and Russia. Suifenhe has since become a bustling border trade hub.

A sudden rise

Since the outbreak in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province in central China, Suifenhe went on lockdown, like many other cities, in early February. And because it didn't develop any cases, it lifted the lockdown at the end of February. By March, the city had gradually resumed normal work and life.

The change came with the first infected person coming from abroad entering the city through a highway on the border with Russia on March 26. A 21-year-old Chinese man with no symptoms tested positive for the coronavirus.

By then, the focus of virus control and prevention had shifted



Epidemic prevention and control personnel in Suifenhe work in snow at an entrance to the city on April 22

from domestic to imported cases, with more attention given to international airports in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Few could have foreseen that a weak link lay in this remote border area.

In Heilongjiang, there are altogether 25 ports of entry from Russia. With the epidemic getting more severe in Russia, Chinese people stuck there couldn't buy an airline ticket due to the limited number of flights. Suifenhe became their only hope of getting back home.

Information from the National Health Commission (NHC) showed that most of the confirmed patients in Suifenhe were from two large markets in Moscow, which indicated that they had made a long journey to Suifenhe.

Passengers first took a flight from Moscow to Vladivostok and then traveled about 200 km, transferring from one vehicle to another several times until they finally got to the highway port of entry in Suifenhe.

Hao Jun, an official from the Heilongjiang Provincial Health Commission, said at a recent press briefing that the long and exhausting journey in a closed environment worsened the situation. Some who were infected got sicker and may have infected more people.

After the first case, the number of confirmed cases began to rise in Suifenhe. NHC figures showed that from March 27 to April 20, a total of 2,497 people entered China's mainland through Suifenhe. Among them, 377 were tested positive for the coronavirus.

The intensive demand for testing and treatment for the inbound people put great pressure on the small city, which didn't have enough beds or medical workers. The daily testing capacity was for only 96 people, far from what was needed, since on any given day, hundreds of people were swarming into the city. As a result, all Suifenhe hotels were taken over for quarantining the returnees.

Starting on March 31, the provincial government deployed medical workers and testing facilities from other cities in the province to Suifenhe, while medical workers from other provinces also rushed to help. Some asymptomatic patients could get treatment in Suifenhe, but others with more serious symptoms were transferred to Mudanjiang, the city that has jurisdiction over Suifenhe.

Du Hongbin, a nurse from Mudanjiang who had just returned from Hubei after supporting the anti-epidemic battle there, went to Suifenhe immediately after he completed his quarantine period.

"Many of my coworkers from Hubei made the same decision with no hesitation," Du said. "We are more experienced in dealing with the epidemic. It is our responsibility."

United efforts

On April 3, the city released an online notice asking for some 100 volunteers. Within three hours, 800 locals had applied. Song Qiong, who runs a home improvement company in Suifenhe, applied right away. In February, he had worked as a volunteer during the epidemic in the city for over 10 days.

This time around, his job is to deliver three meals a day to medical workers in five different hospitals. Every day, he gets up at 4 a.m. and drives to a restaurant to collect 280 boxes of prepacked meals. It is an onerous duty since the temperature in Suifenhe can fall below zero degree Celsius.



Song Qiong (left), a volunteer in Suifenhe, Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, delivers prepacked food to a hospital on April 22

On April 6, a project to transform an office building into a makeshift hospital kicked off, with over 200 volunteers joining to clean the building beforehand. They completed the work in just two days. On April 11, the makeshift hospital with about 400 medical workers was put into operation, adding 600 beds for patients with the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). It is intended to treat only less serious cases.

Meanwhile, the city has adopted strict measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic by banning all types of gatherings and drawing up a list of businesses that must close. Since April 8, all community compounds have been on lockdown again, and only one person per household can shop for essentials once every three days. Volunteers are again positioned at compound entrances, working around the clock in freezing temperatures to check everyone's body temperature and make sure strangers do not enter.

In addition, under bilateral agreements between China and Russia regarding state border operations and checkpoints, the Suifenhe passenger corridor checkpoint has been temporarily closed since April 7.

On April 12, the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention lent the city a mobile, intelligent laboratory that increased its daily testing capacity to about 1,600. Along with the lab, 15 experts from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention were also sent to Suifenhe. Among them, some had just left Wuhan.

The provincial and local health commissions have provided 15 special ambulances and over 3,400 medical facilities. On April 16, the local government distributed 220,000 free masks and 25 tons of disinfecting alcohol among residents.

All these efforts have proved to be successful as there had been no domestically transmitted cases in the city as of April 23. On April 14, the first patient was discharged from hospital and on April 21 and 22, a total of 16 people were able to leave hospitals. They still need to go through a 14-day quarantine before they go back home.

Hao, the official from the provincial health commission, said that there are still some medical teams from Mudanjiang and other regions in the province with over 1,000 medical workers ready to go to the frontline if needed. "It is not the time to relax," Hao said. "We are still at a critical stage in the battle against the coronavirus." **C**

China Introduces Guidelines on Regular COVID-19 Epidemic Containment

China has put in place a set of guidelines to facilitate regular prevention and control of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic, according to a senior health official.

The document, issued by the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism, highlighted 20 measures ranging from daily epidemic prevention at key public facilities to cross-region recognition of cell phone-based health codes, Li Bin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, told a press conference on May 8.

It takes targeted measures to prevent case importation and domestic resurgence, said Li, adding that concrete efforts are necessary in entrenching the positive momentum and underpinning the restoration of normal economic order.

Local authorities were asked to guide the public in keeping proper social distance and following scientific advice on wearing protective masks.

Besides implementing early detection, reporting, isolation and treatment of infections, the guidelines also pledged to minimize the containment area to reduce the impact on normal work and life.

Public facilities shall be reopened in an orderly and category-based manner, especially for medical institutions and schools, said the document.

It also called for further expansion of the nucleic acid testing capability and timely adjustments of risk levels for different regions. 





3



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1. Students learn how to wash their hands during the first lesson of the new semester in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China on May 13 as the autonomous region resumed class at primary schools while taking regular epidemic prevention and control measures. Public facilities shall be reopened in an orderly and category-based manner, especially for medical institutions and schools, according to a guideline issued on May 8

2. A staff member conducts disinfection at the Changsha station of the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan Intercity Railway in Changsha, Hunan Province in central China on April 21. The railway station has taken regular epidemic prevention and control measures to ensure the transportation safety of passengers

3. Community workers check the body temperature of a staff delivering liquefied gas cylinders to local residents before he enters into residential buildings in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China on April 15. Regular prevention and control of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic shall be carried out in China for the country to entrench the positive momentum and underpin the restoration of normal economic order

4. A man receives health code and temperature check at the entrance of a supermarket in Suifenhe, Heilongjiang Province in northeast China on April 17. Local authorities were asked to guide the public in keeping proper social distance and following scientific advice on wearing protective masks for regular prevention and control of COVID-19

Bustling With Activity

The Chinese city hardest-hit by the pandemic reconnects with the outside world



The G431 train from Wuhan, Hubei Province arrived at Nanning East Railway Station on April 8, the first high-speed train out of the province since Wuhan lifted its outbound travel restrictions after almost 11 weeks of lockdown to stem the spread of COVID-19

With horns blasting on ferryboats, the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province in central China, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country, declared its reopening on April 8.

Echoing the blasts, some vehicles honked their horns at the exits of the city's expressways, after waiting for hours for the barricades to be lifted for the city that had endured a 76-day lockdown.

After getting the news about the reopening, Zhang Lu, a Wuhan resident, drove to the Wudong highway toll station on April 7 to confirm the news. She then drove back to downtown, deciding to come back early on April 8.

Cai Xiaoxia couldn't wait either. She drove to the toll booth of the Wuhan west highway station at 10 p.m. on April 7, two hours before the removal of the barricade. She became the first to get onto the highway after its reopening.

"I have been waiting for this moment for over two months," Cai told reporters surrounding her. She came to Wuhan to visit relatives before the Spring Festival and was trapped by the sudden lockdown. "My family members in Jingzhou (another city in Hubei) miss me a lot, too. I want to see them as soon as possible."

The city was shut down at 10 p.m. on January 23, one day before the Chinese New Year's Eve, the most important festival in China.

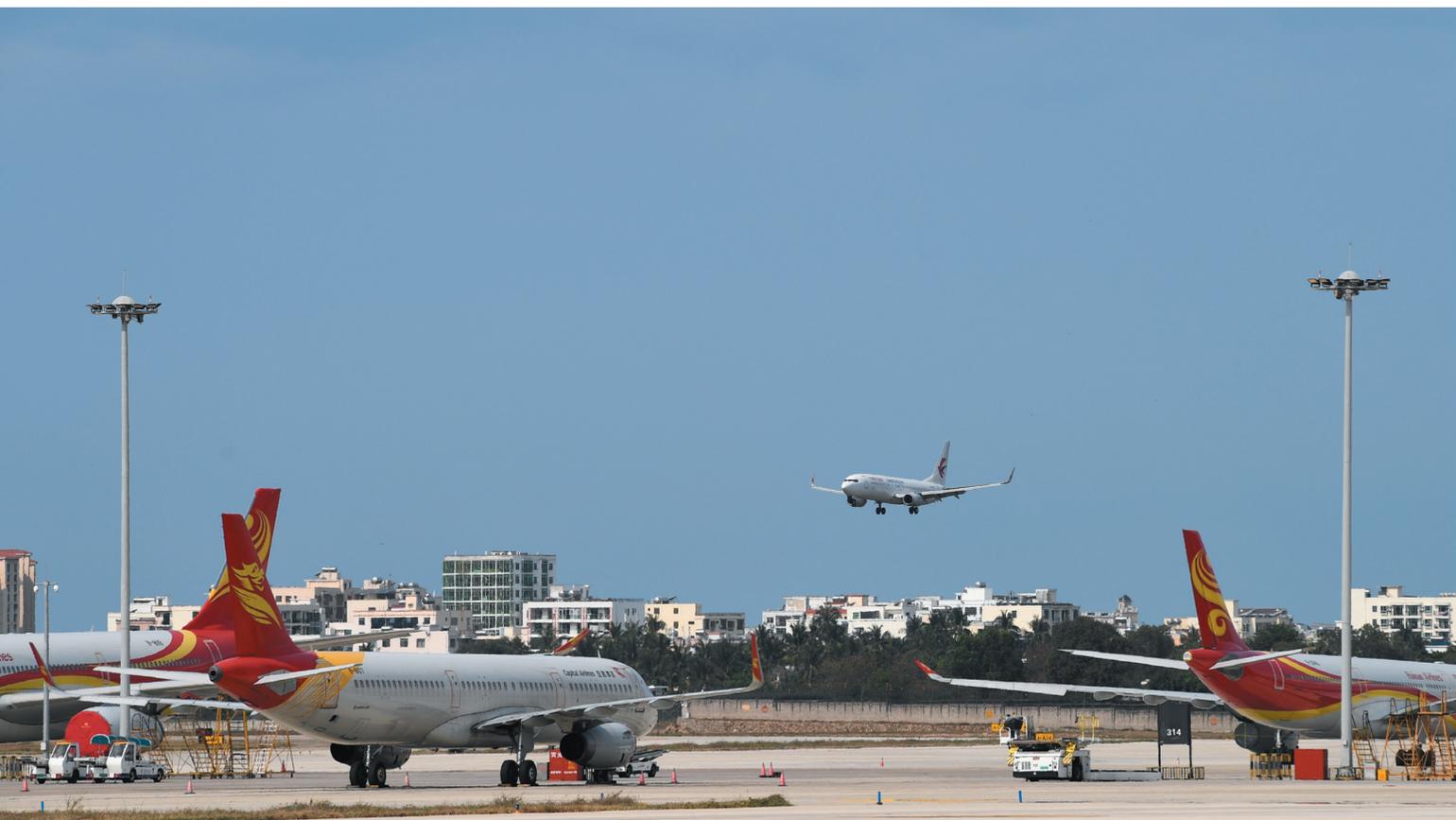
Two-way flow

While many are rushing out of the city, others are returning to it.

Wang Xiurong, a 40-year-old, came back from Henan Province with her husband. They waited at the toll booth in the late night of April 7 for a friend to pick them up. The couple runs a breakfast outlet in Wuhan. "We've been looking forward to coming back to Wuhan since late January," Wang said. "We worry about our business a lot and hope everything goes back to normal soon."

The railway stations in Wuhan are no less busy. At 00:50 a.m. on April 8 at the Wuchang Railway Station, 442 passengers boarded a train to Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, making them the first batch to leave Wuhan by train after the city reopened.

"The station had been quiet for over two



Flight MU2527, the first plane from Wuhan, Hubei Province, to Sanya, Hainan Province prepares to land at Sanya Phoenix International Airport after Wuhan lifted outbound travel restrictions on April 8 (XINHUA)

months,” Xu Fang, a worker at the Wuchang Railway Station, told ThePaper.cn, a news portal. “Everybody is excited to see it is getting back on track. It is the feeling of victory over hardship.”

All the passengers leaving Wuhan need to show their health codes on their phones and have their temperatures checked at the station before boarding.

On April 8, about 55,000 passengers left Wuhan on trains. To reduce the possibility of infection, they sat apart, with at least one empty seat in between.

The Wuhan Tianhe Airport, however, was not very busy at midnight as the earliest flight was scheduled to leave after daybreak.

“In the past 76 days, the airport was abnormally quiet,” said Yuan Yizhe, a dispatcher at the airport, on April 8, “Except for some flights delivering aid goods and supporting medical teams, no other flights could get access to this airport.”

The first flight leaving Wuhan on that day was destined for Sanya, Hainan Province in south China. There were only 46 passengers on this flight and most were traveling to get back to work.

“The number of flights on April 8 was just about one fifth of that on a regular day,” Yuan said, “Moreover, since the epidemic is not over, there is a limit on the number of passengers on each flight.”

Everyone getting out of Wuhan is required to go through a two-week mandatory quarantine, either at home or at a designated venue after they arrive at the destination.

Flavor of life

In downtown Wuhan, after being stranded at home for two months, residents can now go out.

“Grabbing a quick morning bite,” or *guo zao*, is the expression Wuhan residents use for “having breakfast.” Since Wuhan is an important transportation hub in China with the Yangtze River passing through, people used to get up early to have breakfast at food stands.

Hot dry noodles, a type of boiled noodles with sesame sauce and pickles, is the iconic morning food in Wuhan.

“Normally we open two days after the Spring Festival. Now we are about two

months late,” Lu Yanju, who is in charge of a branch of Cailinji, a time-honored restaurant chain in Wuhan, told ThePaper.cn.

In February, to meet the strong demand for hot dry noodles, Cailinji launched group buying and delivered to local communities. After the easing of the epidemic situation, the first branch of Cailinji resumed business on March 23. Lu’s branch reopened on March 26.

The number of orders surprised Lu. On the first day, Lu prepared noodles for 100 orders, and they were sold out by 9 a.m. Now, they can fill 400 orders each day. Even though the eatery can only provide takeaway service, customers still choose to patronize it, with some eager ones eating on the street right after buying the noodles. “People not only miss the taste of the noodles but also the aroma of breakfast wafting on the street,” Lu said. “The sight of eaters on the street makes me feel the city is finally coming back to life.”

Long Tao, a 54-year-old teacher in a kindergarten in Wuhan, is busy exercising at home to lose the weight she gained during this long break. “I gained 5 kg,” Long said. “I

must be in good shape to get back to work.”

Long used to take part in square dancing to stay fit and it is the exercise she missed most while trapped at home. Now the dancing groups are returning too. “The only difference is that we must put on masks,” Long said.

In the downtown, most of the shopping malls are already open. Even though the date for reopening schools has not been decided and people must show the health codes and have their temperature checked while entering residential compounds, parks and many public areas, the city has largely come to life.

Back to work

On April 7, the No.7 Jiangnan Bridge in Wuhan resumed construction after a two-month suspension, making it the first bridge project to be restarted in the city.

The construction workers had undergone mandatory quarantine for 14 days before getting back to work on site. They are required to report their health condition via WeChat every day. The company has pre-

pared virus-prevention materials including masks and disinfectants for disease prevention.

“The construction was halted, but we are confident we will make up for the delays,” Mei Jiansong, who is in charge of the project on site, told Xinhua News Agency.

With the novel coronavirus epidemic effectively contained in Wuhan, the local epidemic prevention and control authority in the city has asked enterprises undertaking major projects to resume operation.

At a news briefing on April 5, Hu Yabo, Executive Vice Mayor of Wuhan, said major automobile and electronic product manufacturers have all resumed production, including China’s tech giant Huawei and Foxconn, a key supplier for Apple.

Hu also said that the government will draft tailor-made plans to help companies deal with difficulties in funding, logistics and transportation of workers. By April 4, about 76 percent of projects with investment of over 100 million yuan (\$14.3 million) had been put back on track. “So far, not a single

case of infection has been reported from workplaces,” Hu said.

With more businesses and major projects being resumed, Hu said, the city will give great importance to epidemic control at workplaces to ensure the virus does not spread again.

Official statistics show that on April 7, there were 181 severe cases in Wuhan. On April 8, this number decreased to 135.

“Most of the remaining severe cases have tested negative for the novel coronavirus,” Jiang Li, a doctor from Beijing Xuanwu Hospital who is now in the Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan, told *Caixin* magazine. “Now we are focusing more on treating the complications and other chronic diseases of these patients.”

“China is facing rising pressure of imported COVID-19 cases,” Zhang Wenhong, Director of the Infectious Diseases Department of the Shanghai Huashan Hospital, told China Central Television. “Vigilance is still highly needed to prevent the disease from going viral again.” **C**



Workers resume work at a workshop of Dongfeng Motor Corporation in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province in central China on March 24. Enterprises in Wuhan recently began to resume work and production while conducting strict epidemic prevention and control measures

Chinese Market Remains Key for Multinationals

Multinational companies are showing their strong commitment to the Chinese market, with some of their local factories posting record production figures and a new foreign investment project being launched despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manish Bhatia, Executive Vice-President of global operations of U.S. chip giant Micron Technology Inc, said the company's manufacturing plant in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, saw record output amid the contagion.

"The chip packaging and testing plant has been operating at full capacity since

January," Bhatia said. "The local government has been very helpful in helping us maintain operations. None of our employees are infected with the virus."

"China is a very important market for us," Bhatia said, adding that the company is not changing its plans for the nation. "We really value our employees here. Amid the outbreak, they kept coming to work and ensuring continuous production at the highest level. That is really exemplary," he added.

Micron is one of the foreign companies that have benefited from the China's sizable market, as the nation makes steady progress

in improving its business environment.

Denis Depoux, global managing director at consultancy Roland Berger, said China boasts a sound industrial system, efficient infrastructure, leading technologies and a rich talent reserve, providing an incomparable market for foreign-invested enterprises.

In the past five years, U.S. tech heavyweights Apple Inc, Intel Corp and Finnish telecom equipment maker Nokia have seen 60 percent growth in their China-generated revenues, according to a report by Roland Berger and Emlyon Business School, a leading French business school.

"Today, when the trend of anti-globalization is on the rise, China still strives to offer more opportunities for foreign-invested enterprises by refining its legal framework and widening market access, significantly boosting the confidence of foreign stakeholders," Depoux said.

On April 22, multinational oil and gas corporation ExxonMobil broke ground on its chemical complex in Huizhou, Guangdong Province, a sign of China's rebounding economy as the outbreak's impact subsides.

The complex, with a total investment of about \$10 billion, will be built in two phases. The first phase, with an ethylene cracker and downstream production equipment, is scheduled to be completed by 2023 when construction on the second phase will begin.

ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO Darren Woods said the project reflects China's growing commitment to foreign direct investment and fostering innovation, and the company will continue its strategic long-term investments in the nation.

Huang Libin, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said on April 23 it has taken decades for the current global supply chain systems to take shape, which enables the most efficient circulation of goods and services.

"China's well-planned industrial systems and sound infrastructure gives us the confidence to retain foreign companies. We will also work harder to create a better pro-business environment for them and offer higher-quality services," Huang said.

Enterprises Resuming Operation and Production in China



of key foreign trade enterprises have restored over



of their production capacity

The number and extent of **foreign-invested enterprises (FIEs)** resuming work are steadily increasing. As of April 7,



of the key FIEs have resumed over



of their operation

The New Export Orders and Import Index of the manufacturing PMI

in March rebounded by
17.7
percentage points



and
16.5
percentage points

respectively, compared with those in February



of manufacturing companies have resumed over



of operations

(Source: Ministry of Commerce; designed by Pamela Tobey)



Workers produce wiring harness products at a wholly foreign-owned electronics company established by the Republic of Korea in Qingdao, Shandong Province in east China on March 30 (XINHUA)

In a recent report by the American Chamber of Commerce in China and American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, 68 percent of the surveyed U.S. companies said they expect to see a return to normal activities in China in less than three months.

"In contrast to some global narratives, our China-based data suggests that the majority of our members will not be packing up and leaving China anytime soon," said Alan Beebe, President of AmCham China.

Beebe said certain companies in certain industries may diversify away from China or even expand manufacturing operations in the U.S. given the current climate. But this is "a costly, time consuming, and largely irre-

versible process," he added.

"It is worth emphasizing that China appears ahead of the global curve when it comes to restarting the economy following months of lockdown, and many of the reasons why companies are in China in the first place still hold true today," he said.

The Chinese Government's decisive handling of the novel coronavirus outbreak also won applause from foreign companies, and boosted their confidence in the nation.

Yang Xu, President of Intel China, said the company's chip plants in Dalian, Liaoning Province, and Chengdu, Sichuan Province, have been working non-stop amid the outbreak.

"We have shared China's anti-epidemic

experience with global manufacturing systems," Yang said, adding there is no escaping the fact that China and the U.S. will be the dual engines driving the world forward for the next 20 to 30 years.

According to Yang, Intel has a steadfast, long-term strategy in China. "We will travel together (with Chinese partners) and travel far," he said.

China's recent emphasis on new infrastructure, including 5G base stations and data centers, will also bring new opportunities for foreign companies, said Zhao Juntao, Ericsson China President.

"The outbreak will not change China's position as an important part of the global supply chain," Zhao added. **C**



Workers work at a workshop in an intelligent equipment industrial park in Wen'an County, Langfang City, Hebei Province in north China on May 12

China Takes Steps to Stabilize Foreign Trade, Investment

China will establish new pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce, support the processing trade and host an online Canton Fair to stabilize foreign trade and investment amid the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), according to an executive meeting of the State Council.

The meeting, presided over by Premier Li Keqiang, also decided to continue preferential tax policies for inclusive financial service and micro-loan companies in a bid to help small- and micro-businesses, self-employed individuals and farmers tide over.

The accelerating spread of the pandemic brought shocks to the global economy and international trade and investment. Authorities at all levels must continue with the opening-up policy and adopt measures to stabilize foreign trade and investment to blunt the pandemic's impacts on the country's economy and especially the job market, the meeting said.

In addition to the 59 cross-border e-commerce pilot zones already set up, China will establish 46 new ones and exempt retail export goods in all pilot zones from value-added tax and consumption tax, while encouraging companies to jointly build and share overseas warehouses.

China's foreign trade showed signs of stabilizing in March with export and import both beating bearish market expectations, official data showed on April 14.

Exports dipped 3.5 percent year on year in yuan terms last month while imports climbed 2.4 percent, data from the General Administration of Customs (GAC) showed.

In March, foreign trade of goods totaled 2.45 trillion yuan (\$348 billion), down 0.8 percent year on year, compared with a decline of 9.5 percent during the January-February period, the GAC said.

In the first quarter, foreign trade of goods fell 6.4 percent year on year to 6.57 trillion

yuan (\$933 billion).

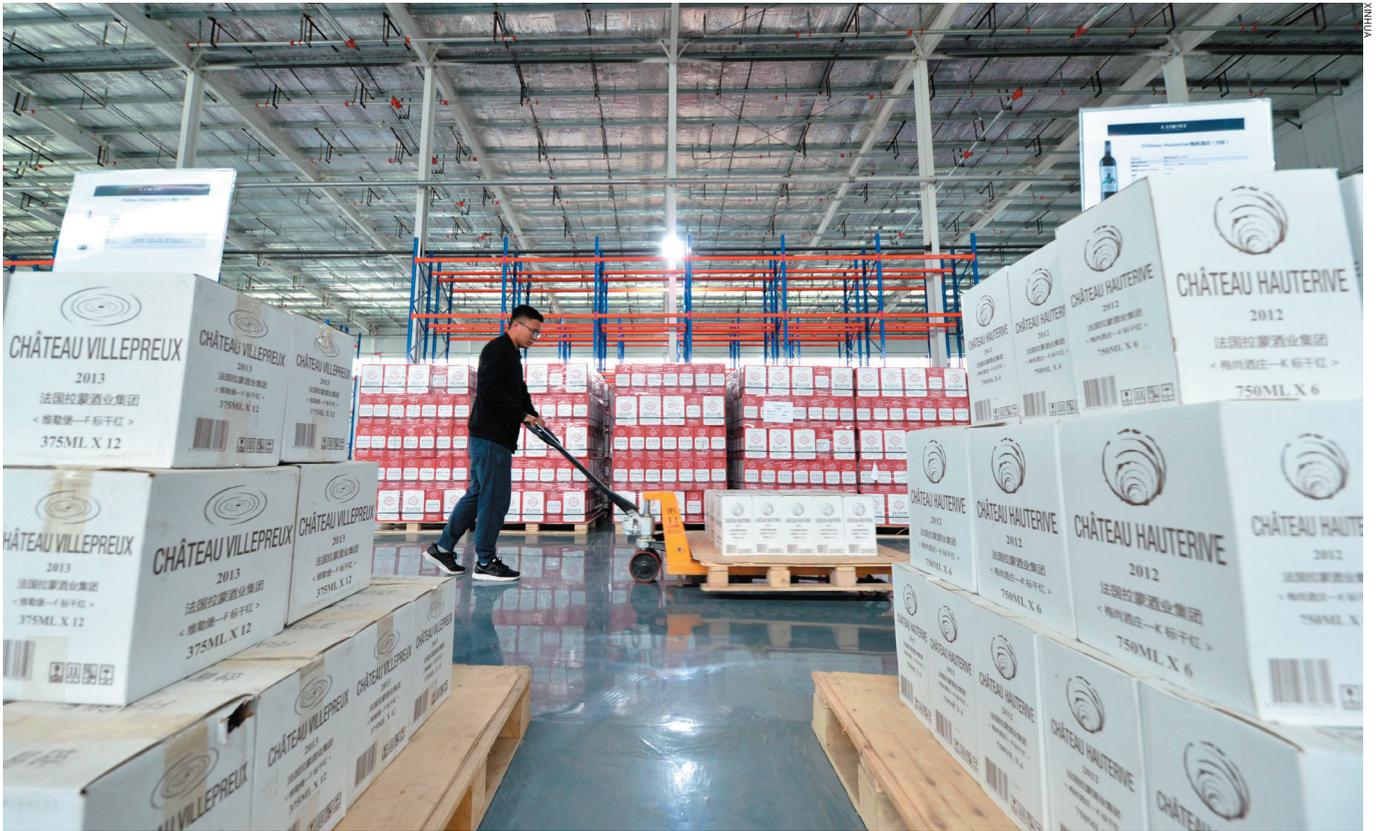
Exports dropped 11.4 percent to 3.33 trillion yuan (\$468 billion) while imports dipped 0.7 percent to 3.24 trillion yuan (\$456 billion) during the first three months, resulting in a trade surplus of 98.33 billion yuan (\$13.85 billion), down 80.6 percent year on year, customs data showed.

China's trade with countries along the Belt and Road bucked the trend of weakened growth in the first three months, rising 3.2 percent year on year.

ASEAN overtook the European Union as China's largest trading partner in Q1, with bilateral trade up 6.1 percent year on year to over 991 billion yuan (\$139.6 billion).

"China is highly resilient and competitive in foreign trade, and its firms are strong in innovation and market development," GAC spokesman Li Kuiwen said at a news conference on April 14.

Still, as the COVID-19 pandemic has



A staff member delivers goods for exports in Qingdao FTZ Handan (Jize) Branch of Handan City, Hebei Province in north China on May 5

wreaked havoc on global economy, a contraction in global demand will inevitably show its impact on China's exports and the difficulties ahead can not be underestimated, Li said.

The World Trade Organization predicted that global trade would fall by between 13 percent and 32 percent in 2020 due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, and all regions of the world are expected to suffer double-digit declines in their trade.

China has rolled out a string of policies to help foreign trade firms resume operation amid further containment of COVID-19 at home.

The firms have been advancing work and production resumption in an orderly manner, with more than 76 percent of key firms in the sector having recovered over 70 percent of their production capacity as of April 9, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry has pledged to facilitate sales of export products in domestic market, as part of efforts to stabilize foreign trade amid slump in global trade.

In particular, domestic sales of goods in processing trade will be advanced to support the sector, which accounts for one-fourth of China's foreign trade and was hard-hit by supply and demand disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **C**

China Takes Steps to Stabilize Foreign Trade and Investment

The State Council has decided to establish

46



new cross-border e-commerce pilot zones

in addition to the

59



pilot zones already set up, covering

30

provinces and cities

In 2019, China's **cross-border e-commerce retail volume** reached

186.21 bln yuan

(\$26.22 billion),

five times that of 2015, with an average annual growth rate of

49.5%

In March, **foreign trade of goods** totaled

2.45 tn yuan

(\$348 billion),

down 0.8% y.o.y.

compared with a decline of

9.5%

during the January-February period.

The brands in the comprehensive pilot zones have exceeded

3,000,



and the enterprises in the pilot zones have built more than



1,200 overseas warehouses

(Source: General Administration of Customs; designed by Pamela Tobey)

Turning Poverty Around

An impoverished autonomous prefecture in northwest China fights to eradicate poverty By Ji Jing



A worker from the agricultural machinery service center of the agriculture and rural affairs bureau of Guanghe County in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province in northwest China, operates a cornstalk packaging machine on November 15, 2019

In Guanghe, a county in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province in northwest China, piles of silage—what local people call the bread for cattle and sheep—are scattered in the fields. The silage is made by smashing and mixing corn and cornstalks that have been preserved through acidification and fermentation.

Ma Jinfu, director of the agriculture and rural affairs bureau of Guanghe, told *Gansu Daily* that the fodder is a precious asset to the local people for them to make a decent living. Linxia started to turn corn into fodder in 2015 and worked out a new poverty alleviation path by developing agriculture and husbandry together.

Repurposing corn

Two thirds of the farmland in Linxia is in arid and semi-arid areas, and corn is one of the few crops that can grow there.

Since 2005, the prefecture has promoted new dry land farming technology to increase corn output. Subsequently, the planting area of corn in the prefecture increased from 267 to 913 square km, accounting for 69.2 percent of all grain acreage.

The increased production improved farmers' income, but in recent years, as the supply of corn surpassed demand, the profit margin of growing corn shrunk.

Ma Zhongming, a Guanghe villager, told

Gansu Daily that he made very little money growing corn after deducting the costs of seeds, fertilizers and labor.

Thus, when Linxia began promoting silage technology to increase farmers' income in 2015, Ma started to grow silage corn and sell it to a herding company in 2017 and his income has since doubled.

In Linxia many farmers sell their silage corn to herding companies, while some also raise cattle and sheep themselves. "By using fodder made from our own corn, we can save the cost of raising a cow by over 1,000 yuan (\$141)," Ma explained.

In addition, Linxia has strengthened policy, funding and technology support for

farmers to grow corn for fodder. The government now provides subsidies for seeds and fertilizers for impoverished farmers who grow corn for fodder. It also set up stations to help farmers process silage for free, which greatly stimulated farmers' enthusiasm to produce fodder using corn and cornstalks.

Zong Yuliang, head of the Linxia agriculture and rural affairs bureau, told *Gansu Daily* that turning corn into fodder has extended the agricultural industrial chain and is effective for developing circular agriculture. "As many farmers grow corn for fodder, the fodder resources have become abundant, providing a good foundation for developing husbandry to fight poverty," he said.

Turning cornstalks into fodder has also reduced pollution and improved the environment. "In the past, people burned cornstalks for cooking or for heating. Now the stalks are used for making fodder," Ma said.

Agricultural companies and rural cooperatives are also encouraged to purchase material from farmers to produce and sell silage. A complete industrial chain of fodder production, processing and sales has taken shape and the silage is sold to other provinces and regions as well, including Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China.

Developing industries

Located in the upper reaches of the Yellow River, Linxia has 31 ethnic groups. It is one of the three extremely impoverished prefectures in China due to a lack of natural resources, and a weak infrastructure and industrial foundation. Notwithstanding, the prefecture has made remarkable progress in poverty alleviation in recent years.

Its impoverished population decreased from 563,200 at the end of 2013 to 32,500 at the end of 2019, while its incidence of poverty fell from 32.5 percent in 2013 to 1.78 percent in 2019. There are 583 villages and six counties in Linxia that have shaken off poverty.

However, 32,500 people and two counties remain impoverished in the prefecture. Thus, Linxia has taken multiple other measures to fulfill the task of eradicating poverty by 2020, such as introducing labor intensive industries and establish poverty alleviation workshops.

At 6 p.m. every day, 55-year-old Zhang Xiufang, an impoverished villager in Linxia takes home several pairs of unfinished cloth shoes from the poverty alleviation workshop where she works to continue sewing them from home in the evening.

Two years ago, Zhang was relocated from her mountain home to a township with better infrastructure and convenient



A worker feeds sheep at a herding company in Guanghe County in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province in northwest China, on January 18

transportation. On learning that the shoe workshop was recruiting workers, she applied and got the job. "I can make at least 50 yuan (\$7) every day and since my family also raises cattle, I believe we can rise out of poverty this year," Zhang said.

There are a total of 264 poverty alleviation workshops in the autonomous prefecture, which have created 10,700 jobs and have helped over 4,000 households rise out of poverty. The average monthly income provided by the workshops is about 2,000 yuan (\$282).

"We have worked out customized poverty alleviation plans for impoverished people to ensure every household has at least two stable sources of income so that the remaining impoverished population can get out of poverty on time," said Zhang Zhuo, head of the prefectural poverty alleviation office.

Moreover, Linxia has developed tourism into one of its pillar industries. The prefecture has abundant tourism resources, including both beautiful natural scenic spots such as the Lianhua Mountain and the Dadun Gorge and cultural heritage sites such as the Bingling Temple Grottoes, which was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage in 2014. In recent years, Linxia has created a number of new expos and festivals such as a pear festival to attract more tourists. Distinctive local food such as hand-grabbed mutton is also a main draw for many tourists.

Guo Heli, Secretary of the prefectural Communist Party of China committee, said the prefecture is working to improve its popularity as a tourist destination, accelerate infrastructure construction, develop cultural

creative products and promote smart tourism.

The prefecture is also eyeing emerging and hi-tech industries such as logistics and the digital economy for driving its growth.

A bigger final push

This year is the final one for China to eradicate absolute poverty. The number of impoverished counties fell from 832 at the end of 2012 to 52 at the end of February.

As the fight against poverty enters its final stage, relevant government departments are paying special attention to deeply impoverished areas and guiding poverty alleviation in the 52 counties and 1,113 villages that are still in poverty.

"Impoverished counties should promote the development of industries for poverty alleviation based on their own resources and market demands. They should continue to strengthen special and leading industries, and accelerate the development of special planting and herding and rural tourism," said Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Gansu Province has stepped up supervision over its eight counties that are still impoverished, requiring the release of monthly updates on their progress in poverty alleviation. Linxia County in Linxia prefecture is still poor. In this February, the county waged a 100-day decisive battle against poverty. It has taken measures such as providing discount loans for impoverished households to develop specialty industries and sending cadres to poor households to help them fight against poverty. **C**

Stop the Coronavirus Stigma Now

Nature Magazine published an editorial titled *Stop the Coronavirus Stigma Now* on April 7, not only apologizing for previous news reports that linked the coronavirus to China's Wuhan but also sending a reminder to those who had erroneously been associating the virus with China's Wuhan and with China in their news coverage.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) announced in February that the disease caused by the new coronavirus would be called COVID-19, the name was quickly adopted by organizations involved in communicating public-health information. As well as naming the illness, the WHO was implicitly sending a reminder to those who had erroneously been associating the virus with Wuhan and with China in their news coverage—including *Nature*. That we did so was an error on our part, for which we take responsibility and apologize.

For years, it was common for viral diseases to be associated with the landscapes, places or regions where the first outbreaks occurred—as in Middle East respiratory syndrome, or Zika virus, named after a forest in Uganda. But in 2015, the WHO introduced guidelines to stop this practice and thereby reduce stigma and negative impacts such as fear or anger directed towards those regions or their people. The guidelines underlined the point that viruses infect all humans: when an outbreak happens, everyone is at risk, regardless of who they are or where they are from.

And yet, as countries struggle to control the spread of the new coronavirus, a minority of politicians are sticking with the outdated script. U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly associated the virus with China. Brazilian lawmaker Eduardo Bolsonaro—the son of President Jair Bolsonaro—has called it “China’s fault”. Politicians elsewhere, including in the United Kingdom, are also saying that China bears responsibility.

Continuing to associate a virus and the disease it causes with a specific place is irresponsible and needs to stop. As infectious-disease epidemiologist Adam Kucharski reminds us in his timely book *The Rules of Contagion*, published in February, history tells us that pandemics lead to communities being stigmatized, which is why we all need to exercise more care. If in doubt, seek advice, and always fall back on the consensus of the evidence.

Racist attacks

Failing to do so has consequences. It's clear that since the outbreak was first report-



A medical worker uses a swab to take a sample at a COVID-19 drive-thru testing site in Washington D.C., the United States, on May 14

The University College London Genetics Institute

The novel coronavirus spread extensively around the world since late 2019 and the single “Patient Zeroes” is absent in most countries.

The results add to a growing body of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus) viruses share a common ancestor from late 2019, suggesting that this was when the virus jumped from a previous animal host, into people. This means it is most unlikely the virus causing COVID-19 was in human circulation for long before it was first detected.

Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program

We have not received any data or specific evidence from the U.S. Government relating to the purported origin of the virus—so from our perspective, this remains speculative. Like any evidence-based organization, we would be very willing to receive any information that purports to the origin of the virus.

Scientists who are examining the genetic sequences of the virus have assured again and again that this virus is natural in origin.

ed, people of Asian descent around the world have been subjected to racist attacks, with untold human costs—for example, on their health and livelihoods. Law-enforcement agencies say they are making investigation of hate crimes a high priority, but such inquiries might come too late for some, including many of the more than 700,000 Chinese undergraduate, master's and PhD students studying at universities outside China. The majority are in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Many have returned home while their institutions are closed owing to lockdowns, and many might not return. Students are hesitating to come back, in part because of fears of continuing racism, along with uncertainty over the future of their courses and not knowing when international travel will resume.

These young people will experience disruption and the loss of new connections and opportunities. But the loss of students from China and other countries in Asia has wide-ranging—and worrying implications for the scholarly enterprise, too. It means that universities in the affected countries will become less diverse—something that has not happened for generations.

A loss for all

For decades, campuses have striven to boost diversity, and countries have enacted

policies to encourage international academic mobility. Diversity is valuable for its own sake. It encourages understanding and dialogue between cultures, and sharing of points of view and ways of being. And it has always been a fuel for research and innovation.

Moreover, a diverse campus body is needed to improve policies and structures so that universities—and research publishing—can become more welcoming. Many barriers to diversity remain: in the April issue of *Nature Reviews Physics*, for example, researchers and science communicators from China, India, Japan and South Korea report examples of discrimination and other factors that prevent them being heard in international journals.

Many leaders want to listen to and act on expert scientific advice to deal with this pandemic and save lives. On terminology, the advice is clear: we must all do everything we can to avoid and reduce stigma; not associate COVID-19 with particular groups of people or places; and emphasize that viruses do not discriminate—we are all at risk.

It would be tragic if stigma, fueled by the coronavirus, led Asia's young people to retreat from international campuses, curtailing their own education, reducing their own and others' opportunities and leaving research worse off—just when the world is relying on it to find a way out.

Coronavirus stigma must stop—now. **C**

Fadela Chaib, spokesperson of the World Health Organization (WHO)

The new coronavirus has an animal origin, and is not a virus “manipulated or constructed” in a lab or somewhere else.

We have the pandemic with the virus, but we are also combating ‘infodemic’. And when you have a new virus, like this one, it is to be expected that a lot of spurious theories about the origin of the virus be relayed.

The WHO welcomes all countries to support efforts to find the origin of the virus. Several working groups, including Chinese experts, are very active trying to find the origin of this virus.

Liu Xiaoming, Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom

A few Western politicians ignored China's tremendous contribution to global public health and the professional advice of WHO that the virus should not be linked with any specific country or region. Their attempt to stigmatize China is a ‘political virus’ that is harmful to all mankind as it undermines international cooperation in the fight against the epidemic.

It reveals their hypocrisy of applying double standards. It will do nobody any good and is naturally met with condemnation and opposition from the international community.

Peter Daszak, a U.S. researcher with Ecohealth Alliance, a New York-based nonprofit research organization

The politicization of science is really damaging. And those conspiracy theories have essentially closed down communication between scientists in China and the U.S.

We need that communication in an outbreak to learn from them how they control it so we can control it better. It's sad to say, but it will probably cost lives. By sort of narrow-mindedly focusing in on ourselves, or on labs, or on certain cultural politics, we miss the real enemy.

Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and top U.S. infectious disease expert

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this (virus) could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated -- the way the mutations have naturally evolved.

A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

That's why I don't get what they're talking about (and) why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

An Open Letter to the People Of the United States From 100 Chinese Scholars

On April 2, in an effort to unite China and the United States in the fight against the novel coronavirus, 100 Chinese scholars from various fields wrote an open letter to people in the United States which was published on *The Diplomat*, a U.S.-based international online news magazine covering politics, society, and culture in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dear American friends:

We are a group of 100 Chinese scholars representing diverse academic fields including philosophy, political science, economics, medicine, international relations, sociology, law, communications, military science and technology. Our members include a number of university professors from Wuhan. While our areas of expertise are diverse, as intellectuals we all share common concerns about the well-being of all people in China, the U.S., and every country on Earth.

Recently, we have heard many voices politicizing the COVID-19 pandemic. Facing the most dangerous infectious disease in a century, these criticisms help neither China, the U.S., nor the world to curb the spread of the virus. Political bickering does nothing to contribute to the healthy development of Sino-U.S. relations, nor will it help the people of the world to rationally and accurately understand the pandemic.

We want to sincerely and frankly share our views with our American friends today.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis of a horrific scale, one not seen in generations; the effort to overcome both it and its impact will be nothing short of an arduous global war. Countries should be working together, not complaining, finger-pointing or blaming one another. The virus does not know any borders, and neither does love, nor friendship. As two of the great countries on Earth, cooperation between China and the U.S. could and should be used to bring about a more positive outcome for all humankind.

Respecting science, cherishing life and protecting people from harm should be our shared goals in the fight against COVID-19.

The COVID-19 outbreak in China is now basically under control. Since the virus first emerged in early January, the Chinese people have made unimaginable efforts and sacrifices to achieve hard-won results.



Medical workers transport a patient at George Washington University Hospital in Washington D.C., the United States, on April 27

We are grateful for the support of the international community, including donations from American friends, during the most critical stage of the fight. We respect the epidemic containment programs and policies implemented by other countries according to their own national conditions, and we are willing to share our experiences with other countries and provide all available assistance to them.

At this stage of the pandemic, the exact source and origin of COVID-19 remain undetermined. But these questions are unimportant, and finger-pointing is demeaning and hurtful to everyone. In the end, we will all respect the final determination of scientists. Like many other countries, China is a victim of the virus, but also a success story for over-

coming it, and is willing to work with people of other countries to stop the spread of the pandemic.

We sincerely hope to cooperate with the international community, including intellectuals and experts from the U.S. that look to a brighter future. We look forward to the time when doctrines of international cooperation once again flourish around the world. We call on all nations to work together in sincere cooperation to defeat this common enemy of humanity.

Hopefully, we will soon celebrate final victory over COVID-19!

Signed by 100 scholars from China
March 26, 2020

Chinese Anti-Epidemic Experts Fight COVID-19 Head-On in Africa



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa (fifth left, rear) poses for a group photo with Chinese medical team members in Harare, Zimbabwe on May 12

Chinese teams of medical experts have arrived in Djibouti and Cote d'Ivoire to help the countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The teams are organized by the National Health Commission and selected by health commissions of Sichuan Province and Tianjin Municipality, respectively.

The latest two teams came after two teams of Chinese medical experts arrived in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso earlier in April. China has also activated its medical teams stationed there to help fight COVID-19.

There are nearly 1,000 Chinese medical personnel working in Africa long-term, according to China's National Health Commission. China has sent about 22,000 medical workers accumulatively to Africa during the past decades, and benefited

about 220,000,000 local patients in total, according to Chinese Ambassador to Togo Chao Weidong.

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the African continent, the Chinese anti-pandemic medical experts dispatched by the Chinese Government have greatly helped Africa in confronting the pandemic.

The Chinese anti-pandemic medical expert team to Ethiopia, which comprises 12 medical experts specializing in various public health sectors, arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on April 16 as part of China's continuing solidarity in assisting the East African country on the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They have emphasized the ongoing "excellent and fruitful" collaboration with their Ethiopian counterparts as well as experts

from the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in their joint fight against COVID-19 over the past two weeks period.

Li Nian, a medical doctor specialized in preventive medicine from West China Sichuan University, who is also the head of medical administration at the university, is one of the 12 highly-trained medical experts with first-hand experience in the fight against COVID-19 at home since the virus spread in part of China.

"We have visited the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), quarantine centers, isolation centers, Fangcang Hospital transformed by Millennium Hall, and COVID-19-designated hospitals; and we had detailed discussion with hospital administrators and frontline healthcare workers to share our

experience for fighting against COVID-19 in China and to provide our supports and suggestions,” Li told Xinhua on May 2, as his team presently joined their Ethiopian counterparts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the East African country.

“The collaboration is excellent and fruitful,” Li said, adding that “we highly respect expertise of experts from the Ethiopian Government and the Africa CDC, and we have been impressed by their open attitude.”

The 12-member Chinese anti-pandemic medical expert team includes medical experts specializing in various public health sectors including general surgery, epidemiology, respiratory, infectious diseases, critical care, clinical laboratory and integration of traditional Chinese and Western medicine.

“We had meetings with officers and experts from the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Ethiopia Office to exchange experiences, academic opinions, comments and suggestions in detail,” he added.

Li, along with the rest of the 12-member Chinese anti-pandemic experts’ team, has been also providing onsite and telecommunication-based training including lectures and practical exercises.

“We have also donated some personal protective equipment for several hospitals,” Li said, as he emphasized the constructive joint efforts and collaboration with the Ethiopian experts as health as from the Africa CDC—specialized healthcare agency of the 55-member pan African bloc African Union (AU).

“We contributed our expertise and experience learned from our practice in China. Collaboration is essential for defeating COVID-19, the invisible enemy of human being. The collaboration between China and Africa including Ethiopia will be strengthened in the future,” he added.

Noting that majority of the 12-member Chinese anti-epidemic medical experts’ team deployed in Ethiopia are clinicians in profession, Li also stressed that “we shared our experiences in prevention, patient management, viral testing, infection control, protection of healthcare workers and so on with front-line healthcare workers.”

The Ethiopian and Africa CDC professionals responded in a very positive way. As they are indeed experts in managing infectious diseases, they are willing to listen to our suggestions from practice.

Li, who emphasized that “collaboration is essential” in dealing with a public health threat in the magnitude of COVID-19, also stressed that “there are many rooms for strengthening the collaboration such as training, scientific research, infection control



The staffs of Kotoka Airport in Accra, capital of Ghana, unload anti-epidemic medical supplies donated by China on April 6

practices, among others.”

Noting the geographic barrier between China and the African continent, the Chinese anti-epidemic medical expert also advised that “as China and Africa are far away in distance, I think that telecommunication-based methods may be one good way to put forward the collaborations.”

Meanwhile, as the Chinese medical experts joined their Ethiopian counterparts in the fight against COVID-19, Ethiopians across different walks of lives have been also commending the move as a great demonstration of solidarity to deal with the COVID-19 response in Ethiopia.

“It is a precious gesture of brotherhood and togetherness demonstrated by the Chinese Government in general and the 12 medical professionals in particular,” Mahlet Dinku, a 27-years-old Ethiopian medical science student, told Xinhua recently.

Dinku also emphasized the “selfless deed and sacrifice exhibited by the Chinese anti-pandemic medical experts’ team “to come all the way from China to Ethiopia to help us cope with the COVID-19 outbreak.”

She further underscored the crucial timing of the latest Chinese assistance, as she underscored that “we sincerely welcomed them as they arrived here while we as a

nation are bracing for practically the most difficult time of our recent history.”

Ministers of Health, Lia Tadesse, had also recently emphasized the crucial role that the Chinese medical experts’ team play in Ethiopia’s efforts to contend the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The highly trained experts and professionals who have been active in COVID-19 response in China and with frontline experience came here along with support from the Chinese Government,” Tadesse told Xinhua.

“The global community should forge strong partnership if the world has to overcome the crisis,” Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, who served as an economic advisor to the AU and the UNECA, told Xinhua recently.

Noting that both the Chinese Government and Chinese enterprises have in recent weeks continued sending shipments of medical supplies to hard-hit countries across Africa, Costantinos said China has been “rallying for global coordination in managing the coronavirus outbreak.”

The Africa CDC in its latest situation update disclosed the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Africa has reached 42,626 on May 24. Meanwhile, the death toll from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent surpassed 3,200. **C**



A Chinese medical team arrives at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Ethiopia to help the country in its battle against COVID-19 on April 16

Africa-China Anti-Coronavirus Cooperation Fortifies Friendship

Political parties and figures from African countries speak highly of China's concrete actions to help them fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has injected confidence for African countries to defeat the virus.

In their messages sent recently to the Communist Party of China (CPC), they noted that the African and Chinese peoples have affinity for each other, and the united efforts to combat COVID-19 have enhanced China-Africa friendship. African countries are willing to work with China to build a community of common health for humanity, they said.

In his message, Bashiru Ally, General Secretary of Tanzania's ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), said that the epidemic

is more complex and destructive than ever before, and to overcome it requires joint efforts from all over the world, where China has played an exemplary role in pushing international cooperation.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, he said, noting that the CPC and the Chinese Government have stayed committed to maintaining the Africa-China solidarity, taking actions to support the anti-virus fight by Tanzania and other African countries. While voicing gratitude, he said that CCM is ready to work with other African political parties to enhance the traditional Africa-China friendship and the spirit of solidarity and mutual support so as to jointly defeat the virus.

John Boadu, General Secretary of Ghana's governing New Patriotic Party (NPP),

said Ghana deems its relations with China a diplomatic priority, and that it is grateful for China's sincere support to its national development.

He added that China has made full use of its institutional advantages to achieve a sustained progress in epidemic prevention and control. He thanked China for being among the first in the world to help Africa, providing important experience and medical supplies to Ghana. "We hope that China will continue to share with us its wisdom in coordinating epidemic prevention and control as well as socio-economic development," he said.

Thierno Doura Balde, Commissioner for China affairs with Senegal's Alliance for the Republic Party and a special presidential advisor, said his country thanks China for

overcoming its own difficulties as well as taking a good care of the Senegalese personnel in China.

The Africa-China friendship has stood the test of history and time, he said, adding that he hopes China will continue to support Africa's fight against COVID-19, deepen medical and health cooperation and work together to build an Africa-China health community.

At the same time, he expressed hope that China will continue to play the important coordination role within the framework of the United Nations, the Group of 20 (G20) and other organizations, work to strengthen and improve the global public health governance and lead in helping developing countries to cope with the pandemic and economic fallout.

Political assistant of Djibouti People's Rally for Progress Party General Secretary, Moumin Ismail Abdillahi said that Africa-China relations are based on comprehensive win-win cooperation, adding that China has always been a sincere friend of Africa, whose help is necessary for African countries' development.

Djibouti thanks China for providing as-

sistance to support Africa's anti-epidemic efforts, and he said himself is willing to become a spokesperson for the Djibouti-China friendship with a strong confidence that the profound Africa-China friendship will be strengthened during jointly fighting COVID-19.

Baudelaire Ndong Ella, Gabonese Ambassador to China, said that the peoples of Gabon and China have developed a time honored friendship. The bilateral relationship is based on sincerity, practice, mutual trust and respect, and has always held the principle of mutual benefit. In the face of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the two peoples have linked their hearts and offered timely help to each other, he said.

Gabonese are grateful for the anti-epidemic material assistance supported by CPC and the Chinese Government, and Gabon stands ready to deepen the two countries' comprehensive partnership, which is based on the community with a shared future for China and Africa, to get new win-win achievements, which could benefit the two peoples, the ambassador said.

Ace Magashule, General Secretary of African National Congress of South Africa,

Umatu Napoleon Koroma, General Secretary of Sierra Leone People's Party, Stephen Bwansa, Representative of Congo People's Party for Construction and Democracy, Gaddafi Nassur, member of the National Resistance Movement Organization Central Executive Committee of Uganda (NRM) and the Chairperson of the NRM Youth League, Kadara Swaleh, Kenyan Jubilee Party Director of Political Affairs, Assefa Tekle, Chairman of Ethiopian Prosperity Party's Youth League, Maqueto Lopes, Director of the International Relations of the MPLA Central Committee and some other political party delegates also noted that strengthening solidarity and cooperation is the effective way to solve this global crisis.

According to them, China has showed the world positive examples through practical actions, and they are grateful for China's assistance to help Africa contain the spread of COVID-19, noting that cooperation makes the hearts of Chinese and African get closer. They are all willing to become the envoys to maintain Africa-China solidarity and friendship, and are dedicated to build a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa. 

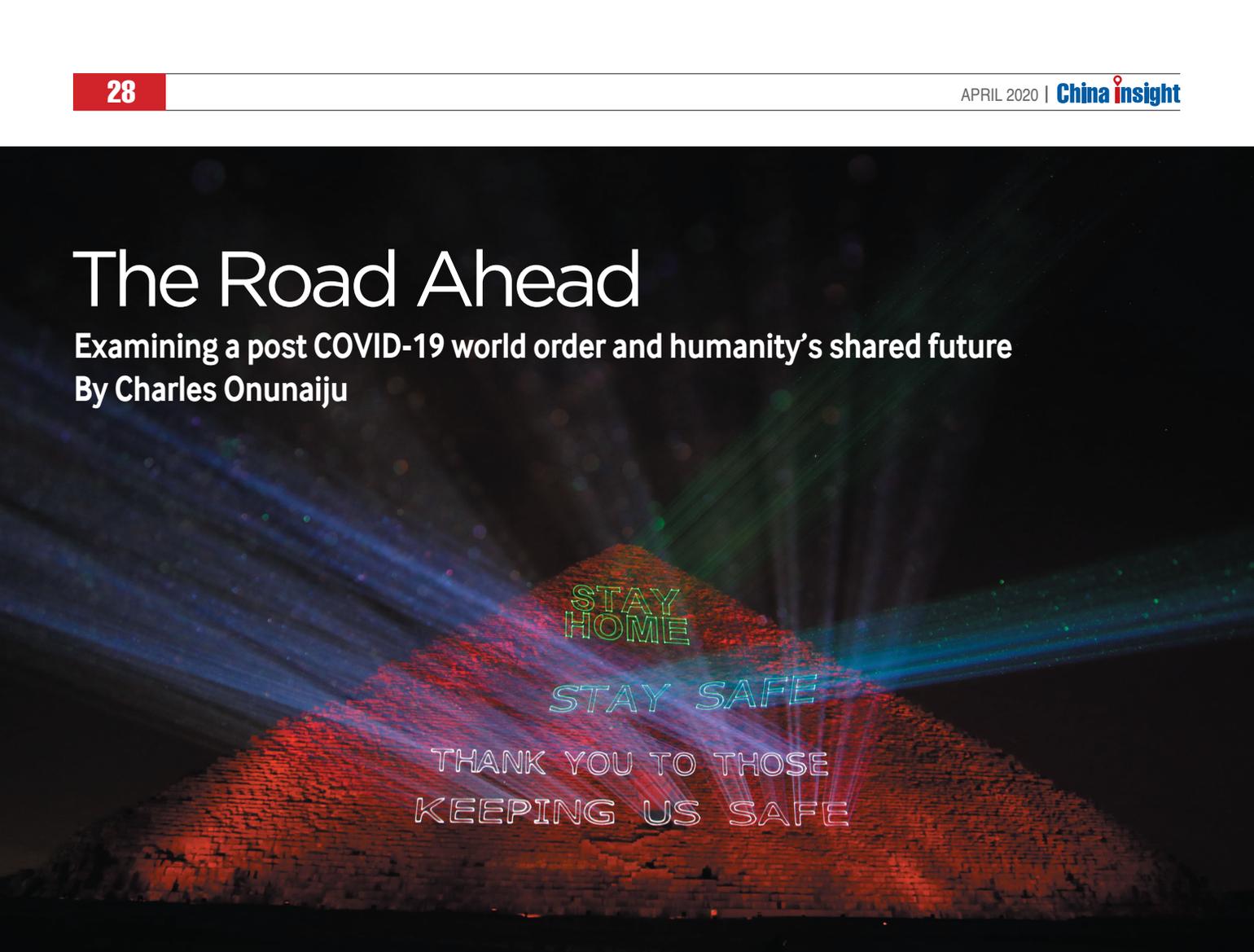


Members of the Chinese medical team unload their luggage from the plane at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe on May 11

The Road Ahead

Examining a post COVID-19 world order and humanity's shared future

By Charles Onunaiju



STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
THANK YOU TO THOSE
KEEPING US SAFE

The Pyramid of Khufu in Giza, Egypt, is illuminated with words to encourage people to stay strong during the epidemic on March 30 (XINHUA)

The vulnerability of people across all nations in the face of the rampaging COVID-19 not only challenges the traditional conception of national security, but also highlights imperatives relating to the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity. The outline of such a future was glaringly put on the global agenda with the advent of China's Belt and Road Initiative. It envisages the convergence of human interests and aspirations across national boundaries, without seeking to undermine

the existing structure of the contemporary international system, while putting sovereign states as its core unit of engagement. However, this vision of a community with a shared future for humanity recognizes the strategic network of critical and hard infrastructures that would underwrite it.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has squarely put into context the notion of our common humanity contained in the vision of building a community with a shared future for all humankind. At the First Belt and Road

Forum for International Cooperation held in May 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping described infrastructure connectivity, which is at the core of the Belt and Road Initiative, as the foundation of development through international cooperation and urged the promotion of land, maritime, air and cyber space connectivity, connecting the networks of highways, railways and seaports. In addition, Xi urged improvement of trans-regional logistics networks, and promoting coordination in policies, rules and standards so as to provide institutional safeguards for connectivity.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its rapid spread worldwide has fundamentally challenged humanity's imagination to rise above the particularisms of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion and even levels of development exclusivity, and move toward the inclusiveness of common humanity.

The political distraction in certain quarters that the Belt and Road Initiative framework is China's geo-political tool of influence is now summarily hollow. This is

The author is research director with Center for China Studies, Abuja, Nigeria



because its core contents of a practical road-map to functional international cooperation through joint development efforts is vindicated by the joint global efforts to curb and contain a malicious virus sneaking across borders and sowing death and despair.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought international cooperation in public health into focus and to curb the non-traditional security threat, the urgency for cooperation in the field of public health security ranks above military alliances and traditional security threats.

The coronavirus, which was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan, but with an uncertain origin, took the world by storm, ravaging Europe, tormenting America and burrowing into Africa and other regions of the world. China declared a people's war against the disease, mobilizing its national capacity and tapping into international goodwill. This has largely seen off the worst of the damage that the disease can cause.

According to Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi, the international community shared the view that the speed, intensity and scope of China's epidemic response is rarely seen in the world, that the leadership, response, mobilization and implementation capabilities China has demonstrated are exemplary for the rest of the world and that China has gathered valuable experience for

the international community in handling emergencies caused by infectious disease and advancing global public health governance.

However, beyond China's valuable experience, it has demonstrated the highest sense of responsibility as a major country. Strict measures have been taken to contain the virus within the country, China bought time for other countries.

For example, at the time of writing, not a single case of the virus entering Africa is reported to have been imported from China, despite the vigorous economic and social exchange between China and Africa. As with the case of the deadly Ebola outbreak in Africa in 2014, China is now engaging Africa in disease control and containment, and donating medical supplies and equipment, all critical tools to control and contain the disease.

As COVID-19 is not a mass death sentence, the world will certainly recover from its menace and the economic and social disruptions it has created in its wake, but the evident lessons it teaches must be assessed, internalized and built into the structure of the emerging international exchanges and contacts.

As the report of the WHO-China joint mission on COVID-19 informed us, "Most people infected with COVID-19 have mild disease and recover," adding that, "approxi-

mately, 80 percent of laboratory confirmed patients have had mild to moderate disease."

And, since the report was published in February, efforts have been intensified at diagnostic and therapeutic containment of the disease. What is actually left is to internalize the lessons of the disease outbreak and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

At his speech at the UN General Assembly in Geneva on January 18, 2020, Xi raised the concern that, "pandemic diseases, such as bird flu, Ebola and Zika, have sounded the alarm for international health security. The WHO should play a leadership role in strengthening epidemic monitoring and in sharing information best practices and technologies." He also urged "the international community to step up support and assistance for public health in African countries and other developing countries."

The COVID-19 has accelerated the urgency that the building of a community with a shared future for humanity is the imperative of our time. Xi urged that "great vision can be realized through actions," and "actions hold the key to building a community with a shared future for humanity."

So it is time that all the national actions deployed to combat the COVID-19 coalesce into an international joint effort to strengthen and advance our common humanity. 

Medical supplies from China for 18 African countries arrive at the Kotota International Airport in Accra, capital of Ghana, on April 6 (XINHUA)



Party to Party Brief

April 3

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a phone conversation with Bounnhang Vorachith, General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and President of Laos.

April 3

Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) spoke with Acting Director of the Department of International Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba on the phone at request.

April 13, 14

The IDCPC donated 10,000 masks to the Democratic Rally of Cyprus and the Progressive Party of the Working People respectively, in an effort to support Cyprus' fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. George Lysandrides, Director General of the Democratic Rally and Nikos Ioannou, Member of Secretariat of Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People, on behalf of respective parties, received the materials at the Chinese Embassy in Cyprus respectively.

April 15

A relevant principal official of the IDCPC spoke on the phone with Alberto Anaya Gutiérrez, leader of the Mexican Labor Party.

April 15

Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the IDCPC, attended an online video conference organized by the IDCPC on COVID-19 prevention between Chinese and Indian medical workers. The conference was attended by Zhong Nanshan, an academician

of Chinese Academy of Engineering and leader of high level expert group of National Health Commission and the expert team from the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, as well as Rahul Gandhi, President of Indian National Congress, Madhu Chandra, Chief Executive Officer of Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital in Uttar Pradesh and other Indian experts.

April 16

Li Jun, Vice Minister of the IDCPC, spoke on the phone with Diosdado Cabello Rondón, First-Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela.

April 21

The IDCPC donated 50,000 masks to the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP), in an effort to support Portugal' fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. José Capucho, Member of Secretariat of Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party, received the materials at the Chinese Embassy in Portugal on behalf of the PCP.

April 23

An opening ceremony of the online training workshop for senior cadres of the South African Communist Party (SACP) was held. Li Mingxiang, Assistant Minister of the IDCPC, delivered a speech via video link. Solly Mapaila, SACP First Deputy General Secretary attended the training workshop along with 20 SACP senior cadres, and addressed the event.

April 24

The Silk Road Think Tank Association (SRTA), an association initiated by the IDCPC, hosted a thematic cloud forum under the theme of working together to meet public health security challenges and build the health silk road, and also held a meeting

of the SRTA International Advisory Board. Song Tao, Minister of the IDCPC, delivered a written address.

April 28

Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the IDCPC, attended a video conference themed "Neighborhood Party Time: Political Parties of China and Indonesia Fight COVID-19 Together". The conference was also attended by principal officials from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform as well as leaders of major Indonesian ruling parties including the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, the Party of Functional Groups, the Great Indonesia Movement Party and the Nasdem Party.

April 29

Song Tao, Minister of the IDCPC, attended a video conference between the CPC and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment and prevention. Also present were Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the IDCPC, Zhong Nanshan, an academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and leader of high level expert group of National Health Commission, Madhav Kumar Nepal, CPN Secretariat Member and former Premier, Ishwar Pokhrel, CPN Secretariat Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, seven Nepal provincial secretaries, and medical professionals from both countries.

April 30

The IDCPC donated epidemic prevention materials to Fiji First Party. The handover ceremony was held at the Fijian Embassy in China. H.E Manasa Tagicakibau, Fijian Ambassador to China, received the materials on behalf of the Fijian side.