

中印对话

CHINA-INDIA DIALOGUE

China's Confidence
Against Coronavirus

Fighting the Epidemic
Together

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Together in Tough Times



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塞罕坝

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半个多世纪，三代人耕耘。

沙地变林海，荒原成绿洲。

寒来暑往，

塞罕坝机械林场的森林覆盖率

已达80%。

栽种树木按一米株距排开，

可绕地球赤道一圈。

Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the efforts made by generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

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Global Support for China's Anti-Epidemic Efforts

Edited by Xu Shuyuan

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, China has taken unprecedented measures under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, to contain the outbreak by sending national medical personnel and supplies to the

hardest-hit regions, building new hospitals, extending the Lunar New Year holiday, postponing reopening of schools and some businesses, and imposing travel restrictions. By February 12, 2020, many foreign leaders had praised and expressed support for China's efforts to combat the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

My appeal is for a strong feeling of international solidarity and a strong wave of support to China in these difficult circumstances but also to other countries that might be impacted. We also need strong concern to avoid stigmatization of people who are innocent and victims of that situation. I believe that China has mobilized enormous resources and has enormous capacity to respond to the outbreak, and we fully recognize that effort.

Ban Ki-moon, Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia

Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized the priceless value of life. The Chinese value on life and wisdom accumulated across the past five thousand years will enable China to overcome this epidemic. I will stand with the Chinese people in their battle against the epidemic.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO)

China's powerful system and effective measures to prevent and control novel coronavirus-related

pneumonia have rarely been seen globally. The WHO and the international community highly appreciate and fully support the decisive measures the Chinese government has taken to deal with the outbreak and thank China for its tremendous efforts to curb the spread of the contagion. The WHO is eager to enhance communication and cooperation with China.

Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus

Chinese leaders' efficient response and the heroism of the Chinese people are

admirable. Belarus, always a reliable and loyal friend of China, will send medical supplies to help the Chinese people battle the epidemic.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia

When China has encountered difficult times, the Cambodian people have stood firmly with the Chinese people as they undergo and overcome common difficulties—the two countries are truly steadfast friends. Cambodia will continue to carry out normal cooperation and exchange with China and remains committed to working with China to build a community with a shared future.

Kim Jong-un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The WPK, the people of the DPRK and I consider the epidemic that hit China something we are also suffering. We have strong faith that the CPC and the Chinese government and people will win the battle against the virus under Xi's leadership.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

India highly appreciates China's effective measures to fight the epidemic, and is willing to provide support and assistance to China in the battle.

Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary-General of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

Japan is ready to mobilize the whole country and provide all assistance possible to China in combating the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak. As long as Japan and China unite and cooperate, nothing is impossible and the two neighbors are sure to achieve an outright victory over the epidemic.

Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, Prime Minister of Mongolia

The people of Mongolia empathize with the Chinese government and people as they face the challenges posed by the epidemic. The Mongolian people believe that under the strong leadership of the Chinese government and with the concerted efforts of the Chinese people, China will soon rein in the epidemic.

Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan

Pakistan strongly believes that China will leverage its unique institutional advantages to overcome the epidemic. Pakistan will mobilize all the country's medical supply reserves to assist China and firmly stand alongside the brotherly Chinese people.

Vladimir Putin, President of Russia

Russia fully supports China in fighting the epidemic and plans to provide necessary medical supplies and send a delegation of anti-epidemic experts to China to jointly carry

out research and development of vaccines and drugs. China's resolute measures under the leadership of President Xi will contain the epidemic and minimize losses.

Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia

The Saudis highly appreciate the vigorous measures taken by the Chinese government to combat the epidemic and believe that China will surely win the battle. Saudi Arabia highly values its comprehensive strategic partnership with China and will staunchly stand with China in any circumstances. Facing the current difficulties, Saudi Arabia will spare no efforts to provide support and assistance to China in the battle against the epidemic.

Donald Trump, President of the United States

The United States fully supports China's fight against the novel coronavirus epidemic and is willing to send experts to China and offer assistance in various other forms. That China built special hospitals for novel coronavirus patients in such an incredibly short time is impressive and demonstrates China's outstanding organizational and response capabilities. I'm confident that under Xi's leadership, the Chinese people will undoubtedly win the battle against the outbreak. 🇺🇸

Arranged in this sequence: international organizations, followed by countries in alphabetical order.

Epidemic War: Together, We Unite and Fight

By Sun Weidong



At this difficult moment, I am deeply touched by the kindness of Indian friends, and I can feel the sincere friendship between the two peoples.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the international community has paid close attention. The sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 brought severe challenges to China and the world. The Chinese government has taken the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough prevention and control measures. Many measures are well beyond the requirements

of the International Health Regulations and the recommendations of the WHO. They have embodied China's responsibility and won the recognition of the international community. Through arduous efforts day and night, the epidemic is generally under control, and the dawn has begun to appear. Figures show that by and large, the epidemic is preventable, controllable and curable, and China's decisive response is

both right and effective.

On this epidemic war, I would like to highlight three keywords: **Confidence, Compassion and Cooperation.**

THE FIRST KEYWORD IS CONFIDENCE

As President Xi Jinping pointed out, we have full confidence, capability and determination to prevail over the epidemic at an early



Director Zhang Xijing (second left) and his colleagues are discussing the treatment plan for a patient in an ICU ward in Huoshenshan Hospital, a provisional hospital dedicated to treating severely ill COVID-19 patients. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*

date. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, many foreign friends, including Indian friends, have been encouraging Wuhan and China, saying, “Stay strong, Wuhan” and “Stay strong, China.” Thank you for this. We have full confidence to win.

Our confidence comes from the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). President Xi Jinping made instructions on the prevention and control of the epidemic as early as January 7 when he convened a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Since then, he has been repeatedly asking all-level Party committees,

governments and relevant departments to put the people’s safety and health first, take effective measures to resolutely curb the spread of the epidemic. He clearly required Hubei Province to implement comprehensive and strict control over personnel outflow. On January 25, the very first day of the Chinese New Year, the most important holiday in China, President Xi Jinping convened another meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and decided to set up a central leading group on responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. It has never happened before in Chinese history to have

this highest-level meeting on the first day of the Chinese New Year. It demonstrates President Xi’s great attention paid to the epidemic, his keen insight and outstanding leadership. He also went to Beijing’s local hospitals to review the diagnosis and treatment of patients and inspected community prevention and control work in Beijing.

The Chinese government has built an all-round and multi-level prevention and control system in Wuhan City and Hubei Province. Premier Li Keqiang went to Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, to guide the prevention and control work there. The State Council has established a joint

mechanism. All the 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities on the Chinese mainland have activated first-level public health emergency response. We are doing everything we can, leaving no stone unturned, in our efforts to contain and mitigate this epidemic. This is an unprecedented endeavor. China's rapid and effective response to the epidemic shows the strong leadership of the CPC and decisive measures of governments at all levels.

Our confidence comes from China's ability to mobilize all the resources for big undertakings.

We pooled national resources to support Wuhan and Hubei, and mobilized 19 provinces to support 19 cities in Hubei. As of February 14, China has allocated more than 80 billion yuan (US\$11.4 billion) for epidemic prevention and control. Banks and financial institutions have provided more than 537 billion yuan (US\$76.5 billion) in credit to fight against the epidemic. The National Health Commission sent 217 medical teams with more than 30,000 medical staff and three mobile P3 laboratories to support the medical treatment in Hubei. A total of 11,000 highway green channels have been opened for transporting emergency and protective supplies across the country. Highway vehicle tolls nationwide have been exempted from February 17 to the end of epidemic prevention and control. Under the unified dispatch, medical supplies such as face masks and protective suits, as well



An aerial view of Huoshenshan Hospital, a provisional hospital dedicated to treating patients infected with COVID-19. by Xu Xun/China Pictorial

as food and daily necessities, have been continuously delivered to all cities in Hubei.

In the process of this battle, we have renewed “Chinese speed” time and again. In order to relieve the shortage of medical resources, it took us only about 10 days each to finish the building of two provisional hospitals, Huoshenshan and Leishenshan hospitals. To build these two hospitals, hundreds of designers came up with design schemes within 24 hours, and 1,500 builders with a reserve team of 2,000 people and 280 sets of construction machinery and equipments worked day and night. Wuhan has also opened 16 “mobile cabin hospitals.” Our goal is to make sure that every patient be hospitalized and treated, leaving no one unattended or under-attended. China's institutional strength has been fully demonstrated.

Our confidence comes from the strong tenacity and spirit

of sacrifice of the Chinese people. All Party committees, local governments, military units, public institutions and enterprises have taken emergency actions. The public has worked as one, and a people's war against the epidemic has been launched. Tens of thousands of medical workers are fighting against the epidemic on the front line. Scientists have stepped up scientific and technological research. Factory workers and company staff have worked at full capacity. Soldiers and policemen have devoted themselves to this battle. Many village officials and community workers have stuck to their posts. Tens of thousands of volunteers have delivered various supplies and provided assistance to the epidemic areas. There are touching and moving stories happening every minute in China.

Our confidence is endorsed by China's strong economy, and we are confident in

maintaining the long-term and stable development of China's economy. As the world's second-largest economy, China has strong material foundation to win this battle. Huoshenshan and Leishenshan hospitals are equipped with modern medical facilities all "made in China," with a 5G high-speed network that can support the needs of 25,000 people and set up a platform for remote diagnosis and treatment. Tencent, Alibaba and other major technology companies use big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and robots

Since the sudden outbreak of the epidemic, China has been actively cooperating with the international community with openness, transparency and a high sense of responsibility.

to conduct viral gene analysis, temperature monitoring, material distribution, remote diagnosis and treatment.

The epidemic, of course, has big impact on transportation, tourism and catering industries as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. In the short term, the downward pressure on China's economy will increase, but the impact is local, temporary and limited. China is a major country with strong resilience, great potential and ample room for maneuver. We will stick to meeting this year's targets for economic and social development.

China's economy is stable and strong like a mountain.

The fierce wind could blow down trees, but not a mountain. It's easier to shake a mountain than to shake China. We firmly believe that with the strong leadership of the CPC, the strength of China's system, the unity of the great Chinese people and the strong support from the international community, we will win this battle against the epidemic.

THE SECOND KEYWORD IS COMPASSION

There are so many lovely people who deserve our

respect and should be remembered in this fight against the epidemic.

The majority of the medical workers are ordinary people. In order to protect lives and fight the epidemic, they demonstrated unparalleled courage and professionalism, and made extraordinary choices, sacrifices, and dedication. These people are the backbones of China. Their performance reassured the people of China and the world.

Communities are at the forefront of epidemic control. After the outbreak, a large number of grassroots workers stayed at their posts and performed their duties, and

all the forces came together to fight against the epidemic. Their persistence ensured that people lived a normal life and the epidemic was effectively controlled. After the whole city of Wuhan was locked down, community workers became "waiters" and "couriers." Many township officials, policemen, community workers and volunteers gave up their Spring Festival holidays and rushed back to their posts, checking on the flow of personnel, recording the passing of vehicles, and disseminating epidemic prevention information.

Workers in Wuhan have shown incredible tenacity and selflessness. Their slogan was "All for one, one for all." Chinese collectivism and devotion were fully displayed in the fight against the epidemic. They are all ordinary people. They are construction workers, sanitation workers, teachers, company staff, and volunteers, but everybody did his or her best to help fight against the epidemic. The Chinese people are indomitable and united.

THE THIRD KEYWORD IS COOPERATION

Since the sudden outbreak of the epidemic, China has been actively cooperating with the international community with openness, transparency and a high sense of responsibility. In a short span of over one week, we identified the pathogen and shared its genetic sequence with other countries and the WHO. This is good and important for other countries to prepare

timely testing and diagnostic tools for early prevention. To prevent the virus from spreading to other parts of the world, China took decisive measures such as the lockdown of Wuhan City, imposing restrictions on traffic in key epidemic areas and suspending outbound travel groups before the Spring Festival holiday. The measures we took have stopped the spread of the disease on a global scale. China has made tremendous efforts for global public health security at great sacrifices.

Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros, said that the containment and mitigation measures taken by China have gone well beyond WHO recommendations and China is actually setting a new standard. Here I would like to quote his remarks,

“This is the time for facts, not fear. This is the time for science, not rumors. This is the time for solidarity, not stigma.” In this case, everyone should not panic or overreact to the outbreak, nor should they discriminate against the Chinese.

The international community supports China’s actions. As of February 14, leaders of over 160 countries and international organizations had expressed their sympathy and support to China through telegrams or letters. Nearly 20 regional organizations including the BRICS and SCO have spoken in support of China. As of February 14, 33 foreign governments and four international organizations had assisted China with medical supplies. Seventeen foreign

governments and one international organization announced that they would offer medical supplies. Recently, some countries have voluntarily adjusted or lifted excessive travel restrictions on China.

China and India have been keeping close communication on the epidemic. Recently, Indian Prime Minister Modi sent a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping, expressing his recognition of the tremendous effort made by the Chinese government to deal with the outbreak. The Indian side assures readiness to stand by China and provide the assistance that India can to face this challenge. During a telephone conversation with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Indian External Affairs Minister



With the virus basically curbed, life in Wuhan is returning to normal. Pictured is a Wuhan resident taking care of her plants in the yard. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*

Dr. Jaishankar said that it is important to evaluate the outbreak in an objective and rational manner and not take actions that may complicate the situation. We appreciate and thank solidarity and support rendered by India.

China and India are actively collaborating on epidemic prevention and control, focusing on the following: First, we keep India informed and updated about the epidemic. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant local governments have held briefings in China. The Chinese Embassy in India has also established a contact mechanism with the Ministry of Health of India.

Second, we provide necessary assistance and convenience for the return of Indian citizens in Hubei, and ensure the health and safety of Indian nationals in China. I made a special inquiry and learned from Hubei Province that as of today, there are no cases of infection among the remaining Indian citizens in Hubei.

Third, the Indian students in Hubei have been taken good care of. The relevant universities have designated personnel to deliver masks and other protective materials to the students and send food and daily necessities to their residences on a regular basis. We give priority to their health and safety. The universities also provide necessary psychological counseling and online courses for those in need. At present, according to the epidemic prevention and control situation in different provinces, universities and

colleges have issued a notice to delay the start of the 2020 spring semester and notified each international student by email or mobile. For Indian students who are planning to go back to China to continue their studies, they should contact their universities in China to confirm the date of registration.

At this difficult moment, I am deeply touched by the kindness of Indian friends, and I can feel the sincere friendship between the two peoples. All these remind me of the time when Dr. Kotnis rescued the wounded, saved many lives and made great contributions to the Chinese people's liberation cause. It also brings back my memory of what I experienced during the outbreak of SARS in April 2003 when I was division director in the Asian Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that time, I received a delegation led by then Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes who visited Shanghai during the epidemic. In an interview with PTI, he criticized the foreign media for exaggerating the epidemic and creating panic among the public. After returning to India, he took concrete actions to support China's epidemic combat by instructing the Indian military to donate medicine to China. This act of kindness will never be forgotten by the Chinese people.

China and India are two major developing countries in the world. As ancient civilizations, both countries have wisdom to offer

inspiration to address challenges facing the world today. Improving public health security is our common goal. We can strengthen cooperation and exchange experience in this regard.

Currently, China and India enjoy close cooperation in various areas. More than one million people travel between the two countries every year, and the bilateral trade volume is over US\$90 billion. In addition, China is now in a significant position in the global supply chain. Therefore, China's early victory over the epidemic will be beneficial to the development of China and India as well as the global economy. It will help bilateral economic and trade cooperation get back on track. In this context, helping China is actually helping oneself.

The spread of viruses is borderless and forms a common threat to everyone in the world. Facing this common challenge, we need to enhance mutual understanding, strengthen cooperation, show solidarity, and jointly overcome difficulties. This is what it means to build a community with a shared future for humanity. I have full confidence that, with the joint efforts of the Chinese people and the international community, we will surely win this battle against the epidemic. 🇨🇳

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The author is Chinese Ambassador to India. This article is excerpted from Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Sun Weidong at the Press Conference on the Prevention and Control of the COVID-19 Epidemic.

Stop Stigmatization, but Stand Together

By RN Bhaskar



China is actually setting new standards for outbreak response, and this is not an exaggeration.

All epidemics are terrifying, as they defy man's capabilities to cope with them, even if temporarily. They frighten both common folks and health administrators.

It is no different with the new virus which is called by different names – coronavirus or 2019-nCoV, though the World Health Organization (WHO) officially gave it a new name on February 11 – COVID-19.

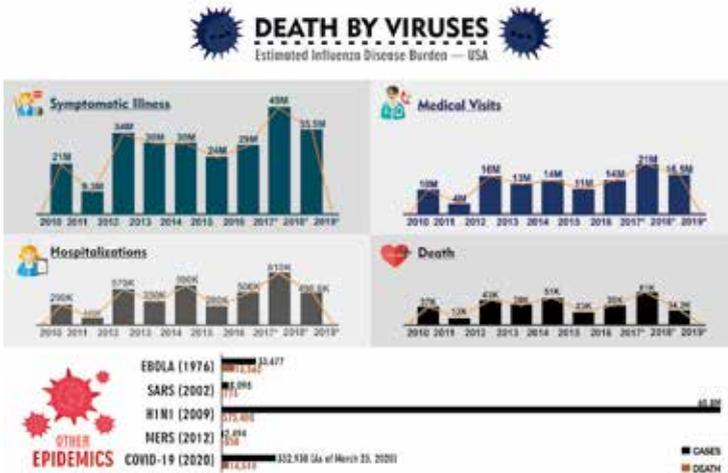
As of 7 a.m. on February 22, there were 77,271 confirmed

cases of COVID-19 and 2,250 resulting deaths across 32 countries and territories. Of these there were 12,071 serious cases and 18,910 recovered cases. According to this country's National Health Commission, most of the deaths took place in China which also registered 76,288 confirmed cases of infection.

At such times, it is easy to lose a sense of perspective, and the temptation to point fingers is not uncommon. But what was most unfortunate was the way even seasoned

legislators took turns trying to disparage China. It is commendable, therefore, that CNN chose to publicly castigate the irresponsible remarks made by Tom Cotton, the Arkansas Republican.

Such wild remarks about China could find echoes in social media too. One absurdly claimed that China had asked the courts to permit its authorities to cremate some 20,000 bodies to contain the further spread of this virus. This was debunked as fake news by quite a few



websites within a couple of days. Another social media despatch distorted the arrest of Dr. Lieber of Harvard and claimed that he was being locked away because he had helped the Chinese build a biological factory in Wuhan. In reality, the professor was picked up for questioning because his research institute had worked with the Chinese on nanotechnology, not biochemicals. There were many more wild allegations, and it was sad to see that social media administrators did very little to weed out such inflammatory and discriminatory filth.

In fact, all this flew in the face of the official statements coming from the WHO. Last week, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO, publicly placed on record that the WHO was declaring this virus outbreak as a global emergency not because of what was happening in China, but “because of what is happening in other countries.... Our greatest concern is that the virus could spread to countries

with weaker health systems and which are ill-prepared to deal with it.”

He went on to add that “the speed with which China detected the outbreak, isolated the virus, sequenced the genome, and shared it with the WHO and the world are very impressive and beyond words. So is China’s support for transparency and supporting other countries. In many ways, China is actually setting new standards for outbreak response, and this is not an exaggeration.” Sadly, few elected representatives cared to highlight this in the West. Clearly, they were not comfortable with the amazing speed with which China had responded.

It was equally disheartening to notice that people who decide public policy and often shape public opinion invariably forgot that history has recorded innumerable occasions when plagues and other epidemics cause panic and have even devastated cities. Given alongside is a sample of some of the major virus

outbreaks that have rocked the world in recent times, including COVID-19. And it doesn’t always emerge from congested places. The U.S. is almost the same size of China with a significantly smaller population. But watch how it has been plagued by viruses. Nobody has vilified the U.S. Why pick on China?

In all such instances, what works best is sobriety, and the need not to spread disinformation or create panic. The answer lies in trying to contain it, and find suitable cures, without trying to profit from the vaccines that can be promoted to prey on a population’s fears. Some companies and countries have been exceptionally adept at such practices.

In other words, there is no need to demonize China. It is doing more – and more swiftly – to contain the spread of this virus than any other country has done in living memory. Just watch the amazing speed and precision with which it built Leishenshan Hospital and Huoshenshan Hospital both within about 10 days. Even then, China knows that it is still running short of hospital beds and isolation wards. But it is building capacity to cope with this crisis.

China is doing all it can to both contain the spread of this virus, and to find a cure. The WHO has been more responsible in its analysis of the situation, and so has the CDC. Other institutions also need to follow suit. 🇨🇳

The author is consulting editor with Free Press Journal.

China's Confidence Against Coronavirus

By Qiao Zhenqi

The world has reason to believe that the Chinese government and people will win the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak through concerted efforts and open international cooperation.

The Spring Festival for the Year of the Rat in 2020 has undoubtedly left deep impressions on all Chinese people. An outbreak of pneumonia caused by a new type of coronavirus that can be passed from person to person swept across China during the heaviest travel period of the year as countless people visited their hometowns for family reunions during the Spring Festival holiday. As the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, a megacity with a population of more than 10 million, went into an unprecedented lockdown to block the spread of the virus.

Although the novel coronavirus epidemic is troubling, the Chinese people have shown strong social mobilization

abilities under the leadership of the central government, which has helped prevent and control the epidemic. On January 25, the first day of this lunar new year, Chinese

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, chaired a special meeting of the Standing Committee of



Staff members of Beijing Railway Disease Prevention Medical Research Center disinfect a train in Beijing. by Xu Xun/China Pictorial



A community worker pastes up a hand-painted poster on how to properly wash hands to prevent viruses on the wall of a lane in Beijing. by Duan Wei/*China Pictorial*

the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to devise a comprehensive plan to strengthen the prevention and control of the epidemic. A central leading group on combating the virus was established to guide the epidemic prevention and control efforts in various places. On January 27, Xi again gave important instructions, emphasizing that the battle against the epidemic was firmly in the hands of the people. The same day, entrusted by President Xi Jinping, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang inspected efforts to control the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. In a January 28 meeting with visiting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,

President Xi stressed that China has full confidence and capability to win the battle against the novel coronavirus with concerted efforts, scientific containment measures and targeted policies under the strong leadership of the CPC.

China's confidence in this battle does not come out of nowhere. It is fueled by the country's institutional advantages, technology and experience.

One of China's greatest advantages is its strong capability to mobilize the whole of society and pool the strength of the entire country to deal with major and urgent affairs. As of January 29, a total of 31 provincial-level regions in China had activated first-level public health emergency responses to the novel

coronavirus outbreak.

Communities in both urban and rural areas have rapidly formed grid emergency management with full coverage, widely mobilizing the people to protect themselves and contain the spread of the virus. Many places have effectively implemented joint prevention and control, which has played a positive role in preventing the spread of the epidemic. Strong social mobilization abilities demonstrate that China's social governance foundation and socialist system are constantly improving under the leadership of the CPC. History has repeatedly proved that the CPC has always served as the backbone of the Chinese people when facing risks



At 3 p.m. on February 6, 2020, an Ilyushin Il-76 carrying the second batch of Belarusian medical aid to China arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport. The parcels, weighing a total of 20 tons, consist of masks, gloves, protective suits, disinfectant and other medical supplies. The photo shows Chinese representative Liu Xuesong (right), deputy director-general of the Department of Eurasian Affairs of China's Ministry of Commerce, extending thanks to Igor Bolotov, deputy minister of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus. by Duan Wei/China Pictorial

and challenges, whether in earthquake relief or public health emergencies. Party members have remained the spearhead who carry the weight of the nation on their shoulders and lead the people forward. Many medical staffers and grassroots officials on the front line of the battle against the epidemic are Party members. They have made immense contributions with their practical actions that demonstrate the original aspirations and mission of the CPC.

China's confidence in overcoming the epidemic is also fueled by the development of medical technology and the country's progress in information technology. Compared with detection of the pathogen causing the SARS epidemic in 2003, the novel coronavirus was detected rapidly. One week after the first report of the epidemic, the novel coronavirus genome

was successfully deciphered and quickly shared with the international community. The significant improvement in efficiency has won precious time for global epidemic prevention and control, which evidences the improvements in China's medical and health system and the progress in China's disease prevention and control capabilities in recent years.

At the same time, the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic has been supported by new technologies such as 5G, telemedicine, cloud platforms, big data, and artificial intelligence. Information on population movement from big data platforms has provided references for precise prevention and control of the epidemic. In Sichuan Province, remote diagnosis of two patients infected with acute and severe novel coronavirus pneumonia was

performed with the help of the 5G network. Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital, a provisional hospital for treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus, would fully harness the advantages integrating 5G and cloud networks and provide comprehensive information services including telemedicine. As the country overcomes the epidemic, people are feeling the speed and strength of China's science and technology.

In addition, governments at all levels in China have accumulated rich experience in emergency management after undergoing so many tests brought by major emergencies such as catastrophic floods and earthquakes, SARS and bird flu, and their emergency response capacities have greatly improved. The quick activation of the emergency response mechanism, the rapid deployment of manpower and supplies for epidemic relief, and the openness and transparency of information on epidemic prevention and control, as well as active measures for international exchange and cooperation, all evidence the strong sense of responsibility of the Chinese government in the process of preventing and controlling the novel coronavirus epidemic.

The world has reason to believe that the Chinese government and people will win the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak through concerted efforts and open international cooperation. 🇨🇳

COVID-19 Next Step: Viral Education

By Ole Döring

Viruses have been evolving longer than humans. Whether or not human social structures evolve to minimize viral spread is in our hands.

The virus is infecting the world. COVID-19 is not only conquering physical bodies but also changing the way we think. Interaction between thoughts and microbes can challenge the sanity of people still mentally rooted in the 20th century, diminishing common sense of responsible health practices. National governance measures have proved ineffective in some cases. But a few countries, including China, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), are learning and adapting eagerly. While the virus weakens bodies, the epidemic is affecting how we think, talk and act. In our networked cyber society, the front lines of disease control have become a

culture struggle.

A sort of “emotional panic virus” has spread. Wild speculation about the causes of the outbreak has run rampant and absurd accusations have been tossed out against authorities as scapegoats have emerged and misinformation has disturbed social peace and delayed necessary measures. The nature of unclear health risks creates great uncertainty. Our social guidance systems including schools and governance provide orientation and certainty so citizens can trust the institutions. However, COVID-19 has been spread by human activity alone, and each member of society bears some individual responsibility.

Hardly anything is as subtle, powerful and uncontrollable

as such a virus. This situation warrants highly orchestrated strategies. The only path forward is solidarity and respectful cooperation of all people globally. Mistakes shine light on areas in need of learning and reforms because the next epidemic is already lurking.

Greater focus on responsible public behavior by experts, officials and pundits will significantly enhance mankind’s ability to adapt to different global challenges and conflicts. The new disease is now called “COVID-19.” The name deliberately captures standardization of research and demands further clarification to counteract irrational reactions. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus explicitly

warned against incitement, discrimination and misinformation related to the virus. The new term is free of blame, politics or nationality and only begs for action. To liberate humanity from infighting and foster greater solidarity to confront the disease as one force, we should integrate global social and biological capacity in terms of health resources.

The WHO emphasized that the most serious “illness” connected to COVID-19 is the infodemic: information prematurely released or poorly explained. The digital social sphere fosters the greatest share of modern communication, and it blurs the lines between authorities, social groups and individuals, making information more difficult to verify. When individuals cease to behave in a healthy manner and let instinct take over, biology will dictate what happens in the bodies and affects everyone else. When we are overwhelmed with data we cannot process, panic conquers our ability to do the right thing.

Notably, addressing the physical side of the epidemic is well in hand. The global medical community and authorities around the world are working day and night, so everyone else should comply with recommendations to observe hygiene and proper nourishment. But have we learned to prevent and cure the social and moral cancers the disease has brought to light before they mushroom into global issues that jeopardize peace and create even



— The temporary treatment center for COVID-19 patients located in Dongxihu District, Wuhan, is in the charge of Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University. It is the largest temporary treatment center in the city, with a total of 1,461 beds. by Ma Gengping/*China Pictorial*

worse existential threats than a microbe? In our cooperative social division of labor, are we doing enough to integrate science and medicine to foster peace of mind? Only a new culture for collaborative prevention can accomplish this and promote health on the social and individual scale, increase health literacy and solidify social stability. Control cannot be left to authorities or technology alone. Modern global health demands development of a trans-disciplinary effort with the objective of making citizens responsible agents instead of just passive patients.

How should language be used to describe the situation? We distinguish social groups such as wealthy and poor, men and women, healthy and ill. In context of disease, these are often confused or superseded by biological correlatives. For epidemiological strategy, it is crucial that common language prevails, to present the social

and practical rationality embedded in information. For example, to determine the probability of dying from COVID-19, one must account for male-female distribution of cases but also the fact that most male fatalities have been smokers. Gender cannot be controlled, but tobacco consumption certainly can. Proper information about the possible effects of human decisions opens options for behavioral changes. Such factors become even more compelling when it is clarified that intake of tobacco (for respiratory conditions) or sugar (for diabetics) determine the odds of dying from COVID-19 more than gender or ethnicity.

It is important to realize that changing perceptions are far from trivial. Describing social reality through a biological lens reduces humanity to medical objects. We cannot

build social rules through a microscope. If individual connection, social roles and economic fairness are not immediately evident to the actor, the value of health remains abstract. We risk spreading ambiguity in terms of practical information for individuals such as prioritizing and targeting health behavior and changing routines. Prescriptions for social and personal health resilience are usually far less dramatic than alarmist messaging: Be considerate and avoid all unnecessary or potentially unhealthy behavior in all areas including food, waste, consumption, mobility and interaction. Take care and continually act as a decent citizen. Success hinges on adherence, not compliance.

The notions of health literacy and responsible citizens are crucial for prevention because sane action requires context awareness. Education enables navigation of conditions involving unclear risk and uncertain prospects. Actions taken in the name of hygiene can be useless or even detrimental to health and safety. For example, loading up on protective masks and stockpiling of disinfectants have created severe scarcity and resulted in shortages that undermine trust in health infrastructure. Responsibility suggests proportional distribution so devices and resources can reach the people who need them most. Individuals should consider letting go of

perceived increased security for the benefit of society as a whole.

Responsibility reverses complacency. While compliance involves some understanding of what should be done according to regulations, adherence is the result of more profound understanding: As a citizen, I know why this is the right thing to do, even if it does not immediately benefit me. It is not easy to see the damage caused by irresponsible behavior or the benefits of a shift from obeying commands to doing the right thing independently. But the transformation can be eased through communication, education and incentives designed to promote conscientious behavior instead of panic.

Most current measures are designed for immediate response to contain the spread of the virus. We must buy time to improve. We need time for vaccines and improved health infrastructures as well as governance. However, time is a valuable resource for many reasons. Rather than wait to be saved, citizens should embrace a helping role. Such behavior is subtle and sustainable. While we endeavor to better understand how the virus weakens the strong and kills the weak, everyone can do more to become a less attractive host and spreader. Focus on what goes on between our heads and hands. The virus is an opportunist and subject to scientific scrutiny. But humans are free to make their own reasonable and responsible choices. Reason is subject

to neither science nor the virus. We can do more than just wait out the storm.

The deliberate changes the virus has provoked in our lifestyles are blending with many already known to be needed for other macro-challenges such as climate change, environmental destruction, poverty and inequity. The United Nations has clearly outlined strategies to foster a better future ranging from the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to the Decades of Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration. These will affect our industries. Tobacco and fossil fuels will be remembered as relics of the dirty industries of the 19th and 20th centuries after going obsolete alongside habits that propagated deadly viruses. The silver lining may be that entrepreneurs in the real economy are becoming even more entrepreneurial as they adapt, innovate and transform.

Today's global health perspective reminds us that the world is round. Eventually, small actions accumulate into something we embrace or fear. There is much we can do to create a better outcome. Humanity's ultimate concern should be strengthening holistic health resilience. Viruses will always be with us, as they always have been. Whether or not we optimize human behavior is in our hands. ■

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The author is an accomplished philosopher, sinologist and global health ethicist. He lives and works in Berlin and Hong Kong. Recently, he co-founded the European Centre for Chinese Thinking and the Institute for Global Health Berlin.

Fighting the Pandemic Together: For a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity

By Zhao Lei

Epidemics could happen in any country. Only with countries supporting each other in the time of crisis can the world embrace a bright and healthy future.

China is the initiator and actor of building “a community with a shared future for humanity.” The Communist Party of China (CPC) called for raising “awareness about human beings sharing a community of common destiny” in the report at its 18th National Congress in 2012. Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the notion of building “a community of a shared future” as early as March 2013, when he delivered a

speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. “It is a world where countries are linked with and dependent on one another at a level never seen before. Mankind, by living in the same global village in the same era and on the same earth where history and reality meet, has increasingly emerged as a community with a shared future in which everyone has in himself a little bit of others,” Xi said in the speech.

FACED WITH DISASTERS ONCE IN A WHILE, THE WORLD NEEDS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT A COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE FOR HUMANITY.

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 infected hundreds of millions of people and killed about 50 million people, with a 2.5-percent fatality rate. Over one hundred years later, with the advancement in the research of epidemiological technologies, mankind has more “weapons” to fight against



The No.3 Department of Infectious Diseases in Huoshenshan Hospital, a provisional hospital dedicated to treating severely ill COVID-19 patients, introduces a “home ward” treatment model, which enables infected couples to be treated in the same wards. Pictured is a couple in recovery presenting a letter to medical workers to express their gratitude. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*

epidemics. However, it is an indisputable fact that as people move around the world more conveniently and frequently, the spread of viruses are sped up. Some experts point out that an epidemic can spread worldwide in just 36 hours in this more interconnected globe.

In the history of epidemic prevention and control, countries around the world have joined hands to win many battles. For example, smallpox was finally contained after its vaccine prevailed in Europe, Africa and the Americas. Originating in Africa, the Zika virus began spreading explosively to many countries in Latin America in 2016. About four million people were estimated to be affected, which resulted in international collaboration

in disease control and prevention and vaccine research and development.

Since 1976, epidemics related to the Ebola virus have been reported more than 30 times, among which the year 2014 witnessed its largest outbreak in West Africa. According to statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO), by the end of 2014, infected cases and suspected cases of Ebola had reached 19,031 in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea and 7,373 victims had died. Thanks to joint efforts from countries around the world, the spread of the virus was restrained. China alone made donations of money and materials totaling US\$120 million to affected countries and

international organizations. Additionally, China sent 1,200 medical workers and public health experts there, completing nearly 9,000 sample tests, checking more than 900 cases and training 13,000 local health workers.

CHINA HAS ALWAYS PROMOTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE FOR HUMANITY.

As early as 1963, upon the instruction of then Premier Zhou Enlai, the Chinese government sent its first overseas medical aid team to Algeria at its invitation, initiating China’s healthcare collaboration with the international community.

According to the white paper *China and the World in the New Era* issued on September 27, 2019, over the six decades since China began to provide foreign assistance in the early 1950s, the country has provided 166 countries and international organizations with nearly 400 billion yuan (about US\$58 billion) in aid, and dispatched over 600,000 aid workers, of whom more than 700 sacrificed their lives for the development of other countries. China has provided medical aid to 69 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania. By 2018, in more than 30 Asian, African and American countries, China had launched over

200 development cooperation programs on disaster relief, healthcare, protection of women and children, refugee relief, and environmental protection. China has become the second-largest contributor to both the regular and peacekeeping budgets of the UN, and the largest troop contributor among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. In 2015, China announced that it would set up a 10-year, US\$1 billion China-UN Peace and Development Fund, which was officially put into operation in 2016.

Several decades ago, malaria still cast a shadow over China. After years of research and control efforts, since 2017, malaria has been

eradicated in China. But malaria remains rampant in Africa and Southeast Asia. At present, malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis are considered the three most urgent public health issues. According to the WHO, malaria infects 212 million people every year, causing 430,000 deaths—nearly 1,200 people per day. About 90 percent of infected cases and 92 percent of death cases happen in Africa.

On July 4, 2019, the U.S.-based magazine *The Atlantic* published an article titled *China Is Leading the Next Step in Fighting Malaria in Africa*. It read that “Chinese cooperation in the continent’s science and public-health sectors may show the world that the country has far more



At Tongji Hospital in the Sino-French Wuhan Eco Demo City in Wuhan, medical workers in the respiratory and critical care department make a victory sign for the camera. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*



With adequate individual protection such as wearing masks, Wuhan locals go out to purchase daily necessities. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*

to offer Africa than just roads, railways, and things.” In 2017, Chinese scientists working with a Chinese philanthropist and his company, New South, had already begun eradicating malaria from the small African nation of Comoros. Since 2008, China has set up 30 malaria-fighting clinical stations and provided them with 190 million yuan (US\$27.4 million) of antimalarial compound artemisinin, which is discovered by Chinese scientist Tu Youyou from the sweet wormwood plant and considered “the most effective and widely used anti-malarial drug in the world.” In 2018, China aided the construction of the first control and prevention center for tropical infectious diseases in Sierra Leone in an effort to help build African countries’ own capacity for public health. As long as there is an emergency in the world, China is ready to help.

THE ESSENCE OF A COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE UPHOLDS GLOBAL MULTILATERALISM AND OFFERS HELP TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

Since 2008 when the financial crisis broke out worldwide, unilateralism, protectionism, far-right

By standing together through the storm, we will see a rainbow after the rain. Disasters are merciless, but love will always prevail.

politics and de-globalization have increased. Many countries proposed “our country first,” believing that as long as they themselves are doing well, everything is ok. But some emergencies including the pandemic remind the

international community that only when all others are doing well can everyone be fine.

After the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), China has adopted the most comprehensive, strict and thorough measures to fight against the epidemic. Considering the fast spread of the virus, it is time for countries worldwide to make joint efforts to contain the disease.

Research teams worldwide are racing against time to develop vaccines. From February 11 to 12, 2020, a forum on the novel coronavirus was jointly held by the WHO and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness in Geneva, Switzerland, aiming at achieving a research roadmap to coordinate global research resources to determine the focus of research on the virus, discuss clinical treatment schemes and advance the development of vaccines. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus emphasized that

science is science, and it is no help to politicize science. “The virus is our common enemy,” he said. Indeed, the epidemic is a test of the solidarity of the international community. Cynicism and indifference do not help solve problems.



Zhou Yihu, a volunteer for Wuhan Anti-epidemic Transport Team, is running an errand. Volunteers from the transport team are responsible for purchasing and transporting daily necessities for local residential communities, as well as taking medical staff to and from work. by Ma Gengping/*China Pictorial*

THE ROADMAP TO CONSTRUCT A COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE IS TO ESTABLISH GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP, SHARING HAPPINESS AND BITTERNESS AND GETTING THROUGH THICK AND THIN.

After the outbreak of COVID-19, some foreigners chose to stay in Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, to contribute efforts to fighting the disease. Many countries show their concern and support for China, warming the Chinese people's hearts.

For example, donations and support from Japan touched the Chinese people. Shops in Tokyo and Osaka selling protective products put up signs bearing words like "Stay strong, Wuhan! Stay strong, China!" and

some even lower the prices of anti-epidemic supplies. On the boxes of masks donated by the Japanese HSK Bureau, a Chinese-language verse said that "mountains and rivers set people of the two countries apart, but we share the same winds and moon under the same sky." The lines conveying message of friendship between the two countries through ages moved many Chinese people into tears.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama expressed that Japan and China are in a community with a shared future, hoping everyone will overcome the crisis. China is not alone. Japan would stand shoulder to shoulder with China to fight the disease. "We never forget China's great help when Japan was hit by an earthquake in 2011," he said.

"I heard medical materials are in sharp shortage in China now. I am very worried. We hope we can contribute in all ways." This is not the voice of Japan but also the attitude of the international community.

Indeed, in an era of globalization, both opportunities and risks are globalized. Epidemics could happen in any country. Only with countries supporting each other in the time of crisis can the world embrace a bright and healthy future. By standing together through the storm, we will see a rainbow after the rain. Disasters are merciless, but love will always prevail. 📌

The author is a professor at the Institute for International Strategic Studies of the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC (National Academy of Governance).



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to enjoy clean air.**

A Battle Against Epidemic

By Zhao Yue

China now is making all-out efforts to control the COVID-19 outbreak.

Chinese health authorities announced that 80,651 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) had been reported on the Chinese mainland by the end of March 6, 2020. By the same time, the death toll from the contagion had reached 3,070 across the mainland, and a total of 55,404 patients had been cured and released from hospitals.

In Hubei Province, 67,666 confirmed cases had been reported as of March 6, including 49,871 in Wuhan, the capital city of the province, where the outbreak was first reported. Since the outbreak was first reported in Wuhan in December 2019, it has affected all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions on the Chinese mainland.

China has full confidence and capability to win the battle against the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak, Chinese

President Xi Jinping said on January 28, when he met with Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization in Beijing. “The Chinese people right now are faced with a very serious battle. And for the Chinese government, this is something that we take very seriously, because in our view, nothing matters more than people’s safety and health,” Xi said.

On January 27, entrusted by President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang inspected efforts to prevent and control the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

In Wuhan, Li required local authorities to spare no effort in the epidemic prevention and control work, which is of paramount importance, reducing both the incidence rate and mortality rate to safeguard people’s lives and health. Li

called for speeding up the construction of Huoshenshan Hospital, a provisional hospital for treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus, during his visit to the construction site. He also assured people in a local supermarket that the country, with its ample reserves and measures, will ensure adequate market supply and stable prices in Wuhan.

Intensified measures have been taken by authorities at different levels around China to cope with the spread of the disease. Wuhan has been cut off from the rest of China, with limited transport restriction measures taken in some other cities. Schools across the country would postpone the new semester following an announcement from the central government.

As of March 2, over 330 medical teams made up of over 40,000 medical workers from across China

had been sent to Hubei Province, the epicenter of the outbreak, to help combat the COVID-19 epidemic. They have been dispatched to designated hospitals to join the medical work.

The first batch of medical staff was sent from Shanghai and from Guangdong Province on January 24. The medical workers are specialized in different areas, including respiratory and infectious diseases, and many of them are very experienced in similar emergency relief operations and have taken part in fighting the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in 2003 or helped control the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

Authorities in Wuhan are also intensifying efforts to increase the number of beds to cope with the increasing number of patients, including building two new hospitals. The two provisional hospitals, Huoshenshan and Leishenshan, would provide a total of 2,300 additional beds. Huoshenshan Hospital, built in just 10 days, was formally delivered to military medics on February 2 and started to treat infected patients on February 4. Leishenshan Hospital was completed on February 6 and began to treat patients on February 8. The Huoshenshan and Leishenshan hospitals replicate the SARS treatment model used in Beijing in 2003. Thanks to concerted efforts, within only one month, hospital beds for COVID-19 patients in Wuhan have been increased from some 5,000 to more than 23,000, among which more



March 9, 2020: Customers wear masks and goggles when purchasing daily necessities in a supermarket in Haidian District, Beijing.
by Guo Shasha/*China Pictorial*

than 9,000 were prepared for severely ill patients. Right now, all authorities in Hubei Province are taking resolute measures to make sure all people needing medical assistance are admitted to medical facilities for the novel coronavirus pneumonia.

On March 10, Chinese President Xi Jinping inspected Wuhan, Hubei Province, pledging a continuous fight toward victory as prevention and control efforts have “turned the tide.” The inspection to Wuhan took the president to Huoshenshan Hospital and Donghu Xincheng residential community where he greeted people quarantined in their homes. Xi visited patients, medics, community residents and workers, police officers, military personnel, officials and volunteers who have been fighting the novel coronavirus.

Xi said that the spread of the novel coronavirus has been basically curbed in Wuhan

and other places of Hubei. The positive trend in preventing and controlling the novel coronavirus outbreak could not have been achieved without the sacrifice, devotion, perseverance and great efforts of the people of Wuhan. With their concrete actions, Wuhan people have demonstrated the strength and spirit of China, as well as the Chinese people’s love for the family and the nation, which enables them to stick together through thick and thin. Calling Wuhan a heroic city and its people heroic people, Xi said they will be remembered in history for the final victory against the disease and the whole Party and nation are deeply moved by Wuhan people. Xi also stressed the disease is a big test of the country’s governance system and capacity, adding that the authorities should learn from these experiences to improve the governance system. 🇨🇳

Expected Rebound of Post-Epidemic Consumption

By Zhao Ping

The possibility of a big rebound is very high.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia has greatly affected consumption of physical retail, tourism, catering, culture and sports. Since the peak of the epidemic has yet to be determined and the duration remains unknown, it is still too early to make estimates on consumption losses. However, from an annual perspective, damage to consumption caused by the epidemic can be repaired. Experts predict that within six months after the end of the epidemic, consumption will return to the normal growth track.

The duration of consumption damage may have been cut by unprecedented efforts in epidemic prevention and control.

The prevention and control efforts have been unprecedented, and residents' awareness of prevention and control has significantly improved. Therefore, the duration of the damage to consumption may be even shorter than SARS. Neither the 2003 SARS outbreak nor the 2008 earthquake resulted in a level-1 public health emergency response. In 2020, however, all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions on the Chinese mainland launched a level-1 public health emergency response, taking the most comprehensive and stringent prevention and control measures against the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Many measures even far exceeded international health standards. Some cities

suspended intercity passenger coaches. In the Yangtze River Delta and the Beijing-Tianjin region, some high-speed trains were canceled. Many urban communities and rural villages have taken specific measures to prevent and control the epidemic. Public awareness of epidemic prevention and control is unprecedented. Avoiding crowded places, isolation at home, wearing masks and washing hands frequently have become routine for many Chinese during the outbreak.

At the same time, China has been open, transparent and responsible in its efforts to share epidemic information and the gene sequence of the virus with the international community. China's prevention and control measures were not only

highly praised by the World Health Organization (WHO), but also effectively improved outcomes. For example, it was until March 31, 2003 that the pathogenic source of SARS was successfully isolated, more than four months after the first SARS diagnosis in China in November 2002. However, it took only a month and five days from the first case of novel coronavirus pneumonia confirmed in Wuhan on December 12, 2019 to successful isolation of the novel coronavirus pneumonia strain on January 27, 2020 by Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The SARS epidemic lasted for nearly eight months from its onset to June 24, 2003, when the WHO declared Beijing to be free of SARS and lifted its travel warning on the Chinese capital. Considering that extremely strict prevention and control measures have been taken,

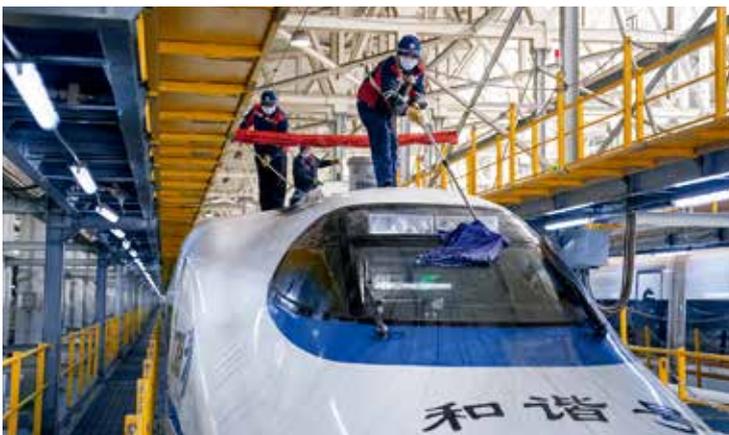
the length of the current novel coronavirus epidemic is expected to be greatly shortened. Therefore, the damage to consumption will be far less than it was with SARS.

One percentage point of consumption growth could be gained by transformation of overseas consumption into domestic demand.

The epidemic may change huge overseas consumption into domestic demand, which will effectively drive the growth of domestic consumption. During the SARS epidemic in 2003, the size of China's outbound tourism was small. However, over the past more than 10 years, the scale of outbound tourism of Chinese residents has rocketed to the top of the world. In 2018, the volume of outbound Chinese tourists hit nearly 150 million, an increase of 14.7 percent over the previous year. According to statistics released by China Tourism Research

Institute, the total spending of China's outbound tourists in 2018 reached US\$120 billion, equivalent to 2.2 percent of the country's total retail sales of consumer goods in 2018.

To prevent the spread of the epidemic, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China issued a notice on January 24, requiring all regions to suspend business activities of tourism enterprises. Travel agencies and online tourism enterprises across China immediately suspended sales of group travel programs and other bundled tourism products. On January 28, China's State Administration of Immigration announced that to enhance the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, the entry-exit administration departments nationwide would suspend the issuance of entry permits for both group and individual travelers from the Chinese mainland seeking to visit Hong Kong and Macao. In addition, some countries adopted measures to suspend entry and visa issuance for foreign citizens. The huge overseas consumption of China's outbound tourists is expected to transform into domestic demand. With the gradual emergence of domestic prevention and control effects, shopping and catering will be the first sectors to return to normal, and tourism will be gradually restored. If half of the overseas tourism consumption returns to China, it will drive the growth rate of the total retail sales of consumer goods to increase by one percentage point.



Workers of the High-speed Train Section of Beijing Railway Bureau daily disinfect bullet trains from end to end. At the critical moment of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the High-speed Train Section of Beijing Railway Bureau undertakes the task of high-speed rail transportation nationwide and also provides transport support for relief supplies to Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic. by Xu Xun/China Pictorial

The epidemic outbreak has motivated a change in consumption structure and stimulated three major consumption demands.

The epidemic has created and strengthened three major consumer needs. First, the epidemic highlights the dependence of Chinese residents on online consumption. The penetration rate of online shopping in China has been increasing year by year, and the growth rate has remained at a high level. In 2019, the ratio of the online retail sales of physical goods to the total retail sales of consumer goods rose to 20.7 percent, 2.3 percentage points higher than that of the previous year. During the epidemic, people who are accustomed to online shopping continue purchasing necessities of life such as food, grain and cooking oil via e-commerce platforms. Some convenience stores and vegetable stores begin to provide delivery services. E-commerce platforms such as Meituan, Tmall and JD have created “non-contact” distribution modes which not only further improve the shopping habits of internet users, but also attract new buyers to online shopping. During the fight against the epidemic, Weibo, WeChat, Toutiao, Tik Tok and other social media providers have become essential to track the epidemic and engage in social interaction. The epidemic has increased people’s dependence on the internet, which is conducive to the further growth of online shopping even after the epidemic.

Second, supermarkets, vegetable markets and other physical stores have managed to enjoy a boost. During the outbreak, people have significantly reduced dining out. Instead, they are buying necessities of life at physical stores and cooking at home. Queuing has appeared in some stores. Consumer demand for supermarkets and vegetable markets is still very strong, and many physical businesses such as supermarkets and other food sellers are getting a boost.

Third, many people are now isolated at home. Their demand for daily consumer goods has increased dramatically, especially for masks, protective clothing and disinfecting products. Due to the continuous improvement of health awareness, demand for public health products will remain high even after the situation improves. Public health products will become a new growth point for consumption.

Currently restrained service consumption will recover and rebound rapidly.

Service consumption accounts for half of China’s total consumption. Current demand has been curbed but recovery will be faster than thought. China’s current consumption structure features a pattern driven by two wheels: service consumption and commodity consumption. In 2019, service consumption accounted for 45.9 percent of China’s per capita consumption expenditures, 1.7 percentage points higher than that of the previous year. In terms of supply, the prosperity index of China’s service industry is significantly higher than that of the manufacturing industry. In December 2019, the non-manufacturing business activity index was at 53.5 percent, which has continued rising. After the end of the epidemic, the service industry will resume stable operation, which will effectively expand the



March 20, 2020: A worker on the production line of Wuhan Kemen Noodle Manufacturing Co., Ltd. As an enterprise that supplies staple goods, the company gradually resumed production from March 1 and ensures a daily production of 80 to 90 tons. by Ma Gengping/China Pictorial

scale of service consumption.

During the outbreak, vast consumer demand is restrained, but it hasn't vanished. Instead, the time of realization changed. Tourism and catering consumption present solid examples because traveling and dining out have become such regular activities for so many people. In 2019, catering revenue increased by 9.4 percent over the previous year, 1.5 percentage points higher than the retail sales of commodities in the same period. The growth rates of spending on education, culture, entertainment, transportation and communications all measure more than 10 percent. Since people are staying home due to epidemic prevention and control needs, current consumption demand for tourism and catering cannot be realized. However, this will further stimulate consumption desire. After the epidemic ends, consumer demand will bounce back in a big way. Analysts expect that within about two months after the end of the epidemic, catering consumption will enjoy a small peak before returning to normal growth. This year's Labor Day holiday, Dragon Boat Festival holiday and summer vacation will be the key periods for the release of tourism consumption. By the week-long National Day holiday in October, tourism consumption will return to the normal growth range. Double-digit growth will remain in consumption demand for education, culture, entertainment, transportation and communications.

When consumption returns to normal growth three to six months after the end of the epidemic, we should supplement supply shortages.

Due to the unprecedented control measures for the novel coronavirus pneumonia, the duration of the epidemic will likely be shorter than that of SARS. The epidemic has restrained overseas consumption, which is expected to transform into domestic demand, becoming a new driving force for consumption growth in China. The epidemic has restrained consumption behavior but stimulated consumption desire. The possibility of a big rebound is very high, and service consumption will resume growth rapidly. The epidemic has raised public health awareness, strengthened online shopping habits and created new growth points for consumption. Moreover, from the perspective of consumption during the SARS period, the growth rate decreased significantly in 2003, but rebounded to 13.3 percent the following year, 4.3 percentage points higher than in 2003. If the economic policy to address the novel coronavirus outbreak is appropriate, consumption is expected to return to normal growth within three to six months after the end of the epidemic.

Several strategies will help minimize the impact of the epidemic on consumption: First, China should ensure a steady increase of income for its residents. We should continue to accelerate the reform of the income

distribution system. By raising minimum wage standards, ensuring the full funding of social insurance and housing fund, and lowering the top rate of personal income tax, we can facilitate better primary income distribution and ensure the stable growth of residents' income to lay a substantial foundation for consumption growth. Second, we need to increase investment in public health. The frequency of global epidemics is increasing. The United States has endured serious influenza epidemics in recent years that have resulted in many deaths. Demand for public health products has changed from occasional to a long-term, strategic demand of a country. We need to increase investment in the public health industry and cover any shortages of public health products. Third, we should vigorously support the development of logistics and express delivery and accelerate the recovery of the daily life services industry. Through targeted tax reductions and special loans for small and medium-sized enterprises, we can strengthen businesses, promote fast recovery of production capacity in logistics and other service industries and help these industries embrace better supply conditions to prepare for the release of potential consumer demand. 

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Intensive Care: The Medical Workers of Wuhan

By Gong Haiying

“As we stand in solidarity, we will soon seize a bright future.”



December 1, 2019: Zhao Zhigang (sixth left, back row) and his coworkers from the emergency ward of Zhongnan Hospital pose for a group photo. The emergency ward of Zhongnan Hospital of which Zhao is in charge serves as the first ward in the hospital to take in fever patients since the COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, Zhao and his team have been working on the front lines. by Zhao Zhigang

At 11:20 p.m. on February 6, 2020, Zhao Zhigang, a physician at Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University, finally left work.

It was the second day since he returned to work after he recovered from infection with the novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19). After his recovery, instead of getting some rest, Zhao immediately resumed his post. Every day he begins to work at 8 a.m. and stays at the hospital well into the night. “Sometimes when I put on a protective suit to treat patients, I feel chest distress,” said Zhao. “However, I can’t stop thinking about how much my return helps relieve pressure on other doctors and nurses, so I couldn’t wait to get back to the front lines.”

At age 40, Zhao works as an ICU doctor at Zhongnan Hospital, one of the 27 level-A tertiary hospitals in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province. As early as January 8, soon after the outbreak of COVID-19 in the city, his emergency ward had already transformed into a quarantine area for fever patients. By mid-January, he was diagnosed to be infected with COVID-19 due to close contact with patients. For three consecutive days, the fever and chest congestion symptoms worsened. On January 22, his infection was confirmed. At that time, the number of fever patients in Wuhan was rising precipitously. Given the shortage of medical

resources, Zhao decided to treat himself in isolation at home. Soon thereafter, his wife and mother-in-law were also confirmed as infected.

“I was scared at first,” Zhao recalled. Having been a doctor for more than 10 years, Zhao knew his knowledge of COVID-19 was insufficient. He also felt guilty for not being able to protect his family. However, after the hardest days at the beginning, Zhao began to see things from a different perspective. “Being infected with the virus was not that terrible,” he claimed. “What’s important is your attitude about it.” After his condition improved, Zhao immediately signed up to join Zhongnan Hospital’s online consultation expert team. On January 28, he began to provide online consultation services. During his treatment in isolation, he worked more than 10 hours per day and served more than 700 people online. Alongside giving his patients medical advice, Zhao stressed the importance of staying calm and avoiding panic.

Going back to his post in the hospital after recovery was a great physical and mental challenge for Zhao. He returned to find his hospital, which had become totally dedicated to treating novel coronavirus-infected people, packed with patients. The number of severe cases in the ICU had reached 30, far surpassing the capacity of the ward. The workload in the ICU was overwhelming. “The hospital was operating

under massive pressure to treat patients,” remarked Zhao. Although his wife and mother-in-law were making progress, they were still being treated after he returned to work. Zhao was so worried about their conditions that he sent various items to the hospital where they were treated every few days. “I could only glance at them from far away, and I needed to go back to work.”

Thanks to support from China’s central government and other regions of the country as well as international assistance, the shortage of medical personnel, beds and supplies in Wuhan gradually eased. Zhao started seeing victory against the epidemic on the horizon. “The current situation is still grave,” said Zhao on February 11. “However, as we stand in solidarity, we will soon seize a bright future.”

Statistics from China’s National Health Commission show that as of February 17, around 30,000 medical workers from across the country had reached Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, to join the fight against the epidemic. Among them were 11,000 intensive care specialists like Zhao. After an additional 2,000 beds for treating severe cases of COVID-19 were added on February 19, Zhongnan Hospital became the largest dedicated hospital in Wuhan to treat infected patients. “We will keep going until final victory arrives!” Zhao proclaimed to his followers on social media. ■

When Everyone Shines —A Kindergarten Teacher’s Turn to Volunteering

By Hu Zhoumeng

“When you do something good and I do something good, the world shines.”

Aged 24, Wu Yankun is the only male teacher at Rose No. 2 Kindergarten in Hanyang District of Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province. Over the past year, Wu spent the bulk of his working days singing kids in his class to sleep, rehearsing short plays, and playing games with them in the sun. The 35 children in his class refer to him as “Teacher Papa.”

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the entire city of Wuhan was dragged into a strange rhythm. The teacher was completely cut off from his class. As the war against the epidemic raged, restless Wu decided he had to do something to help dispel the haze haunting the city.

HOPE HOTLINE

When Wu saw a notice for recruiting volunteers to help epidemic prevention and control issued by the Wuhan Municipal Communist Youth League Committee, he signed up immediately without telling his parents. As he expected, his parents were worried when they found out, but his mind was made up. “Even if we cannot do much, we have to do something,” he said. “If everyone feels powerless, nothing will get better.”

On January 31, 2020, Wu and his fellow volunteers started work in a temporary tent in Wuhan International Expo Center. Along with unloading materials for epidemic prevention and control, another important responsibility they

assumed was answering the Wuhan Red Cross Society donation line.

After the outbreak of the epidemic, phone calls from warm-hearted people around the world flooded in. The volunteers started answering phones around the clock in three shifts, each with three people on duty.

“People offer to donate so many things including masks, goggles, protective clothing, disinfectants and food,” Wu revealed. “But I have to kindly refuse many offers because what we really need is medical supplies. Some hospitals have called to ask if there is any direct donation for them. Sometimes, ambulances are sent to our warehouse to pick up materials. Anyway, the



February 2, 2020: Wu Yankun (first left) works with other volunteers in a temporary tent set up at Wuhan International Expo Center. courtesy of Wu Yankun

most common questions I got are about material transportation, including how to transport donated materials into Wuhan and how to handle customs procedures.”

Once, after working non-stop from 4 p.m. to midnight, Wu started feeling pain in his throat, but the calls still warmed his heart.

A particularly moving call was from a man in his 70s from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. After seeing the news on TV, he was moved by the hardworking medical workers in Wuhan and insisted on donating his savings of 800 yuan (US\$114) which had taken three years to save up. “The old man couldn’t hear well or speak clearly on the phone,” Wu

sighed. “His son and the village chief later called back to help explain.”

He also had trouble understanding a call from Hunan Province because the donor had a strong local accent. “We had been talking for several minutes before I realized he wanted to donate several pigs because he wanted to ensure the medical workers on the front lines were eating well,” Wu grinned.

After the outbreak of the epidemic, many in Wuhan faced grave psychological pressure, but Wu feels volunteering creates positive energy. “I realized that many people care and support us,” he beamed. “When you do something good and I do something good, the world shines.”

GOOD NIGHT, WUHAN

“How are things in Wuhan, Teacher Papa? Stay strong and safe!” As the outbreak attracted more public attention, such greetings have been flooding into “Good Night Story Hub,” a popular WeChat account launched by Wu Yankun. Two years after he created the account, it has more than 30,000 subscribers. Every night at eight o’clock, Wu posts audio of himself reading a carefully selected good night story to help parents put their children to sleep.

After Wuhan was locked down in an unprecedented effort to curb the spread of the deadly novel coronavirus, worries spread quietly in many families. Wu could feel the anxiety

in messages posted to his account. For example, some complained that old people in their families refused to wear masks and others revealed their grandparents insisted on boiling vinegar at home to repel the virus. He couldn't help but worry about the psychological state of the children.

"It's a challenge for children to stay cooped up in the house without going outside to play for a long time," he explained. "Even if parents stay silent, their anxiety can still be passed to their kids."

To provide some help, Wu devised a method of explaining the coronavirus situation and promoting self-protection through good night stories such as *A Story on Novel Coronavirus*, *Don't Believe the Rumors*, *A Letter from Medical Workers on Epidemic Prevention and Control* and *Why Do I Have to Wear a Mask?*

In these stories set to soothing music, Wu employs a soft tone to compare the immune system of the human body to a general commanding soldiers to fight the virus. He exhorts children to wash their hands thoroughly to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*.

Even during his busy volunteer work, Wu continues scouting for picture books and recording, typesetting, publishing, and updating works on his WeChat account every day. He is thrilled that his goodnight stories have actually made a difference. "Some parents have posted that after listening to my stories, the old people at home finally put on masks," he said.



A girl plays alone near her home. She already changes into her spring clothing. As a saying goes, "no winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." With all its people continuing to press forward against all odds, China will win the battle against the epidemic and the spring will come on time. by Ma Gengping/*China Pictorial*



Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, Wu Yankun, a teacher at Rose No.2 Kindergarten in Hanyang District, Wuhan, plays games with kids in his class. courtesy of Wu Yankun

Alongside stories, Wu also posts parent-child games. "Playing games with parents is one way children can have fun at home," he beamed.

Not long ago, he received a video from a parent featuring a four-year-old boy pumping his little fist to cheer on Wuhan. He pinned the video to the top of the group and typed: "Your recent

encouraging messages have all been received. Don't worry! So many scientists, doctors and nurses are fighting against the virus on the front lines. Wuhan will be fine soon! When spring finally arrives, come visit Teacher Papa again. Let's go out to eat *reganmian* (hot dry noodles) and enjoy cherry blossoms together!" 🍵

The “Pop-up” Hospital of Huoshenshan

Text by **Wu Wei**

Photographs by **Wu Wei** unless otherwise credited

At the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital, nearly 700 management personnel, more than 3,000 construction workers and around 1,000 large construction machines and transport vehicles were working in shifts around the clock.



Large engineering machines busy working at the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital. Because the construction process was livestreamed, many engineering machines became popular with netizens and earned nicknames.

With a total floor area of 33,900 square meters, the 1,000-bed Huoshenshan Hospital was completed on February 2 and began treating infected patients on February 4. The first special hospital in Wuhan dedicated to treatment of patients infected with the novel coronavirus took only 10 days to complete. For the 14,400 minutes in those days, over 3,000 workers and nearly 1,000 large construction machines and transport vehicles raced against time to create the Huoshenshan Hospital miracle. Yuan Tianxiong was among the thousands of workers. Over those 10 days, Yuan endured a fractured right arm while working busily at the construction site as he witnessed the life-saving hospital sprout from nothing.

ROCKY NEW YEAR START

For 54-year-old Yuan Tianxiong, 2020 began with an accident. On January 2, he slipped in the bathroom and broke his right arm. “This is a bad sign,” he sighed. His doctor recommended surgery, but he refused and asked for more conservative treatment. Yuan works as the manager of a mixed concrete plant under China State Construction Engineering Corporation. With Spring Festival approaching in late January, he still had major work at construction sites to wrap up. Surgery on a broken arm would have



Yuan Tianxiong at the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital. Born and raised in Wuhan where the coronavirus outbreak was first reported, Yuan saw the hospital sprout from nothing.

wasted too much time.

Shortly after the fracture, Yuan received unexpected news. His elder cousin, who was close to him, had passed

outbreak. He has five siblings. His father is 90 years old. According to family tradition, more than 30 members of the big family would gather at

“When I remember that we built a hospital in 10 days that would save many lives, everything is worth it.”

away. “She got pneumonia,” said Yuan. “The illness came quickly and suddenly. She was transferred to Tongji Hospital affiliated to Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, but she ultimately didn’t make it. She died in just a few days.” The broken arm and lost cousin cast a heavy shadow on Yuan Tianxiong.

Yuan is a native of Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19

his father’s home to celebrate Spring Festival together. For them, it is the biggest event of the year. In those days, however, Yuan closely watched the development of the novel coronavirus epidemic. He planned to wait until the situation improved before heading to his father’s house for Spring Festival. However, upon hearing news of the lockdown of Wuhan, Yuan realized that the situation was much worse



The construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital. China Central Television livestreamed the construction process around the clock, which went viral online. Without narration or background music, the livestream provided a real-time bird's-eye view of the construction site.

than he thought. His father called him twice in a day and urged him not to come back. The old man persisted with authoritarian vigor.

SEVEN-MAN SQUAD SETS OFF

On January 23, the first day of Wuhan's lockdown, Yuan got a call from a friend who was also a plant manager. The friend told Yuan that his team was about to join construction work on Huoshenshan Hospital. "What is that?" asked Yuan.

"It is a new hospital dedicated to treating patients

infected with COVID-19," explained the friend. "Huoshenshan, you know, means 'Fire God Mountain.' Fire God burns up viruses." Yuan's mind turned to his deceased cousin. "My team and I will join you," declared Yuan without hesitation.

On the evening of January 23, Yuan began to check the inventory in his pumping station. The first task for his team was to provide 3,000 cubic meters of mixed concrete. To do this, they needed to transport about 2,000 metric tons of mud and sand to the construction

site. After checking storage, he counted his available workers. Most of his staff had gone home for the Spring Festival holiday. Alongside himself, he had only seven people available: a dispatcher, two quality inspectors, a truck operator, a mechanic, an electrician, and a cook.

A saying came to his mind: "when conditions are ideal, proceed; when conditions are lacking, fix them and then proceed." The rule of thumb was coined by the first generation of oil workers since the founding of the People's

Republic of China in 1949, represented by Wang Jinxi. The words were originally spoken to demonstrate determination and resolve to find oil in Heilongjiang Province. Yuan previously considered the phrase just a heroic quip. “Now, I understand what it means to fix conditions before proceeding.”

January 24 marked the eve of Chinese New Year. That day, starting at 2 p.m., Yuan led his seven-member team in transporting concrete pulp to the construction site, and they continued working until the wee hours of the following morning.

Yuan's son was working overseas. On January 29, Yuan's son made a video-call during the father's lunch break. “Be careful with your broken arm, wear a mask, and stay away from places with crowds,” his son insisted. Yuan promised, but

he knew he couldn't keep his word. At the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital, nearly 700 management personnel and 3,000-plus workers had gathered to operate around 1,000 construction machines and transport vehicles. They worked in shifts around the clock. It was certainly the most bustling and lively place in locked-down Wuhan.

MECHANICAL STARS AND EXHAUSTED HANDS

After the decision was made to livestream construction of Huoshenshan and Leishenshan, two provisional hospitals dedicated to treatment of patients infected with the novel coronavirus, many pieces of machinery gained popularity with netizens and earned nicknames.

Yuan never imagined his cement mixer would attract so

many fans on the internet. This was probably because from a wide camera angle of the huge construction site, workers looked like busy ants, leaving only the massive machines to stand out. “There's no way you can see me in the livestream,” he grinned.

Due to the peculiarities of the Huoshenshan project, special concrete was needed to accelerate setting and hardening to keep the project progressing as fast as possible. Work that normally requires 10 hours of labor was allocated only four to five hours.

“Sometimes I got buried by phone calls at 4 a.m.,” revealed Yuan. In the middle of the night, he was answering the phone and making other calls at the same time, using two cell phones. He was concerned that the driver of the cement mixer was too tired and would fall asleep. He knew this kind of exhaustion too well. After lengthy, high-intensity work, people can easily fall asleep if they sit down for even a moment. “But now it is a very special situation,” he stressed. “Everyone is going all out. All of us hope to work faster and complete the hospital as quickly as possible.”

A few years ago, Yuan visited the site of Huoshenshan Hospital because it is near picturesque Houguan Lake. He felt a little regret that the scenery was getting swept away by the big construction site. “But when I remember that we built a hospital in 10 days that would save many lives, everything is worth it.” 



February 4, 2020: Medical workers help the first batch of COVID-19 patients move into their isolation wards at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province. by Xiao Yiju/Xinhua

Confronting the Coronavirus Challenge

By Abhishek Pratap Singh

China's national governance system has shown its ability to concentrate efforts and resources as needed to contain the epidemic.

The past month has not been good for the Chinese people. Common citizens were busy celebrating the Spring Festival at the beginning of the year 2020,

which is marked as the Year of the Rat on the Chinese lunar calendar, in the expectation that it would bring luck and fortune. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, however, came as

a great shock. The outbreak of the infectious coronavirus created huge health risks for residents in the beautiful city of Wuhan, capital of China's central Hubei Province, where I lived during my research as a student in 2017.

The coronavirus epidemic has impacted both public health and social life in China. The influence of market shutdowns and empty public spaces has also been felt beyond China's borders since the world's second-largest economy is highly integrated with global markets.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) definition, coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can infect birds and mammals, including humans. Earlier these viruses have been linked to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak



February 12, 2020: Medical team members leave for Xianning City of Hubei Province at Changshui International Airport in Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan Province. It's the third medical team sent from Yunnan to aid the novel coronavirus control efforts in Hubei. by Jiang Wenyao/Xinhua



February 24, 2020: Community workers check and verify the people going in and out of a residential community in Wuhan, Hubei Province. by Chen Jian/China Pictorial

in 2003 and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in South Korea in 2015, which have triggered global health concerns.

The COVID-19 outbreak imposes challenges on China's public health and epidemic prevention system. Although China has faced a tough battle on health and public safety fronts, the response of Chinese authorities has been quick and effective. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council are paying the greatest attention to epidemic prevention and control. Teams have been formed at different levels to safeguard the health of citizens.

Having learned from the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, China's national governance system has shown its ability to concentrate efforts and

resources as needed to contain the COVID-19 epidemic. Much like the experience in Beijing during the 2003 SARS

Although China has faced a tough battle on health and public safety fronts, the response of Chinese authorities has been quick and effective.

crisis, China's capabilities are also evidenced by the newly built Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan to treat COVID-19 patients with the best medical facilities and diagnostic capabilities. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus applauded the "transparency and effectiveness" of China's response to the novel coronavirus epidemic.

One has to understand that managing the outbreak of

a new infection is never an easy task. A crisis like this necessitates more open and wider global health cooperation from countries around the world. The team of Indian doctors led by Dr. Kotnis to China is considered a golden mark in history concerning health cooperation between the two nations. For now, scientists from China, the United States, Australia and Europe are collaborating with each other to speed up producing a vaccine to combat the coronavirus. In times of crisis, the WHO must work with member countries to collect information and coordinate emergency response.

China's efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus will improve the world's ability to limit the harm the epidemic causes in the near

future. More importantly, public awareness about such a health emergency must be strengthened globally, to better manage any kind of epidemic. This will surely help global health safety standards, to the betterment of all mankind. 📌

The author holds Ph.D. in China Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and teaches at the University of Delhi. He visited Wuhan University in 2017 for his research work and lectures.

Indian Students: China Will Win the Battle

Edited by Zhou Xin

“I believe China is really doing its best to stop transmission and cure the disease.”



On a wall of Huoshenshan Hospital, messages by patients expressing their thanks and blessings to medical workers have been pasted up. by Xu Xun/*China Pictorial*

With the ever-increasing exchanges between China and India, the number of Indian students studying in China is also surging. There are already more than 20,000 Indian students studying in China. The COVID-19 epidemic not only affects the lives of Chinese people, but also worries families of Indian students studying in China. In recent interviews, two Indian students in China said they were confident in their own safety and China's victory over the epidemic.

Over the past four years, he has spent the Spring Festival holidays in China. While enjoying the beautiful scenery of China, he has also witnessed the rapid development of China. In the face of the current epidemic, he said, "I told my parents not

"Our school counselor is very concerned about us," he explained. "She asks us to check in the class WeChat group every day to record the health status and location of each student. Even students outside China need to update their

Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said that as a responsible country, China has always given top priority to the health and safety of all Chinese and foreign nationals in Wuhan, and we will continue to do so.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

"I came to China in 2014. China is my second home. I especially like Chinese culture." An Indian who studies at Anhui Medical University was advised not to go outdoors but stay in his dorm.

to worry about the current situation because it is safe on campus. I have confidence in the Chinese government, medical staff and researchers. I believe China is really doing its best to stop transmission and cure the disease."

conditions in real time. She also told us how to take preventive measures. My parents hope that I can go home and have a good rest. If I must go home, I will take all precautions and at the same time isolate myself for at least 14 days."



March 18, 2020: Members of a medical assistance team from Fujian Province wave goodbye to their Wuhan colleagues as they leave the city after finishing their tasks. by Xu Xun/China Pictorial

CHINA WILL WIN THE BATTLE

Rohit, an Indian student studying at Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan, believes that China will overcome the epidemic and put everything on the right track.

During the time of winter holiday, most Chinese students have been reunited with their families for Spring Festival. Rohit said that Huazhong Agricultural University in which he is studying currently has only one main gate open. Students must report to the school before leaving the campus. This can effectively prevent potential infections



■ March 4, 2020: At the Joy City shopping mall in the commercial area of Xidan, a worker disinfects the public area. by Guo Shasha/*China Pictorial*

and guarantee the health and safety of students at school. The school and local authorities have provided helplines for students who stayed on campus, and constantly reminded them to wear masks, drink plenty of hot water, use disinfectants and avoid outdoor activities unless necessary. The school also guarantees that they have all the necessities of life, including fruits and vegetables.

Rohit said that since the outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus, the Chinese government has sent many medical teams to Wuhan to provide support and updated information on the situation of the epidemic in a timely manner. Wuhan has built two new hospitals dedicated to treating infected patients. Rohit believes that

China's move to build hospitals is commendable. This can effectively isolate infected patients from the main body of society and further protect citizens' health and safety.

On January 31, 2020, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong gave an interview to Asian News International (ANI). Sun said that since the outbreak of the epidemic, President Xi Jinping has attached great importance and given several important instructions, and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has set up a leading group for comprehensive prevention and control of the epidemic. The Chinese government and people are making every effort to combat the epidemic. The central and

local governments have built an all-round and multi-level prevention and control system, with the focus on Wuhan City and Hubei Province. The battle against the novel coronavirus is advancing in an open, transparent, scientific and orderly manner.

Sun also said that as a responsible country, China has always given top priority to the health and safety of all Chinese and foreign nationals in Wuhan, and we will continue to do so. China has been in communication with India to keep it informed of the development of the epidemic and China's prevention and control efforts. "We have done a lot of work to ensure the health and safety of Indian nationals in China," he said. 🇨🇳

Fighting COVID-19 Demands Joint Efforts

By Swaran Singh

The COVID-19 outbreak should reinforce the urgent need to replace parochial inter-state competition with inter-societal cooperation.

Repeated episodes of epidemics in the past two decades present significant lessons about novel challenges from our ever-expanding

connectivity. The infusion of technology is fast transforming human interactions with ever-growing stakes in mutual cooperation. This marks a deeper shift from parochial

inter-state competition to stronger inter-societal cooperation that defines human future.

Amongst various epidemics, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) of 2003 infected over 8,000 people, leaving nearly 800 dead across 26 countries. There were also other hits by swine flu, avian flu, etc. Irrespective of their frequency and virulence, increasing global connectivity poses a challenge by exponentially accelerating their spread and impact.

This explains why COVID-19, which is believed to be much less virulent than SARS, has seen such a large spread and loss of life all over the world. According to World Health Organization (WHO) reports, the global death toll from COVID-19 had surpassed 3,000 as of



Medical workers from the Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangdong Province dispatched to Hubei to aid the fight against COVID-19 are working out during a break between shifts. by Xu Xun/China Pictorial



March 4, 2020: A medical worker from Fujian Province dispatched to Wuhan to aid the fight against COVID-19 leads patients in recovery to practice *baduanjin*, a traditional Chinese fitness exercise, in the temporary treatment center in Dongxihu District, Wuhan. by Chen Jian/*China Pictorial*

March 3, with the number of infections crossing 90,000 in more than 70 countries. The COVID-19 outbreak is displacing other urgent issues like terrorism, climate change or weapons of mass destruction from news headlines.

No doubt, the month-long containment and lockdowns in China have stabilized the epidemic in the country—a recent report has indicated a clear decline in the rise of infections and deaths. However, infections are spreading fast in the rest of the world as well as reoccurring amongst patients who had already recovered and been discharged from hospitals.

As of March 3, over 160 deaths and more than 10,000 cases of infections had been recorded outside of China, and the figures are still on the rise. Next to China, it was South Korea that had reported the highest number of cases

of infections, with the figure approaching 5,000 including 28 deaths, and Iran had suffered the highest number of 66 deaths including a member of a council that advises Iran's Supreme Leader.

Developed countries with better healthcare are no exception. As of March 3, Japan, Singapore and Australia, with much smaller populations, had respectively confirmed 268, 108 and 33 cases of infections; in Europe, Italy had been hit the hardest with 2,036 infections and 52 deaths; the United States had also recorded 108 cases with nine deaths.

Countries are talking of sealing borders and scrutinizing foreign visitors, with masks disappearing from markets and people stocking essential commodities. Fighting fake information and rumors is also becoming another challenge for authorities.

India, with a billion-plus

population, had reported six infected cases as of March 3, including one in its capital New Delhi. The New Delhi case has caused two prestigious schools to shut down and sparked media discussions on the upcoming crisis for India. All this underlines the vanity of political contention and military modernization which offer no answer to the emerging threat. This should reinforce the urgent need to replace parochial inter-state competition with inter-societal cooperation.

Tourism has already borne the brunt worldwide with, among others, tourist attractions such as the Louvre museum in Paris shut down for visitors. Other sectors of human activity, especially international trade, have been hit the hardest by the sudden decline in demand which portends further global economic slowdown.

With emerging economies and developing countries contributing to over two-thirds of global economic growth, the large populations of China and India should find their way to a shared future together. The onus therefore lies on China and India to stand up to turn this challenge into their historic opportunity. ■

The author is a professor with Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi) and adjunct senior fellow with the Charhar Institute (Beijing).

Uniting Against a Common Enemy

By Fu Rao

Unity among countries is key to preventing the virus from further spreading. Humanity will soon prevail over the novel coronavirus outbreak with joint efforts from forces around the world.

The 2020 Spring Festival is certainly one that won't be forgotten, considering that a viral respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, broke out in China. To prevent the disease from spreading rapidly, the 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions on the Chinese mainland have enacted the country's highest level of public health emergency response.

Viruses are a common enemy of mankind. While all affected countries adopted necessary preventative measures, some countries including Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Russia and Pakistan have provided emergency aid to China's affected areas. In this unprecedented battle, the international community has acknowledged China's

efforts to protect the health of its citizens through ever-improving capabilities in emergency response and management as the epidemic has evolved and praised every endeavor the Chinese government has made to prevent the epidemic from spreading worldwide.

At a February 3 meeting on prevention and control of the pneumonia epidemic held by the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that "the outcomes of the epidemic prevention and control directly affect people's lives and health." Indeed, since the epidemic began, protecting safety and health above all else has remained a consensus shared by all authorities and departments.

Throughout the country,

medical workers spared no efforts to treat infected patients. To contain population flow and curb the spread of the coronavirus, the Chinese government took highly effective preventative measures such as extending the Spring Festival holiday, banning public gatherings and reducing transportation flow in major cities. Soon after the virus was first detected in Wuhan, China released information on its genome sequence, allowing scientists from around the world to quickly launch clinical trials, share data and accelerate studies on related viruses. To meet the urgent need for medical supplies such as masks and disinfectants, many domestic manufacturers launched interim mechanisms to operate 24 hours a day to increase production. By mobilizing forces from all sectors, China

built Huoshenshan Hospital, a 1,000-bed provisional hospital dedicated to patients infected with the disease, in merely 10 days, which was followed by another called Leishenshan Hospital completed in 12 days. Alongside the two provisional hospitals, “cabin” hospitals have also been built and are now treating patients in Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 epidemic. Many of the effective and targeted measures taken to prevent the spread of the contagion can be attributed to China’s experience fighting SARS in 2003 which left the government highly sensitive about the health, wellbeing and safety of its people.

So, the COVID-19 outbreak has been a major test of China’s system and capacity for governance. China’s emergency management has constantly improved as a tough battle against the outbreak has raged on. Before the climax of the crisis can pass, the Chinese government must still pass tests of emergency management, public health services and national reserves. Thanks to experience from the campaign to combat SARS, China established a comprehensive modern emergency management system focused on natural disasters, accidental disasters, public health crises and social security incidents.

The emergency management system had just completed a transformative reform when the novel coronavirus struck China. Despite some public criticism and controversy surrounding the Wuhan authorities’ early response, most of China’s



Workers from Donghulu residential community in Wuhan are disinfecting the public space of the community. by Ma Gengping/*China Pictorial*

emergency departments responded extremely fast. After the outbreak of the epidemic was apparent, the Chinese government took the most comprehensive and strictest prevention and control measures, many of which far exceeded relevant international health regulations. As World Health Organization (WHO) Director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus put it, “China has set a new standard for countries around the world in epidemic prevention and control.” Many countries have complimented China’s performance in the fight against the epidemic. South Africa, Pakistan and Cambodia pledged to take WHO advice to refrain from unnecessary restrictions on international travel and trade to reduce panic.

Upholding a strong sense of mission and responsibility, China has gone all out to curb the spread of the virus beyond its borders and safeguard global health. On February 6, the WHO announced the launch of a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to prevent the further spread of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China and

worldwide. As of that morning, 25 countries including China had confirmed coronavirus cases. Clearly, the new virus has become a global challenge.

After the first cases were discovered in Wuhan, Hubei Province, in December 2019, China immediately reported to the WHO, relevant countries and regional organizations, set up a hotline to provide information about the epidemic for foreign nationals living, working, studying and traveling in Hubei, and published epidemic updates and prevention knowledge in English, French, German, Russian, Japanese, Korean and Spanish on official websites and the WeChat account of the foreign affairs office of the Hubei provincial government. State authorities such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Immigration Administration joined many local governments in issuing public letters to foreign expats living in China and providing epidemic-related information.

“We need facts, not fear,” asserted Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus when talking about the epidemic. “We need science, not rumors. We need solidarity, not stigma.” Unity among countries is key to preventing the virus from further spreading. Humanity will soon prevail over the novel coronavirus outbreak with joint efforts from forces around the world. 📌

The article is reprinted from China Report ASEAN. The author is executive director and president of Hong Kong International New Economic Research Institute.

Total Mobilization Against the Pandemic

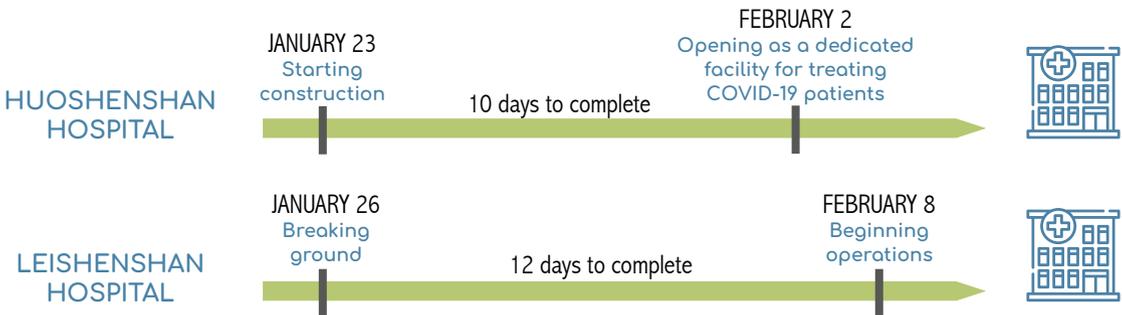
Edited by Hu Zhoumeng

Designed by Cecile Zehnacker

At the turn of 2020, China was struck by a sudden public health challenge. After the outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the whole country quickly assumed battle positions for the war against the epidemic. Under the leadership of the Communist

Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, China has adopted firm and strong prevention and control measures while maintaining close communication and cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the international community to effectively curb the spread of the epidemic. 

CONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITALS IN WUHAN



BY FEBRUARY 28

5,000 → 23,000



in specialized hospitals dedicated to treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus in Wuhan

including 9,000 beds for patients in severe conditions



Stadiums, exhibition centers and training centers were converted into temporary treatment centers for patients with mild symptoms



16 such temporary treatment centers built



with more than 13,000 beds



treated 12,000 patients

NATIONWIDE EFFORTS TO AID HUBEI

Medical staff

AS OF MARCH 8



346 medical teams sent to Hubei Province

with 42,600 medical workers from all over China

Elite Medical Groups

NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CHINA

dispatched three top-level medical groups



- 1** Academician Zhong Nanshan
- 2** Academician Wang Chen
- 3** Academician Li Lanjuan

Goal: To help Wuhan strengthen consultation and treatment of severe and critical cases of COVID-19, actively explore new drugs and new therapies, incorporate effective treatment methods into the diagnosis and treatment plan quickly, and guide national medical treatment work

AS OF FEBRUARY 13



22 national emergency medical rescue teams



Three mobile P3 laboratories



had been sent to Wuhan to improve the city's ability to test for the virus, treat and cure patients

BY FEBRUARY 28



Nearly 1,000 medics had been dispatched to support Wuhan from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant centers all over the country



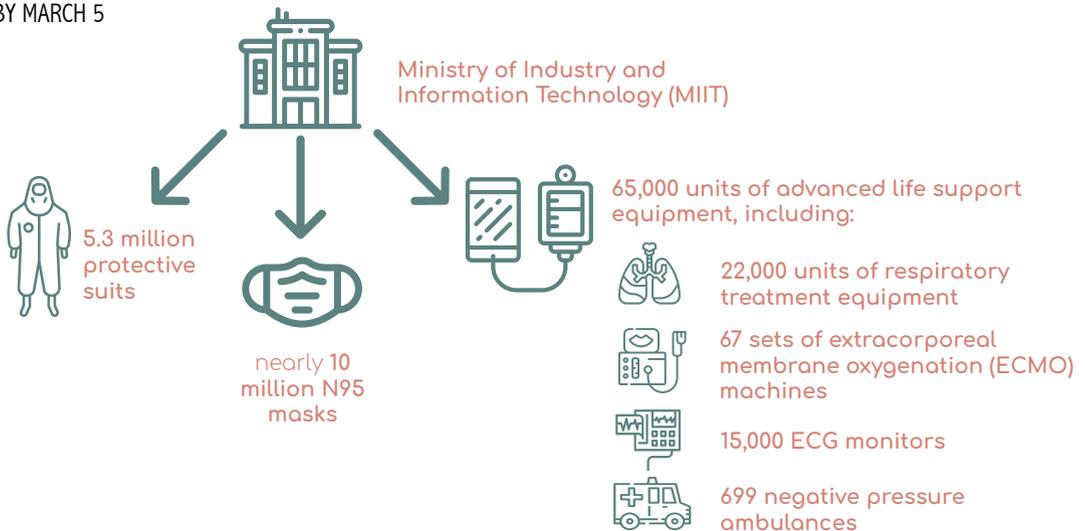
to carry out tracing, investigation, analysis, prevention and control work



13 expert groups had been sent to provide on-site guidance and rapid assessment for the disease

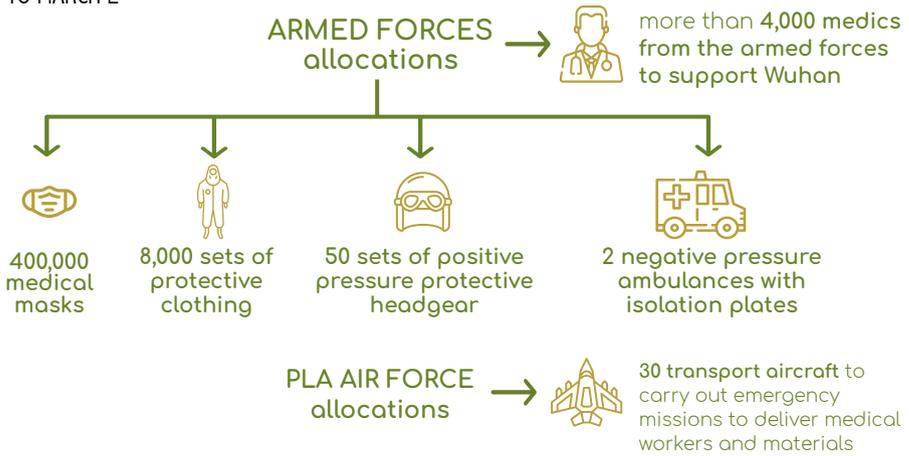
Medical Supplies

BY MARCH 5



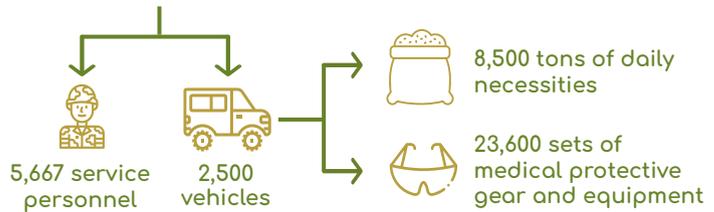
Support from the Armed Forces

FROM JANUARY 24 TO MARCH 2



AS OF MARCH 1

CENTRAL MILITARY COMMISSION (CMC)
logistic support force in Hubei



DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

BY FEBRUARY 28



academician-led medical groups



national expert teams

- organized for control and prevention of the COVID-19 epidemic
- had revised the diagnosis and treatment plan for COVID-19 patients six times.



- personnel from various disease control and prevention institutions and laboratories
- organized to guide virus testing work in cities and counties in Hubei



daily nucleic acid testing capacity

300 → 20,000

sample-to-result diagnostic process

2 days → 4 to 6 hours

BY FEBRUARY 28



up to 544 doses of plasma from convalescent COVID-19 patients collected



245 COVID-19 patients treated through plasma therapy

BY FEBRUARY 21

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE



more than 630 traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) hospitals



nearly 3,200 medical personnel to support Hubei



Over 2/3 of patients infected with the novel coronavirus in Hubei had received TCM treatment.

PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL MATERIALS

BY MARCH 6

Daily output



BY FEBRUARY 13



BY FEBRUARY 24



TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

BY JANUARY 26



263,500 front-line prevention and control personnel mobilized



6,672 quarantine stations set up in the service areas of expressways, waterway and highway passenger stations



4,196 green corridors opened on expressways to ensure transportation of urgently needed goods



54,700 vehicles reserved for emergency transportation

FROM JANUARY 24 TO FEBRUARY 14

CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA



arranged and coordinated 21 Chinese air carriers



to complete 241 flights to support Wuhan



transporting a total of 29,364 personnel



9 flights carried 1,185 Hubei passengers stranded overseas back to China



48 charter flights conducted overseas transport missions



181 flights carried out missions to transport medical workers and supplies

FROM FEBRUARY 3 TO 22

HUBEI



set up 5 emergency supplies transfer stations around Wuhan



which received and transferred about 1,172 tons of food including grain, cooking oil, vegetables and fruit

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BY MARCH 5

→ Leaders from over 170 countries and heads of more than 40 regional and international organizations had expressed sympathy and support for China.

→ Over 500 people from more than 300 political parties and organizations in 120 countries had sent messages of support to President Xi Jinping and the CPC central committee.

→ carried out more than 20 technical exchange programs through expert panels and remote meetings to share its prevention and control experience in laboratory testing, epidemiological investigation and clinical diagnosis with international and regional organizations, and relevant countries:



NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CHINA

→ continuously provided the latest information on the novel coronavirus

→ shared with the world the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus as well as primers and probes for virus detection

→ shared various documents on epidemic prevention and control including diagnosis and treatment plans with more than 100 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations

BY MARCH 2

→ 62 countries and 7 international organizations had donated masks, protective clothing and other urgently needed epidemic prevention and control materials to China. China had provided testing reagents to Pakistan, Japan and the AU among others and shared diagnostic and therapeutic solutions with many countries.

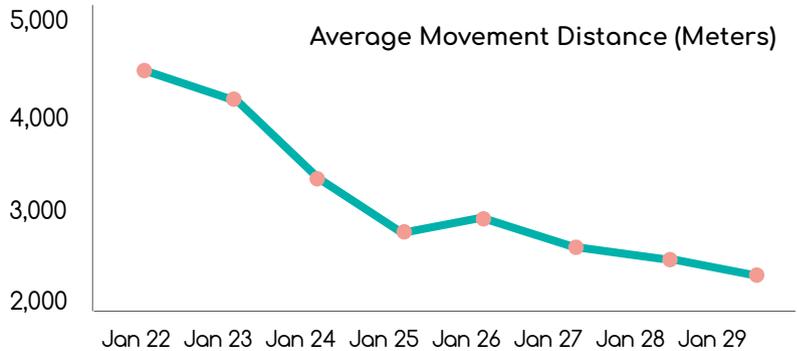
→ The Chinese government, the Red Cross Society of China and many Chinese enterprises delivered reagents to Iran and African countries. China also sent a volunteer expert team to Iran.

Source: The State Council Information Office press conferences and other published materials

A SPECIAL SPRING FESTIVAL

Affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, the Chinese people broke from the traditional custom of visiting relatives and friends for Spring Festival and mostly stayed at home.

Virtually everyone in China actively responded to the government's call to reduce outings and avoid crowds to reduce possible infections.



JANUARY 24-28 SURVEY

Due to trips reduced, people spent more time on their smartphones to study and entertain themselves.

TOP 10 EDUCATIONAL APPS

1. Baicizhan
2. Xuexi Qiangguo
3. Super Curriculum
4. Daily English Listening
5. Liulishuo⁽¹⁾
6. Xueersi
7. Zuoyebang
8. Shanbay
9. Xiaoyuansouti⁽²⁾
10. 51Talk

TOP 10 ENTERTAINMENT APPS

1. Tencent Video
2. Huoshan Video
3. Kuaishou
4. Douyin (TikTok)
5. Honor of Kings
6. iQIYI
7. Knives Out
8. UBOOK
9. Easou
10. Sougou Yuedu

(1) "Speaking Fluently" in English

(2) An app for sharing and answering questions from primary and middle school students

The mature e-commerce, logistics and payment system has greatly relieved shopping inconvenience caused by the epidemic.

FROM JANUARY 24 TO 29

Top three cities with the highest online consumption volumes

- Beijing
- Shanghai
- Tianjin

Top three categories of consumer products with the highest online sales

- Mobile communications
- Computers and office supplies
- Home appliances

Top three categories of consumer products with the highest online consumption quantities

- Food and beverages
- Medicine and healthcare products
- Home decoration and building materials

Source: 2020 Spring Festival Big Data Report of China Unicom

— Hanging in There with China —

Concept by China-India Dialogue

Staying Put in China

China and the world know what to do, and they're doing it. For this crisis, I stay put.

Nathan Bennett

Age: 32

Occupation: Magazine editor

Birth place: The United States

Current residence: Beijing



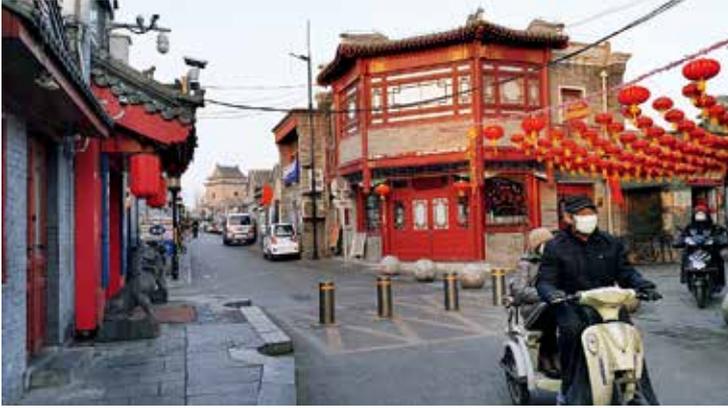
Every Chinese New Year is different. This year there's

an outbreak of a novel coronavirus, so instead of traveling to see friends or to visit America, I stayed at home and didn't go out much. It would be tedious to describe my daily routine during the holiday, if it can be called that: sleep late, stay up late, decide to make irregular eating habits a practice of "intermittent fasting" to lose weight. I've been catching up on reading and watching online videos. Normally I might try to go see a temple fair or light off fireworks somewhere, but this year I was staying inside.

In order to control the novel coronavirus, people rarely go

out. I saw an amusing video on WeChat in which a mother and her son played rock-paper-scissors, and the loser had to let his or her face be smashed in a powdery dough on the table between them. (The son lost.) Some Chinese joked that the most popular tourist route during this year's Spring Festival is bedroom-living room-kitchen-toilet. Some even have counted all the floor tiles in their houses. Staying at home is boring, so we find ways to amuse ourselves.

While some foreigners are in a hurry to leave China to avoid catching the virus, I am



February 3, 2020: Yandaixie Street in Beijing, which is typically a bustling tourist destination, sees few people due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. by Yu Xiangjun



A boy passes by the Drum Tower in downtown Beijing. by Yu Xiangjun



Few people go out for shopping due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia. by Yu Xiangjun

going to stay put. As of this writing, the official holiday has not yet ended but we will soon have to adjust to a “new normal” with epidemic control measures in place. Some worry that what is taking place in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, may become reality for other cities. For expatriates who have small children, are old, are students, or were only planning a short visit, it makes sense to leave. China has faced this sort of epidemic before with the SARS outbreak of 2003, and even then, the real “emergency” status was lifted within three to six months of its discovery because vectors of infection were tracked and the situation was stabilized.

I’m going to stay put in China because I’ve looked at the facts. The novel coronavirus doesn’t have the same mortality rate as something like Ebola. This virus pretty much gives a very bad case of pneumonia, which, because it is viral and cannot be treated with antibiotics, can probably be gotten over in a few weeks. Some special care may be needed to moderate symptoms, but a period of three to six weeks is normal for people dealing with viral pneumonia. Not even all the infected get actual pneumonia. After SARS, swine flu, and other such diseases in the past, there were lots of fever detectors in airports and extra forms to fill out, but the world eventually pulled through. There is no sugarcoating it: this virus is bad, but it’s on a level with other crises that have emerged. China and the world know what to do, and they’re doing it. For this crisis, I stay put.

Staying with China in Battle against Novel Coronavirus

The world can be assured that China will get out of this crisis, growing stronger than ever.

Taling Tene Rodrigue

Age: 33

Occupation: Researcher and Lecturer

Birth place: Cameroon

Current residence: Zhejiang



I have heard of viral epidemics such as swine flu (H1N1), Ebola, SARS, MERS, and bird flu (H5N1 and H7N9) before, but during my lifetime, from Cameroon to China, I had never closely experienced one, until this year when I heard the media reporting on a flu-like viral infection in the central Chinese city of Wuhan caused by a novel coronavirus.

At the beginning I was not really bothered as only a few cases were reported back then. However, as more and more cases were announced nationally, it started worrying

me. Especially when the first international case was reported in the United States, the overall atmosphere started to change. My colleagues and I were soon advised by our university authorities to reduce our outdoor activities and take a certain amount of protective measures to keep safe. As an international teacher and researcher at Zhejiang Normal University in Jinhua City, what first came to my mind was the safety of our diverse communities of foreign teachers, students



January 30, 2020: A street cleaner crosses a street in Xidan commercial district in downtown Beijing. by Yu Xiangjun

and friends who have chosen to stay in China during this winter vacation. To be honest, I was bothered by many thoughts that came into my mind. For example, should I book the next flight for home? Should I stay and experience this once-in-a-lifetime experience? Should I join the fight and contribute to defeating this new enemy? If I stay, what can I really do to contribute since I'm not a medical expert?

Instantly, I remembered the friendly moments I had with my Chinese friends, colleagues and students; they have left me with unforgettable memories of joyful moments. "A friend in need is a friend indeed," I said to myself. Moreover, China has been so friendly with Africa. I also remembered a well-known African term, "Ubuntu," a philosophical concept literally meaning "I am because we are," for, in African wisdom, "others are the reason for us to be." So I decided to stay and contribute to the best of my abilities, not only by following rigorously the instructions given by the university authorities and the municipal government, but also by raising awareness and sharing the best information via social media with my communities, friends, colleagues and students in Jinhua, across China and even with my family and friends in Africa and beyond.

My primary sources of information are the constant messages I am receiving on daily basis on my mobile phone from the mobile service provider as well as from official websites and channels at the city and state levels, which provide us



January 25, 2020: Lovers wearing masks hug each other at Fuxingmen subway station in Beijing. During the novel coronavirus outbreak, passengers are required to wear masks and submit to temperature screening before they enter subway stations. by Yu Xiangjun

with precise instructions and further updates about the new coronavirus. I use my Chinese language skills to translate them and share with the large community of foreigners whose Chinese isn't fluent enough.

At the university level, we are also provided with first-hand information and instructions. For example, we are asked by the school authorities to fill out an online form on daily basis tracing back our personal locations, movements and contacted people, as well as a short report on our personal health situations; we are advised not to leave the city or for those already out of the city, not to return until new updates, etc. The university's canteen also provides safe food and drinking water. More information resources are made available in foreign languages for international students and teachers residing inside or

outside the campus. These efforts are very impressive as the tasks have to be performed on almost every student and teacher out of the 45,000 that count on our university. Even though 34 cases have been reported around the city of Jinhua as of the time of writing, no case of infection has been reported within the scope of our university. So far, the number of confirmed cases in Jinhua is not significant. After all, Jinhua is a city with more than five million residents and a hub of trade and transportation in China.

I am confident that we are winning the battle against the novel coronavirus in our community and proud to extend our encouragements to other communities, especially that of Wuhan which is the most affected city among all. The world can be assured that China will get out of this crisis, growing stronger than ever.

Coronavirus Outbreak: A Test for China

The Chinese people will eventually overcome the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Abdallah Affes

Age: 37

Occupation: Overseas Development Manager

Birth place: Tunisia

Current residence: Beijing



China is racing against time to contain the pneumonia epidemic caused by a novel coronavirus, which continues to spread after arrival to 14 countries as of when this is written. The Chinese government has put many preventative measures in place, such as extending the Spring Festival holiday, postponing the spring semesters of schools, and adopting transport restrictions in various areas.

As a foreigner living in China, my family worried about me and urged me to come home as soon as they heard the news. But my heart wasn't open to leaving. After living in China for 13 years, I consider it my second home. So I decided to stay and help however I can.

SAFETY FIRST

I have been living in Beijing this winter. On the first day of the Year of the Rat, some shopping malls and supermarkets were open as usual. Everything seemed normal to me because the city was the same as last year and every year. Some have described the silent and empty roads in Beijing as something from a "ghost city" after countless people left the city for their hometowns to celebrate Spring Festival with their families. The Beijing streets are always empty, and most shops are closed this time of the year. The only difference is that this year people are wearing masks and almost each local community has a friendly *baoran* (security guard)

checking the body temperatures of pedestrians before they go into the community and making sure that they live there by showing the "community entry and exit card" for more safety.

There were limitations on traveling and social gathering, which isn't pleasant considering that this period is supposed to be a merry and enjoyable festival. Chinese people look forward to all year long. But as many people say, "safety first." The restrictions on movement are crucial to control the spread of the virus.

SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Today, hundreds of millions of Chinese people use social media, which did not exist during the SARS outbreak in 2003. A



March 9, 2020: At Alibaba's Hema store in Jinyuan Shopping Center, workers restock goods. by Guo Shasha/China Pictorial



Staff members of Liuyin Community in Xicheng District, Beijing register the information of residents who returned to Beijing after their vacations. After the novel coronavirus outbreak, all of the 29 staff members of the community have kept working to protect the health of local residents. by Duan Wei/China Pictorial

negative consequence is that a lot of exaggerated and fake news is circulating and amplifying the crisis on social media.

Particularly, people on the other side of the world have been panicked by fake news on Facebook walls, ranging from reports of food shortages due to the lockdown all the way to exaggerating the impact of the novel coronavirus as though everyone inflicted would be dropping like flies. The disturbing rumors motivated me to share my real experience as a foreigner remaining in China during every chapter of the novel coronavirus epidemic.

I recorded radio interviews with three major radio stations in Tunisia, my home country, to tell people about the actual situation in China and refute fake information, which I felt was the least I could do for China during this ordeal. I wish I could do more.

JOINT EFFORTS

China's efforts to contain the outbreak have been impressive. Locking down an entire city like Wuhan with 11 million residents while providing them with security and necessities of life is quite a feat.

I must tip my hat to China for building a virus-dedicated hospital in Wuhan in just 10 days and filling it with 1,000 beds and the latest medical equipment. Such a miraculous effort inspired Tunisian media to joke that Chinese construction builders can have a villa ready for you by the time you get back from running errands. Efficiency and sense of responsibility are two impressive characteristics of the Chinese people that have shone in this crisis.

As a sign of solidarity, some countries provided medical supplies for Wuhan. I saw a very touching video projected

on the famous Burj Khalifa in the United Arab Emirates, which included a waving Chinese national flag and a banner that reads: "Wuhan! You can do it!"

As Chinese President Xi Jinping has noted, the Chinese people now face a very serious battle. As long as the nation maintains confidence and continues joint efforts with scientific and targeted measures, the battle to prevent and control the contagion will be won. The country has been rocked by epidemics and shaken by earthquakes, but China overcomes the difficulties every time. There can be only one ending to this story, and it doesn't involve continued spread of the novel coronavirus. Rather, the confidence and courage of the Chinese people will ensure their victory in the battle against the epidemic.

Fighting the Novel Coronavirus: Less Hatred, More Empathy

Let's stop fueling hatred and start encouraging empathy. We all deserve it.

Daina Pestana

Age: 30

Occupation: Student

Birth place: Cuba

Current residence: Beijing



On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak first identified in the Chinese city of

Wuhan a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The flood of international news reports and constant statistic updates that followed have been overwhelming. However, not all news reports accurately portrayed the situation we are currently experiencing. On the contrary, at times it feels as if some media outlets are purposely blowing things out of proportion.

As a foreigner who has stayed in Beijing throughout this time, I would like to bring some clarity into the matter, to offer some peace of mind to those who are genuinely concerned about their loved ones currently in Beijing, and about the Chinese people in general.

I first heard about the virus in late December, when only a

few cases had been identified in Wuhan, and human-to-human transmission had not been confirmed. I would be lying if I said I was not concerned then. I had been told on multiple occasions about the 2003 SARS epidemic and the many lives that were lost to it. Therefore, I started to closely follow the news reports, be extra cautious when visiting public places, and be even more thorough with my hygiene.

In mid-January, however, it became clear that the situation was far more serious than many of us had thought. That was when stronger preventive and controlling measures started to be implemented. Unfortunately, it was also around that time that many people were starting to get ready to celebrate Chinese New Year, which meant that millions of people would be travelling to their hometowns and abroad, potentially spreading the virus farther and faster. In the following days, the more cases were reported, the more apocalyptic the international media reports became. Several foreign governments decided to evacuate their citizens from Wuhan, while others opted to deny entry to Chinese passengers and people travelling from China. As if that were not enough, multiple airlines put a halt to their flights from and to China.

There is no doubt that the virus poses a great threat to public



February 2, 2020: Red lanterns, national flags and other auspicious decorations are hung upon houses in a lane in Beijing. Local residents, who have rarely gone outdoors these days because of the outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia, celebrate Chinese New Year and show their confidence in winning the battle against the epidemic in this way. by Duan Wei/*China Pictorial*



February 7, 2020: 11-year-old Javier and his 13-year-old sister show their support and blessing for China with their painting in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. by Alexander Pena/Xinhua

health and the economy. It is also understandable that foreign governments want to protect their citizens, and that international carriers are essential in helping stop the spread. However, as a foreigner still in China, it pains me to see how the efforts of the Chinese government, of thousands of health workers and of millions of Chinese people that are battling the epidemic are being diminished and harshly criticized by malicious headlines.

I am not a health specialist, nor do I possess any qualifications that allow me to critically evaluate the official actions taken since the discovery of the virus. I suppose that there is always a better and faster way to deal with an epidemic, but I also recognize that those alternatives might not always be readily available. What I can attest to, however, is the prompt response of the central government and the local Beijing authorities — specifically in Haidian District — during the past two weeks.

There has been an incredible mobilization of material and human resources in order to

curb the spread of the virus. Some drugstores have been giving out surgical masks for free; there has been a stable supply of food and other essentials in the supermarkets I have visited; and the restaurants that remained opened during the Chinese New Year holiday and after have stepped up their hygiene controls. Schools and universities have implemented online teaching, and many companies have also encouraged their employees to work from home.

I do not wish to minimize the severity of this health crisis. There is a high risk of being infected if we are not mindful of our hygiene, and if we do not take preventive measures such as wearing an appropriate mask in public places, avoiding physical contact with others and avoiding crowded areas. Logically, people with a weaker immune system are more likely to fall ill, and have a smaller chance to make a quick recovery. However, it is simply ridiculous to assume that everyone in China has

contracted the virus, and that once someone is infected, he or she will definitely die.

Although the low death rate of patients infected with the virus is not an excuse for not taking this crisis seriously, it certainly helps put things into perspective. Several online platforms such as WeChat are offering real-time statistics on the numbers of people confirmed to have the virus, those suspected of having it, those who have recovered, and finally, those who have passed away. Just by looking at the numbers it becomes clear that although the virus spreads very fast, it is not as deadly as the international media want us to believe.

Unfortunately, international broadcasters are passively followed by millions of people around the world. Their negative coverage has fueled fears and biases that have resulted in a surge of racism towards Asian people, specifically Chinese. Conspiracy theories have flooded the internet, and an international animosity against China has developed. All of these have taken the attention away from the true victims of the virus — people who have lost their lives, or their families, or who are in constant fear for their loved ones.

This is not the end of the world; this is not the end of China. Eventually, the crisis will pass. But the insensitive posts, the cruel comments against Asians, and the pain caused by the racist actions of a few will all remain in the minds and the hearts of those who are now suffering. Let's stop fueling hatred and start encouraging empathy. We all deserve it. 🇨🇳

Heartfelt Communication Fuels Friendship

By Yu Longyu

Face-to-face communication and heart-to-heart exchanges, especially between young people of the two countries, continue fueling China-India friendship.

On December 19, 2019, I joined in the reception of a visiting delegation of 10 Indian youth leaders. Confident and full of energy, those young leaders were indeed the elites of India. Not only do they have profound knowledge, they have also prepared well for this visit. They are very familiar with “Tianxiadatong” (meaning “universal peace” in Chinese) and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum” (a Sanskrit phrase meaning “the world being one family”), both mentioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping in his speech during his visit to India in 2014.

I know that Indians are good at mathematics and elocution, so I took the time to write a speech. I could tell from their response that this speech resonated with

them. Indians like mythical thinking and exaggeration. For example, an Indian epic says that a goddess gave birth to a hundred sons. This goes against with the Chinese people’s tendency to stay with the facts. I addressed this issue by emphasizing “first” and “only.” In this way, it did not violate the principle of seeking truth from facts, and it was also in line with the expression of Indians, so that these Indian guests listened to my speech very attentively from beginning to end and applauded from time to time.

Following a suggestion by the moderator, I started my speech with a Hindi greeting, which was the first Hindi phrase I learned at Peking University in 1965. It is like magic. Whenever people hear it, they applaud. This time was no exception.

I asked, “Are you from all

across India? Do you understand Hindi?” They answered yes. So I explained the importance of Chinese, Hindi and English, and their status in the whole world, which made them more determined to learn Chinese.

After my opening remarks, the moderator invited participants from both countries to introduce themselves one by one, and then a dialogue began. Seeing that everyone was still interested in my opinion, the moderator asked me to proceed with my speech. Having been warmed up, the discussion got more exciting.

Mr. Himadrish Suwan, chairman of the Confederation of Young Leaders and head of the Indian delegation who had originally planned to study in a prestigious university in Beijing, announced that he had changed his mind and hopes to study at Shenzhen University.

The sincere and heartwarming reception impressed him so deeply that he even wanted to practice Charan Sparsh (bowing down to touch the feet, a gesture to express respect). India is a nation that values rituals and etiquettes. And this Hindu ritual that salutes the senior is a simple version of China's idiom to express reverence by "prostrating oneself in admiration." I remember that in October 2005, Professor G. K. Chadha, vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, performed Charan Sparsh for Mr. Hu Jingzhi when he visited Shenzhen University. In my eyes, Mr. Himadrish Suwan intended to express his thanks to Shenzhen University this way for the warm reception he experienced in China.

Mr. Rejesh Goyal, who sat next to Mr. Himadrish Suwan, is the director of the Indian Institute of Photography. He was thrilled when he saw the script of the movie *Tan Yunshan* in my hand. He insisted upon taking a photo with me in the Tan Yunshan Sino-Indian Friendship Museum. Pointing at the line reading "For the 70th Anniversary of China-India Ties" on the cover of the film script, he said enthusiastically that he will offer any possible help for making this movie.

After this reception, I'm more determined about the idea that friendship, which derives from close contact between the peoples, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations, and heartfelt cultural exchanges are essential to fueling friendship.



December 19, 2019: An Indian delegation consisting of youth leaders visits Shenzhen University. courtesy of Yu Longyu

China and India have been friends for thousands of years. Their cultural exchanges and mutual learning have set a good example for other countries. Some scholars even said that China Studies is actually "China-India Studies." There are no fundamental conflicts of interests between China and India in modern times. And why are their relations volatile? There are many reasons, among which lack of mutual trust is crucial. There should be more face-to-face communication and heart-to-heart exchanges, especially between young people of the two countries, which can constantly fuel China-India friendship.

For Chinese people, they should adjust their mentality and pay attention to the ways of communication, including manner of speech and behavior. On the part of Indians, they should believe in themselves and what they see and experience in China, and free themselves from biased reporting by the Western media.

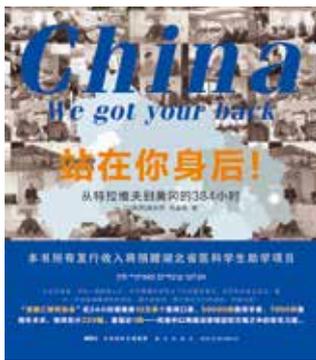
In December 2018, I visited India to participate in activities under the China-India high-level mechanism on cultural and people-to-people exchanges. During the visit, I was encouraged after meeting with many young Indian people. I wrote an article titled *The Time for Dragon-Elephant Tango Has Come* to express my high expectation for the development of China-India friendship. One year later, after discussion with 10 young Indian leaders in Shenzhen, I have become more confident in the future of China-India relations.

I believe that the foundation for China-India friendship will become more solid with the increase in exchanges and understanding between the two peoples facilitated by the "Wuhan Spirit" and "Chennai Connect." 

The author is a professor at the Center for Indian Studies of Shenzhen University and a Chinese expert on Indian literature and China-India cultural relations.

Sixteen Days to Donate

By Li Qing



China, We Got Your Back

Penned by Raz Gal Or & Brian O'Shea
New Star Press

When Raz Gal Or was waiting for his flight to Tel Aviv at Beijing Capital International Airport ahead of Spring Festival, both the 26-year-old Israeli entrepreneur and his traveling companion Brian O'Shea were struck by the number of people wearing masks in the airport. Having been preoccupied with their own business, they were unaware that an epidemic was spreading from Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China.

Several days later, they collected 229 boxes of medical supplies in Israel

in just 24 hours and shipped them to Huanggang in eastern Hubei on February 9, 2020.

The entire 384-hour process of making the donation was recorded in the book *China, We Got Your Back* published in Chinese and English by New Star Press, a Beijing-based publishing house under China International Publishing Group. The book, the first to be published on the fight against the novel coronavirus, also shines light on the extensive and generous assistance to Hubei as well as cooperation between young Israelis and Chinese entrepreneurs.

ASSISTANCE FROM ISRAEL

After arriving in Tel Aviv, both Raz Gal Or and his friend Brian O'Shea from Argentina became intensely concerned about the situation in China. The spike of infected patients in Wuhan and reported shortage of medical supplies made them decide to collect surgical masks for Chinese hospitals in need.

"My dad always reminded me that the Chinese have helped Jewish people considerably throughout history," revealed Gal Or. "Finally, I have a chance to repay the kindness."

Jokingly referring to himself as "Foreigner in China 2.0," Raz Gal Or became a famous internet star in China. Gal Or co-founded YChina, also known

as the Foreigner Research Institute, a business development company focusing on the Chinese market.

Within 24 hours, the two young men had collected over 100,000 surgical face masks and 7,000 protective suits along with 50,000 medical gloves.

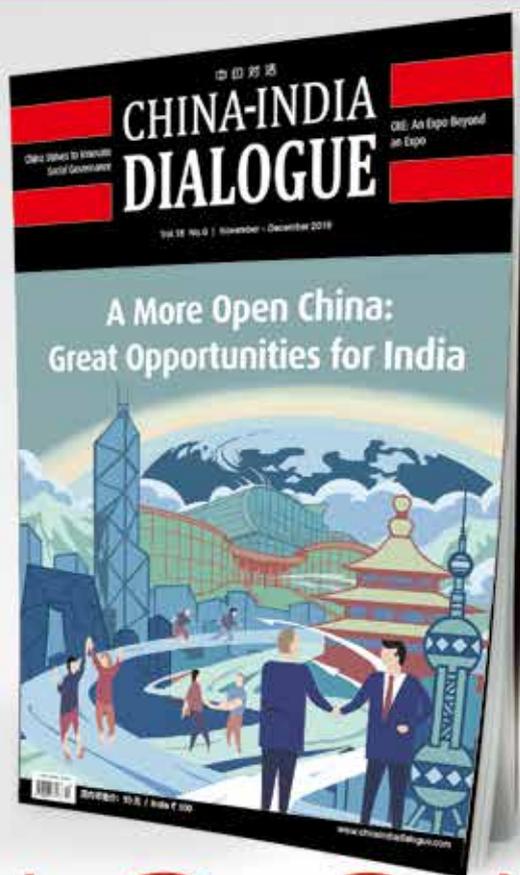
BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

China, We Got Your Back provides readers a warm feeling during the crisis and pays tribute to the deep friendship between Israelis and Chinese. It showcases the sense of responsibility and strength of millennials, who shoulder the responsibility of building a better world as they begin taking on bigger roles in the world.

New Star Press had Chinese and English versions ready to go to press in only eight days. A Hebrew edition of the book is in the works thanks to the help of several Israeli publishing houses.

"We plan to donate the profits from the book to a scholarship fund for medical students in Hubei," said Ding Ning, a senior planner with New Star Press. "This is our way of assisting the fight against the epidemic." 

The author is a journalist from Beijing Review.



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