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FOCUS

China vows more cooperation internationally to control rapid spread of disease

China vows closer international cooperation with Russia and other countries to control the novel coronavirus pneumonia pandemic, which experts say further demonstrates its vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In a phone conversation on March 19 night with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, President Xi Jinping said that the epidemic broke out ferociously, and China had to rise to the challenge and respond to it bravely.

That is because it not only concerns the lives and health of the Chinese people but also the public health security of the whole world, he said, calling for closer

international cooperation in epidemic prevention and control, experience sharing on containment and treatment and facilitation of joint research.

Xi stressed that at this special moment when both countries are fighting the illness, China and Russia have been supporting each other and cooperating closely, which has demonstrated the high level of China-Russia relations in the new era.

Putin said that remarkably effective measures taken by the Chinese government have not only contained the spread of the disease inside China but also made important contributions to safeguarding the health of people in other countries.

Russia greatly appreciates and is pleased with China's efforts, he said, adding that China has set a good example for the international community by lending a helping hand to other pandemic-affected countries in a timely manner.

What China has done represents a resounding answer to the provocation and stigmatization by a certain country over COVID-19, the Russian president said.

Li Yonghui, a researcher of Russian studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that the virus can be defeated only by concerted efforts.

"Joint efforts such as cooperation in vaccine

development, providing assistance across borders and sharing of epidemic information are a reflection of the connotation of the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind," Li said.

Ruan Zongze, executive vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said the pandemic further enhances the global community's understanding of this vision.

"The epidemic concerns people's health and lives, regardless of borders or skin color. The most powerful weapon against it is solidarity and cooperation," Ruan said.

The Chinese government has announced it would provide assistance, including

testing kits, masks and protective suits, to 82 countries, and the World Health Organization and the African Union, with many shipments having already arrived in recipient countries.

"China is practicing its vision with actual deeds by providing assistance within its ability to other countries," Ruan said, "and this will further improve and enhance China's relationship with international society."

Meanwhile, a certain country that is trying to politicize the pandemic, label the virus and stigmatize China is running into opposition from the global community and such attempts are contemptible, Ruan added.

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China has been actively engaged in international cooperation on the prevention and control of the epidemic in an open, transparent and responsible manner. The fight against the epidemic requires the solidarity and coordination of the international community, and China will work with other countries to jointly safeguard global public health security.

China launches first clinical trial of coronavirus vaccine

The first clinical trial of the novel coronavirus vaccine in China has kicked off as volunteers taking part in the project started to share their experience on social media, the Science and Technology Daily reported on March 21.

The clinical trial was filed on Chinese Clinical Trial Registry on March 17, the newspaper said.

According to its registration information, the trial is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Biotechnology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences, People's Liberation Army and CanSino Biologics Inc based in Tianjin.

The trial is being carried out on healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 60 in two medical facilities in Wuhan, Hubei

province. The study is set to be completed by Dec 31, according to the registry.

All 108 volunteers are from Wuhan that was hit hard by the outbreak. They will receive a series of follow-up examinations within six months after injection to see if their bodies have generated antibody to the virus, the registry said.

Wang Junzhi, a senior expert on drug and vaccine development, said earlier this month that China is simultaneously conducting nine vaccine development projects, and most of them are expected to complete preclinical trials and begin human tests in April. In general, China's vaccine development against COVID-19 is among the world's front-runners, he added.

(China Daily)

Foreign trade firms quicken pace to resume production



Workers are busy at the garment workshop of a foreign trade company in Xingtai City, north China's Hebei province. (Xinhua)

China's foreign trade firms quickened its pace to resume production slowed down by the novel coronavirus as a raft of supportive policies started to take effect, a commerce ministry official said March 19.

About 67 percent of the country's key import and export firms recovered over 70 percent of production capacity, said Jiang Fan, the official. The figures did not include those in Hubei Province that has been hard-hit by the virus outbreak.

To facilitate the sector's production resumption, the ministry has resorted to policy tools such as export tax rebates and export credit insurances for foreign trade firms and introduced measures to help them secure orders

and maintain market shares, according to Jiang.

Noting that the outbreak has rippled around the world and inflicted negative impacts on the global industrial chain, Jiang said that China has confidence in keeping its foreign trade stable.

China's foreign trade sector has a strong resilience and sound development prospects, and will remain open to the outside world, Jiang added.

The ministry also vowed to take targeted measures to help firms tackle issues such as the lack of labor, capital and raw materials while encouraging localities and business organizations to provide necessary legal and information-related services.

(Xinhua)

IN-PICS

Heroes are back home



Photo by Yang Zheng



Photo by Huang Zhechun



Photo by Huang Zhechun

1,135 Yunnan medical workers fly back to Kunming from Hubei province recently as the COVID-19 outbreak has subdued in the hard-hit province. After the outbreak of the epidemic in China, a total of 1,156 Yunnan medics were sent to Hubei to join the battle against the epidemic in ten

batches. "We fought shoulder to shoulder to win the battle, and harvested lifelong friendship," said Cui Pengyu, team leader of the second batch of Yunnan medics assisting Hubei. "It's our responsibility to stand with the Wuhan citizens, to let solidarity be the antidote

to our shared threat," he said.

The Yunnan medical teams fought the virus mainly in Wuhan and Xianing, two cities of Hubei province. After the outbreak of the epidemic, China adopted the policy of "pairing-up support" to help cities and prefectures

of Hubei(excluding Wuhan) to combat the disease. And Yunnan was assigned the task of helping Xianing city. As of March 17, the Yunnan medical teams to Xianing had cured 98.21% of the patients. And those in Wuhan treated more than 600 of the infected.

(Yunnan Daily)

Yunnan imposes quarantine on passengers with international travel history

In order to further contain imported COVID-19 cases, the Command of Leading Group on Novel Coronavirus Prevention and Control of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and People's Government of Yunnan Province specifies a number of measures in the Announcement No.13 on March 17, as the following:

Quarantine

All travelers landing in Yunnan with international travel history within the last 14 days, (including foreign passengers and residents of mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) will be quarantined for 14 days upon arrival.

Transfer passengers showing symptoms like fever and cough will be sent to designated hospitals for further medical check.

Expenses

During the quarantine period, food and accommodation need to be at the expense of travelers themselves.

Transfer passengers who show no symptoms shall be allowed to proceed to their next destination.

If there is a need to stay overnight, passengers will be sent to designated hotels in which food and accommodation shall be at their own expenses.

The medical expense of the imported cases covered by basic medical insurance system (BMIS) will be reimbursed according to relevant regulations. People who are not covered

by BMIS shall bear their own medical costs. If they do have difficulties to do so, those who are determined eligible shall be provided with medical assistance depending on relevant laws and regulations. The medical expense of people with commercial health insurance shall be covered by insurance according to the contract.

Monitoring

Authorities and public institutions at all levels, businesses and hotels in Yunnan shall fulfill their duties in registering people returning/coming from overseas, monitoring their health, and reporting to relevant authorities.

Declaration

All passengers arriving in Yunnan with an international travel history over the past 14 days need to declare their health conditions faithfully. Those who deliberately conceal international travel history and physical contacts with confirmed COVID-19 patients, will be considered legally liable.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Mega project to relocate 100,000 mountain dwellers

Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Southwest China's Yunnan province is one of the least developed regions. Local officials are working to relocate mountain dwellers into new houses this month.

Along the Nujiang River Valley, most of the locals live on mountain slopes. Ci Asheng's family has been living in a farmhouse for 20 years. But soon they will move into an apartment in a new residential complex, provided for free to those living below the poverty line.

"I wish to move into the flat, as traffic here is not convenient. Over there, it will be easy for me to send my children to school, and send the elderly into hospitals if necessary," said Ci Asheng.

Miles apart down the valley, workers are adding the final touch to this relocation site. Across Fugong County in Nujiang Prefecture, the poorest in the region, more than 15-thousand mountain dwellers will move into places like this. And in all of the prefecture, some 100-thousand people will be relocated this month.

"The ecological systems of these mountains are fragile, and the areas are prone to geological disasters. By

relocating, people will have better access to services like water, electricity and roads. It will stop the root causes to their poverty. Since most of them use firewood to cook, relocating them to towns will also protect the environment," said Yang Yongzhou, Communist Party Chief of Fugong County.

Now in Fugong, the first group of seven-thousand people has already moved into new apartments.

(CGTN)

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Lifting all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020 is a solemn promise made by the Communist Party of China Central Committee. The country's poverty alleviation tasks are near completion, as the number of impoverished people fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from 98.99 million at the end of 2012.

BIODIVERSITY IN YUNNAN

Editor's note

Dubbed "Kingdom of Animals" and "Kingdom of Plants", Yunnan province is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots with the richest species diversity. In recent years, Yunnan has made consistent efforts in

protecting wild animals and their living environment. It has greatly improved the nature reserve system. And the idea of green development has deeply rooted in the heart of the people living in the province.

Newborn monkeys bring joy to rangers

"One more baby monkey!" Lai Jiandong, Head of the Wildlife Protection Station, Yunnan Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve is jubilant these days, as the reserve has welcomed five newborn Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys, one of the world's most endangered primates, during the period from January 25 to March 6.

Lai shared some exciting moments about these new arrivals. On the morning of March 4, a reserve staff was conducting quantity monitoring when he spotted a newborn in the family of "Shuaige"(handsome guy). Based on the data collected, the staff determined that the cub was born overnight. Good

news keeps pouring in: two days after, on March 6, the family of "Xingsheng"(Prosperity) greeted a new baby as well.

The survival of the Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys hinges on their habitats, said Lai, as better ecological environment provides abundant food for them. Thanks to the conservation efforts, the number of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys in Baima Snow Mountain has been on the rise in recent years.

Lai said he regards the baby monkeys as his own kids. He hopes that they'll grow up healthily, live happily with their population in Baima Snow Mountain.

(Liu Ziyu)

CULTURE

Gao Yuwen: Committed carver on leather wares



Photo by Meng Zhigang

In his carving workshop, which is located on Fengzhu Street in Kunming, artist Gao Yuwen was focusing on his creation. Tapping the cowhide gently and wielding the needle and thread, Gao gave birth to fine patterns on leather items.

Born in east Yunnan's Qujing City, Gao Yuwen used to work for Xuanwei Power Plant when young. Longing for an easy and free life, he left the power plant and started a clothing business with his senior brother. In 1999, Gao took up leather carving, which attracted him so much that he embarked on a life of art.

Gao Yuwen only carves on cowhide. "Cowhide has a fine texture, and it is soft, plastic and cowhide," said Gao. Once a cowhide piece is chosen,

Gao will carefully observes its density in texture, pondering on stitching, inking, coloring and more. The delicate steps make his carvings invaluable. Gao's patterns include Chinese and Western styles, but he personally prefers the traditional Chinese subjects, mostly based on history and legends.

At the suggestion of doing something easier to save time and effort, Gao said it is meaningless for him to do ordinary ones and he pursues uniqueness and customization. In the past two decades, Gao Yuwen has created tens of thousands of leather wares, but none of them is a duplicate.

"I'm carver, so I'll stick to the art in my lifetime." Gao said movingly.

(Wang Shixue)