

CHINA PICTORIAL

Two Sessions in a Crucial Year

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Haidian, Beijing 100048 邮编：100048
Email: imagechina@chinapictorial.com.cn 邮箱：imagechina@chinapictorial.com.cn

President: 社长：
Yu Tao 于涛

Editorial Board: 编委会：
Yu Tao, Li Xia, He Peng 于涛、李霞、贺鹏
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Editors and Translators: 编辑、翻译：
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Zhou Xin 周昕
Operation: Zhang Yingjie 编务：张英杰

Design: Alinea Productions 设计：利雅法盛

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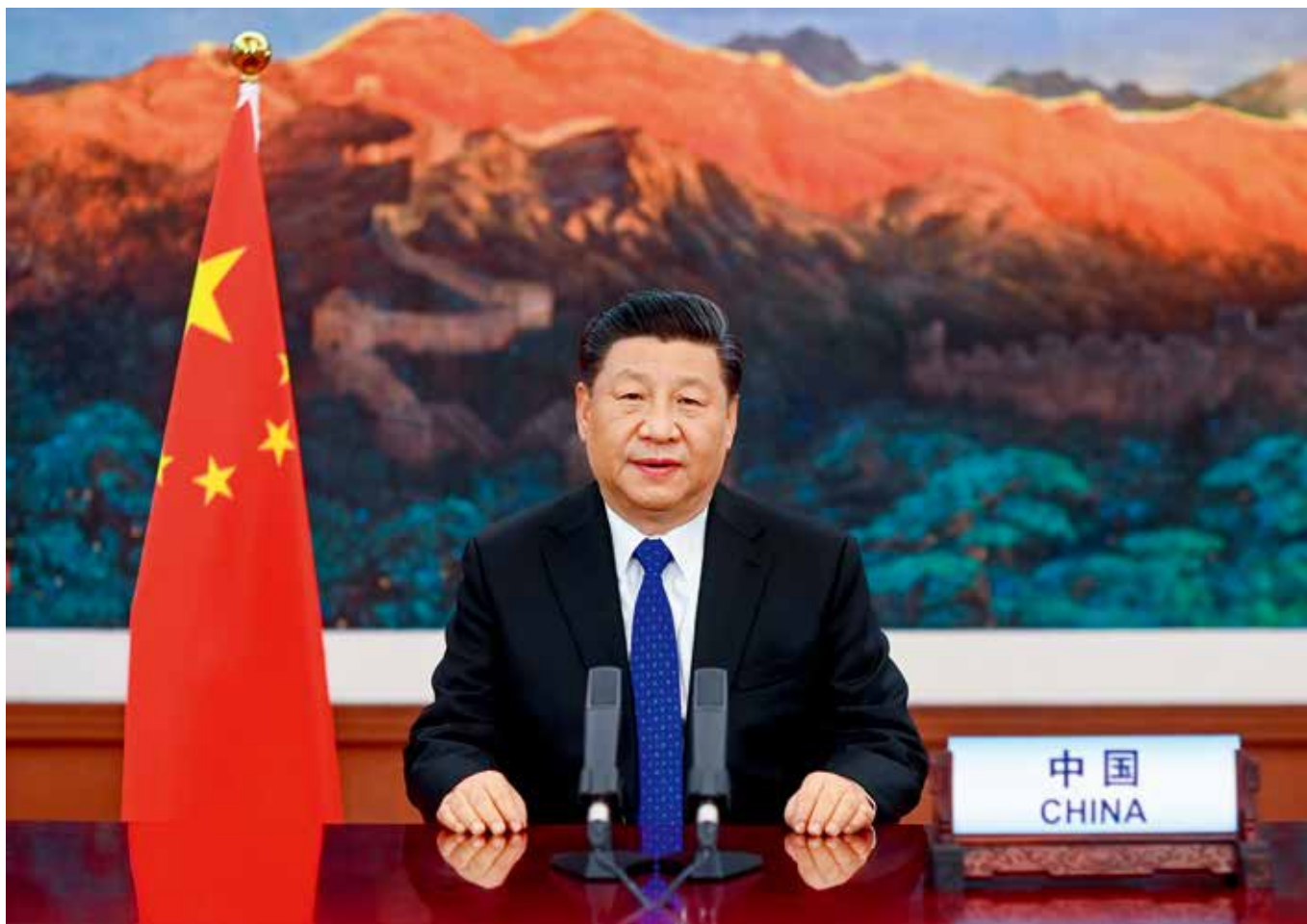
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May 27, 2020: The third "passage interview" during the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held, with CPPCC members invited to receive media interviews via video link. VCG



by Li Xueren/Xinhua

Concrete Measures Announced

May 18, Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly via video link. In the speech, President Xi outlined specific measures to boost the global fight against COVID-19, including provision of international aid and sharing any vaccines under

development in China. “COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good,” declared the president. “This will be China’s contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.”

Ticket to Poverty Relief

May 15, Huaheng, Hunan Province: A town mayor (left) and a college student sell local products via livestream from a local village. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the global economy hard by forcing many businesses to suspend operations, causing huge economic losses. Many factories and farmers in China turned to online sales to relieve some financial pressure. Livestreaming has become the “golden ticket” for people in rural areas to increase their incomes, as China leverages its digital prowess to devise innovative approaches to poverty eradication.



by Chen Sihan/Xinhua

Top Summit

May 27, Xigaze, Tibet Autonomous Region: Members of a Chinese surveying team reach the summit of Mount Qomolangma, also known in the



by Penpa/Xinhua

West as Mount Everest, to conduct a series of surveys at the highest point on the planet.

The event marked a crucial step of China's mission to remeasure the height of the world's highest peak, which scientists believe will enhance human knowledge of nature and help boost scientific development. The core of the mission is to precisely determine the height of Mount Qomolangma to produce valuable data for research in fields such as geodynamics. Accurate data on snow depth, meteorology and wind speed at the summit will provide reference for studies related to glacier monitoring and ecological environment protection.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Chinese surveyors have conducted six missions of scaled measurement and scientific research on Mount Qomolangma and determined the height of the peak twice in 1975 and 2005, publishing figures of 8,848.13 meters and 8,844.43 meters respectively.

Cautious Reopening

May 19, Rome, Italy: Visitors wearing face masks tour the Capitoline Museum. As International Museum Day 2020 was marked worldwide on May 18, Italy started to gradually reopen some of its cultural sites after over two months of lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. To reduce the impact of the pandemic and reinvent the museum experience for the COVID-19 era, dozens of Italian museums and many other major museums around the world, including the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, the British Museum in London and the Palace Museum in Beijing, have launched various virtual tours, which have opened a new channel for the public to access culture and art.



Xinhua

Maiden Flight

May 5, Wenchang, Hainan Province: China's new large carrier rocket Long March-5B blasts off from Wenchang Space Launch Center. The rocket made its maiden flight that day, loaded with a trial version of China's next-generation manned spaceship and return capsule. The successful flight marked the beginning of the "third step" of China's manned space program, which is to construct a space station, according to the China Manned Space Agency.



VCG

Driving China's Post-Epidemic Economic Development

Text by Lin Chen

The COVID-19 outbreak left a short-term impact on China's economy. In the recovery period, China's economic development is being driven heavily by four key factors:

First, a rebound of supply and demand after the epidemic is a general law of economics. According to analysis of historical data, after the end of each epidemic since World War II, supply and demand in each affected country rebounded, which hedged the impact of the epidemic. After the resumption of production, enterprises are organizing their operations to catch up on an accumulated backlog of orders, leading to recovery and rebound of supply. This fundamental economic tendency will be the biggest driving force for economic development in the post-outbreak era.

Second, the epidemic has triggered the development of new industries. In the process of disruptive innovation, some exogenous shocks are often needed to break through the barriers of the old model. As far as telecommuting technology is concerned, the COVID-19 epidemic triggered new demand for it. Traditional office culture and business models in China are highly reliant on face-to-face communication, and a lack of trust in video communication among many stakeholders has curbed the application of new technologies. Behavioral habits present the greatest threshold for a new model to replace an old one. This epidemic will be a catalyst

for numerous new technologies and business models.

Third, China's measures to actively expand domestic demand involve favorable policies. China has introduced many policies and measures to expand domestic demand, especially policies to promote resumption of work and production in the consumption sector and create an atmosphere in which consumers can consume without worries. China has also introduced a series of long-term policies and measures including tax cuts to further promote consumption and investment by expanding domestic demand.

Fourth, China's further opening up will become a new driving force for economic growth. China has revised a series of institutional arrangements to further expand its opening up. In particular, access requirements for foreign investors have been adjusted, and more areas have been opened to foreign investment. Revision of the new negative list for foreign investment has started, and regulations on foreign investment will continue to loosen. China's further opening up to the outside world will effectively advance global division of labor, improve the global industrial chain, and promote economic growth for China and the world.

The author is an associate professor with the School of Applied Economics at Renmin University of China.

China's New Macro-Control Measures

Text by Yan Kun

Considering the challenges posed by COVID-19, China's macro-control has been quite effective.

Three policy instruments stand out for their innovation, necessity and foresight, namely, consumer coupons, special government bonds and new infrastructure projects.

Coupons Instead of Cash

Facing the pressure of insufficient consumer demand, China has adopted the method of issuing consumption vouchers to stimulate consumption and serve residents according to its specific national conditions such as a high savings rate and a high ownership rate for housing.

Issuing consumption vouchers brings three natural advantages that direct cash distribution lacks: First, it neither exacerbates the government's current debt nor needs to be paid by the government in the current period while leveraging the government's credit to reduce fiscal pressure. Second, it avoids the leakage of direct cash distribution. Third, it eliminates worries about inflation and redistribution of income.

Special Government Bonds


At an April 17 meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the special national debt program was named "anti-epidemic bonds," and its attributes, purpose

and standards were clarified.

According to the government work report delivered on May 22, one trillion yuan (about US\$140 billion) of government bonds for COVID-19 control would be issued.

In addition to support for infrastructure, equipment, and medical services in the field of public health, the bonds do not directly interfere with or affect the market in other fields. They support the resumption of production, transformation and upgrading, and innovative growth of the target industries and market entities by leveraging the role of the market, increasing market efficiency and enlarging market mechanisms.

New Infrastructure Projects

“New” infrastructure is mostly industrial infrastructure with a more mature market operation mode as well as mature investors and operators. The government’s involvement in new infrastructure is mainly from two perspectives: building a foundation as public infrastructure that serves industrial infrastructure and investing in difficult and blind spots in the market, namely, sectors that are difficult to enter, manage or be satisfied by the market. The government’s participation in new infrastructure is mostly as a cooperative partner, and investment comes from special debt, which makes new infrastructure spending a capital expenditure rather than an operating expenditure managed with subsidies. Relevant market investors can obtain direct support from government policies, thus obtaining greater and cheaper funding for the launch and construction of new infrastructure projects. 

The author is a researcher at the National Academy of Economic Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

新型基础设施建设 New Infrastructure

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced that the country will step up efforts to expedite technological research



December 12, 2019: A teacher from Renhejie Primary School in Chongqing interacts with students from Zhongyi Township Primary School in the municipality’s Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County through a 5G two-teacher class. Xinhua

on the construction and application of new infrastructure. The ministry suggested that more support be provided to the research and development of 5G enhancement technology and 6G technology while promoting accurate matching of technological innovation with industrial, capital and policy chains.

During the war against COVID-19, cloud services flourished with spikes in online transactions, remote work, and online education. Big data has been effectively supporting mobile health monitoring and epidemic situation analysis, and artificial intelligence is coming into its own with wide usage of robot distribution, contactless mobile CT, and infrared thermometers. As digital technology becomes popularized, new infrastructure becomes more important.

As an emerging industry, new infrastructure connects massive investment to an upgrading consumer market. It will contribute to the future prosperity and development of China’s economy and society.

失业保险返还 Unemployment Insurance Premium Refunding


Edited by Li Zhuoxi

Unemployment insurance premium refunding refers to returning a certain proportion of unemployment insurance premiums



April 18, 2020: A job fair themed “Promoting Employment to Combat the Epidemic” is held in Haikou City, Hainan Province. Xinhua

paid the previous year to enterprises that avoid laying off employees. The State Council issued guidelines on measures to stabilize employment in the face of the COVID-19 epidemic that called for increasing unemployment insurance premium refunds in both amount and coverage. For micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that avoid laying off employees, a maximum rate of 100 percent of unemployment insurance premiums paid the previous year would be refunded. In Hubei Province, all enterprises qualify for the exemption.

A total of 42.3 billion yuan (US\$5.9 billion) in unemployment insurance premium refunds has been distributed to 3.2 million enterprises across China with 85.13 million employees, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. Three times as many companies received refunds this year compared to last year, with a growing number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises among them. 



中华人民共和国第十三届全国

Two Sessions in a Crucial Year

Text by Zhou Xin

Shorter length didn't stop the "two sessions" from fulfilling major tasks on the agenda.

人民代表大会第三次会议



May 22, 2020: The third session of the 13th National People's Congress opens at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xinhua



May 22, 2020: The opening meeting of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan attend the meeting. Xinhua

The third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the third session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), usually dubbed the "two sessions," finally kicked off on May 22 and May 21, respectively, in Beijing after being postponed over two months due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Socially Distanced Sessions

Although China has made remarkable progress in its battle against the epidemic to the point of

there being only a handful of new cases in a couple of cities in May, the picture around the world still looks grim. Total global victory is not in sight, and China still faces mounting pressure from imported cases.

Travel restrictions have been lifted in most parts of the country, but prevention and control measures are still in place. China has been cautiously working to avoid a possible second wave of infection that the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned about.

In this context, the two sessions were held with special arrangements. With the duration of both cut to one

week and strict measures on social distancing and isolation imposed for participants, the two sessions were held at the original scale, attended by 2,897 NPC deputies and 2,057 CPPCC members, all wearing masks.

Participants paid silent tribute before the sessions to the martyrs and compatriots who fell to the epidemic.

Media events related to the two sessions such as press conferences and interviews of NPC deputies, CPPCC members, and ministers were moved online. Giant screens separated journalists and speakers, and the journalists asked questions

from one room while meeting participants responded from another. Reporters who previously frantically sought interviews in conference rooms could access participants through online video instead. Plenary meetings of delegations normally open to the media were also suspended.

Though shorter, the sessions fulfilled the major tasks on the agenda. The report on the work of the government was deliberated and approved by the NPC and commented by the CPPCC. The Civil Code was discussed and adopted. A draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security was also submitted, debated and adopted.

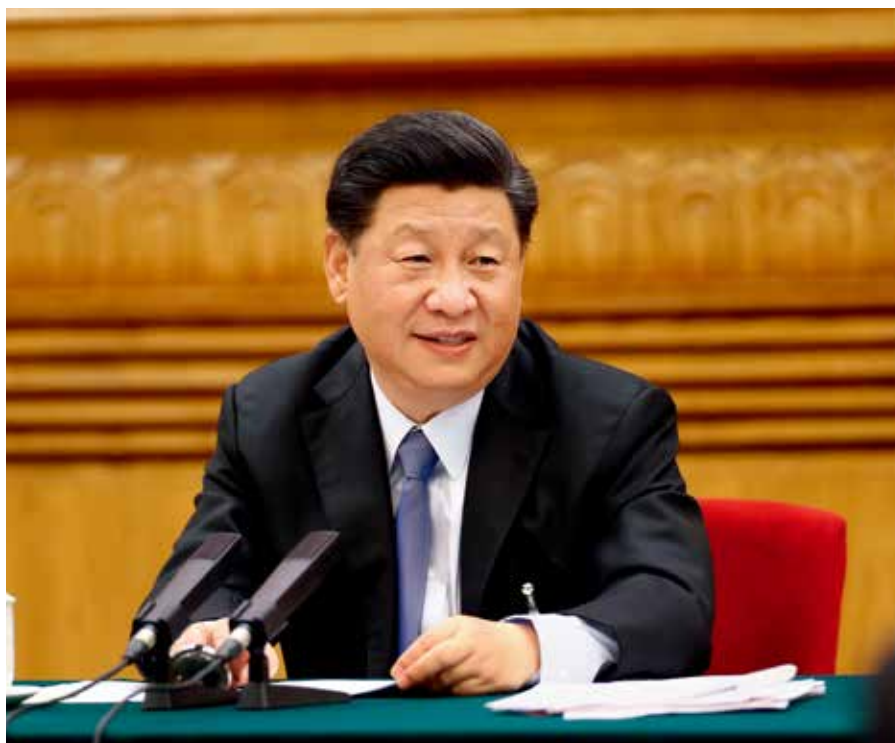
Review of Anti-Epidemic Battle

During the two sessions, the battle against the epidemic was reviewed by China's leadership, lawmakers and political advisors.

In a meeting with deputies from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, insisted that the Party would protect people's lives and health at all costs.

In the face of the spread of COVID-19, the CPC has, from the very beginning, clearly stated that people's lives and health should be considered as the top priority, said Xi.

Xi also stressed fortifying the public health protection network while joining discussions with lawmakers from Hubei Province, where the virus hit hardest. He stressed reforming the disease prevention and control system,



May 22, 2020: Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with deputies from the delegation of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing. Xinhua



In the face of the spread of COVID-19, the CPC has, from the very beginning, clearly stated that people's lives and health should be considered as the top priority. ”

boosting epidemic monitoring, building early warning and emergency response capacity, perfecting the treatment system for major epidemics, and improving public health emergency laws and regulations.

National lawmakers and political advisors suggested the establishment of a unified and efficient leadership and command system while enhancing the treatment system for major

epidemics and strengthening qualified public health teams.

Luo Jie, an NPC deputy and president of Taihe Hospital in Shiyan City, Hubei Province, shared a story about treating an 87-year-old patient in his hospital. The patient, with underlying health conditions, was treated by a special group of nine medical workers and recovered after 47 days of infection.



May 28, 2020: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets the press after the closing of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Li took questions from Chinese and foreign reporters via video link. by Xu Xun

Statistics show that over 3,600 COVID-19 patients aged 80 or above in Hubei have recovered, seven of whom were over 100 years old.

Luo noted that the government will continue upholding the “people first” concept while comprehensively improving every link of the system to respond to emergent public health issues from early warning to medical supply reserve.

China currently has over 30 laws involving public health, which have generally withstood the test of the COVID-19 epidemic and played a positive role, declared Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the third session of the 13th NPC, at a press conference.

However, he also noted some persisting weak links and

“

Without mentioning a GDP growth target, the government work report stated that China would prioritize stabilizing employment and ensuring people's livelihood this year, aiming to create more than nine million new urban jobs. ”

shortcomings in the legal framework and pledged that the NPC Standing Committee would strengthen China's public health legislation.

Highlights of the Sessions

The special “two sessions” also

brought some milestones.

A GDP growth target was not mentioned in the government work report released by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on May 22. It was only the fourth time that the target was not mentioned since



May 26, 2020: Ministers are interviewed through video link during the third session of the 13th National People's Congress. by Zhao Fei



May 26, 2020: Fang Yan, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), gives an online interview in the press center of the delegation of Shaanxi Province during the third session of the 13th NPC. Xinhua

China introduced the reform and opening-up policy in the late 1970s and the first time since 2002.

Ning Jizhe, deputy head of China's National Development and Reform Commission, revealed at a news conference that China's decision not to set a target for economic growth for 2020 was due

to the great uncertainty caused by the global spread of the coronavirus and its impact on global trade and economics.

Without mentioning a GDP growth target, the government work report stated that China would prioritize stabilizing employment and ensuring people's livelihood this


year, aiming to create more than nine million new urban jobs. It said that China will also ensure the elimination of poverty among all rural residents below the current poverty line and in all poor counties this year.

The 1,260-article Civil Code was adopted. As China's first civil code, it consists of the General Provisions and six sections on Property, Contracts, Personal Rights, Marriage and Family, Inheritance, and Torts. The legislative task of compiling a civil code was introduced at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in October 2014. The General Provisions came into force on October 1, 2017.

Li Zan, an NPC deputy and professor at the Law School of Sichuan University, remarked that this civil code is based on China's civil law practice and provides solutions for major issues concerning market behaviors and social governance in China.

Liu Shoumin, an NPC deputy and vice chairman of the Sichuan Division of China Law Society, called the civil code a milestone of China's political progress. He believes it will serve as a pillar of society and work to protect the personal and property rights it enumerates.

A draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security was submitted to China's national legislature for deliberation, which was then adopted.

Wang Chen, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, remarked that considering Hong Kong's present situation, efforts must be made at the state level to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security and change its long-term "defenseless" status in national security. 

Understanding China at a Special Time

Text by Swaran Singh

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a brake on economic activities worldwide, and China's early recovery and return to normal life makes this year's government work report all the more instructive for much of the world.

This annual presentation of a detailed government work report by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang marked the masterful start of China's "two sessions," which represented the largest political gathering involving about 5,000 national lawmakers and political advisors. Invariably, this triggered a buzz in the media offering China watchers a window to China's future directions. This year's report marked an occasion not only to review China's major achievements, but also to unveil its vision, guidelines, targets and financial allocations for the ensuing year.

This year, of course, is special for more than one reason. The government work report was awaited rather anxiously, not just in China, but around the world. China remains the growth engine for the world economy that has been facing a deceleration since 2009. It has come to be the largest trading partner for most nations, which makes China's economic health critical for the economic well-being of the world. This is especially true as more and more partners are joining the Belt and Road Initiative. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has put a brake on economic activities worldwide,



April 21, 2020: A job seeker communicates with a staff member from a company at a job fair in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. Over 7,000 job seekers attended the job fair, which was the city's first on-site recruitment activity since the outbreak of COVID-19. by Xiao Yijiu/Xinhua

and China's early recovery and return to normal life makes this year's government work report all the more instructive for much of the world.

A look at the disheartening projections of the recently released *World Economic Outlook 2020* of the International Monetary Fund

makes Premier Li's assertion of China achieving an impressive growth rate of 6.1 percent last year seem more inspiring. Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, China also witnessed a 6.8-percent negative growth for the first quarter of this year, which calls for



JUN • 2020

May 24, 2020: A bartender performs at a night fair of Sinan Mansions in Shanghai, eastern China. The night fair with food stalls and open-air art exhibitions opened to boost Shanghai's nighttime economy. by Chen Fei/Xinhua

effective and innovative response. Anticipating a certain deceleration in global demand for China's exports, this year's report not just alludes to the country's strategy to improve the consumption willingness and capabilities of domestic residents, but also reiterates commitment to eliminating extreme poverty within its stipulated period, namely, by the end of 2020 – a full decade before the target year of 2030 set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

China's government work report used to catch news headlines for announcing its ambitious economic targets such as its annual GDP growth rate, but this year a specific target is missing for China "will face some factors that are difficult to predict in its development due to the great uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the world

economic and trade environment." However, the report promises to soon formulate the country's 14th Five-Year Plan for 2021 to 2025. The media have also picked up on the plan to "establish sound legal systems and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security" in the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao.

Employment generation is highlighted in this year's government work report. Indeed, the word "employment" is mentioned about 30 times in the report that promises to create over nine million new urban jobs this year. Instead of announcing any large-scale financial stimulus to achieve this feat, Premier Li has urged governments at all levels to "tighten their belts" and "adopt all possible measures to bolster employment."

Meanwhile, the report sheds light on China's economic engagement with the rest of the world. It promises to work towards joint implementation of the phase one China-U.S. economic and trade agreement and also to further shorten the negative list for foreign investment. As for China's continued connectivity and infrastructure building with various developing nations, it promises to focus on quality in the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative. 

The author is a professor and chairman of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India.

Resuming Production with Pandemic Prevention

Text by Zhou Hanmin

While continuing regular COVID-19 control measures, China will accelerate the revival of the economy and society by stabilizing economic activity, confidence, and development trends.



Zhou Hanmin, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee. courtesy of Zhou Hanmin

Thanks to tireless nationwide efforts, China has achieved major progress in COVID-19 prevention and control, paving a solid foundation for steering social and economic development back to the normal track. This year is decisive for China reaching the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eliminating poverty among all rural residents below the current poverty line and in all poor

counties—pressing and challenging tasks considering domestic and global situations. So, devising macro plans that take all factors into consideration is tremendously important. While continuing regular COVID-19 control measures, China will accelerate the revival of the economy and society by stabilizing economic activity, confidence, and development trends.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping has delivered many important instructions and emphasized continuance of unremitting efforts on the prevention and control work while promoting work and production resumption in an orderly manner. He called for efforts to transform pressure into progress and crisis into opportunity while restoring normal work and life step by step. Xi's instructions provided fundamental guidelines for restoring normal production and life with acute focus on long-term prevention and control of COVID-19.

As the virus swirls around the globe and a few cluster infections persist in some regions of China, epidemic prevention and control measures cannot be relaxed. Only a preventive system featuring an entire chain, multiple dimensions, and a closed loop can create a sound foundation for restoring social order

and accelerating development.

The pandemic has unavoidably impacted the economy and society. Reports show that most companies have been affected by the epidemic, and operations continue to face many difficulties including capital pressure, slow restarts, and cancellation of orders, which have led to a significant reduction in corporate employment as well as income and profits expectations. After the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee convened a meeting on February 2 to arrange for the resumption of production and work, a series of policies were launched to promote the return to production and work.

In response to the high cost of labor reported by enterprises, the government introduced tax and fee reduction policies such as periodic reduction and exemption of corporate social insurance premiums. For financing difficulties that have shackled some enterprises, the government reduced the general and targeted deposit reserve ratio three times, which has effectively eased pressure on corporate capital chains. To address weak links in industrial chains as well as supply-demand imbalance, the government has accelerated coordinated production resumption of the entire industrial



April 1, 2020: A worker prepares ingredients in a hot-pot restaurant in Yubei District, southwestern China's Chongqing Municipality. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the district government has taken many measures to improve the business environment and solve the problems of private enterprises, helping them resume business as soon as possible. So far, 95 percent of private businesses in the district have returned to operation. by Wang Quanchao/Xinhua


chain. The government has also provided differentiated subsidies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that are a major force to create jobs and provide livelihoods. A series of comprehensive and concrete measures have jumpstarted enterprises' resumption of production. Since March, major economic indicators have been positive. In April, industrial production shifted from decline to increase and the drops of indicators in the service industry, consumption and investment narrowed.

Many enterprises across China have already returned to normal operations. As of April 10, more than 80 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises had resumed production. But some problems persist and demand solutions such as how to enhance enterprises' sense of gain and cultivate new drivers for development. In-depth investigation and wide-eyed consideration are necessary to plug the gap between work resumption ratio and production



The headquarters of Hangzhou City Brain, a system using artificial intelligence technology to facilitate urban management. In the years to come, the Chinese government will give priority to the construction of new infrastructure including developing next-generation information networks and expanding 5G applications. by Huang Zongzhi/Xinhua

resumption ratio, ensuring the reachability of designed capacity. For the short term, the authorities need to understand the needs and difficulties of enterprises during work and production resumption in a timely manner, seek more flexible support methods, and improve related support policies. For the long term, the government needs to constantly optimize the business environment and

continue to streamline administration and delegate powers to unleash the maximum vitality of market players. 

■ The author is a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee and vice chairman of the Central Committee of China National Democratic National Construction Association.

Fang Lan Employment of Migrant Workers Is Essential for Poverty Alleviation

Text by Zhou Xin

“Governments at all levels, communities and even organizations offering ‘pairing-up assistance’ are all working hard to help migrant workers get back to work in an orderly manner.”



Fang Lan, a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress and vice president of Northwest Institute of Historical Environment and Social-Economic Development of Shaanxi Normal University. courtesy of Fang Lan

The COVID-19 epidemic that broke out in early 2020 has greatly impacted the Chinese economy. Agriculture is the foundation of economic development, disturbance of which has

the potential to affect the overall economic situation. Fang Lan, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and vice president of the Northwest Institute of Historical Environment and Socio-Economic Development of Shaanxi Normal University, pays close attention to the impact of the outbreak on rural areas in China.

This year is the final year for China to accomplish the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Fang believes that the re-employment of migrant workers is extremely important for the battle against poverty. “The resumption of production, especially for downstream enterprises, directly determines whether migrant workers will obtain jobs and incomes.”

The total number of migrant workers in China has reached 290 million, 170 million of whom work in places other than home, and about 75 million of whom are trans-provincial laborers. The epidemic breaks the flow of migrant

workers and directly cuts off their sources of income.

Employment has a direct bearing on people's livelihoods. At a symposium on securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, stressed that China's battle against poverty is in the final push, and that the country must consolidate and advance the results on the basis of poverty reduction efforts, stabilize employment of migrant workers, and effectively prevent migrant workers from losing their jobs and falling back into poverty due to the negative effects of the epidemic.

“Governments at all levels, communities and even organizations offering ‘pairing-up assistance’ are all working hard to help migrant workers get back to work in an orderly manner,” said Fang.

China's State Council has rolled out concrete measures to facilitate non-local employment, local or nearby employment, and employment of impoverished laborers amid the



March 5, 2020: Workers at a stuffed toy factory in Liwan Community of Hanbin District, Ankang City, in northwestern China's Shaanxi Province. The government of Hanbin District has taken multiple measures helping migrant workers go back to their positions in factories in the district. Xinhua

epidemic. The government provided “point-to-point” transportation services for migrant workers to help them return to work in an orderly manner. As of May 18, this practice had helped 6.02 million migrant workers from rural areas get back to their posts, 1.52 million of whom were impoverished people, accounting for 25.2 percent of the total.

The National Development and Reform Commission announced on May 24 that 3.54 million new urban jobs were created and 90 percent of migrant workers had already returned to their workplaces from January to April.


Fang noted that in the process of poverty alleviation it will be better if every rural household has

a breadwinner, no matter whether he or she is working outside or in a local township enterprise. Only by doing so can rural households have more stable incomes despite the low earnings from crop cultivation.

Fang is an expert in the research of agricultural production in northwestern China and has been dedicated to the studies of Chinese agriculture for many years. She formerly worked for Shaanxi Provincial Development and Reform Commission.

Fang called for attention to specialized farms apart from individual farmers because large-scale farms were more affected by the epidemic. Given the long cycle, low profitability, and high risk of agricultural

production, as well as various negative factors triggered by the epidemic, it is difficult for specialized farms to make a quick turnaround. She added that it is imperative to improve the risk tolerance capacity and overall competitiveness of specialized farms. “Farmers can work on specialized farms if they cannot manage to return to work in cities. The development of specialized farms can absorb nearby laborers and provide them with job opportunities without the need to leave their hometowns.”

In addition, Fang said that the epidemic didn't have too much impact on spring plowing in most parts of the country. “It will probably not be a problem to achieve a high grain yield this summer.” 

Yuan Haibo The Voice of Migrant Workers

Text by Zhang Xue

"I hope more preferential loan policies are launched to support migrant workers seeking to start their own businesses at home."



Yuan Haibo, a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), speaks during a panel discussion with other NPC deputies from Yunnan Province during the third session of the 13th NPC in Beijing. by Lei Tongsu

“I chose to return home and start a business, but I continue to speak for migrant workers,” declared Yuan Haibo, a millennial deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) from Tuanjie Village, Ciyang Town of

Qujing City in southwestern China's Yunnan Province.

This year was Yuan's third trip to Beijing to participate in the two sessions, the annual meetings of China's top legislature and political advisory body.

Last year, he was serving as chairman of the labor union of Bonny International Holding Limited in Zhejiang Province, but he recently returned to his hometown of Qujing and founded a labor export company.

"I grew up in the village, and my parents and neighbors back home gave me a lot of help and support," Yuan posted on social media before departing for Beijing. "I will never forget their support and my past as a migrant worker, and will continue to pay attention to, care for, and help my brother and sister migrant workers."

Smoother Trails

To reduce the financial burden of his family, in 2010, Yuan ventured to the eastern Chinese city of Yiwu in Zhejiang Province, home to the world's leading small commodities market, where he worked various jobs including selling hardware and small commodities on the streets.

Eventually, he was hired by a

garment factory and worked his way up from the assembly line to become a workshop manager.

Yuan knows that many people who work far from home encounter various difficulties. During breaks, he would frequently chat with coworkers, listen to their thoughts, and help them solve problems. Gradually, many Yunnan migrant workers in Yiwu became familiar with Yuan.

In 2018, Yuan was elected deputy to the NPC, China's top legislature. According to statistics released by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, China is home to 290 million migrant workers. As a representative of migrant workers, Yuan realized that he shouldered huge responsibilities.

Work experience in a big city broadened his vision and taught him many useful techniques and skills. When he realized that many young people from his hometown wanted to venture out for work but struggled to find a suitable job, Yuan found his calling.

In June 2019, Yuan returned home and founded a labor export service company. "As a former migrant worker, I understand the needs of both the rural labor force and enterprises in big cities," he explained. "I established the labor export service company to pave a smoother road for villagers to find work outside."

However, six months after the company was established, Yuan encountered a big problem. After the outbreak of COVID-19, many villagers who planned to go back to work after the Spring Festival holiday were stranded in their hometowns due to travel restrictions.

Coastal enterprises urgently needed employees to resume production while migrant workers had to stay at home because of the epidemic. "Many people dared not go out to work, partly because they were



May 1, 2020: Dong Yuan (2nd right), a millennial college graduate, sorts out newly harvested roses with his employees. After graduating from college, he went back home at a village in Zibo, Shandong Province, and started a flower company there in 2016. With the implementation of the national targeted poverty alleviation strategy, the living conditions of many rural areas in China have increasingly been improved. As a result, many migrant workers have looked at returning to start a business, thus contributing to the development of their hometowns.
by Zhao Dongshan/Xinhua

worried about the epidemic situation, but more due to concerns that no one would help them during this special time,” Yuan explained.

After assessing the situation, Yuan communicated with relevant local government departments and enterprises in Yiwu to figure out what positions needed to be filled. They then arranged buses to transport migrant workers directly from home to their workplaces for free.

On February 20, 2020, Yuan escorted the first wave of 101 migrant workers on four buses as they departed Qijing. After a 36-hour journey, they arrived in Yiwu.

After a few successful trips, more people were confident about boarding buses to resume work. During the outbreak, Yuan coordinated and escorted 800 migrant workers in seven groups to return to work.

Easier Return

After founding the company, Yuan discovered that the national targeted poverty alleviation strategy was improving conditions in his hometown, creating many

employment opportunities. As a result, many migrant workers started to look at returning to start a business as he did, to contribute to the development of their hometowns.

“When they return, they use skills they learned outside to serve their hometowns,” Yuan beamed. “If they successfully establish an enterprise, they create jobs for locals and enable more people to stay and work in their hometowns, which will contribute to rural revitalization efforts.”

Yuan realized that the biggest difficulty for many migrant workers trying to return to start a business was a lack of funding. “Some returning villagers wanted to open a shop, some wanted to buy a truck to launch a transportation business, and others wanted to start animal husbandry businesses, but they all faced the common problem of having little collateral to secure a loan,” he said.

When defining a moderately prosperous society, the key is analyzing the living conditions of farmers. According to the government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang to the third session of the


13th NPC in Beijing on May 22, over 11 million rural people were lifted out of poverty in China last year, and the poverty headcount ratio fell to 0.6 percent—decisive achievements in poverty alleviation.

The report also announced that China would continue working to maintain social stability, accomplish the targets and tasks for winning the battle against poverty, and bring to completion the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects this year. The country remains committed to ensuring the elimination of poverty in all rural residents below the current poverty line and in all poor counties this year.

How to win the fight against poverty with high-quality development and targeted poverty alleviation measures in the context of the epidemic to make sure no one is left behind on the road to a moderately prosperous society in all respects became a hot topic of the two sessions this year.

As a representative of migrant workers, Yuan shared his concerns in a proposal submitted to the NPC. He suggested the state introduce more preferential policies to support migrant workers seeking to start businesses at home. He offered the example of subsidies and loans with discounted interest rates for those starting businesses. Businesses that meet conditions for poverty alleviation and agricultural industrialization should get priority status for loan discounts.

He also suggested that the state expand the scope of available guarantee property for migrant workers to secure a start-up loan more easily.

“I hope more preferential loan policies are launched to support migrant workers seeking to start their own businesses at home, so they will find more channels to solve problems and secure start-up funding,” said Yuan. 

Hu Yu

The Duty to Save Lives

Text by Zhou Xin Photographs courtesy of Hu Yu

"As a CPPCC member, I do my best to devise feasible proposals, and as a doctor, I do my best to save lives."



Hu Yu, a CPPCC member and president of Wuhan Union Hospital of China.

After working around the clock on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 for more than 100 days, Hu Yu, president of Wuhan Union Hospital of China, arrived in Beijing to attend the postponed two sessions on May 20, 2020, to fulfill his responsibility as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the fever clinic of Wuhan Union Hospital of China has treated 23,000

patients, and its three branches discharged 3,091 recovered patients. The hospital also provided medical services to 2,129 patients in two temporary treatment centers and offered online medical consultation services to 60,000 Wuhan residents. As president of the hospital, Hu had continuously been working on the front lines to save lives, which he considers his duty as a CPPCC member.

When Wuhan faced the toughest time during the epidemic, 90 percent of patients in his hospital were critically ill, with daily outpatient visits exceeding 800. In the face of the challenges, Hu slept only a few hours each night, and all his waking hours were consumed with the fight against the epidemic. "Despite the great challenges, doctors across Wuhan and from around the country united together to win the battle against the epidemic under the unified command of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee."

After more than two months of lockdown, Wuhan finally saw the rainbow after the storm on April 8. Hu's hospital was restored to normal operation with medical resources shifting to patients with non-coronavirus issues in addition to comprehensive measures to prevent a rebound of COVID-19.

Reflecting on the tough

confrontation with the virus, Hu is both moved and concerned. The outbreak of COVID-19 exposed some weaknesses in public health emergency management. Public suggestions and advice should be given greater importance. "Despite some decent achievements in the prevention and control of the disease, Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed the need to leverage experience and reinforce effective measures to close loopholes and eliminate weaknesses."

At this year's annual session of the CPPCC National Committee, Hu brought a proposal to optimize prevention, control, and treatment systems for public health emergencies. He believes it's time to improve diagnosis and treatment in high-level hospitals, promote bigger roles for family doctors, set up a central emergency management committee to coordinate health departments during major public health emergencies, and provide regular public health training for communities. "Hospitals should be ready for both normal operations and emergencies and upgrade their capacities for emergency rescue and treatment," remarked Hu. "And it is imperative to improve community-level medical infrastructure and implement graded diagnosis and treatment strategies."



January 28, 2020: Hu Yu (2nd left) talks with infected medical workers who have recovered from COVID-19 in Wuhan Union Hospital of China.

“As a CPPCC member, I do my best to devise feasible proposals, and as a doctor, I do my best to save lives.” Hu noted that during the epidemic, he and his colleagues solved many urgent problems using their own methods which proved effective and resulted in useful experience.

“Our response to the COVID-19 outbreak shined light on the advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the solidarity of Chinese people,” declared Hu. “The epidemic has eased in China while other parts of the world are still grappling with the virus. So, with the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity in mind, we still need to actively learn and contribute across the board.” 



February 10, 2020: Hu Yu discusses about treatment of patients in a special ward with medical workers.

Shen Guojun Economic Recovery through Strengthening Employment and Consumption

Text by Zhang Xue

“The more difficult and complicated the situation becomes, the harder we should work to find a way out and identify new growth drivers.”



Shen Guojun, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and founder and chairman of Intime Group. courtesy of Shen Guojun

“Private enterprises are the main providers of jobs, so we must solidify the development of private enterprises to stabilize and protect employment,”

stated Shen Guojun, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and founder and chairman of Intime Group, in an interview.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the Chinese economy. China's GDP fell by 6.8 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2020, of which the hospitality and catering sector and the wholesale and retail sector, two main employment providers in the tertiary industry, dropped by 35.3 percent and 17.2 percent, respectively.

“People only spend money when they have it.” The Chinese government has introduced a series of measures to boost consumption. Shen seeks out-of-the-box thinking and believes that only by securing employment and income can China boost consumption.

The word “employment” was mentioned 39 times in this year's government work report,

which evidences the gravity of the employment situation amid the COVID-19 impact.

“Micro, small and medium-sized businesses are the main sources for absorbing the working population,” he explained. “The tertiary industry, including retail, hospitality, housekeeping services, culture, sports, entertainment, education, delivery, warehousing, and information software, requires the lion's share of employees in all sectors. Private enterprises such as large-scale wholesale markets, commercial complexes, commercial pedestrian streets and logistics companies are significant job creators and have been severely affected by the pandemic.” As global executive chairman of Zhejiang General Chamber of Commerce, Shen is acutely familiar with the huge pressure faced by private enterprises.

“This year's two sessions are special,” Shen added. “Although the form is different from previous years, the responsibility of



May 2, 2020: The “Cloud National Treasure Concert” is held in Xi’an Beilin Museum in Shaanxi Province. Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, people are not allowed to enter theaters to enjoy offline concerts. In this context, many theaters and musicians have launched online concerts to provide people with a new choice of leisure and entertainment.
by Li Yibo/Xinhua

each deputy and member has not changed. The smooth development of private businesses and the stable employment of residents have a direct influence on the quality and progress of economic recovery.”

This year, Shen put forward a proposal to support the further development of private enterprises and consolidate the employment-consumption chain to promote economic recovery.


According to Shen, private enterprises, especially micro, small and medium-sized businesses, are large in number and cover a wide range of sectors. Their strong ability to provide employment makes them the major driving force in stabilizing consumption, but they are also highly susceptible to market risk. Therefore, the government should continue implementing reductions and exemption of value added tax for micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, postpone payment of business income tax, extend

tax-related policies supporting epidemic prevention and control, further cut and relieve micro, small, and medium-sized businesses’ burden in terms of pension insurance, unemployment insurance, and work injury compensation insurance, and expand benefits accessible to businesses that don’t lay off workers during the epidemic. It was gratifying to see his suggestions included in the government work report.

“The enterprises need to take the initiative to improve and seek transformation,” Shen stressed. “The more difficult and complicated the situation becomes, the harder we need to work to find a way out and identify new growth drivers.” He admitted that the COVID-19 outbreak greatly impacted Intime Group. Retail and cultural tourism businesses have suffered huge losses. However, every shock is accompanied by an opportunity.

“Businesses like retail and

cultural tourism should seize the development opportunities brought by new lifestyles and new consumption habits,” said Shen. In the retail sector, Intime’s shopping malls have improved sales through community marketing, live streaming, targeted advertising, enhanced service guarantees, and enriched shopping experience. In terms of cultural tourism, Intime launched “Live Streaming Cloud Tour,” through which online scenic spots were infused with cultural features to give tourists an experience with a specific scenario full of stories.

“If we actively reform and make innovations, we will find more and better development opportunities from the crisis,” Shen proclaimed. “I believe confidence is more valuable than gold. COVID-19 will eventually go away. High-quality resources are always scarce, and consumer demand will persist forever. These business constants represent development potential for companies to seize.” 

For a Better Tomorrow in Hong Kong

Text by Ru Yuan

It is imperative, timely and important for the NPC and its standing committee to formulate relevant laws on establishing and improving at the state level the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security.

On the morning of May 22, 2020, a draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security was submitted to China's national legislature for deliberation at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing. This means that the national security loophole in the HKSAR since its return to the motherland will be fixed by establishing institutional mechanisms to safeguard national security under the framework of law.

Since the return of Hong Kong to the motherland in 1997, the practice of "One Country, Two Systems" has achieved unprecedented success in the HKSAR. At the same time, the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in the HKSAR has also met new problems and faced new challenges and risks, including the rise in prominence of national security risks.

The HKSAR is an inseparable part of China. It is the HKSAR's constitutional responsibility to safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and

prevent, stop and punish activities endangering national security in accordance with the law. Article 23 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR stipulates that the HKSAR shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition or subversion against the central government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the HKSAR,

and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the HKSAR from establishing ties with foreign political organizations or bodies. This article reflects the trust of China's central government on the HKSAR and its respect for Hong Kong's legal system.

However, more than two decades after Hong Kong's return, relevant laws, which had been stigmatized and demonized, are yet to materialize.



May 24, 2020: Political heavyweights as well as social and business leaders pose for a group photo during a ceremony to launch a signature campaign to support the national security legislation in Hong Kong. They call on local residents to support the legislation which will ensure Hong Kong people's well-being and the stability of Hong Kong in the long term. China News Service




May 23, 2020: The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong set up more than 100 street booths citywide to collect signatures supporting the national security legislation, with the number of participators amounting quickly. China News Service

Because of this unwarranted delay, the HKSAR government lost some of its functions in national security in terms of institution setting, resource allocation and power disposition, resulting in Hong Kong's long-term "defenseless" status in the field of national security which is rarely seen in the world today. Considering Hong Kong's situation at present, efforts must be made to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. The whole of Hong Kong society should carry out national security education to enhance public awareness.

All these above-mentioned problems have led to the increasingly serious situation plaguing the HKSAR in safeguarding national security. In recent years, various separatist thoughts were spread in

Hong Kong. Eventually, the city witnessed a small group of separatists relentlessly advance with the ultimate objective of turning the HKSAR into an independent entity. Behind the rioting and vandalism since the second half of 2019 was essentially a so-called "color revolution" in Hong Kong. Resorting to violent actions, the extremists ratcheted up the tension from hurling water bottles and bricks at police to making bomb threats, spreading the so-called "guide to kill police officers" and assaulting innocent people. Their behaviors have gone far beyond of the purportedly "nonviolent" approaches. Through maneuvers to paralyze the HKSAR's legislature, disrupt the governmental operations and sabotage the local economy, the opposition camp dreams of seizing the governing power of Hong Kong, splitting the

country and subverting state power, which has greatly threatened Hong Kong's public safety and the security of national sovereignty.

Facts have shown that the whole society will pay a heavy price for the national security loophole. The HKSAR must not become a weak link in national security. Now, it is imperative, timely and important for the NPC and its standing committee to formulate relevant laws on establishing and improving at the state level the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. This move will better safeguard national security, lay a solid institutional foundation for the steady and enduring growth of the cause of "One Country, Two Systems," and promote the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. 

Silver Lining of Hong Kong Restoring Order and Prosperity

Text by Lin Yu

It will function as a stabilizer that assures business owners of steady operations, builds investor confidence, enables citizens to live and work with no fear, and ensures smooth traveling for tourists.

“We have been looking forward to this [national security legislation] for a long time,” said Fung Kuen-kwok, a doctor living in Yau Ma Tei area in Hong Kong. “I believe that after the completion of the legislation, it will have a deterrent effect on violent

elements and help the residents resume normal life and work.”

Fung is glad to hear that the third session of the 13th National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, would deliberate a draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security. He noted that many of his neighbors and clients have been worried about their own safety due to rampant violence since the social unrest emerged in June last year. They are irritated, but hesitant to raise their voices.

Since the rioting and vandalism broke out last June, political groups advocating so-called “Hong Kong independence” and local radical separatists have become increasingly rampant with escalating violence. The rioters have been caught attacking police officers in an organized manner and assaulting and beating up innocent citizens who hold different political views, causing tremendous chaos. During their demonstrations and violent protests, radical protesters besieged and attacked the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government, defaced the national emblem and national flag, openly challenged the authority and sovereignty of the central government, blatantly offended the national dignity, and challenged the bottom line of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle.

The social unrest is devastating



October 2, 2019: Few tourists are seen at the West Kowloon railway station in Hong Kong. Since the rioting and vandalism broke out last June, Hong Kong’s tourism, retail sales, catering business and many other sectors have been hard hit. by Lu Ye/Xinhua

全力支持建立健全香港特別行政區 維護國家安全的法律制度和執行機制

Full support for establishing and improving
the legal system and enforcement mechanisms
for the HKSAR to safeguard national security



May 22, 2020: Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam (center, front), other government officials and members of the Executive Council attend a press conference in Hong Kong on introducing the national security legislation for the HKSAR. by Li Gang/Xinhua

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The establishment of a sound legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong means that the loopholes can finally be plugged and the risks will be brought under control. ”

Hong Kong's economy and the residents' livelihoods. Hong Kong has slipped in several rating agencies' rankings with investment, catering business, retail sales and more other sectors being hard hit and big-name shops closing. According to the HKSAR government, Hong Kong's GDP in 2019 went down 1.2 percent year-on-year, marking its first negative growth since 2009. As for the first quarter of 2020, the GDP shrank by 8.9 percent year-on-year, recording the

worst quarter in history. Meanwhile, the latest report on the unemployment rate in Hong Kong shows a rise to 5.2 percent—more than 200,000 people are jobless, setting a new high over the past decade.

Under Article 23 of the Basic Law, the HKSAR's constitutional document, Hong Kong shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, or subversion against the central government, and theft of state secrets. However, as foreign

interference continues growing in Hong Kong, fanning violation of laws among young people and seeding local terrorism, the political atmosphere impedes the progress of implementing the legislation work. This vacuum in Hong Kong's legal system has exposed huge loopholes in safeguarding national security.

“The establishment of a sound legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong means that the loopholes can finally be plugged and the risks will be brought under control,” said Cheng Cheung Ling, chair of HKCPPCC (Provincial) Members Association and vice chair of the board of directors of Sino Biopharmaceutical Limited. She added that the legislation will function as a stabilizer that assures business owners of steady operations, builds investor confidence, enables citizens to live and work with no fear, and ensures smooth traveling for tourists. ”

Hong Kong Youth Need to Enhance National Identity

Text by Ru Yuan

Young people in Hong Kong are not only the hope and future of the city, but also the new blood for promoting the development of the country.

On May 22, 2020, Wang Chen, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), explained the draft decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to safeguard national security to the third session of the 13th NPC in Beijing. Introduction of the decision is timely and imperative. It has hit the weaknesses of

a handful of anti-China disruptors in Hong Kong, taking a drastic measure to deal with the terrorist activities and separatism seeking to transform Hong Kong from a special administrative region of China into an independent political entity.

The overwhelming majority of Hong Kong people agree that so-called "Hong Kong independence" has no future. However, during months of violent protests and riots since June 2019,

separatist thoughts in various forms were rampant, and deluded a small number of unsophisticated local young people with extremism. Some even went so far as to violate laws and participate into activities with the aim to paralyze the HKSAR's legislature, disrupt the social order and endanger public safety.

The reason why the "Hong Kong independence" thought can take up the minds of a small number of Hong Kong youngsters



June 28, 2018: A delegation of about 150 Hong Kong youngsters from all walks of life visit the ruins of Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace, which was looted and burned by the Anglo-French Allied Forces in 1860, in Beijing. by Zhang Chenlin/Xinhua



June 24, 2019: A mentor introduces the brain science to visiting Hong Kong students in Beijing. Xinhua

lies in the long-term indoctrination of the extreme and narrow-minded ideas of the opposition camp as well as radical media outlets and educators in Hong Kong. They imposed various wrong views of history on local young people, which have prevented the youngsters from establishing a correct conception of the state, a sense of national identity, and a sense of national pride. They spared no effort to attack the Chinese mainland, sow discord between Hong Kong residents and their mainland compatriots, and make the long-existing structural imbalance in Hong Kong the root for “Hong Kong independence” through maneuvers and manipulations.

The separatists seeking to turn the HKSAR into an independent entity have a clear purpose: to make Hong Kong youngsters blame the Chinese mainland and the country for all their current problems, and fill the minds of local young people with resentment and hatred, thereby squeezing massive energy

for violent protests and receiving abundant interests from votes. They took advantage of the younger generation’s aspirations to control their own destiny and participate in the decision-making process of Hong Kong, and told local youngsters that their goals could only be achieved through “Hong Kong independence.” They defamed and discredited the lawful acts of the HKSAR government and the central government in accordance with the Constitution of China and the Basic Law of the HKSAR to govern Hong Kong.

Unfortunately, a number of Hong Kong youngsters still fail to see through their tricks. Hong Kong’s separatists are merely puppets in the hands of Western anti-China forces. What the “big boss” behind them really wants to see is the HKSAR plunging into chaos and turbulence, and the development of China being deterred, and even the introduction of the so-called “color revolution” into China’s mainland.

Violent activities of Hong Kong’s separatists violate the Constitution of China, the Basic Law of the HKSAR and the relevant laws in Hong Kong, undermine the city’s long-term prosperity and stability and harm the fundamental interests of local residents from all walks of life, becoming the biggest threat facing Hong Kong today.

A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive. Young people in Hong Kong are not only the hope and future of the city, but also the new blood for promoting the development of the country. In the historic process of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Hong Kong’s role is irreplaceable. Some Hong Kong youngsters should put down their prejudices, open their minds, visit the Chinese mainland to get a deeper understanding of their own country, and find their roles and opportunities in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and in the progress of the country. ㊦



August 17, 2015: Students from the City University of Hong Kong take a selfie when visiting a local enterprise in Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Province. Xinhua

Crafting Poverty Alleviation with Traditional Skills

Text by Zhang Jinwen Photographs by Qin Bin

After years of efforts, Chahar Right Rear Banner has developed a mature model for promoting poverty alleviation and improving living standards through inheriting and developing ethnic culture.



Heads of *matouqin* with different styles. Thon Ruge shared that observing the dynamic moments of real horses can bring inspiration to the creation of *matouqin*.

Chahar Right Rear Banner (equivalent to a county) is a unique administrative division of Ulanqab City in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. This May, many of its people were busy with spring farming and agricultural production. Employees of Chagan

Aobao Ethnic Arts and Crafts Production Company were right there with them.

Some workers set up yurts in front of the company. Several *matouqins* (a kind of bowed stringed instrument with a scroll carved like a horse's head) with different styles, some Mongolian traditional furniture,

and other handicraft commodities were displayed on the front desk. Technicians trimmed timber and polished furniture in the workshop.

"The company was founded out of nowhere at what happened to be the perfect time," beamed Thon Ruge, founder and technical consultant for the company, which was



Thon Ruge displays a prize-winning *matouqin* in the exhibition hall of Chagan Aobao Ethnic Arts and Crafts Production Company.

established two years ago.

Rise from Poverty

Thon Ruge is a native of Chahar Right Rear Banner, where most locals were engaged in livestock husbandry and corn planting. However, he has been enthusiastic about painting since childhood.

After graduating from the Fine Arts Department of Ulanqab Teachers College in 2001, he embarked on a completely different path from his ancestors.

Chahar Right Rear Banner is a cradle of Chahar culture. In recent years, the banner has continuously promoted the protection and

development of Chahar culture by building a series of cultural inheritance platforms such as the Chahar Cultural Museum, the Chahar Cultural Inheritance Center, and the Ethnic Cultural Industry Park.

In 2013, the banner invested in an ethnic cultural industry street covering more than 4,000 square



The production of hand-made *matouqin* requires superb crafting skills. Each step of carving needs full concentration and care.



Various traditional Mongolian handicrafts are displayed in the exhibition hall of Chagan Aobao Ethnic Arts and Crafts Production Company, including wooden wheels and furniture with ethnic flavor.

meters. The same year, Thon Ruge was granted a free space in the street by the local government to produce *matouqin*. Then, he started his own business.

“Making a good *matouqin* requires specific materials and high-level carving skills to complete the horse head so it captures the unique vigor and strength of Mongolian horses,” Thon Ruge

noted. Because of his excellent craftsmanship, Thon Ruge gradually gained some fame over the years.

In 2018, the banner began to vigorously develop a collective economy to promote poverty alleviation. The ethnic arts and crafts collective project launched by Thon Ruge received strong support from the local Gacha (meaning “village committee” in Mongolian).

“

This year, we want to establish an ethnic craft training base and a cultural research base in Ulanqab, which will better integrate traditional culture with modern industry. ”

That year, he officially established Chagan Aobao Ethnic Arts and Crafts Production Company.

“The local government has given us a lot of support,” Thon Ruge explained. “In the first two years, the village invested 1.3 million yuan (about US\$182,000) in our company. We used this funding to purchase equipment and expand the plant, which increased our company’s turnover to more than 300,000 yuan (about US\$42,000). We plan to pay off the government funding in installments over three years. We have already begun dispersing a dividend of 150,000 yuan (about US\$21,000) to help poverty-stricken households in the village.”

To further help eliminate poverty, the company recruits poverty-stricken villagers directly. “In the first year, we hired seven poor villagers and paid them an average annual wage of 6,500 yuan (about US\$912), which realized the goal of lifting a whole family out of poverty by employing one person,” he added.

After years of efforts, Chahar Right Rear Banner has developed a mature model for promoting poverty alleviation and improving



Creative products integrating Mongolian culture with modern technology.

living standards through inheriting and developing ethnic culture. In recent years, the local government has actively promoted various poverty alleviation projects involving many outstanding intangible cultural heritage items including ethnic costumes, ethnic handicrafts, folk songs and dances to inject new impetus into the development of the local economy.

Protecting Traditional Culture


Thanks to their fame and experience after years of hard entrepreneurial work, in early 2019, Thon Ruge and two of his colleagues were respectively named the inheritors of Mongolian ethnic furniture, *matouqin*, and

Mongolian yurt production skills by Chahar Right Rear Banner, as noted on the sixth batch of banner-level intangible cultural heritage protection projects and inheritors list.

“Our company has good sales numbers on *matouqin*, yurts and ethnic furniture,” he noted, with eyes on the future. “This year, we want to establish an ethnic craft training base and a cultural research base in Ulanqab, which will be completed by June. And we plan to do training and provide accommodations in yurts. In this way, students can get a more intimate experience with Mongolian culture, and we will better integrate traditional culture

with modern industry.”

His plan earned support from the local government. “When the two projects were proposed, the government was very supportive and provided 200,000 yuan (about US\$28,063) as a subsidy,” he said. “After the bases are completed, poverty-stricken villagers, unemployed people, and young herders can learn a skill here to help them earn more income.”

“This is also a platform for the inheritance and development of intangible cultural heritage,” he beamed. “I hope it will bring more income to villagers, and improve the living environment and cultural atmosphere of the whole village.” 



Dubbed by some as the “king of birds,” the green peafowl is among the largest pheasants and a national first-class protected wild bird in China. It is listed as a global endangered (EN) species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The present population of the bird species in the country is estimated at less than 500, and they are only found in Yunnan Province. by Zhuang Xiaosong

Last Stand of the Green Peafowl

Text by Zhou Qunfeng

Recently, a Kunming court issued a first-instance judgment ordering the halt of a hydroelectric project to protect the last major habitat of the endangered green peafowl.



In July 2017, Friends of Nature, an environmental non-governmental organization, filed a lawsuit to enforce green peafowl habitat protection to the Intermediate People's Court of Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture in southwestern China's Yunnan Province.

On March 20, 2020, the Kunming Municipal Intermediate People's Court sided with the plaintiff in the first hearing and ordered a

halt on a large hydroelectric project deemed to be threatening the last major habitat of the endangered green peafowl.

It was the first preventive public interest lawsuit for wildlife protection filed in China.

Endangered Birds

Dubbed by some as the "king of birds," the green peafowl is among the largest pheasants and a

national first-class protected wild bird in China. It is listed as a global endangered (EN) species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The present population of the bird species in the country is estimated at less than 500, and they are only found in Yunnan Province.

Millennial Gu Bojian is seeking a doctoral degree in Shanghai. In 2013, Gu studied at the Xishuangbanna



Members of a scientific research team pose for a group photo during a field survey. The scientific research team, composed of more than 30 members including staff of environmental protection organizations, biological experts, and photographers, conducted scientific surveys deep into unmanned zones in the Honghe River valley. courtesy of Friends of Nature

Tropical Botanical Garden, a research institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Yunnan. There, he conducted field research as part of his master's degree program.

In November 2013, he ventured to the Luzhi River valley at the junction of Xinning County in Yuxi City and Shuangbai County in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province, seeking to investigate the ecological conditions of local tropical monsoon forests.

He stayed in an inn built by local villagers. By chatting with villagers, he learned that a green peacock had been spotted nearby. They showed him several green feathers, which evoked his curiosity.

After reading up on the animal, Gu realized that green peafowl were once widely distributed throughout Guangdong Province, Sichuan Province and other places in China. However, continuous destruction of their habitats pushed them into an obscure nook in Yunnan Province now.

Kong Dejun, an associate professor at the Department of Life

Science and Technology of Kunming University, reported witnessing 183 to 240 green peafowl in total through field investigations. Given the elusiveness of some unknown habitats, the population of the birds in China is estimated at less than 500. Meanwhile, the size of each flock of the birds has shrunk from as many as 20 to only three to five.

The study also found that threats to the species include poaching, poisoning, habitat destruction and hydroelectric construction.

Under Threat

In 2013, Gu conducted a 20-day field investigation in the valley without finding any trace of the green peafowl. However, he discovered that a large hydropower plant was planned to be built on the Jiasa River, the main tributary of the Honghe River in the lower reaches of the valley.

The Jiasa River hydropower station would be the largest hydroelectric project in Yuxi City. Construction was scheduled to begin in March 2016 with a total dynamic

investment of about 3.9 billion yuan (about US\$555 million).

The valley area is an important habitat for the green peafowl. If the dam was completed and began storing water, the green peafowl and *Cycas chenii* (a species of cycad endemic to the Honghe River valley) would be choked out of the area when the local monsoon forests flooded, leading to their extinction in the region.

Hoping to protect the last habitat of the animal, Gu got in touch with Xi Zhinong, a veteran wildlife photographer and founder of Wild China Film, a nonprofit organization that promotes wildlife photography and protection.

On March 15, 2017, Xi Zhinong and some friends rushed to Xinning County, and they saw construction already commencing on the hydroelectric station. During the trip, Xi photographed seven or eight green peafowl in the soon-to-be submerged area near the hydropower station, and his colleagues also captured videos of green peafowl drinking water near the river.

The same day, an article titled "Who Is Killing the Green Peafowl? The Last Habitat for Green Peafowl in China Will Disappear" was published on the website of Wild China Film and attracted wide attention from the media and public.

On June 29, 2018, the provincial government of Yunnan issued a document showing the habitats of 26 rare species in the province, including the green peafowl, with protection red lines. The hydroelectric project on the Jiasa River infringed on numerous species in the nearby area.

Afterwards, Friends of Nature organized many rounds of discussions with the local government and the construction operator. The local government and the construction operator both promised to research

the impact of the hydropower project on the green peafowl, but never suggested shutting down the project.

Fowl Lawsuit

In July 2017, Friends of Nature launched a public interest lawsuit against the hydroelectric project operator, seeking an injunction to terminate the project based on its impact on the habitat of the green peafowl. In August of the same year, the Intermediate People's Court of Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture officially accepted the filing.

He Yini, project director of the law and policy advocacy department of Friends of Nature and the plaintiff's representative, stated that the case was divided into two parts during the process of evidence collection. The first part involved appealing to relevant government departments to obtain administrative approval materials related to the project, and the other was to collect evidence on site. "The former was relatively easy, while the latter was much more difficult," said He.

He Yini explained that about 80 percent of the planned submerged area of the reservoir was uninhabited, so most of the area was hardly accessible due to a lack of roads. Soon after the court case was filed, He Yini and her colleagues decided to get into the area by drifting along the Honghe River.

With the help of professionals, a scientific research team composed of more than 30 members including staff of environmental protection organizations, biological experts, and photographers finally reached the area. "We stayed in the unpopulated area for several days straight, sleeping in the mountains at night," she revealed.

During the field investigation, the team discovered extensive green peafowl footprints and feathers and recorded the activities of the birds



Cycas chenii is a state-protected endangered species endemic to the Honghe River valley. If the dam was completed and began storing water, the green peafowl and *Cycas chenii* would be choked out of the area when the local monsoon forests flooded, leading to their extinction in the region. courtesy of Friends of Nature



Our ultimate goal is to shut down the project permanently to eliminate catastrophic threats to the habitats of the green peafowl, *Cycas chenii* and other rare species. But we still have a long way to go. ㄣ

with fixed infrared cameras and portable cameras.

"For projects that might cause environmental pollution through emissions, even without a solid environmental impact assessment made, relevant administrative organs

could still control pollution problems later in the production process through supervision and fines," He noted. "But if assessment of the ecological impact on animals and plants is not made scientifically and objectively, a construction project could cause irreversible ecological damage."

On March 20, 2020, the Kunming Municipal Intermediate People's Court issued a first-instance judgment demanding that Xinping Development Co., Ltd. under China Hydropower Engineering Consulting Group Corporation halt construction on the dam and forbade them from storing water or cutting down plants in the station's submerging area.

According to Zhang Boju, director-general of Friends of Nature, the ruling effectively paused construction, but without continued efforts, the door was still open for the project to resume work in the future.

"Our ultimate goal is to shut down the project permanently to eliminate catastrophic threats to the habitats of the green peafowl, *Cycas chenii* and other rare species," he declared. "But we still have a long way to go."


Li Chunguang, executive director of Yunnan Lingyun Law Firm, noted that in theory, relevant departments could approve follow-up construction enabling the hydropower station to begin operation anyway.

"But I think that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has helped public awareness of environmental protection surge to an unprecedented level, which is surely catching the attention of legislative and administrative organs," he continued. "I think that relevant environmental protection departments will carefully consider experts' suggestions and make any decisions cautiously. Even if construction resumes in the future, the process will be very long and slow. But I doubt it will ever happen." ㄣ

Fiery Liangshan Spring

Text and photographs by Cheng Xueli

Wang Shunhua's one wish for Liangshan is that the next spring will be nicer. He hopes for only flowers and trees instead of smoke and fire.



March 30, 2020: Firefighters battle with the blaze on the southern line of the fire site in Muli, Sichuan Province. That day, the forest fire in Muli was spreading in all directions, with the northern line inching towards a primitive forest and the southern line threatening nearby villages.

A native of Yunnan Province, 26-year-old Wang Shunhua has been working for the Liangshan division of the Sichuan forest fire services in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwestern China's Sichuan Province for nearly eight years. As head of the No. 3 team of the No. 4 squadron of Xichang detachment under the Liangshan division, he has climbed thousands of mountains and crossed vast stretches of virgin forest. He and his coworkers risk their lives to protect green mountains.

“Muli Again”

On the afternoon of March 28, 2020, a wildfire broke out at the junction of Xichang City's Youjun Town and Yanyuan County's Jinhe Township. The Xichang detachment of the Sichuan forest fire services was ordered to get to the site by the morning of March 29. Long Qian, a rookie in Wang Shunhua's team, was a bit excited. He followed Wang around with questions about putting out fires.

Long is a native of Liangshan in Sichuan. In his childhood, on the first day of every New Year, his father went to the village committee to attend training on forest fire prevention and control and brought home a signed and fingerprinted fire safety certification. He fondly recalls his father posting it on the most conspicuous place on the door of their home. “You should never bring fire when you go out,” his father warned Long and his younger brother. “If you start a forest fire, you will go to jail.”

The wildfire was extinguished on March 29. When the firefighters headed down the hill with their fire extinguishing equipment, they expected a good rest at the base camp. With no cell phone signal on the mountain, no one knew that



March 30, 2020: After putting out a fire on the southern line of the fire site in Muli, firefighters retreat to the foot of the mountains.

another forest fire had broken out in Muli, a Tibetan autonomous county in Liangshan. Soon, Wang's detachment was heading directly to Muli as reinforcements. "Muli again," Wang sighed.

Located on the southwestern edge of Sichuan Province, Muli Tibetan Autonomous County is administered by Liangshan. On March 30, 2019, a forest fire started by lightning broke out in an area 3,800 meters above sea level in Muli that features complicated topography, steep slopes and deep valleys and lacks transport and communication infrastructure. All these made it difficult to put out the fire. Wang has never forgotten that battle involving five helicopters dropping water and providing surveillance and around 700 firefighters on the ground. He lost 27 colleagues as close as brothers fighting alongside him.

While at the division station, Wang sometimes visits the Xichang martyrs cemetery to mourn for late squadron leader Zhang Hao. Before the March

2019 fire in Muli, 29-year-old Zhang had fought fires with Wang for more than three years. If not for the devastating fire this year, Wang would have joined his fellow firefighters to visit Zhang's tomb at the martyrs cemetery on March 30.

On the afternoon of March 30, when the firefighters arrived at the site of the Muli fire, the situation was even worse than they had thought. The forest fire was spreading in all directions, with the northern line inching towards a primitive forest and the southern line threatening nearby villages. Upon arrival, firefighters from the Sichuan forest fire services and officers from the Fire and Rescue Department of Sichuan Province quickly dove into rescue efforts. Xichang and Muli detachments, a squadron of Liangshan forest fire division, and a team of special fire service from Chengdu were all dispatched to a mountain driveway on the southern line to stop the fast-moving fire from crossing the highway.

Victory over the Fire

The road was covered with burning wood and red-hot stones. The fire was burning only five or six meters above the highway. All the firefighters could hear was the sharp cracks of burning trees. "When the wind is strong, the fire shoots all over the place," Wang watched a gust of wind carry a burning pine branch into a pinon pine grove, igniting it. While pulling the hose, Wang slipped when climbing over a protective railing. He fell right on his face, and his right knee struck the ground and started gushing blood.

The wind soon changed directions, and the dense smoke and sparks shrouded everything. Wang frequently heard the voice of Zhang Jun, head of the Xichang detachment, through his walkie talkie. Zhang commanded the detachment to immediately retreat from the highway because the fire had already crossed it and was moving towards the firefighters.

The busy firefighting schedule and the absence of mobile phone

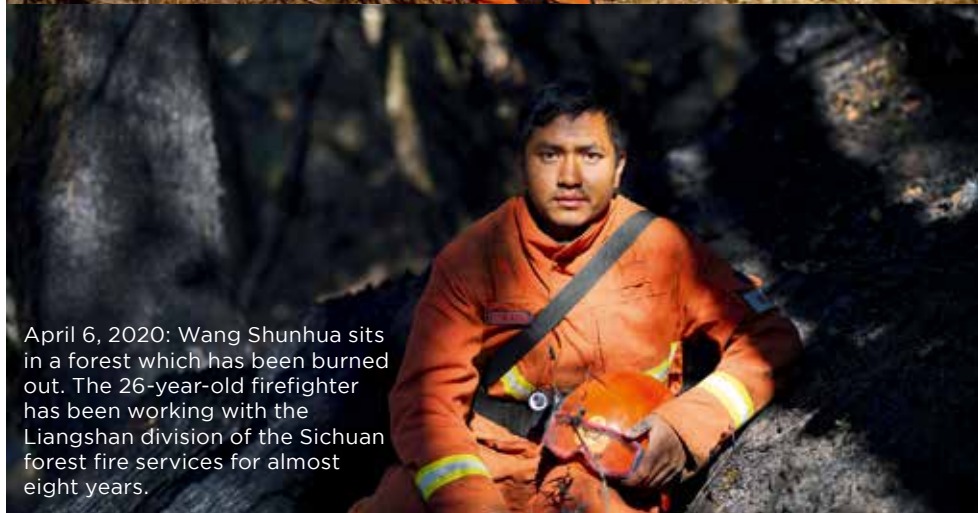
signals cut off firefighters from the outside world. By noon on March 31, Wang's cell phone received a weak signal during a break in the fire-barrier belt at the foot of the mountain. "Bro, hello? How's everything?" "Are you OK?"... Voice messages streamed in. "Guys, call your families," suggested Zhang, checking the count of missed calls. The families and friends of the firefighters knew that Liangshan was on fire. Zhang was all too aware of the anxieties and worries of parents, wives, and friends of front-line forest firefighters. They worry tremendously when their loved ones venture out on a mission and cannot be reached.

A call finally came through, and Wang was greeted by the hoarse voice of his mother. "So glad you are fine," she uttered before handing the phone over to Wang's father. "You didn't answer our phone calls for the past two days. Your mother was so worried that she made me call you over and over," Wang's father explained as if he made something wrong. "I know you don't have signal in the mountains, but your mother insisted I call you. She couldn't eat or sleep for days."

The battle continued because the fire was still fierce. On the night of March 31, as the blaze on the southern line was basically contained, the situation on the northern line became the prime concern as the fire was creeping towards a primitive forest. After days deep in the mountains, Wang gradually adapted to the new way of life. His sense of time simplified to only day and night, and the only thing on his mind was putting out the fire. One night, while sitting in the camp with the wind roaring, Wang suddenly felt wetness on his face. "It's snowing!" Someone shouted, electrifying the whole camp. Everyone stood up and cheered to the sky. "This is great!" Wang



April 5, 2020: Firefighters take a rest. When working on the front line, due to the weak cell phone signals in mountains, forest firefighters often cannot be reached.



April 6, 2020: Wang Shunhua sits in a forest which has been burned out. The 26-year-old firefighter has been working with the Liangshan division of the Sichuan forest fire services for almost eight years.



April 2, 2020: Huang Shuai, a forest firefighting commander, takes a nap by a tree stump. This is his fifth day in Muli to fight against the fire.

thought. "Now it will be much easier to extinguish the fire."

On Wang's 10th day in Muli, the forest fire was finally eliminated thanks to joint efforts of the Sichuan forest fire services, the Fire and Rescue Department of Sichuan Province, and the local firefighting force. Upon learning that his team could leave, Wang

had only one thought: "I don't want to ever see a fire break out again." Thanks to Wang and his fellow firefighters, most of the wild flowers in the mountains survived the blaze. Wang's one wish for Liangshan is that the next spring will be nicer. "I hope spring brings only flowers and trees, instead of smoke and fire." 47

Heartwarming Wuhan Lattes

Text by Zhou Chenliang

“The ability to meet for a cup of coffee indicates that Wuhan is returning to regular life, which is absolutely the best thing right now. I have confidence in the city’s future.”

On April 8, 2020, after 76 days of lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak, Wuhan reopened. It lifted outbound travel restrictions, dismantled traffic control checkpoints, and gradually resumed normal operation of railways, airports, waterways, highways, and urban buses. The same day, the Guanggu branch of Wakanda Youth Coffee also reopened.

Free Coffee to the Last Drop

“Even if we went out of business due to delivering so many cups of free coffee to frontline healthcare workers, we would have been happy that we did the right thing,” declares Li Fei, one of the founders of Wakanda. “Rather than withering away powerlessly, we were making the right choice—that’s what we thought when we decided to send coffee to nearby hospitals.” Although Wakanda officially reopened its door on April 8, the coffee shop never fully shut down during the Wuhan lockdown. At one point during Wuhan’s fierce fight against the coronavirus, Wakanda was the only coffee shop

operating in the city.

More than two years ago, Li and six partners launched Wakanda as a coffee chain in Wuhan. In January 2020, the coronavirus spread throughout the city, causing fewer and fewer people and cars to venture out on the streets, and fewer customers to visit Wakanda. On January 23, the day the city of Wuhan was officially cut off from the outside world, two medical workers from a nearby hospital came to Wakanda to grab some coffee. Seeing their exhaustion after long hours of high-intensity work and hearing about the serious situation plaguing healthcare workers, the whole team immediately realized that they should stay open to supply free coffee to healthcare workers.

On January 24, the first shipment of free coffee was delivered. As of March 8, at least 20,000 cups of free coffee had been offered to medical workers. Along with the coffee, small gifts such as lip balms and toners were also sent. As the epidemic situation worsened, the team temporarily shut down several Wakanda stores in Wuhan for safety

Wakanda employees are busy preparing fresh coffee for medical workers in Wuhan. Seven baristas work in two rotating shifts to prepare 500 cups of free coffee delivered to the hospitals twice a day—that’s been the daily routine for the team of Wakanda Youth Coffee since the coronavirus outbreak caused the lockdown of Wuhan.

by Chen Jian/China Pictorial



It is no easy task to prepare 500 cups of coffee every day, considering the staff shortage. A flow-line production method has thus been introduced by Wakanda to make and pack the coffee as quickly as possible.

by Duan Wei/China Pictorial





March 8, 2020: Sina Karami is about to deliver roses together with coffee to medical workers on International Women's Day. He hopes that the roses will bring extra happiness to women doctors and nurses. by Chen Jian/China Pictorial



From time to time, small gifts like chocolates, lip balms, and toners are sent together with coffee by Wakanda to healthcare workers. by Duan Wei/China Pictorial

reasons and only kept the Guanggu store open. All available staffers were transferred to the Guanggu branch. Everyone agreed to do whatever they could to serve the medics. “We lost money, that much is sure,” admits Li. “But every time I saw the smiling faces of healthcare workers when we dropped off coffee at hospitals, it all felt worthwhile.”

Brighter Future

On the morning of February 11, Li discovered money transfers continuously popping up on his WeChat and Alipay apps. “At first, I thought someone made a mistake,” he recalls. “I sent back the first few, but transfers

kept coming in, so I issued more refunds.” Li soon found that the coffee chain’s account on Dianping, one of China’s most popular catering services listings apps, was also receiving money. Later, he discovered that the money was coming from netizens paying for “online orders” as a creative way to donate to business in need.

The amounts of payments ranged from several U.S. dollars to more than a hundred. The donations came from all over China, including from Wakanda’s peers in Taiwan. Seeing the online orders piling up and a wealth of encouraging messages, the team was moved profoundly. “Our pulses raced,” Li recounts.

“

The team hoped the 500 cups of coffee would help exhausted medical workers on the front lines find a moment of relief and remember that they are not alone. ”

“We felt hundreds of thousands of people standing behind and supporting us.”

Media outlets were attracted to Wakanda’s story, and the resulting articles resonated with people across China. The publicity inspired netizens to spontaneously launch an online campaign to use existing methods to buy coffee for frontline doctors and nurses. After the cost of raw materials was deducted, the rest of the funds were used to make coffee until the day “we got the virus under complete control.”

The seven partners of the café range from 20 to 40 in age. While most are Wuhan locals, one is from Zhengzhou City, Henan Province, and another is from Iran. Due to an acute attraction to China, two years ago, then 27-year-old Sina Karami ventured to Wuhan to work as a barista and teach coffee art at the newly-opened Wakanda. On February 2, 2020, he was notified by the Iranian Embassy in China that the Iranian government was arranging charter flights to evacuate their nationals from Wuhan.



Healthcare workers of the Qingdao medical team dispatched to Hubei to aid the fight against the coronavirus are quite moved by Wakanda's drinks and small gifts for International Women's Day. "Thank you. And our thanks also go to Wuhan," said the medical workers. by Chen Jian/*China Pictorial*


But Karami opted to stay. "When the coronavirus arrived, foreigners could leave Wuhan and China. But do Chinese people have a choice on leaving Wuhan and China? They don't because it is their home. And Wuhan is my second home."

Every morning, four baristas worked to make 300 cups of coffee to be delivered before noon. Another 200 cups were delivered by 5 p.m. by another three baristas in the afternoon shift. The team hoped the 500 cups of coffee would help exhausted medical workers on the front lines find a moment of relief and remember that "they are not alone." To this end, the name of its signature drink was changed to

the "Wuhan Latte."

"It's the coffee for Wuhan people," states Li. "We wanted to commemorate these difficult days with the best thing Wakanda does." Staff scribbled handwritten messages of encouragement and thanks on each cup such as "Stay Strong, Wuhan," "Respect to You" or "Thank You." Even when the baristas became exhausted, no one abandoned this routine. Li recalled that one time when they delivered coffee according to an agreed contactless process, the healthcare workers picking up the drinks bowed to him and his colleagues in gratitude. The eye contact at that moment alone conveyed respect

and thanks.

Several universities are located near the Guanggu branch of Wakanda. However, due to epidemic control and prevention measures, they remain closed, which has left the coffee shop almost empty. At present, the shop sells about 80 cups a day, less than a fifth of its sales volume before the outbreak in late January. But Li is confident about his city and business. "The ability to meet for a cup of coffee indicates that Wuhan is returning to regular life. Under intense stress, people would have no mood for things like this. It is absolutely the best thing right now. I have confidence in the future of the city." 

A National Brand for the New Era

Text by Zhi Mo Photographs courtesy of Shenzhen Lantern Science

“With a down-to-earth attitude, we hope to optimize the core technology and improve the user experience as part of the long-term sound development of our brand,” says Zhang Xuchang, chairman of Shenzhen Lantern Science Co., Ltd.



Shenzhen Lantern Science now boasts seven branches around the world and three large domestic production bases, and possesses multiple established cosmetic brands.

After several years working in the cosmetics industry, in 1993, 29-year-old Zhang Xuchang ventured south to Shenzhen, a coastal city in Guangdong Province known as the window of China's reform and opening up. There, he founded Shenzhen Lantern Science Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "Shenzhen Lantern Science") and embarked on a mission to establish a national brand.

After more than 20 years, Shenzhen Lantern Science has evolved into a famous enterprise with seven branches around the world. The enterprise now boasts three large domestic production bases making multiple established cosmetic brands. Zhang continues to serve as the chairman of the cosmetics company.

"Researching, developing and producing cosmetics under our own brands is our core mission," declares Zhang.

Manufacturing Safe Products

Product safety is tremendously important for cosmetics manufacturers. Because of the high production standards adopted by Shenzhen Lantern Science, its products are highly sought by consumers. Zhang believes that his company has developed a solid tracing mechanism for its cosmetic products. "We keep samples of each batch of products," he reveals. "During the three-year shelf life of a product, we keep monitoring the samples to make sure they're still good. We immediately activate our recall procedure if we detect defective products."

Today, Shenzhen Lantern Science holds three invention patents, six utility patents, 26 software copyrights, and nine design patents. Its project to make nanocapsules with extract from natural spirulina



Zhang Xuchang, chairman of Shenzhen Lantern Science, works with a researcher in one of his company's labs. Zhang has dedicated himself to the cosmetic industry since he graduated from university.



Shenzhen Lantern Science attaches great importance to technological innovation. By now, it holds three invention patents, six utility patents, 26 software copyrights, and nine design patents.

has been designated as a national high-tech project. This technology is expected to maximize the richness and efficacy of skincare

ingredients. In 2019, the enterprise invited two professors from Fudan University and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine



The Shenzhen Lantern Science booth at ASD Market Week. In 2018, the Chinese cosmetic company was invited to attend ASD Market Week, one of the most comprehensive B2B trade shows that brings together the world's widest variety of retail merchandise, in Las Vegas.

respectively to serve as chief consultants. The same year, it also launched technical cooperation with Wuxi-based Jiangnan University to jointly build a skincare research center. The institution is expected to provide a solid foundation for the enterprise's further technological innovation.

Shenzhen Lantern Science has also constructed three factories that meet GMPC (Guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practice of Cosmetic Products) standards. GMPC requires strict production processes for cosmetic products to ensure consumer health. Of the three factories, the 68,000-square-meter standard plant in Shenzhen employs solar energy technology and places equal importance on product production, energy conservation, and environmental protection.

Better Growth

The year 2011 was considered a turning point in the development of Shenzhen Lantern Science. That year, the enterprise transformed from a privately-held firm to a joint-stock company which led to rapid development and a strident march toward large-scale and systematic operation. Zhang believes that Shenzhen Lantern Science becoming a joint-stock company resulted in a more standardized framework, faster development speed, and enhanced capability to withstand risk. He feels that the enterprise has achieved a better growth in recent years and that he has become more objective and mature as its chairman.

Also in 2011, the enterprise seized the opportunity to launch e-commerce development and

began to transform its sales mode. It carried out online promotion of its brands and invested in online product sales and services. That year, the Lantern Skincare Center was established with an aim to provide high-quality and personalized skincare services. Such innovations enabled information about the company including descriptions of its new products and promotions to spread quickly and widely. Through feedback from clients, the enterprise can constantly improve its products and meet consumer demand in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, Shenzhen Lantern Science is exploring overseas markets. It has established cooperation with many retail chains in the United States and Canada and cultivated a solid base of loyal customers in the North American market. Zhang considers exporting a channel for learning advanced operational concepts from international markets and staying abreast of the latest trends in international quality products as much as an avenue for sales expansion. "We need to work hard to maintain a position in the fiercely competitive domestic market," Zhang illustrates. "But we have to be brave enough to explore foreign markets and sharpen our competitive edge."

Social Responsibility

During China's fight against the coronavirus early this year, Shenzhen Lantern Science donated antibacterial sanitizers to government departments, hospitals, police stations, schools, banks, and news agencies. It also produced 10,000 bottles of anti-fogging and antibacterial spray for goggles developed by Shenzhen-based Southern University of Science and Technology that was urgently needed to support the fight against



A staff member of Shenzhen Lantern Science checks the antibacterial hand sanitizers which are about to be donated.



During the coronavirus outbreak in China, Shenzhen Lantern Science has donated antibacterial hand sanitizers worth over US\$840,000 to various organizations around the country.

the epidemic.

Antibacterial sanitizer is one of the enterprise's high-tech products. Its ethanol concentration can kill more than 99.9 percent of viruses and bacteria on users' hands.

After learning that governments at various levels and major hospitals in areas hit hard by the

coronavirus were in dire need of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, Zhang directed his company to shift all its production to anti-epidemic and disinfection supplies. While most enterprises in China were still shut down, government regulators gave special permission to a team from Shenzhen Lantern Science to

reopen to produce anti-epidemic supplies. With only a few employees coming back, the enterprise still produced an average of 100,000 bottles of hand sanitizers per day. "As a responsible enterprise, we wanted to do something to help our country and society in this difficult time," declares Zhang. "Donating antibacterial hand sanitizers and guaranteeing delivery was absolutely within our abilities."

The persisting shortage of anti-epidemic materials in many countries around the world has prompted international clients to contact Shenzhen Lantern Science to ask if they have antibacterial hand sanitizers available for export. The enterprise quickly contacted administrators in relevant countries. After obtaining recommendations from third-party certification authorities in related countries, it exported alcohol-based hand sanitizers by air to dozens of countries hit hard by the coronavirus including the United States, South Africa, Canada, and Italy. 



According to statistics from the local government, an average of about 90,000 tiger paintings are produced in Wanggongzhuang each year, with more than 40 percent exported to countries honoring the tiger, including Japan and South Korea. Xinhua

Next-Gen Village Tiger Painters

Text by Lin Hongxian and Yang Yifan

In the mobile internet era, a new generation of farmer painters armed with cutting-edge technology and innovative ideas is poised to bring tiger paintings to a wider and untapped market.

The gentle wind across the green land stretching into the horizon signals that the cold winter has come to an end at the village where paintings of tigers hang in the rows of courtyards. The tranquil village, where most locals are surnamed Wang, is Wanggongzhuang in Beiguan Town, Minquan County, central China's Henan Province.

Wanggongzhuang is dubbed "China's number one tiger painting village" because 800 out of the 1,300 villagers there are skilled in painting tigers. Among them, two are members of the China Artists



Two Wanggongzhuang-based tiger painters prepare to shoot tiger-themed covers for their video near a pond a few kilometers away from the village. Some of their paintings are sold online through live streaming. by Yang Yifan

Association, and more than 50 members of the Henan Artists Association. Another 100 painters from other places have also settled in the village.

According to statistics from the local government, an average of around 90,000 tiger paintings produced in the village are sold each year to foreign markets. Although most of the sold paintings were about six feet in length, huge paintings depicting hundreds of tigers each are not uncommon. About 40 percent of the works created by Wanggongzhuang villagers are exported to countries that honor the

tiger, such as Japan, Bangladesh, and South Korea.

Rise of the Tiger-Painting Industry

In the 1950s and 1960s, only a few villagers in Wanggongzhuang painted during the slack farming season. In those days, a handful of local people painted New Year pictures with traditional Chinese themes such as the Kitchen God and the Door God to be sold during Spring Festival to earn extra money. In the 1980s and 1990s, after the beginning of China's historic reform and opening up, several villagers led

local farmers to commit to brushes and begin learning to paint tigers. The village gradually developed fame for its paintings of the animal.

Why tigers? Wang Jianmin, one of the first tiger painters in the village who is now 54 years old, believes the subject relates to the folk customs of eastern Henan. Many regard the tiger as the king of all the beasts with the magic power to drive out evil spirits. The custom of hanging tiger paintings has persisted since ancient times in the region.

Wang Jianmin is regarded by fellow villagers as a pioneer of the



In addition to tigers, most painters in Wanggongzhuang are capable of producing many other species of animals.
by Lin Hongxian

local tiger-painting industry. He was the first person in the village to realize that painting tigers could create business opportunities. Thirty years ago, Wang and his partners became dissatisfied with selling their paintings only in nearby towns. They started focusing on bigger cities. Later, one of his six-foot tiger paintings sold for 100 yuan (around US\$14) in a city at a time when the average income of villagers in Wanggongzhuang was less than 30 yuan (around US\$4) per month. The “big sale” caused a huge sensation. For a while, many villagers came to him to learn painting.

Tigers from Wang Jianmin’s brush are calm and gentle. He

placed them in environments familiar to Chinese farmers such as lying beside a reed pond or surrounded by lotus flowers. The juxtaposition of images proved quite popular in the market. In Wang Jianmin’s words, he combined the tiger paintings with “aesthetic elements of rural China.”

Tiger Painting Sales in the Mobile Internet Era

At 36, Wang Jianfeng is the current village Party secretary of Wanggongzhuang. He started to learn traditional Chinese realistic painting at the age of 13 from a famous local tiger-painting artist. He explained that in contrast

with the older-generation painters, young artists tend towards using bright colors to highlight the ferociousness of tigers, rather than relatively warm colors to make the tiger look milder.

Wang Jianfeng became the first person in Wanggongzhuang to harness live streaming to sell his works as he saw business opportunities emerge with the development of the mobile internet and the popularization of short videos and live streaming. He began to explore new channels for painting sales. Except for live streaming, his wife also filmed his painting process and posted videos on the internet. Today, Wang Jianfeng has more than



Wang Jianfeng, current village Party secretary of Wanggongzhuang, is producing a tiger painting. He has been engaged in the trade for more than two decades, and the price of his tiger paintings has risen from several dozen U.S. dollars to more than 700 for one piece. by Yang Yifan



With the help of his wife, Wang Jianfeng live streams his painting process in his studio. Wang is the first person in the village to harness live streaming to sell his works. by Yang Yifan

110,000 followers on social media platforms. When the market is good, his maximum monthly income from online sales can reach as much as 500,000 yuan (US\$72,084).

Using the internet to sell tiger paintings has become a trend in Wanggongzhuang. Statistics show that about a third of paintings produced there are sold online.


However, Wang Jianfeng believes that the growth of online sales does not hurt offline sales. "Most of what we sell online are mediocre works," he revealed. Big spenders prefer to see the paintings in person before purchasing. Today, about 70 people are employed as agents and distributors for the village. They earn commissions selling the tiger paintings throughout China. Such people keep close eyes on the domestic art market.

Combining Art and Industry

Since 2006, the local government of Minquan County has offered art courses to local residents, with an aim to promote further development of the tiger-painting industry. "I hope more and more villagers take tiger painting to heart rather than just looking to it for income," declared An Desheng, director of the Cultural Industry Office of Beiguan Town in Minquan County.

Fortunately, a younger generation armed with internet expertise is poised to take tiger paintings to a wider and untapped market. In his 20s, Wang Jingheng is a local villager who once studied painting at an academy of fine arts.

"The older generation lacks a theoretical basis of painting," Wang Jingheng said while sitting in his father's art studio. "If young people just stayed home and learned from their fathers, their vision would be narrow, and it would be more difficult to adapt to the market."

Although his tiger paintings still sell for less than his father's, Wang Jingheng is confident about his future. He anticipates boosting his selling price through innovation. "A tiger with wings in blazing colors would not fly with my father's generation, but it could be precisely what the future market and buyers need." 



100 Photographers Focus on COVID-19, compiled by Wang Hao and jointly published by China Daily and China Pictorial Press, May 2020.

Faces of Heroism and Resilience

Many photographers focused on people across Hubei Province and elsewhere in China during the past few extraordinary months of heroism and resilience.



February 1, 2020: Two female medical workers snatch a nap back to back in the Disease Control and Prevention Center in Xinhui District, Jiangmen City, southern China's Guangdong Province. by Chen Liwu

Facing the outbreak of COVID-19, China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, launched a people's war to control and prevent the epidemic in January 2020. After implementing the most comprehensive,

thorough and strict prevention and control measures, China successfully contained the spread of the virus in a relatively short period with great courage and strength.

The photo album *100 Photographers Focus on COVID-19* is divided into five parts: Life and Death, Help from All Sides,



March 3, 2020: Nurse Xu Jian from a hospital in Fujian Province shows on her mobile phone how she takes care of her patient. By then, she had been helping save lives in Wuhan Union Hospital of China for more than a month. by Li Ge




March 2, 2020: A community worker sends vegetables for elderly residents in Yiyuanlu Street, Jiang'an District, Wuhan City, Hubei Province. by Chen Liming



February 25, 2020: Without missing the plowing season in spite of the COVID-19 epidemic, a villager plants cabbages in Yinque Village, Jiuchi Township, Pengzhou City, Sichuan Province. by Zhang Hong

Nationwide Prevention and Control, Exceptional Life, and Resumption of Production. A collection of 356 photographs by 268 Chinese photographers, the album preserves many indelible moments of China's battle against COVID-19 thanks to the dedication of press photographers working on the front lines.

The cover image features a medical worker with marks on her face after wearing a mask for long hours. It was a portrait taken by Li Ge, chairman of the Chinese Photographers Association and senior reporter for *People's Daily*, who managed a team that captured 42,000 portraits of medical workers aiding Hubei Province. "They are not just 42,000 portraits; they are 42,000 stories and 42,000 touching scenes," he declared.

Xie Hailong, a famous documentary photographer, stressed that every important moment should be engraved in our records and minds. Facing COVID-19, Chinese photographers bravely jumped in harm's way to shine light on the strength and warmth of China's brave heroes. 



February 9, 2020: Medical workers from Ruijin Hospital affiliated to Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine in Shanghai wave goodbye to their families and colleagues as they leave for Wuhan to support the fight against COVID-19. This is the fourth medical team from the hospital sent to aid Hubei Province. by Sun Zhongqin



February 14, 2020: A banner carrying words reading "China's difficulty is ours" and "Stay strong, China" is hung outside the Republic of Korea (ROK) Embassy in Beijing. by Zhao Juan



Kung fu can gradually build up a practitioner's flexibility, internal and external strength, speed, and stamina, and it also teaches balance and coordination. by Liang Yu

Kung Fu Life

Text by Abdallah Affes

Kung fu is more than a martial art, but a sophisticated philosophy that guides the mind, soul, emotion, and body to reach harmony, clarity, and tranquility.

I come from a culture a world away (Tunisia in northern Africa), so visiting China was a dream for me since I was a kid. I grew up practicing kung fu and reading books about Chinese philosophy and Confucius, and I have been discovering a new interesting feature of this ancient and coded culture every single day of the past 14

years of my life in China. I use the term “coded” because everything in Chinese culture and lifestyle is rooted in a story or old meaningful practice.

Often, when people hear the phrase “kung fu,” they think acrobatic feats or high kicks. However, that is only a subset of everything that kung fu is. Many

kung fu styles like Taichi are low impact. Others are intense such as Baguazhang (Eight-Diagram Palm) and Xingyiquan (Form-Intent Boxing).

The palm and the fist compose the general greeting of kung fu. The fist is a symbol of strength while the open palm is a symbol of peace. When combined, they summarize

the objective of this mysterious martial art.

Kung fu gradually builds up a practitioner's flexibility, internal and external strength, speed, and stamina, and it teaches balance and coordination. Many styles involve weapons of various lengths and types, using one or two hands. Some styles focus on a certain type of weapon. Forms are meant to be practical, usable, and applicable as well as to promote fluid motion, meditation, flexibility, balance, and coordination. World-famous kung fu master Bruce Lee once said, "Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless—like water. When you put water in a cup, it becomes the cup; When you put water into a bottle, it becomes the bottle; When you put it in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Water can flow or it can crash. Be water, my friend."

In other words, kung fu is more than a type of martial art, but a sophisticated philosophy that guides the mind, soul, emotion, and body to reach harmony, clarity, and tranquility. It enables the body to deliver the highest quality performance, not only in physical activity, but also in other aspects of daily life.

Kung Fu Influence on Chinese Life

I once sat for tea in a very old and traditional teahouse in an alley in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, where I was served by a very athletic waiter who poured tea with a very flexible kung fu move without spilling a drop. I was really impressed at how kung fu penetrates so much of Chinese lifestyles and entertainment. Even when Chinese people share New Year wishes, they cover the fist with the hand to say "Gong Xi Fa Cai" (literally, "wish you prosperity in the coming year").

Kung fu's presence is obvious in Chinese everyday life even if most



The author tries the kung fu tea pouring technique under the instruction of a waiter in a traditional teahouse hidden in an alley in Chengdu, southwestern China's Sichuan Province. courtesy of Abdallah Affes

people don't realize it.


The lion dance often staged during the Chinese New Year is also performed for important occasions such as business openings, special celebrations and weddings, and to honor special guests of Chinese communities. The lion dance is a subject with which every student of southern kung fu systems should be familiar. It is one of Chinese martial arts' most valued training methods, as well as an excellent source of historical information regarding kung fu.

Kung Fu Soul in Chinese Sports

Kung fu also influences many of the most popular sports in China like ping pong (table tennis) and badminton.

In ping pong, for example, hitting a ball with a paddle repetitively with very accurate moves and a high level of hand-eye coordination in flowing moves characterized by speed and flexibility is reminiscent of Wing Chun, a kung fu style.

Many analogies from martial arts are often applied to table tennis in Chinese communities. Among the most quoted related phrases is "30 percent handwork, 70 percent footwork."

Kung fu is so integrated in Chinese lifestyles and sports such as ping pong and badminton because the art shares common features with sports: flexibility, speed, and a high level of coordination between mind and body, which were the original basics of kung fu. The features of kung fu draw Chinese hearts closer to such sports than other globally popular sports. "Kung fu lives in everything we do," says Jackie Chan's character in *The Karate Kid* remake. "It lives in how we put on a jacket and how we take off a jacket. It lives in how we treat people. Everything is kung fu." 

The author is an overseas development manager at Sinolingua.

Meditations in an Emergency

May 21 – August 30
UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

This exhibition displays works by more than 20 domestic and foreign artists over the past 15 years that reflect on the role of art during a time of crisis.

The exhibition is divided into five sections: “The Fragile Everyday,” “Vital Signs,” “Beyond Animality,” “Othered Movements” and “Out of Focus.” The works on display focus on daily life, illness and aging, connectivity, the thin line between human and animal, global flow of people and commodities, and the information landscape to predict the impact of the current experience on the future.

The exhibition was named after an anthology of poetry by Frank O’Hara (1926-1966), better known during his short life as a curator at New York’s Museum of Modern Art.



Whispering Pines by Shana Moulton (with Nick Hallett), 6-channel video installation, 2018.

Unconventional: Emerging Media Artist Exhibition

May 16 – August 16
OCT Contemporary Art Terminal,
Shanghai

This exhibition uses free space connection to present various social characters cosplayed by artists. By portraying various social characters such as geological surveyors, social movement practitioners, video bloggers, and news editors, the artists highlight the commonalities of characters from the same era as well as distinct personalities forged by different life experiences and creative perspectives.



Poster for “Unconventional: Emerging Media Artist Exhibition.”



Poster for the exhibition “The Fair Ladies of Jiangnan: Traditional Chinese Paintings of Beauty from the Collection of Suzhou Museum.”



Just Like in the Mirror 1 by Zhang Hui, oil on canvas, 2018.

Revive in Art

May 1 - June 21
Times Art Museum, Beijing

This exhibition brings together 57 artists to construct an energetic art stage inspired by four spring themes.

The “Green Pines and Blue Cypress” section uses pines as the carrier to present nine diverse and fascinating art projects. The “Exotic Scenes and Rare Plants” section features seven street artists with unique styles tasked to create a theater with the protagonist symbolizing the energy of spring’s recovery.

The “Grass Sprouts and Oriole Flies” section presents cutting-edge art experiment projects with positivity and action. The “Spring Breeze Brings Warm Weather” section features images of the most moving moments and stories of medical workers in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.



Poster for the exhibition “Revive in Art.”



The Fair Ladies of Jiangnan: Traditional Chinese Paintings of Beauty from the Collection of Suzhou Museum

May 18 - August 16
Suzhou Museum, Suzhou

A special theme of ancient Chinese figure paintings, the fair lady painting evolved into an independent genre by the middle of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and peaked between the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

The show exhibits dozens of high-quality fair lady paintings from the mid-Qing Dynasty to modern times collected by Suzhou Museum. The paintings on varied media including hanging scrolls, fans and album leaves vividly capture the beauty of women of the Jiangnan (meaning “south of the Yangtze River”) area during the Ming and Qing dynasties with a delicate and elegant painting style. 47

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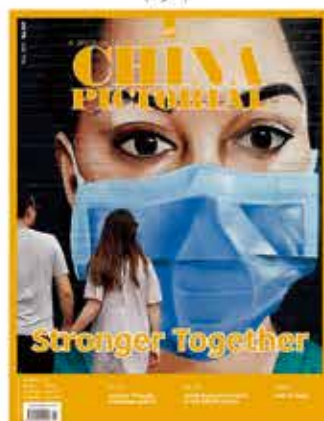
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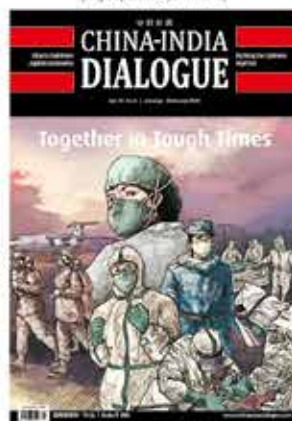
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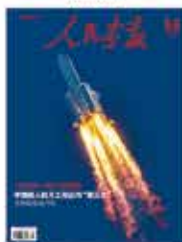
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