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The Nation

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China vows international coordination as novel coronavirus grows

China vowed on January 31 to work with the international community to uphold regional and international health security, and reiterated it has the confidence and capability to win the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic.

The pledge came as the World Health Organization declared on January 30 that the outbreak constitutes a public health emergency of international concern, or PHEIC, following an emergency meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Besides China, the virus has also spread to several other Asian nations and reached Australia and Europe as well.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States said January 30 that an Illinois woman who recently returned from China had transmitted the coronavirus to her husband — the first known case of person-to-person spread of the pathogen in the US.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in an online statement on January 31 that since the outbreak, China has been in close communication and cooperation with the WHO. "China will continue working with the WHO

and other countries to safeguard regional and global public health security," Hua said.

Saying the Chinese government has been taking the most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures for people's health and safety, Hua added that many of the measures go well beyond the requirements of the International Health Regulations.

"We have full confidence and capability to win this fight against the epidemic," she said.

Also on January 31, the National Health Commission called on the international community to understand and support China's efforts in preventing and controlling the epidemic.

The commission hopes countries from around the world will work with China to jointly prevent and contain the disease in line with the International Health Regulations as well as the recommendations of the WHO in order to safeguard regional and global public health security, according to a statement issued by the commission on its website.

(China Daily)

Further reading

Measures taken in Yunnan to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus

Since the outbreak of pneumonia infected by the novel coronavirus, Yunnan has taken a number of measures to prevent the epidemic spreading.

Starting from January 24, body temperature has been checked for people entering airport, railway station, highway entrance at the provincial boundary and the main national and provincial trunk roads. Comprehensive prevention and control measures focused on community are adopted; and interviews were conducted to the visitors and those who returned from outside the province. Suspected patients are transferred to designated quarantine facilities and designated hospitals for isolation detection and treatment. A total of 200 fever clinics are set up in the province to detect suspected patients in time, conduct isolation observation in hospitals and complete nucleic acid testing within 24 hours to accelerate diagnosis. In order to prevent the spread of the epidemic, Yunnan requires that all kinds of transport

and construction projects in the province should resume work no earlier than 24 o'clock on February 9 except social operation, epidemic prevention and life necessity industries. Education institutions in the province should be postponed to the beginning of school until after February 17. Measures have been taken to stop or reduce capacity of aviation, railway, road transportation, city buses and subways across the province. Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce launched daily monitoring system for daily necessities in the province.

The provincial capital of Kunming has 51 large supermarkets, 867 small supermarkets, 2,182 community convenience stores, and 207 vegetable markets operating normally. Market supply is sufficient. Stable prices and fresh food and basic necessities supply have ensured people stay at home to prevent and control the spread of epidemic. (By YDGP)

XI'S REMARKS

"The epidemic's prevention and control is not only a matter of medical treatment, but involves all-around efforts, so all work should support fighting the virus. China has the full and capability to win the battle against the virus. —President Xi Jinping made the remark while presiding over a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing."

Voice

International community praises China's response to novel coronavirus



China's measures are not only protecting its people but also protecting the people of the world.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



Cambodia will not suspend flights from China for the time being. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Cambodia stands with the Chinese people in fighting against the contagion.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen



France highly appreciates the Chinese government taking active and powerful measures to deal with the disease and staying committed to curb the spread of the contagion. France is willing to provide all the necessary assistance to China as long as it needs.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian



The Australian government firmly supports the Chinese government and people in their fight against the new coronavirus epidemic. Australia appreciates China for sharing information in time and actively communicating with the international community in an open and transparent manner when dealing with the epidemic.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne



The ROK side highly values the Chinese government and people's unity and determination to resolutely control the novel coronavirus epidemic, and appreciates the powerful measures China has taken. Facing difficulties, neighbors should support and help each other. The ROK is willing to work with China to meet the challenges and stop the spread of the epidemic, and will provide the necessary medical supplies as soon as possible according to the needs of the Chinese side.

ROK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha

WHO: Discourages or even opposes restrictions of travel and trade

Speaking at a press conference after a closed-door meeting of the emergency committee, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed that the WHO discourages or even opposes restrictions of travel and trade.

"The Committee does not recommend any travel or trade restriction based on the current information available," a statement published after the emergency committee meeting said January 30.

"Countries must inform the WHO about any travel measures taken, as

required by the International Health Regulations (IHR). Countries are cautioned against actions that promote stigma or discrimination, in line with the principles of Article 3 of the IHR," the statement added.

Under the IHR, the WHO director-general has the authority to determine whether an outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The designation is aimed at mobilizing more international resources to deal with the epidemic. Since the IHR entered into force in 2007, the WHO has made multiple PHEIC

declarations.

Tedros said the declaration was not a vote of no confidence in China. Rather it is necessary because human to human infections have been confirmed in other countries.

"As I have said repeatedly since my return from Beijing, the Chinese government is to be congratulated for the extraordinary measures it has taken to control the outbreak, despite the severe social and economic impact those measures are having on the Chinese people," Tedros said.

"We would have seen many more

cases outside China by now, and probably deaths, if it were not for the government's efforts and the progress they have made to protect their own people and the people of the world," Tedros said.

That is the main reason behind the PHEIC declaration, he said, adding that considering global health security, it is also a necessary step to achieve a scientific, rational and calm response based on evidence, and to help other countries take scientific, reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent the epidemic. (By CGTN)

Hospital president's heroic race against time

"As my life is counting down, I desperately make full use of every single minute," said Zhang Dingyu, president of Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, in the capital of Hubei Province.

The 57-year-old, who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which attacks nerve cells that control muscles, in October 2018, has been working with more than 600 others at the hospital for a month since it received the first few cases of pneumonia caused by a novel coronavirus.

"All my colleagues know my short temper," he said. "I've become short tempered because I don't have much time left in my life."

"My leg muscles have become weaker because of atrophy, then my body will lose sensation gradually... I have to run, competing against time to finish important missions. I have to run faster to get more patients back from the critical pandemic."

What makes the unyielding man weep is that his wife was infected with the novel coronavirus while working at another hospital in Wuhan. She received treatment and has now recovered.

"Maybe I'm a good doctor but not a qualified husband," Zhang said, adding they'd been married for 28 years and he was afraid of losing her.

Zhang and his team got some relief on January 2, when medical aid in the form of 150 people from Army Medical University arrived at the hospital.

"In the past month, we were overloaded," he said. "Normally, nurses change their shifts every two hours but the time period has been lengthened to four or even five hours, not to say the doctors. Now, the situation is getting better."

"Our nation is strong in scientific research and economically, and we have Chinese people's wills united like a fortress. I believe that we'll conquer this disease." (China Daily)



On the 29th of January, The First Affiliated Hospital of Dali University in Yunnan Province held a launching ceremony for the medical team assisting Hubei on the front line. 73 medical staff went to Hubei to fight against the epidemic as the second batch of Yunnan medical teams to assist Hubei. Here is a group photo of medical staff before departure. Photo taken by Li Dongge

Yunnan Province's first cured coronavirus patient discharged from hospital

For Ms. Che, the 2020 Spring Festival will be unforgettable in her lifetime.

On January 31st, when she walked out of the Infectious Disease Department of the First People's Hospital of Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan, she turned back repeatedly to thank the medical workers. "I'm grateful to all the medical staff. Please tell other novel coronavirus patients that as long as they cooperate with the doctors, they will be also recover," said Che.

Che was not only the first confirmed novel coronavirus patient in Honghe prefecture, but also the first cured and discharged from hospital

in Yunnan province.

Born in Mengzi, Honghe, Che worked in a supermarket in Wuhan's Jiangxia District. On January 16th, she returned from Wuhan to Mengzi for the Spring Festival holiday with her family. On the morning of January 24th, she began to develop chest tightness and dizziness. When the nucleic acid test showed that she was positive for the novel coronavirus, she was immediately transferred to the negative-pressure isolation ward of the Infectious Disease Department of the First People's Hospital of Honghe.

"The patient's psychological quality is not to be ignored in the treatment. A positive mindset is es-

pecially important," said Li Qiuyuan, a psychologist of the hospital. She gave Che psychological counselling and administered anti-stress medication with Che's consent. "The psychological counselling made me feel much better and gave me courage to overcome the disease," Che said.

By January 31st, after the medical staff's intense treatment, two consecutive nucleic acid tests showed that Che was already negative for the novel coronavirus, and her inflammatory indexes were normal again. The expert group decided that Che had recovered and could be released from hospital. (Yunnan Daily)