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The Nation

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Yunnan helps Hubei in epidemic relief

Editor's note:

"When Wuhan wins the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak, so will Hubei and China," said Chinese President Xi Jinping on February 10, when he conducted an inspection tour of Beijing and delivered instructions on the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pneumonia epidemic. At present, China has been mobilising high-quality resources from across the country and implementing the "one province helps one city" policy to assist Hubei in combating the COVID-19 outbreak.

So far, Yunnan has sent more than 1,100 medical workers, in seven batches, to assist Hubei

in the epidemic prevention and control.

Some of these wonderful people participated in the battle against the 2003 SARS outbreak, some joined in the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake relief, and others have a wealth of experience working in intensive care units. Apart from sending medical workers, the general public in Yunnan are also giving practical support to Hubei.

On February 10, nine trucks loaded with 270 tons of watermelons left Ruili for Xianning and Jingzhou in Hubei.

On February 11, a fleet of trucks loaded with 325 tons of potatoes, peas, oranges and tomatoes set off from Lijiang to Wuhan.

On February 12, several trucks loaded with 88 tons of high-quality vegetables departed from Kunming to Wuhan. On the same day, 204 tons of vegetables produced by the Yunnan Agricultural Reclamation Group departed for Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Changsha and other cities.

On February 12, after a journey of two days and two nights, a group of 16 trucks from Yunnan arrived in Wuhan. The trucks were transporting 267 tons of apples, potatoes, vegetables and brown sugar with a total worth of three million yuan (US\$ 429,436) and were donated by northeast Yunnan's Zhaotong City.

(Yunnan Daily)

"Pairing-up support" is a policy behavior in which an economically developed or strong party provides assistance to an economically underdeveloped or weak party. The main types are: disaster assistance, financial assistance, medical assistance and education assistance.

In China, it is a common that all sides come to help when one is struck by disaster, and the government often organises pairing-up support to specific affected areas. The eastern provinces for example have assisted the country's western region in poverty alleviation and development. All provinces contributed to the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake relief.

These experiences have demonstrated the institutional advantages that enable the country to mobilise resources and to successfully manage large relief efforts.

XI'S REMARKS

"The epidemic prevention and control is not only a health issue but comprehensive work which requires all-round support.

—From speech delivered by President Xi Jinping when presiding over a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee on February 3.

VOICE

Global leaders, organizations express support for China's fight against COVID-19

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Rome and Beijing, a relationship shaped on the base of mutual friendship and common interest. Italy conveys to China its faith and support in this emergency against the epidemic, and in the (Chinese) efforts to ensure health safety.

—Italian President Sergio Mattarella

China has worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and is taking effective measures to curb the spread of the virus. Thank central and local governments of China for their assistance to Dutch nationals in China.

—Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte

We are witnessing unprecedented and impressive measures in Beijing and throughout China that will definitely bring concrete results in the near future. The Chinese people have overcome many challenges and difficulties in history. I am more than sure that together with the international community, China will win this battle and the situation will return to normal soon.

—Georgia's Ambassador to China Archil Kalandia

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states support for China to fight against the virus and spoke highly of the decisive measures taken by the Chinese government and people to fight the epidemic and prevent its spread. The member states confirmed their willingness to provide China with necessary assistance and called on the international community to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the WHO to ensure international and regional public health security.

—SCO member states (Source from CGTN)

CULTURE

34-year-old Bai lady passes on the art of cloth tie

While winter sunshine shining in Wumafang, Ximen Street of the ancient city of Jianchuan, Yunnan province, seated in the deep lane was a 34 years old Bai embroidery lady named Zhang Sidai.

A piece of cloth and a few strands of thread come to life in her skillful hands, turning into a variety of tile cats, traditional twelve Chinese zodiac animals and colorful blue peacocks. The clothes and accessories made by Zhang Sidai are exquisite and popular with customers. According to Zhang, Jianchuan cloth tie handicraft was originally a small pendant worn by local children during the Dragon Boat Festival, with herbs such as mugwort leaves, which meant exorcise evil spirits and pray for blessings. With her love for cloth

handicrafts, she inherits traditional skills while constantly innovating to produce products that meet the aesthetic needs of modern people. She also becomes an intangible cultural heritage inheritor of this craft at the county level.

"To make cloth tie three-dimensional effect, a few layers of cloth inside and outside and needles and threads all rely on a hand completely. In addition to a pair of skillful hands, you need to have a heart for it." Zhang Sidai spoke out the unique part of Jianchuan cloth tie. She said that for her, the cloth tie is not only home-sickness in her childhood, but also the culture of Jianchuan. She wants to pass on this skill and let more people know and love the art of cloth tie.

By Huang Xingneng

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

China's Yunnan lifts 1.37 mln people out of poverty in 2019



On Nov. 16, 2019 shows Huang Wenyong and his mother posing for photos in front of their new houses in Mengban Town of Mengla County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. By Yang Zongyou

About 1.37 million people bid farewell to poverty last year in southwest China's Yunnan Province, the local government said on Feb. 17.

According to the provincial poverty alleviation conference, 3,005 villages were no longer labeled poor as of the end of 2019, and the average income of farmers in poverty-stricken areas rose from 2,744 yuan (392 U.S. dollars) in 2013 to 9,249 yuan last year.

The poverty headcount ratio in eight autonomous prefectures dropped to 0.86 percent last year from 10.58 percent in 2015.

The province is expected to achieve its goal of poverty alleviation in time, according to the meeting.

China has set a goal to eliminate extreme poverty by 2020. Over 10 million Chinese people shook off poverty every year since 2013.

(Xinhua)

Further reading 1

China's 19 provinces support 16 cities and counties in Hubei



The National Health Commission of China has set up a pairing-up support mechanism for the medical treatment on the novel coronavirus pneumonia in Hubei province. At present, China's 19 provinces support

16 cities and counties in Hubei, and Yunnan support Xianning city of Hubei province. Picture shows that the bottled water and eggs from Dali prefecture of Yunnan reached Xianning. Photo by Yang Zheng

Further reading 2

New life brings new hope



On February 14, Zhao Li and Zhang Jing, an anaesthesiologist and an assistant anaesthesiologist from the Yunnan Cancer Hospital, assisted the Xianning First People's Hospital in Hubei in completing a

caesarean section on a woman with COVID-19. When the newborn started to cry, all the medical staff at the spot smiled joyfully. New life brings new hope.

Photo by Yang Zheng

IN PICS

Asia's largest flower market resumed auction trading



On the 10th of February, Kunming International Flower Auction Trading Center and Dounan Flower Electronic Trading Center resumed auction trading, with a total stock of more than 3 million fresh cut flowers.

Kunming Dounan Flower Market is the largest trading market for fresh cut flowers in Asia. Previously, in order to avoid the infectious risk caused by mass gathering, Dounan Flower Trading Market shut down all business activities from 00:00 on February 6.

Yunnan warms the hearts of stranded foreign friends



Israeli tourist: I will come back to China after the epidemic

With the help of local foreign affairs offices, culture and tourism departments, community committees, and medical institutions, the stranded foreign tourists, students, and staff of foreign-owned companies in Yunnan amid the outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) have either arrived at their home or their next destination successfully, or stayed in Yunnan, feeling reassured. They all said, "Yunnan warms my heart."

An Israeli tourist stranded in Baohua Town sought help from the Foreign Affairs Office of Nanjian County (Nanjian FAO) in Dali Prefecture on January 28. After reporting to the Foreign Affairs Team of NCP Prevention and Control Command of Dali Prefecture, the officers of Nanjian FAO immediately visited Baohua Town for more details. It was found that

the tourist arrived at Baohua Town on January 22, and had planned to visit Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-La, and Tibet before returning to Israel. But he had to stop traveling due to the epidemic and had stayed in his friend's home. He intended to leave for Thailand, but didn't know how to get to the airport because of language barrier. The officers of Nanjian FAO

helped him book a train ticket back to Kunming and an airline ticket to Thailand. They arranged a vehicle to send him to the Xiangyun Train Station on February 2, and helped him to leave Yunnan as planned. The tourist expressed gratitude to the officers and said that he would come back to China to visit the friends who helped him after the epidemic.

Italian tourist: Hope China defeats the epidemic soon

On January 31, the Foreign Affairs Team of NCP Prevention and Control Command of Honghe Prefecture received a call from the Consulate General of Italy in Chongqing regarding an Italian tourist. The tourist travelled to Honghe County on January 22, and stayed in a villager's home in Azhahe Town for the Spring

Festival. He couldn't go back to Hong Kong as scheduled due to the epidemic outbreak and sought help from the Embassy of Italy in China.

The Foreign Affairs Team responded quickly and asked officers of Honghe County FAO to contact the tourist. The officials first explained to the tourist related policies

and preventive measures, and then sent him to Jianshui County to take a bullet train back to Kunming on February 2.

"I didn't expect to receive such thoughtful help. Thank you very much! Hope China defeats the epidemic soon." The Italian friend said in excitement. (YDPG)