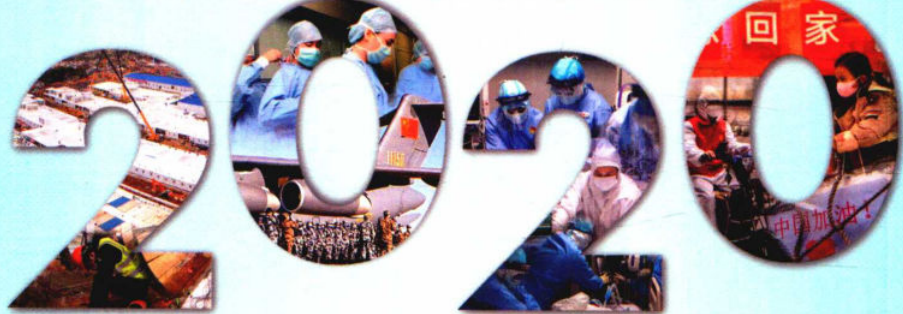




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CHINA'S BATTLE AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS A DAILY LOG

JAN. 23-FEB. 23, 2020



China International
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FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

2020中国战“疫”日志:英文/《2020中国战“疫”日志》编写组编.

-- 北京:外文出版社,2020.2

ISBN 978-7-119-12319-6

I. ①2… II. ①2… III. ①新闻报道—作品集—中国—当代—英文 IV. ①I253

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2020)第030740号

出版指导:陆彩荣

策划统筹:徐步 胡开敏 许荣 于瑛 王洋

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责任编辑:杨璐

封面设计:一瓢文化·邱特聪

装帧设计:吾昱设计

印刷监制:秦蒙

2020中国战“疫”日志

本书编辑组

© 外文出版社有限责任公司

出版人:徐步

外文出版社有限责任公司出版发行

(中国北京百万庄大街24号)

邮政编码:100037

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

环球东方(北京)印务有限公司

2020年2月(16开)第1版

2020年3月第1版第2次印刷

(英文)

ISBN 978-7-119-12319-6

06900 (平)

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Wuhan, January 23, 2020

* At 2 a.m., the Wuhan Command for COVID-19 Prevention and Control issued its first notice:

Public transport, including bus, subway, ferry, and long-distance passenger services, will be suspended starting at 10 a.m., January 23, 2020. Residents should not leave Wuhan for nonessential reasons. Outbound planes and trains will be suspended. These services will remain closed until further notice.

* The National Health Commission issued the Notice on Strengthening the Medical Treatment of Severe Cases of COVID-19, calling for strict measures to quarantine patients, assemble medical experts, pool resources, and carry out intensive treatment at designated sites.

* The central government allocated RMB1 billion to Hubei Province to subsidize its effort to contain the epidemic.

Wuhan in Lockdown



Yellow Crane Tower and Yangtze River Bridge, Wuhan. (Photo by Xiong Qi, Xinhua News Agency)

This city of 849,400 hectares is a transport hub connecting many provinces by highway, railway, air, and ferry.

It lies at the heart of China's railway network. From here it takes an average of five hours by high-speed rail to many of China's major cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

It is a regional aviation hub in central China, with 40 non-stop passenger flights overseas. It is the only city in the region to have non-stop flights to four continents of the world.

This is Wuhan, a city that is always bustling and throbbing with life.

Today, however, everything has stopped because of the coronavirus.

After the epidemic broke out, President Xi required that Party committees and governments at all levels put people's lives and health first, and take effective measures to contain the spread of the virus.

Today, a taxi driver of Wuhan tells the story of a passenger. He sobs while recounting her story.

He picked up a nurse going to Jinyintan Hospital, at the frontline of the city's battle against the coronavirus. She was a volunteer. Her phone kept ringing, as her family begged her not to go. But she was determined, repeating that everything would be fine and it was her duty to go.

He does not know her name, and can only remember that she wore glasses.

"I hope she, like all the doctors and nurses, will keep Wuhan safe," he says. "I hope she takes care of herself and stays safe too."

"I've never felt such emotion," he continues. "This is a critical time for Wuhan. We need this kind of positive energy to inspire our public."

Wuhan, be strong.

(translated from reports by CCTV News)

Wuhan, January 24, 2020

* In response to the public health emergency, and to carry out President Xi Jinping's instructions and the plans of the Central Military Commission, the logistics and support department of the Central Military Commission rolled out joint prevention and control measures, organizing medical workers from the armed forces to join the effort.

* Approved by the Central Military Commission, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) organized three teams from the medical universities of the army, navy and air force. All three teams had arrived at Wuhan by 11:44 p.m., January 24.

* According to an official from the Wuhan Command for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, to address the shortage of medical supplies and help more patients, Wuhan will build a hospital dedicated to the treatment of COVID-19 patients in Caidian, a suburban district. The hospital will be based on the model of Xiaotangshan Hospital in Beijing during the SARS epidemic. The Huoshenshan Hospital is expected to open by February 3.

A Special New Year's Eve Dinner



Dinner for doctors and nurses on Chinese New Year's Eve at Tongji Hospital, Wuhan.

January 24 is the eve of the 2020 Chinese New Year.

Dinner on New Year's Eve is the most important Chinese family gathering. The fascination with dinner on New Year's Eve is not about the food, but reflects an emotional need. *A Bite of China*, a popular documentary on Chinese food culture, explains it well, "Time has blended these tastes with the memories of the home soil, fellow villagers, past times, thrift, resilience, and other emotions and beliefs. They linger on the tips of our tongues, and dwell in our heart. We can hardly tell them apart."

Today, a video of medical workers of Tongji Hospital having their New Year's Eve dinner touched many. In the video, 10 doctors and nurses in masks and goggles chant, "Fight, Wuhan!" On the table

beside them are some snacks and a half-empty bottle of cola – their New Year's Eve dinner.

"I'm not a hero, but I'm not going to run," wrote Wang Yuan, a doctor at Wuhan No. 5 Hospital, on New Year's Eve. She is on night shift, attending to patients with fever. She is only one of the thousands of medical personnel working on the frontline against the epidemic on this special day. Many, like Wang, will spend the night away from their families.

At the same time, 135, 150 and 143 professionals from the medical universities of the army, navy and air force are taking off from Chongqing, Shanghai and Xi'an. They have bid farewell to their families at the New Year's Eve dinner, to join the fight in Wuhan.



A medical team of the PLA Army Medical University prepares to board the plane to Wuhan from Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport. (Photo from Xinhua News Agency)

(translated from reports by *China Business Journal*)

Wuhan, January 25, 2020

* At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the central authorities decided to form the Leading Group of the CPC Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control. The central leadership dispatched a steering group to Hubei and other severely affected areas, to guide local authorities in stemming the epidemic. At the meeting President Xi Jinping required all officials to strengthen confidence and solidarity, and take sound and targeted measures for effective epidemic control.

* The Wuhan Command for COVID-19 Prevention and Control issued its ninth notice:

To prevent the risk of infection caused by the movement of people, all motor vehicles, except for authorized vehicles for official business, the delivery of supplies, and free passenger transport, will be banned in the downtown areas beginning at midnight, January 26, 2020.

Time Is Life



An aerial view of the Huoshenshan Hospital site, Wuhan. (Photo by Xiao Yijiu, Xinhua News Agency)

Tan Wei cannot return to his post at the Wuhan Bureau of Urban Construction tonight. His wife, who works at the Department of Respiratory Medicine of Wuhan No. 1 Hospital, has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact himself, Tan must stay home for quarantine.

Right now his colleagues are working overnight by Zhiyin Lake in Caidian District.

At 1:06 p.m., January 23, China IPPR International Engineering, the designer of Beijing's Xiaotangshan Hospital, received an urgent letter from the Wuhan Bureau of Urban Construction, requesting assistance in designing Huoshenshan Hospital. Seventy-eight minutes

later, a complete blueprint of Xiaotangshan Hospital arrived in Wuhan, followed by a panel of architects headed by Huang Xiqiu.

79-year-old Huang Xiqiu, chief consultant and architect of China IPPR, is an expert in surveying and design. To most, he is better known as the architect of Xiaotangshan Hospital. Seventeen years ago, he led China IPPR in designing and building the hospital in seven days. Today, confronted by the coronavirus outbreak, the veteran architect has volunteered to give his all again.

On January 24, hundreds of excavators and bulldozers leveled 5 hectares of field, the size of seven football pitches. 5 million cubic feet of earth was excavated, enough to fill 57 standard swimming pools.

Niu Helong, a driver who had taken part in the relief efforts for the Yangtze River floods, SARS and the Wenchuan earthquake, arrived at the construction site. He believes that hope is the greatest strength. Jiang Guixi, an employee of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau, also joined the project of Huoshenshan Hospital, traveling to Wuhan from his hometown. He had not been home for the Chinese New Year for two decades.

Tan Wei is eager to join his coworkers. "I can't wait to get that hospital built," he says. "My wife can get treatment there."

(translated from reports by *The Beijing News* and "Xiake Island" of *People's Daily*)

Wuhan, January 26, 2020

* Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council and head of the Central Leading Group for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, summoned a meeting of the leading group to make further plans. At the meeting it was emphasized that timely and transparent information on epidemic control should be released to the public, and that those who delay reports, conceal cases or underreport will be held accountable.

* At a Hubei Province press conference, Wuhan Mayor Zhou Xianwang said that more than 5 million people had left Wuhan for the Chinese New Year or to escape the epidemic. 9 million remain in the city.

* The National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, a unit under the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), made progress in tracing the source of the novel coronavirus. It identified the nucleic acid of the virus from 33 of the 585 environmental samples collected from the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan. The virus was successfully isolated from positive samples.

Be Brave, My Child



Wang Liju, doctor of respiratory medicine at Dalian Friendship Hospital and member of the Liaoning medical team, says goodbye to her son before heading to Wuhan. (Photo by Long Lei, Xinhua News Agency)

In March 2019, Sun Peng, deputy director of the Emergency Department of Union Hospital, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, was transferred to the hospital's west campus and put in charge of the emergency department there. After the coronavirus outbreak in late December, the west campus opened a fever clinic for outpatients. Sun was entrusted with both departments. This morning, the west campus was made a designated hospital for receiving COVID-19 patients, one of the many hospitals to be included in the list.