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Xi stresses green model of growth

President says care for environment provides rich economic dividends

By MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou and AN BAIJIE in Beijing

President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of environmental protection during his inspection tour of eastern China on Monday at a village where he unveiled his theory of ecological civilization 15 years ago.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visited Yucun, a village in Anji county of Zhejiang province, and talked about environmental protection.

Protecting the mountains and waters well will provide special advantages for the further development of the village, Xi said, adding that the economy should not be developed at the cost of destroying the environment.

"The environment itself means the economy. If you protect the environment, you will receive rewards from the environment," he said.

Building a modern socialist country includes both the modernization of urban and rural areas, Xi said.

After the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is fulfilled, the government will promote rural development in all respects and build more beautiful villages, Xi said.

The development of Yucun proves that green development is the right path, which should be carried on in the future, Xi said.

In August 2005, Xi visited the village to praise the local government for stopping mining activities and closing cement factories to deal with the then serious pollution problem. During the visit, Xi put forward his famous development theory of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", which was lat-

er known as the "Two Mountains Theory".

"Just now you said that you've made the decision to shut down some mines, which is a wise move. Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," Xi, then Party secretary of Zhejiang province, told the local officials at a meeting held 15 years ago, according to a video released by China Central Television.

Yucun now stands out as a rural scenic attraction visited by urban residents of places such as Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing.

Today, the village has 280 households and its residents earned a per capita income of 49,598 yuan (\$7,040) in 2019.

"The Two Mountains Theory has given a face-lift and resulted in fascinating changes to the village, improving the residents' income six times," Pan Wenge, former Party secretary of Yucun, told China Daily.

He added that Yucun's successful experience, seeking rural revitalization through green development, has not only raised villagers' incomes over the past 15 years, but also helped to improve their social awareness.

The village has witnessed no lawsuit or criminal case for the past 10 years, he said.

In 2019, the village registered a gross economic income of 280 million yuan, becoming a model of the comprehensive construction of a well-off society in rural Zhejiang.

"For our next step, we are working with nearby villages to boost regional collaborative rural development," said Wang Yucheng, head of Yucun, who briefed Xi about the village's future plan during his inspection tour on Monday.

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Aerial firefighting



A helicopter drops water in a bid to extinguish a forest fire in Xichang, Sichuan province, on Tuesday. The fire, which broke out on Monday afternoon, has killed 18 firefighters and a guide. ZHONG YUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY See story, page 3, editorial, page 9

TOUGH CHOICES FOR CHINESE STUDENTS

Many decide to stay and deal with disease as they continue studying

By XU LIN
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On Jan 13, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivered a speech about his government's controversial approach to develop "herd immunity" against COVID-19.

Fu Chong, 31, a postgraduate student at King's College London, said Chinese students in the United Kingdom became nervous and even panicked after hearing the speech, with many considering returning to China.

"We hesitated over whether to go back to the motherland. We

needed to make a really important decision quickly, but many of us had never experienced such an urgent situation," she said.

"We didn't have much time, as it became more difficult and expensive to buy air tickets."

Fu decided to stay in London. Many other students from China have also chosen to remain in the countries where they are studying. Their reasons include a desire to

continue their studies, the risk of becoming infected on a flight and difficulty in obtaining air tickets.

Fu said Chinese students who chose to stay in London had organized WeChat groups for mutual help. She has joined several of the groups.

Students keep each other informed about the best places and times to go grocery shopping. Those living in the same building are exchanging supplies of necessities.

WeChat groups have also been organized for those who develop symptoms of the disease but are unsure if they are infected.

The Chinese embassy in London has provided students with health packs, which include medical kits and a guidebook on the pandemic. Fu has applied for a pack online.

She said some of her friends who have returned to China are due to graduate this year. They have disposed of possessions in their dormitories in case they do not return to London.

"Our problem is psychological — as the pandemic is spreading quickly in Europe, it's totally normal for many Chinese students here to feel anxious and unsettled," she said.

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Vision China calls for unity in virus battle

By CUI JIA
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The international community needs to better consolidate its efforts and transcend all possible differences to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic, a common enemy facing all mankind, said speakers at the latest edition of Vision China.

Jointly organized by China Daily and Tsinghua University, the event entitled "Fighting COVID-19: We are all together" was broadcast online on Tuesday to a global audience.

"Public health security is a common challenge facing all countries, and COVID-19 is the common enemy of all mankind," Chen Xu, the chairwoman of Tsinghua University Council, said while addressing the opening.

"Solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons to fight the virus, and the only effective course of action," she said. Zhou Shuchun, publisher and editor-in-chief of China Daily, said that the fast-spreading pandemic has put all people in the same boat.

President Xi Jinping has stated since the onset of the epidemic that China upholds the concept of



Bruce Aylward, Zhang Rui, Megan Monroe, Jim O'Neill, He Yafei and Robert Kuhn (from left to right) speak at the latest Vision China event co-hosted by China Daily and Tsinghua University. They shared their views and stories on the global fight against COVID-19.

a community with a shared future for mankind and calls for nations to unite in building a community of common health.

"This is a time for unity and solidarity," Zhou said in his opening remarks. "This is a time for reason and responsibility."

He said the sacrifices made by the Chinese people have served to stem the transmission of the virus, which gave the rest of the world precious time to prepare for the looming crisis.

Bruce Aylward, a senior adviser to the director-general of the World Health Organization, said that he was impressed by China's efforts to fight the outbreak after he visited the country in February.

The Chinese people's sense of social responsibility, which is embedded in the nation's culture, and their experiences in fighting

the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in 2003 are key elements of China's fight against the virus, he said.

What's more, China's responses in terms of speedy diagnosis, isolation and treatment have effectively helped to contain the outbreak.

Aylward stressed that when the WHO names diseases like COVID-19, it always tries to avoid attaching it to a place or to a country because this does not help as global understanding and cooperation need to be fostered.

He Yafei, a senior veteran diplomat, said the global response to the pandemic has been "very much fragmented", and called for more solidarity and unity.

"Some take one kind of measure which is more leisurely, the other maybe more restrictive. There are no coordinated, concerted actions

to show that we are in this together," He, a former vice-minister of foreign affairs and former vice-minister of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, said in his speech.

Robert Kuhn, a renowned China expert and a recipient of the China Reform Friendship Medal, said that nations will collectively win when fighting together against the virus, and will collectively lose when they argue and blame each other.

"Containing the global pandemic, like bolstering the global economy, depends on US-China collaboration," he said.

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Nation offers help to US amid escalating outbreak

By LIU YINMENG in Los Angeles and ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington

As the novel coronavirus outbreak continues to escalate in the United States, Chinese companies and medical workers are reaching out to the US by sending medical supplies and sharing virus containment experience. Experts say it is crucial for China and the US to strengthen public health cooperation during the pandemic.

As of Monday, at least 164,785 cases had been confirmed in the US, with nearly 3,200 deaths. New York state had more than 67,000 cases, and its death toll had surpassed 1,200.

The epicenter New York is getting a much-needed boost from a number of companies and celeb-

rities, including Chinese telecom giant Huawei and former New York Knicks basketball star Stephen Marbury.

"New York is fighting a war against this virus and we need all the help we can get," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo wrote on Twitter on March 26, before publicly sharing his appreciation, tweeting a thank you to "@Huawei for N-95 masks, isolation gowns, medical goggles and gloves."

Cuomo's office published a list of donations from a number of major corporations, philanthropic organizations and celebrities that have donated medical supplies and personal protective equipment to the embattled state during its critical time.

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