



CHINA • YUNNAN



FOCUS

Epidemic impact on China's economy to be limited



Left: Workers are busy on the production line at a factory in Zhejiang province on Feb. 12. (Xinhua) **Right:** On Feb. 11, workers are sorting dried ginger in a factory in Yunnan. Photo by Chen Fei

The impact of the novel coronavirus epidemic on China's economy will be temporary and will not change the fundamentals of the country's long-term economic growth, said executives of global companies on February 11.

"We are confident that China will not only overcome the difficulties and win the anti-epidemic battle, but have the ability to minimize the impact of the epidemic on the economy," said Wang Renrong, executive director of Budweiser Brewing Co (APAC).

The slowdown in the consumption sector should not cause alarm, said Wang, stressing

it has been widely agreed that the Chinese economy has done well in shifting from high-speed development to quality growth.

China's tax authorities published a document on February 11 containing a set of policies to ease tax burden for individuals and corporates during the novel coronavirus outbreak, including exemptions of individual income tax and value-added tax for certain taxpayers.

"Based on the experience from the SARS crisis in 2002-03, we can foresee a quick rebound of the Chinese economy in terms of recovery of inventory, restocking demand, uplift of

consumption of goods and services after the freeze," said Denis Depoux, managing director for China of global consultancy Roland Berger.

More foreign businesses have resumed production as scheduled and others are asking employees to work from home. Factories owned by Tesla Inc, Cargill Inc, Samsung Electronics Co and SK Hynix all resumed production across China on February 10.

"As the coronavirus is a one-off negative shock, we expect China's GDP growth to rebound to 6 percent in 2021 as activities normalize," said Wang, adding China's long-term trend

of moving toward a more consumption-oriented economy, of rising services share in the overall economy, and of technological upgrade will continue.

Liu Yuanchun, vice-president of the Renmin University of China, said capital, labor and technology advances are known as the key determinants of an economy's long-term development. The epidemic will not cause fundamental changes in how capital and human capital accumulate in China, and will make people attach greater attention to technological advances.

In the short term, the strong resilience of the economy will help it to defend itself against any disruptions caused by the epidemic, Liu said, citing China's institutional advantage in concentrating its resources to accomplish major tasks, strong production ability, vast domestic market and rich policy tool kit. (China Daily)

XI'S REMARKS

China has undergone a lot of hardships. The Chinese people have the confidence and capability to win the battle against the epidemic.

—Remarks made by President Xi Jinping when meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on February 5

VOICE

'Conspiracy theories' hinder virus response

Ensuring the public has the best possible health information is crucial during an outbreak. At best, misinformation can distract from important messages. At worst, it can lead to behavior that amplifies disease transmission. The novelty of coronavirus makes the challenge even greater, because viral speculation can easily overwhelm the limited information we do have.

—Adam Kucharski

just battling the virus, we're also battling the trolls and conspiracy theories that undermine our response," Tedros added.

"As a Guardian (newspaper) headline says, 'Misinformation on the coronavirus might be the most contagious thing about it.'" Tedros is referring to an article, published by the Guardian's opinion section, in which epidemiologist Adam Kucharski argues that the best way to combat online falsehoods around the virus is to "treat them like a real-life virus".

Kucharski discusses the discredited scientific paper, which speculated that the new virus had genetic characteristics and implicated snakes as the source.

He notes that, "leading geneticists were quick to point out that the results weren't convincing, and that bats were still the likely suspects. However, that didn't stop snake flu from going viral".

"Trolls and conspiracy theories" are undermining the response to the new coronavirus, the World Health Organization has warned.

The WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters that misinformation was "making the work of our heroic workers even harder".

He said misinformation around the coronavirus, "causes confusion and spreads fear to the general public".

"I would also like to speak briefly about the importance of facts, not fear," Tedros said. "People must have access to accurate information to protect themselves and others."

"At the WHO we're not

Asia's largest flower market reopens for electronic auctions

The Kunming Dounan Flower Trading Market, which is Asia's largest fresh cut flower market and located in Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, resumed electronic auctions on February 10, after days of being shut down due to the novel coronavirus. And more than 3 million flowers were traded on that day.

Kunming Vice-Mayor Wang Bing said: "Kunming is strictly implementing epidemic prevention and control measures while organizing the reopening of qualified enterprises in an orderly manner. We are opening the regional market step by step. Kunming is striving to lower the influence of the virus outbreak on economic development, and to guarantee the healthy and

stable economic development."

Wang noted Dounan Flower Market has only resumed electronic auctions, which, according to the assessment of Kunming Municipal Government, is controllable in terms of epidemic control.

On Jan 26, to lower infection potential caused by people gathering, Dounan Flower Market shut down flora trading related to residents and tourists, only keeping up the floral wholesale business. Starting Feb 6, all stores were closed.

Official data showed currently, fresh cut flowers from Yunnan takes up 70 percent of market share in major cities in China, and is also exported to 46 countries and regions worldwide. (China Daily)

Most lovable persons from the most beautiful province



On February 12, another 355 medical workers from Yunnan province reached Wuhan airport and got on a bus to Xianning City in southeast Hubei province to join the battle against the coronavirus. As of now, the province has sent 595 medical workers to Hubei. For the

arrival of the Yunnan medical workers, Xianning locals say on social media: "The most lovable persons from the most beautiful province." "Hi, angels in white, you are the best!"

Text from Yunnan Daily Photo by Xinhua

Yunnan adopts more measures to control virus outbreak



In Kunming Changshui International Airport, staff members are monitoring the body temperature of passengers with infrared thermometer. Photo by Yang Zheng

Yunnan province has enacted five new measures to strengthen the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak, and all who had close contact with affected patients are required to be isolated in hospitals for observation.

The increased measures include a survey to learn who visited Yunnan from Wuhan or returned to Wuhan from Yunnan. All people with confirmed and suspected coronavirus are required to be isolated in designated hospitals for medical treatment. The third measure is to

manage all suspected cases of confirmed coronavirus, and to trace all people who had close contact with suspected cases. The fourth measure is to make all those who had close contact with patients to isolate themselves in hospitals, but not in their homes.

The fifth measure is to ensure nucleic acid testing is finished within 24 hours, and to quicken diagnostic speed. The quality of follow-up prevention and control measures will be improved. (China Daily)

Yunnan medical worker in Hubei: Tired but fulfilled

On January 29, we arrived at the First People's Hospital of Xianning, Hubei, a designated hospital for receiving patients with novel coronavirus pneumonia. The eleven medical workers of us were assigned to different departments of the hospital to assist in epidemic prevention and treatment.

In the isolation ward, everything we learned in the training came into use: wearing the mask, hat, gown, gloves, and faceshield... We strictly followed every required step, fully aware that the omission of a single detail could be risky. I never knew it would be so hard to work while wearing a tight-fitting face mask. When you quicken your steps a little bit, it became difficult to breathe. It is still winter in Xianning, but our T-shirt, the only thing we wear under the protective clothing, sometimes becomes wet with sweat. When we removed the faceshield, we could see the

impressions it left on our face.

After a day's work, we returned to our quarters. Even away from the ward, we still must be careful. We divided our rooms into a polluted zone, a buffer zone, and a clean zone. We handle the objects in each zone according to different principles.

When we reported and summarized the day's work, we stood in the open space outside the station, tired but fulfilled. (The author is Zhao Yanqiu, a member of the Critical Care Patient Treatment Group of Yunnan Cancer Hospital 2019 Novel Coronavirus Relief Team in Hubei Province)



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