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Fighting against the Novel Coronavirus Disease: China and Europe Could Share Experience

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Fighting against the Novel Coronavirus Disease:

China and Europe Could Share Experience

He Zhigao*

Introduction

In a globalized era, shared opportunities and risks are inevitable. People and goods are constantly moving all over the world, so do pathogen agents. Public health emergencies are a common problem facing mankind. Viruses have no barriers. "Humanity became a community of prosperity but also destruction too, in this globalized era there is no country able to develop without associating with others."¹ At this moment, the top priority is to cooperate, share experience, as well as work together. Developing a sense of community with a shared future for humanity, thereby winning the battle against the novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) epidemic is our common goal. After the outbreak of this epidemic, China has made enormous efforts to protect its people and assume the responsibility as a major power to contain the spread of the virus worldwide.²

China's combat against the COVID-19 has set an example of building a global community with a shared future for all mankind. The epidemic relates to all mankind, the most radical and strictest measures taken by China are not only for the safeguard and to ensure the health of Chinese people, but also to secure the health of people around the world.

According to expert from the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be infected with the novel coronavirus pneumonia if the necessary control

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¹ President Xi's Speech at opening of Beijing Horticultural Expo, Xinhua, April 28, 2019, www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-04/28/content_5387249.htm

² Commentary: China's Fight against COVID-19 Good Example for World Handling Major Epidemic, Xinhua, February 25, 2020, http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202002/25/content_WS5e54d31dc6d0c201c2cbce44.html

measures aren't implemented.³ The most important factor to the control of the disease is quick reaction. China implemented prevention and control measures, which help maintain the normal operation of the global economy, considering that the global industrial chain is closely linked with global health issues. Therefore, only if we defeat the epidemic and restore the production and supply as soon as possible, can the stability of the global supply chain be maintained to keep the sustainable growth of global economy.

Current situation of COVID-19 Outbreak⁴

1. Novel Coronavirus in China

The COVID-19 outbreak has been the biggest public health challenge for the Chinese government since the founding of the People's Republic of China. It has been a difficult task to prevent and control the COVID-19, which spreads fast.

At the beginning of December 2019, the first case appeared in Wuhan city. Within two months, there are almost 80,000 confirmed cases in China. On December 31, 2019, China reported the pneumonia of unknown cause to the WHO Country Office. On January 29, 2020, the number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 surpassed the number of people infected with SARS in 2003. On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern." On February 11, WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease: COVID-19. Now, the WHO is setting the high risk assessment in China, regional level and global level.⁵ Regarding the symptoms of COVID-19, they are fever, dry cough, shortness of breath.

As of March 1, 79,968 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed nationwide, and the death toll advanced to 2,837. As the epicenter, 66,907 confirmed cases, and 2,761 deaths were reported in Hubei Province. Wuhan is the most affected city in China. Confirmed cases in Guangdong, Henan,

³ John Lauerman, Coronavirus Could Infect Two-Thirds of Globe, Research Shows, February 25, 2020, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-02-13/coronavirus-could-infect-two-thirds-of-globe-researcher-says>

⁴ All data in this paper was collected before 1 March, 2020.

⁵ WHO, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report-41, March 1, 2020, https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200301-sitrep-41-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=6768306d_2

Zhejiang, Hunan provinces were above 1000, and cases in Anhui and Jiangxi provinces were close to 1000. The COVID-19 spreads to the whole country at different rates. It has a close relation with the demographic characteristics of the areas affected. The median age of confirmed cases is 51 years old, with the majority of cases age between 30-69 years, about 77% to 77.8% of the cases are from Hubei, and 51.1% are male. The COVID-19 is transmitted via droplets and fomites during close unprotected contact between an infected host and a healthy person. Meanwhile, human-to-human transmission of the COVID-19 virus mostly happens among family members, with a rate of 78% to 85% of contagion. This highly infectious epidemic outbreak often has an important feature – if it is not controlled effectively, the number of cases will show an exponential increase. As the COVID-19 is a newly identified pathogen, there is unknown cases of humans that are immune to the virus, therefore, everyone is assumed to be susceptible. So far, a total of 36,000 COVID-19 patients have been cured. China has been able to contain the outbreak of this pathogen agent with the containment measures enforced by the local authorities.⁶

Table 1: Confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 acute respiratory disease reported by provinces, regions and cities in China, Data as of 1 March 2020

Province/Region/City	Population (10,000s)	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Hubei	5917	66907	2761
Guangdong	11346	1349	7
Henan	9605	1272	22
Zhejiang	5737	1205	1
Hunan	6899	1018	4
Anhui	6324	990	6
Jiangxi	4648	935	1
Shandong	10047	756	6

⁶ Wang Xiaoyu, 'Ambitious' Response to Epidemic Receives Praise, China Daily, March 1, 2020, <https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202003/02/WS5e5b9d66a31012821727b5e9.html>

Jiangsu	8051	631	0
Chongqing	3102	576	6
Sichuan	8341	538	3
Heilongjiang	3773	480	13
Beijing	2154	413	8
Shanghai	2424	337	3
Hebei	7556	318	6
Fujian	3941	296	1
Guangxi	4926	252	2
Shannxi	3864	245	1
Yunnan	4830	174	2
Hainan	934	168	5
Guizhou	3600	146	2
Tianjin	1560	136	3
Shanxi	3718	133	0
Liaoning	4359	122	1
Hongkong SAR	745	95	2
Jilin	2704	93	1
Gansu	2637	91	2
Xinjiang	2487	76	3
Inner Mongolia	2534	75	0
Ningxia	688	73	0
Taipei and environs	2359	39	1
Qinghai	603	18	0
Macao SAR	66	10	0
Xizang	344	1	0
Total	142823	79968	2837

Resources: WHO Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report - 41

2. Novel Coronavirus in Europe

As of March 1, there have been 1,340 confirmed cases in Europe and the infection radius has increased significantly, including 1,128 cases in Italy, 100 cases in France, 57 cases in Germany, 45 cases in Spain, 23 cases in Britain and 18 cases in Switzerland, 29 deaths in Italy and 2 in France. The spread of the virus in Europe has raised concerns about a possible pandemic. Italy has become the center of the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has ranked the risk of COVID-19 infection among the population as low to medium, but the impact of the continued spread of the disease in Europe has been rated as medium to high, especially among the elderly with chronic diseases and health complications are more susceptible to the virus.⁷ The EU has not announced any travel restrictions yet. Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, mentioned that "travel restrictions should be justified in a coordinated, appropriate and scientific manner, and the WHO does not recommend restrictions on freight or passengers currently."⁸ With the exception of certain cases in Italy, epidemiological links are now clearly established in all reported cases in the EU and the UK, and the tracking measures related with confirmed cases are in place. More importantly, the possibility of transmission of confirmed cases from other countries or regions outside China is increasing.

There are 1,128 Cases in Italy, which spread fast. Confirmed cases are concentrated in northern areas such as Lombardy and Veneto. Italy is working to identify, isolate and test patients and the people that have been in contact with them to control the outbreak. The Italian national reference laboratory is conducting further confirmatory tests and tracking a large number of people that come in close contact with the infected patients.⁹ Attilio Fontana, the regional president of

⁷ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, February 25, 2020, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

⁸ Sechster Covid-19-Todesfall: Italien in Alarmbereitschaft, Spiegel, February 24, 2020, <https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/coronavirus-in-europa-iran-suedkorea-fuenfter-toter-in-it-alien-a-26609a73-8753-4b32-9ab7-8b23c8e80e81>

⁹ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019

Lombardy, signed an order to deal with the epidemic, such as banning leaving or entering the affected areas, closing schools and holding public gatherings.

There are 57 cases in Germany. Jens Spahn, the Germany's health minister, said Germany was fully prepared but won't take measures such as city lockdown or border control. However, this assessment may change in the short term. The virologist Alexander Kekulé estimates there will be more cases in Europe.¹⁰ Lothar Wieler, the director of the Robert Koch Institute, believes that the spread of COVID-19 is inevitable and may not be massive, but it will gradually appear in a regional manner, such as in Baden-Württemberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen and Rheinland-Pfalz.¹¹ France, the UK, Switzerland and other countries affected by the epidemic are trying to alleviate the public concern, which lead to panic and spread faster than the virus. It showed that recent cases are related to individual who travelled back from Italy, local transmission also happened, which means COVID-19 might spread into all European countries in the following days.

Table 2: European countries with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of March 01, 2020

European Countries	Total Confirmed cases (new)	Total deaths	Transmission classification
Italy	1128(240)	29	Local transmission
France	100(43)	2	Local transmission
Germany	57(0)	0	Local transmission

(COVID-19): situation in Italy, February 23, 2020, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/outbreak-novel-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-situation-italy>

¹⁰ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, February 25, 2020, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

¹¹ Was Sie zum Neuen Virus aus China Wissen Sollten, February 27, 2020, <https://www.test.de/Coronavirus-Was-Sie-zum-neuen-Virus-aus-China-wissen-sollten-5570361-0/>

Spain	45(13)	0	Local transmission
The United Kingdom	23(3)	0	Local transmission
Switzerland	18(8)	0	Imported cases only
Norway	15(9)	0	Local transmission
Sweden	13(1)	0	Imported cases only
Austria	10(5)	0	Imported cases only
Croatia	7(2)	0	Local transmission
Netherlands	7(5)	0	Local transmission
Denmark	3(1)	0	Imported cases only
Greece	3(0)	0	Imported cases only
Romania	3(0)	0	Imported cases only
Finland	2(0)	0	Imported cases only
Belgium	2(0)	0	Imported cases only
Estonia	1(0)	0	Imported cases only
Ireland	1(1)	0	Imported cases only
Lithuania	1(0)	0	Imported cases only
North Macedonia	1(0)	0	Imported cases only
Total	1340(331)	31	

Resources: WHO Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report - 41

China's experience in fighting against COVID-19 epidemic

Under the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, China has promptly established a nationwide prevention and control system since the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19. In order to confront this epidemic, the Chinese government carries out national mobilization, across-the-board deployment and swift responses, China adopted the most comprehensive and rigorous measures, and waged a people's war against the epidemic.¹² It has achieved great success in containing the spread of the virus. Meanwhile the international community has paid close attention to the results achieved by China. They also actively evaluated and appreciated China's measures and mechanism in the fight against the COVID-19. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, pointed that the unprecedented high speed, strong mobilization and

¹² Xi talks with Trump over Phone on Novel Coronavirus Outbreak, Xinhua, February 8, 2020. www.china.org.cn/world/2020-02/08/content_75684444.htm

massive scale of China's moves fully demonstrate its unique institutional advantages.¹³ According to Bruce Aylward, Senior Advisor to the Director-General of the WHO, "in response to the epidemic, the global community is not ready to adopt the Chinese method, and the Chinese method has proved to be successful."¹⁴ On February 24, António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, praised China's contribution to the global fight against the COVID-19, noting that the Chinese are making efforts for humanity, when he visited the WHO headquarters in Geneva.¹⁵

1. Respond positively and avoid panic

1) Governments at all levels responded to the epidemic promptly and transparently. From the perspective of fairness and efficiency, protecting public health is the primary responsibility of the government. After the outbreak, China has taken combating the COVID-19 as a top priority. On December 31, 2019 and January 8, 2020, two groups of experts from the National Health Commission went to Wuhan city to investigate the current situation. On January 25, 2020, Communist Party of China Central Committee set up a leading group to oversee the work of prevention and control of COVID-19. The State Council established a joint prevention and control mechanism for the COVID-19, and formed the National Emergency Management Command for Public Health Emergencies with relevant military departments, the headquarters of this command is led by the State Council (headed by Premier Li Keqiang). Under this mechanism, different government departments make joint efforts, not only at the central government level but also local government level, not only health related ministries but also the economy and transport related ministries.

Early warning and rapid response can minimize the damage caused by the epidemic. China has established a four-level disease prevention and control network implemented from the central government to the local government. The responsible institutions are the National Health Commission and Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). The disease control institutions are the core institutions in the national public health system, local governments played major roles in the public health emergency mechanism. The relationship between professional knowledge and administrative enforcement determines whether the early warning

¹³ WHO, China Leaders Discuss Next Steps in Battle Against Coronavirus Outbreak, WHO, January 28, 2020, <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-01-2020-who-china-leaders-discuss-next-steps-in-battle-against-coronavirus-outbreak>

¹⁴ Jacqueline Howard and Amanda Watts, World Health Organization Says China has "Changed the Course of This Outbreak", February 25, 2020, https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-02-25-20-hnk-intl/h_6131d7159b14575d5be016ec48a0455b

¹⁵ UN appreciate China's Effort against Novel Coronavirus: Guterres, Xinhua, January 28, 2020, http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-01/28/content_75653375.htm

system works well.¹⁶ However, at the beginning of the outbreak, the risk awareness of individual doctors failed to raise an alarm for government and society.

With the improvement of the knowledge about the virus, on January 15, 2020, China CDC launched the first-level emergency response. At 10 a.m. on January 23, 2020, Wuhan was locked down. At the same time, Zhejiang, Guangdong and Hunan provinces took the lead in launching the first-level response mechanism for major public health emergencies. Subsequently, other provinces and cities adopted the same response, which means the upgrading of epidemic prevention and control. In the event of public health emergencies, emergency plans were launched, and China entered in the defense readiness condition. As WHO stressed, China adopted extremely proactive surveillance to immediately detect cases.¹⁷

Disclosure detailed and reliable information promptly can relieve public panic and reduce the probability of disease transmission. The State Council and local governments regularly hold press conferences and invite the heads of ministries and commissions to communicate the matters related to the prevention and control of the epidemic, publishing information about the epidemic status timely (usually twice a day). Through a series of policy, publicity and education, the public has developed a sense of self-awareness – they try to avoid gatherings and reduce interpersonal contact, wearing masks and adopting protective measures outdoors.

2) Artificial intelligence offers technology buttress for the prevention and control of the epidemic. Based on new technologies such as big data, cloud computing, blockchain and so on, an epidemic prevention and control platform was launched to integrate multi-source basic data such as population, logistics, transportation, production, medical treatment and others. The platform can assist with decision-making for epidemic control, research and development, making virus-related judgment, and post epidemic economic production recovery. Many media platforms use visualization tools such as information map and data query applet to show the trend of epidemic situation, and broadcasting real-time epidemic information, making news report more intuitive, practical and efficient.¹⁸ For example, the one developed by People's Daily and Ding Xiangyuan provides four main contents, including epidemic situation map, rumor refutation, broadcast, disease knowledge. The data is directly cited from the authorities in charge, and updating more than twice a day. Timely feedback and update of information can deny fake news without delay. Due to the high attention of the public, a large number of news is flooding into the network and rumors become the main source of public panic, people could avoid the harm of rumors based on

¹⁶ Gu Xin, Power of Knowledge and Introduction of Social Governance: Improvement of Early Warning System of Epidemic Outbreak, Governance Studies, No.2, 2020.

¹⁷ Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19), 16-24 February 2020, WHO, <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>

¹⁸ Li Sibao, Wang Yuheng and Zhan Xinhui, Visualization of Epidemic Data: Effective and Efficient Communication, People.cn, February 21, 2020.

transparency and timely update. And while emphasizing the transparency of information, the authority maximizes the protection of patient privacy.

The emergency management system of a smart city helps ease the epidemic. Emergency management increasingly relies on data analysis in the information age, which also stimulates the efficiency of governance and response. For example, Hangzhou city launched the "Health Barcode," and classifying four warning levels for the novel coronavirus. Wuhan city signed an agreement with Huawei to install infrastructure to enhance its security and information services, and build itself into a "Smart City." The big data ecosystem can embed the crisis management models such as disease transmission management into the urban ecosystem in advance, and the rapid emergency response mechanism can prevent and control the outbreak of infectious diseases in a timely manner.¹⁹ For example, Guangzhou city launched the online mask pre-selling system, which not only meets the daily needs of the people, but also ensures the continuous supply, avoiding a few people hoarding resources and reducing the clustering of people.

Graph 1: Virus online tracking instrument

新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎
确诊患者同行程查询工具
v1.3

日期: 例如: 2020-01-01

车次: 车次或航班, 例如: T123 或 AC1111

地区: 可不填, 例如: 成都 或 四川

* 以上检索选项可以选填任意一项或多项进行检索。
* 以下为与你输入信息相匹配的确诊患者行程数据, 请按“特别提示”科学应对。

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Resources: <https://h5.peopleapp.com/txcx/index.html>

Artificial intelligence could update and respond to epidemic information accurately. The outbreak occurred during the Chinese Spring Festival holiday when the large-scale movement of personnel happened, some patients take airplane, high-speed rail, automobile and other means of transportation, the same-journey tracking tool with patients can accurately know whether people are with the confirmed patients who have been disclosed, so that they can take proper precautions. The tracking tool can search dates, trains and flight, region, and also provide means of transport (trains, planes, buses, taxis, etc.), transportation information (train numbers, seats, initiation points, etc.), publish time and source.²⁰ All the programs can provide targeted prevention and control

¹⁹ Hui Liu and Yanfei Li, Smart Cities for Emergency Management, Nature, February 25, 2020,

²⁰ <https://h5.peopleapp.com/txcx/index.html>. All information in this tracking instrument should not

measures, including the latest information and response measures sent by local departments. Some criticized that virus tracking apps aren't helping assuage panic, rather than running the risk of stigmatization and public mistrust.²¹ However, technology could provide reassurance and relief to the public. Both the media and the user are able to utilize health map which can be zoomed freely, and people can switch cities easily and know the location of the infected cases. Tracking the epidemic situation of specific areas has become convenient, efficient and panic-free, and the big data shows the most concerned issues of the public.

3) Adequate supply of goods can ensure the distribution of resources and necessities for residents. The guarantee of living materials depends on the market supply and the speed of logistics transportation. The central leadership for epidemic response has set up a multi-department group for living materials to strengthen the allocation and supply. With the vegetable reserve system, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce released vegetable reserves into markets on time, and at the same time ensuring the production, circulation and supply of staple and non-staple food, as well as the supply of vegetables, meat, eggs, milk, grain and other necessities for residents. The National Development and Reform Commission has established an emergency monitoring mechanism for the prices of important commodities for the people's livelihood. Local governments publish daily information on the supply and rate of consumer goods to keep product prices stable. With the help of combined measures consumer products are provided with stable price to the cities and areas severe affected by COVID-19. The Ministry of Commerce promotes the typical practices in ensuring the supply of necessities, including shopping online in traditional stores, group buying and distribution in locked communities, contactless distribution, community distribution, bus distribution, standardized package sales, gas station "delivery to the car," setting up mobile vegetable vending carts and so on. Intelligent scheduling of medical protection materials and managing the supply chain through big data and professional teams can ensure the fastest and most accurate delivery of materials to hospitals and communities in short supply. E-commerce platform exerts advantage of big data plus supply chain to minimize the secondary disaster caused by material shortage.²² With the resumption of work and production after the epidemic situation getting better, the supply of materials will ensure the demand of emergency materials and living materials.

4) Psychological intervention and guidance, targeted humanistic care is an effective way to avoid panic. The National Health Commission launched a psychological guide amid epidemic outbreak. Major media develop corresponding sections to ease the anxiety of people, and provide all-round and full-cycle health management services. Local governments, communities, enterprises and

disclose the name of passengers.

²¹ Nicole Jao, Virus Tracking Apps aren't Helping Fight Panic, Technode, February 26, 2020, <https://technode.com/2020/02/26/virus-tracking-apps-arent-helping-fight-panic/>

²² Hu Ruiying and Liangshuang, Public Opinion Apocalypse: The Application of Big Data in the Major Outbreak, February 12, 2020, People.cn, <http://yuqing.people.com.cn/GB/n1/2020/0212/c209043-31582804.html>

other organizations open psychological assistance hotlines and add online interaction platforms for psychological counseling; TV stations and radio stations set up mental health special programs; The media sets up psychological counseling experts interviews; The network encourages the production of small games, fitness exercises, short videos and so on which are suitable to do indoors.

2.Prevention and control with scientific mechanism

1) Measures are taken to expand "social distancing." To strengthen prevention and control more effectively, diagnosing, reporting, isolating, treating as early as possible. Despite failing to address the epidemic control in the initial stage, the Chinese government is adjusting its strategy in time to monitor the disease and concentrate the patients for treatment, and adopting medical observation for all the people that have close contact with coronavirus patients. The Lancet's paper argues that a series of measures to expand the "social distancing" effectively reduced the infection rate of diseases,²³ such as extended holidays, home stay and basic-level investigation. At the same time, the way of shutting down the less necessary workplaces and public facilities for a period of time, locking down communities, receiving and isolating patients to cut off the transmission route and prevent cross infection. For example, Chinese government extended the Spring Festival holiday and decided to resume a normal level of societal and economic activity at the appropriate time.

2) Measures for prevention and control of epidemic must be law-based. Law-based epidemic measures are the foundation, including legislative, law enforcement and judicial oversight. Relevant laws stipulate the functions and responsibilities of the government in handling crisis events, and establish the principle of dealing with epidemic situation in accordance with the law, such as *Law of the People's Republic of China on prevention and control of infectious diseases* and the implementing regulations, *General Principles of Disinfection of Epidemic Source*, *Regulations on Preparedness for and Response to Public Health Hazards* and other laws and regulations require the relevant departments to strengthen the law enforcement and judicial efforts for the prevention and control of epidemic hazards, investigating the criminal responsibility of those who conceal the epidemic information and constitute a crime, and imposing administrative penalties on those who disclose the patient's privacy information. On February 6, 2020, President Xi Jinping stressed that it is paramount to carry out related work in a scientific and orderly manner and in accordance with the law.²⁴ The Ministry of Justice has issued a circular demanding strengthened supervision of law enforcement related to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 epidemic.²⁵ The government also should strengthen the law publicity and legal

²³ Simiao Chen, Juntao Yang, Weizhong Yang, Chen Wang and Till Barnighausen, COVID-19 Control in China during Mass Population Movements at New Year, *The LANCET*, February 24, 2020.

²⁴ Mo Jingxi, Measure for Epidemic Control must be Law-based, President Says, *China Daily*, February 6, 2020, <https://www.chinadailyhk.com/article/120326>

²⁵ Ministry Stresses Supervision of Epidemic-related Law Enforcement, *Xinhua*, February 25, 2020,

services about epidemic prevention and control, enhancing the people's awareness of the rule of law to cooperate with the government and keep the donation and acceptance legal, so that the government can ensure all donated funds and goods will be used for epidemic prevention and control in a timely manner.

3) Centralized deployment and differentiated prevention and control are intertwined and complemented. China has taken a more orderly approach from the beginning to establish an emergency system that can be uniformly dispatched to coordinate all aspects of work. With the development of the epidemic, the governance approach has changed to a scientific risk-control-oriented management method, which takes more account of the actual situation and capacity of each city, as well as some characteristics of the virus transmission itself. Such adjustments have had a significant impact. After the epidemic eased, the treatment mode of COVID-19 virus was adjusted to utilizing a differentiated risk-based containment strategy to integrate the epidemic prevention, control and social development.

It is also the responsibility of the local government to strengthen and ensure that all cases were centralized and treated. The patients were divided into confirmed patients, suspected patients and close contacts to be managed and isolated separately. In order to avoid over use of manpower and material resources in general hospitals, patients are transferred to designated hospitals. For example, Wuhan quickly built a centralized hospital and adopted the "Xiaotangshan" model²⁶ to strengthen the treatment work. Patients diagnosed with mild illness are isolated to a large-scale temporary medical place – "mobile cabin hospitals", which were built by remodeling gyms and exhibition centers. Mobile cabin hospital is a sort of public welfare. It could cultivate a benign interaction between doctors and patients in this hospital, which has shaped an atmosphere of solidarity, love, and mutual assistance rather than competition. More strictly, traffic restrictions were implemented in Hubei province, in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic in Wuhan. However, this strategy might be less feasible in Europe, because it is too difficult to close a large city and will cause more potential problems, even though it's more effective.

In terms of differentiated measures for prevention and control of the COVID-19, it must strengthen the grid management of community prevention and control in areas where the virus is spreading rapidly, and assuming the prevention and control responsibilities of the inflow and outflow areas. Besides, measures should be taken to protect special regions and key population groups, including in the institutions for the nursing, children's welfare and mental health care. After the epidemic situation slowed down, the key areas of non-outbreak prevention and control adopted differentiated strategy, and on the basis of county level divided the areas into low-risk

english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202002/25/content_WS5e54bd97c6d0c201c2cbce02.html

²⁶ Xiaotangshan is a specialized hospital for treating infectious disease. Please see: Wuhan's New Coronavirus Hospital Explained, CGTN, January 27, 2020. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-01-26/Wuhan-s-new-coronavirus-hospital-explained-NzH8kzYabu/index.html>

areas, medium-risk areas and high-risk areas. For example, the low-risk areas implement input strategy and restore the order of production comprehensively. During February 21-24, 2020, Gansu, Liaoning, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces successively adjusted the emergency response level of public health emergencies from level 1 to level 3, Shanxi and Guangdong provinces from level 1 to level 2. In those low-risk areas, economy is getting back on track, thereby maintaining a stable economy and society. Chinese government takes many measure including stronger macroeconomic adjustment, positive fiscal policies, targeted tax cuts, loan support and so on.²⁷ Those measure not only contribute to Chinese economy, but also create a confident environment for the international society.

4) China makes efforts to speed up scientific research and focuses on the combination of scientific research with clinical practice, prevention and control practice. Scientific research and experts would play a key role in public health emergencies. As an important social force, the scientific community is beneficial to the scientific prevention and control of epidemics and improvement of public governance, which helps achieve a positive interaction between social and national governance. After the outbreak of the epidemic, China also issued *Notice on Special Projects for the Prevention and Control of 2019-nCoV* to mobilize universities, scientific research institutions, enterprises and other institutions to identify the source of infection and the way of transmission. Sumia Swamina, chief scientist of the WHO, said China's sharing of information on the sequencing of the COVID-19 could help accelerate the development of vaccines and drugs for the COVID-19 virus.²⁸ Vaccines are one of the most important responses to a potential global pandemic.²⁹ Combining the advantages of traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine to strengthen protection, prevent pathological changes and alleviate sequelae effectively.³⁰ In addition, the treatment of critical patients should use comprehensive discipline treatment because a single discipline cannot work.

3. Unite as one to fight against the epidemic

²⁷ President Xi Stresses Economic Development in Fight against COVID-19, CGTN, February 12, 2020, <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-02-12/President-Xi-stresses-economic-development-in-fight-against-COVID-19-O1RexsjIOI/index.html>

²⁸ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Soumya Swaminathan, Scientists are Sprinting to Outpace the Novel Coronavirus, The LANCET, February 24, 2020, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30420-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30420-7/fulltext)

²⁹ Ewen Callaway, Time to Use the p-word? Coronavirus Enters Dangerous New Phase, Nature, February 24, 2020.

³⁰ National Administration of Transitional Chinese Medicine, First-line Survey of 15 Provinces and Cities' Anti-epidemic: Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospitals should "Participate in the Whole Process, the sooner the better", February 26, 2020, www.satcm.gov.cn/xinxifabu/gedidongtai/2020-02-26/13433.html

1) Mobilize the people and establish a mechanism for the participation of the whole society. Prevention and control COVID-19 is not only the responsibility of the medical and health departments, but is a shared responsibility of all departments. China's highly unified administrative system, efficient and centralized allocation of social resources, and highly recognized national collective characteristics have become the "multiplier" to strengthen the national emergency mobilization capacity. In the face of the epidemic, China has established an operational mechanism including government leadership, classified management, public mobilization, local-based approach and phased measures, and supplemented by multiple response subjects including military, public, volunteer team, and media. The whole nation has formed a situation of overall mobilization, overall deployment and overall strengthening of epidemic prevention and control. It is worth encouraging that students and some practitioners work online at home without completely delaying their studies or work. Robert Lawrence Kuhn, the president of the United States Kuhn foundation, argued that "the organization and mobilization ability shown by China is unprecedented in the global health history, which is difficult for other countries to achieve." ³¹

From mass prevention and control to joint prevention and control, China has adopted the classic methods to upgrade the measures, and the excellent ability to mobilize, coordinate and transfer resources is shown. Some believe that China's solution may bring about economic recession and rebound effect, especially massive return-to-work migration makes the original scheme ineffective.³² Moreover, some Western media accused China of "violating human rights,"³³ however, China's solution is making every effort to save as many lives as possible. Without the right to survive and development, there's no other human rights actually. Through the joint

³¹ Robert Lawrence Kuhn, Why is the Coronavirus Outbreak 'a Major Test of China's System and Capacity for Governance'? CGTN, February 10, 2020, <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-02-10/NCP-outbreak-A-major-test-of-China-s-system-capacity-for-governance-NY2FSYnt16/index.html>

³² Laurie Chen, Sharp Fall in New Chinese Coronavirus Cases, but is it only because of New Counting Method? February 21, 2020, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3051669/sharp-fall-new-chinese-coronavirus-cases-it-only-because-new>

³³ Human Rights Watch, China: Respect Rights in Coronavirus Response, January 30, 2020.

defense and control mechanism, on February 7, 2020, thousands of health workers from 19 provinces in China supported Wuhan and other cities one-on-one, reflecting the historical tradition and institutional advantages of China's crisis management. And the purpose of isolation is to prevent epidemics, not to deprive people's live.

2) It is essential to emphasize the governance of self-organization in urban areas. Residents' committees led by street offices are located at the bottom of China's urban governance. China makes full use of basic-level community mobilization capacity, implementing strict inspection and management, closely tracking and management contacts, and achieving early diagnosis and treatment of patients. Attaching importance to the development of volunteer organizations, establishing partnerships in the management of crisis early warning, and striving for greater cooperation and support. Medical institutions with fever clinics, including tertiary and secondary hospitals and community health service centers, working for 24-hour reception. Measures such as preventing and controlling the epidemic in community, traffic and other public places, avoiding rush hour to work and orderly returning to work have been implemented simultaneously.

3) Rural areas should take the advantages of "localization." Although the epidemic prevention capacity of the rural areas is weak relatively, these areas have better self-sustaining ability.³⁴ The local society with the ability of independent survival and independent handling of internal affairs can block the risk of external epidemic and deal with the epidemic in the lowest cost way. Even though many farmers migrate to cities, rural area is still an acquaintance society with character of "differential mode of association." There are fewer cases in rural areas than in the cities amid the outbreak of the COVID-19. This is also according with the development model of rural revitalization and ecological civilization. On this basis, it is forming an effective connection between rural and urban areas, when there is an epidemic in rural areas, cities and urban areas should rescue the rural areas as soon as possible, thereby killing the outbreak in the bud.

4) China has been working with the international community in the spirit of openness, transparency and scientific coordination, including the WHO and relevant countries and regions. China identified the pathogen and shared the full gene sequence of the novel coronavirus with the

³⁴ Wen Tiejun, How can China Turn the Tide over How the Epidemic Accelerates the Global Crisis China New Rural Planning and Design, February 24, 2020.

WHO. Information on the epidemic was notified to WHO on January 3, and whole genome sequences of the COVID-19 virus were shared with WHO on January 10, 2020. It gained time for the world based on information sharing and communication and policy coordination. Although some media have criticized China for exerting pressure on the WHO to wield balance diplomacy maneuver and compete for the influence of the United Nations agencies.³⁵ However, this narrow-minded view is not conducive to epidemic prevention and control, nor is it qualified to instruct people how to get out of the epidemic. The best strategy to deal with double standards and doubts is to speak with facts. The international community has witnessed China's effort in containing the spread and mitigating the impact of the COVID-19. China is not just acting for the sake of its own people, but for people across the world.

There is always a gap between theory and practice, specifically gap between policy making and policy implementation. Fear is a natural human response to any threat. As we have more knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19, people can gradually overcome fear and insecurity, seeing less uncertainty. Now, China is already working to re-bolster its economy, return to a more normal semblance of society and minimize the socio-economic impact, based on developments of the epidemic situation. European countries might develop the specific tools and differentiated strategy based on their situation and risk assessment. And with the scientific work and governance mechanism that has been tested and implemented in China as references, countries could take more diverse routes, and do not have to start from scratch. For example, some countries with outbreak of COVID-19 should immediately activate the highest level of national response management protocols to ensure the all-of-government and all-of-society approach needed to contain COVID-19 with non-pharmaceutical public health measures. Some countries take measures only to interrupt or minimize transmission chains in humans. No matter which measures we take, the most important strategy is "Early Detection and Rapid Response", reducing the chance of a large number of susceptible individuals living in a confined space for a long time. Although some deficiencies and drawbacks in terms of governance capacity and governance system were exposed during the COVID-19 prevention and control, China's experience could

³⁵ Sarah Boseley, China's Handling of Coronavirus is a Diplomatic Challenge for WHO, February 18, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/18/china-coronavirus-who-diplomatic-challenge>

contribute to a victory reaching in China and Europe in fighting the COVID-19. Every country can determine its governance structure and process evaluating risks, China's approach is not universal and may not completely applicable for other countries, but it could be used as a reference in the future to prevent and control the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and other diseases in Europe and the world. As WHO recommended, true solidarity and collaboration is essential to tackle the common threat, including COVID-19.³⁶

³⁶ Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19), 16-24 February 2020, WHO, <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>