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People arriving in Beijing to be quarantined as China struggles to pick up economy

# Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday Febuary 19, 2020 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## China sees fall in coronavirus deaths, WHO urges caution, Apple and markets take hit



Residents buy food in a greengrocer's shop at a hutong, as the country is hit by an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, in Beijing, China February 18, 2020. REUTERS/Tingshu Wang

BEIJING/GENEVA (Reuters) - China reported its fewest new coronavirus infections since January on Tuesday and its lowest daily death toll for a week, but the World Health Organization said data suggesting the epidemic had slowed should still be viewed with caution.

The head of a leading hospital in China's central city of Wuhan, epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, died of the disease, becoming one of the most prominent victims since the disease first appeared at the end of last year.

Illustrating the impact of the outbreak on worldwide growth and corporate profits, oil prices tumbled and equity markets slid after Apple Inc issued a revenue warning due to the disruption the disease is causing to global supply chains.

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Chinese officials reported 1,886 new cases - the first time the daily figure has fallen below 2,000 since Jan. 30 - bringing the mainland China total to 72,436. A figure of 98 new deaths marked the first time the daily toll in China had fallen below 100 since Feb. 11, bringing the total to 1,868.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Chinese data "appears to show a decline in new cases" but any apparent trend "must be interpreted very cautiously".

Outside China, there have been 827 cases of the disease, known as COVID-19, and five deaths, according to a Reuters count based on official statements. More than half of those cases have been on a cruise ship quarantined off Japan.

Tedros said there had been 92 cases of human-to-human spread of the coronavirus in 12 countries outside China but the WHO did not have the data to make meaningful comparisons to what was going on in China.

"We have not seen sustained local transmission of coronavirus except in specific circumstances like the Diamond Princess cruise ship," he said.

China says figures indicating a slowdown in new cases in recent days show that aggressive steps it has taken to curb travel and commerce are slowing the spread of the disease beyond central Hubei province and its capital, Wuhan.

The WHO's Mike Ryan said China had had success with "putting out the fire" first in Hubei and ensuring that people returning to Beijing from the Lunar New Year holiday are monitored.

Residents buy food in a greengrocer's shop at a hutong, as the country is hit by an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, in Bei-

jing, China February 18, 2020. REUTERS/Tingshu Wang  
The numbers appear encouraging, said Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at Britain's University of Edinburgh, who described himself as cautious. "Though it is unrealistic to reduce the transmission rate to zero it may have been reduced to a level where the epidemic is brought under control," Woolhouse said.

"It may be that the epidemic is simply running its natural course, and is starting to run out of new people to infect. It could also be that the unprecedented public health measures introduced in China are having the desired effect." Chinese state television said Liu Zhiming, the director of Wuhan Wuchang Hospital, died on Tuesday, the seventh health worker to fall victim. The hospital was designated solely for treating virus-infected patients.

**GLOBAL REPERCUSSIONS**  
Despite global concerns about the economic impact of the disease, China's ambassador to the European Union said on Tuesday this would be "limited, short-term and manageable" and that Beijing had enough resources to step in if needed.

Chinese state television quoted President Xi Jinping as saying China could still meet its economic growth target for 2020 despite the epidemic.

Economists are warning of potential mass layoffs in China later this year if the virus is not contained soon.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Presidential hopeful Bloomberg proposes new taxes, protections to rein in Wall Street

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg on Tuesday outlined a sweeping financial services policy proposal to rein in Wall Street trading, boost consumer protections, increase Americans' access to banking services and crack down on financial crime.

FILE PHOTO: Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg addresses a news conference after launching his presidential bid in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S., November 25, 2019. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts/File Photo  
The left-leaning platform marks a striking turnaround for the former Republican New York mayor and Wall Street investment banker who made his \$60 billion fortune in financial services and in the past has criticized reforms introduced following the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

Trying to make a virtue of his Wall Street heritage, Bloomberg's campaign argued on Tuesday that "as the founder of a successful global financial technology company, he understands the system well and is uniquely qualified to make it work better for all Americans."

Among the most eye-catching proposals are a tax of 0.1% on transactions in stocks, bonds and payments on derivative contracts, bolstering the "Volcker Rule" ban on banks' proprietary trading and setting a trading speed limit - all of which take aim at Wall Street clients of Bloomberg Inc's trading terminal.

The proposal also pledges to reinforce protections eroded by the Trump administration by boosting bank capital levels, toughening banks' annual health checks and restoring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rules curbing payday lending and its ban on imposing mandatory arbitration on consumers.

Bloomberg also waded into the long-running debate on



FILE PHOTO:  
Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg addresses a news conference after launching his presidential bid in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S., November 25, 2019. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts/File Photo

the future of housing finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which were bailed out during the financial crisis. He proposed to merge them to ensure taxpayers are fully compensated for the risks of guaranteeing the firms' securities.

### RELATED COVERAGE

Factbox: Bloomberg's plan to rein in Wall Street borrows from Warren's playbook  
While Bloomberg's platform does not go as far as proposals backed by progressive rival

presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, who have called for big banks to be broken up, it underscores how far the Democratic Party is moving to the left on financial and corporate policy issues.

Bloomberg, a latecomer to the race who has so far spent \$188 million of his own money on the campaign, will step onto the Democratic debate stage for the first time on Wednesday

after exceeding the double-digit polling threshold set by the Democratic Party, with 19% support.

"Our sense is that these proposals are primarily intended to blunt progressive attacks, especially with Bloomberg joining the debate stage for the first time on Wednesday evening," Isaac Boltansky, director of policy research at Washington-based Compass Point Research & Trading, said in a note.

**SC 副刊**  
**Daily News**

## 三个月，挺下来，就能活

如果按照往年常规的上班节奏，今天应该已经是大家正常上班的第二个星期了，然而一切仍像是被按下“暂停键”，我们看到的只是空荡荡的街市，看不见的是这背后无数企业的生计之愁。

一家做普惠金融的大数据公司负责人向《数据》记者无奈地表示，近期发生的很多的事让他们感到

“特别无力”。该负责人讲到，他对接银行服务的一家湖北荆门的蔬菜生产商，正面临两笔贷款需要偿还，一笔20万，一笔30万，但这家生产商手里现在只剩下20万斤的蔬菜。

为了帮助这家生产商把蔬菜销售出去，该大数据公司还帮忙对接好了外地经销商，“但突然一纸封城的指令下来，什么都卖不出去了。”

另一位做紫菜的生产商告诉《数据》记者，现在正是紫菜的采摘季节，但由于工厂没人上班，他们只能每天去海里把长好的紫菜采下来扔掉，进而保证下一波紫菜的生长。

据该生产商介绍，人工培植的紫菜生长周期要8个月左右，因此前期的成本投入大部分已经铺下去了，“现在迟迟回不了本”。该生产商还告诉记者，尽管以前也偶尔会碰到因为海洋环境和天气变化等种种自然因素导致紫菜减产，但像今年这样完全停产的情况，他还是第一次碰到。

春节一直被称之为消费“黄金周”，突如其来的疫情不仅强制截断了“黄金周”，延期开工也给不少企业带来了真金白银的损失。西贝餐饮董事长贾国龙向媒体表示，受疫情影响，西贝400家线下门店基本停业，只保留100多家外卖业务，预计春节前后一个月损失营收7-8亿元。

老乡鸡董事长也对外表示，受疫情影响，老乡鸡有130家门店停业或调整营业时间，保守估计至少损失5个亿。

据清华大学、北京大学、北京小微企业综合金融服务有限公司联

合调研995家中小企业数据看，受此次疫情影响，29.58%的企业估计疫情导致2020年营业收入下降幅度超50%，28.47%的企业预计营业收入下降20%-50%，合计58.05%的企业预计2020年营业收入下降20%以上。

面对突如其来的经营暂停，贾国龙表示，2万多名员工每个月还有1.5亿左右的支出，如果疫情不能有效控制，企业账上现金流将不能撑过3个月。另一家高端连锁品牌“魅ktv”投资人近期也在网络上坦言，公司账上有1200万，每个月支出超过500万，如果一直不营业的话则“撑不过3个月”。

“3个月”的死期并非危言耸听，清华大学、北京大学、北京小微企业综合金融服务有限公司的调研数据显示，受疫情影响，995家中小企业按照账上现金余额能维持企业生存的时间，85.01%的企业维持不超过3个月，其中34%的企业只能维持1个月，33.1%的企业可以维持2个月，只有9.96%的企业能维持6个月以上。

数据显示，我国中小企业的数量已经超过了3000万家，个体工商户数量超过7000万户，它们贡献了全国50%以上的税收，60%以上的GDP，70%以上的技术创新成果和80%以上的劳动力就业。占全国占全国企业总数99%的中小企业，一直是中国的主要经济支撑和社会稳定的重要支撑。

疫情期间，员工工资和五险一金成为企业最大负担，占比达到62.78%，其次是租金和偿还贷款，分别占到13.68%和13.98%。

从上述数据可以看出，对很多中小企业来说，最大负担莫过于人



针对中小企业的生存难题，国家和政府已经出台了一系列扶持政策，但对商家来说，“挺到开工时间，才可能迅速回归正轨”。

力成本，对此，很多企业只得采用裁员、降薪等手段缩小经营成本。

2月10日复工当天，新潮传媒就宣布裁员500人，高管带头减薪20%。尽管新潮传媒创始人张继学称这是发展过程中的正常减员，但他坦诚，“公司账上有10亿现金，但如果收入归零，也只能维持六七个月”。

还有一些个体经营户则选择了停薪，深圳一家小型托管班的老板娘程女士告诉《数据》记者，她的托管班只有不到十名员工，与其他小企业相比，人力成本并不算高，但也占托管班经营成本的70%。疫情发生之后，她的员工全都被困在老家回不来，其中有位湖北的员工父亲已经确诊感染新冠肺炎。

托管班迟迟不能营业，但房租

和物业管理费依然得照常交，程女士表示，算下积蓄只能撑5个月，前提还是不给员工发工资，“我现在只能给她们每月交个社保、发一些补贴，再要求发工资就真牺牲不起了”。

与此同时，北京、上海等地宣布企业可延迟缴纳社保费；上海、山东、江西、宁波、苏州等地宣布，对不裁员或少裁员的参保企业，可返还其上年度实际缴纳失业保险费的50%。

针对中小企业普遍面临融资难、融资贵、融资慢等问题，新技术派上了用场，海淀区近期建立“基于区块链的中小企业供应链金融服务平台”，通过区块链技术实现确权，建立长效清欠工作机制，同时为中小企业提供供应链金融服

务，强化中小企业健康平稳发展的资本支撑。

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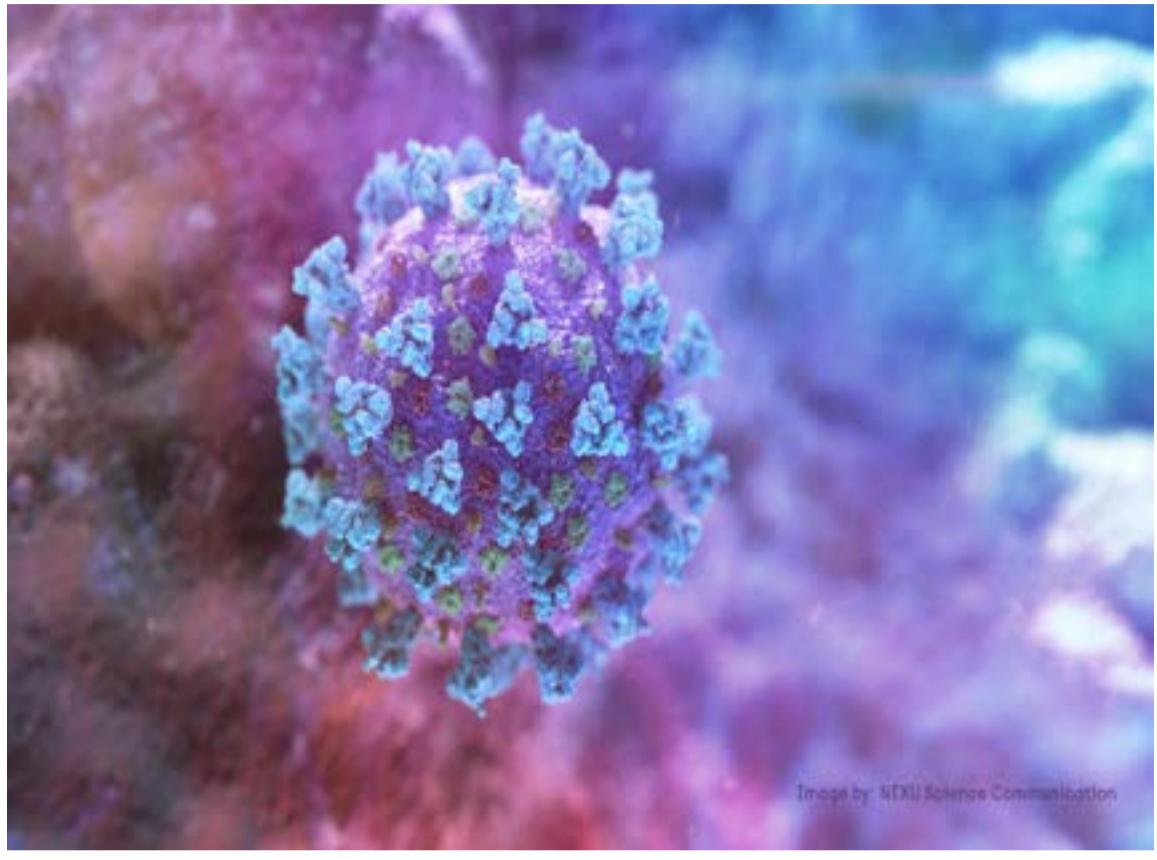
政策和技术纷纷落地，但企业最终能否挺下来，依然要靠企业自身。

相信春天一定会来临，在此之前，希望大家都坚持下去。

三个月，挺下来，就能活！



People wearing face masks walk in front of an Apple store at a shopping mall, as the country is hit by an outbreak of the new coronavirus, in Beijing



A computer image created by NEXU Science Communication together with Trinity College in Dublin, shows a model structurally representative of a betacoronavirus which is the type of virus linked to COVID-19



A volunteer firefighter wearing a protective mask, during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, stands next to men dressed in loincloths during a naked festival at Saidaiji Temple in Okayama



Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) wearing protective masks standby outside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City



Customer in protective mask grabs potato chips while riding an escalator inside a supermarket, as the country is hit by an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, in Beijing



Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) wearing protective masks stand outside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City



Delivery workers wearing face masks ride scooters in Beijing's central business district



Woman wearing a face mask walks at a hutong, as the country is hit by an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, in Beijing

Wednesday, February 19, 2020



Wise Decisions At Early Stages May Have Prevented Potential Virus Outbreaks

## World Community Applauds China's President Xi For Improving Major Epidemic Prevention And Control



Cao Ting (C) and her colleagues cheer themselves up before entering the laboratory of Xiaogan's center for disease control and prevention in central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 14, 2020. (Xinhua/Hu Huhu)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

BEIJING, Feb. 16 (Xinhua) -- The international community has spoken highly of Chinese President Xi Jinping's emphasis on improving the mechanism for major epidemic prevention and control, saying such a move will further enhance the country's governance capacity, which is of great significance to China and the world.

While chairing the 12th meeting of the central committee for deepening overall reform on Friday, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, stressed improving the mechanism for major epidemic prevention and control and the national public health emergency management system.

Ren Minghui, assistant director-general for Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases of the World Health Organization, said Xi's proposal to strengthen China's ability

to prevent and control major epidemics from the perspectives of mechanism and legislation is encouraging.

It shows China's efforts to improve its national public health emergency management system in the form of laws in preventing and controlling infectious diseases, and that China shoulders its responsibilities as a major country, which are of great significance to China and the world, Ren added.



Medical workers hold a baby girl with no infection born by a woman infected with novel coronavirus pneumonia at

the Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Feb. 15, 2020. (Photo/Xinhua)

Hailing China's "resolute and decisive measures" taken to prevent and control the COVID-19 as "really impressive," General Secretary of the Egyptian Communist Party Salah Adly said the proposal by Xi and the Chinese government to improve relevant management systems, laws and regulations to prevent such disease in the future fully reflects the image of China as a responsible major country. COVID-19 is a non-traditional security challenge and a major issue mankind is facing, said Hwang Jaeho, dean of the division of international studies at South Korea's Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

Through the fight against COVID-19, China will further promote the modernization of its governance system and capacity, and boost relevant exchanges and scientific research cooperation with other countries, Hwang said.

Xi's stress on including biosecurity in the system of national security can help the society take the best response measures timely and orderly when similar situations occur in the future, said Zhao Jun, professor of Japan's Chiba University of Commerce.

The emphasis on speeding up establishing a law on biosecurity, which will improve the system of national security, not only marks China as a responsible major country, but also interprets Xi's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, said Wang Quancheng, president of the Hua Yuan Association, a non-profit organization serving a new-generation of Chinese immigrants in Singapore.



Medical team members check in at Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport in southwest China's Chongqing, Feb. 15, 2020. (Photo by Huang Wei/Xinhua)

Bai Yi, president of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula Chinese Association, said that improving the mechanism for major epidemic prevention and control will allow China to deal with major public health events more calmly and effectively, and that including biosecurity in the national security system will help safeguard the Chinese people's health and the country's long-term stability, which are very important to China and the world.

The measures the Chinese government has taken to improve the mechanism for major epidemic prevention and control and the national public health emergency management system are very timely and necessary, said Li Changhong, executive vice chairman of Kenya Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

It will improve China's ability to respond to epidemics in the future, reduce the impact of the epidemic on economic development and people's livelihood, and provide experience in response to epidemics for Africa and other underdeveloped countries, Li added.

It is a correct step for China to take biosecurity into its national security system, said Volker Tschapke, honorary president of Germany's Prussian Society, adding that it will raise awareness of biological risks among government officials at all levels and the public.

*Through the fight against COVID-19, China will further promote the modernization of its governance system and capacity, and boost relevant exchanges and scientific research cooperation with other countries, said a professor at South Korea's Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.*

"It's a wise decision. The mechanism may prevent and stop potential virus outbreaks," said Tschapke.

Tursunali Kuziev, a professor at Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, said Xi's move fully demonstrates

that the Chinese government attaches great importance to people's lives, health and safety, and once again shows the strength of China's national system to focus on major tasks.

Calling the international community to work together to deal with the epidemic, Tursunali expressed his firm belief that "the Chinese people will win the battle for the prevention and control of the epidemic." (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english>)



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Countries Worldwide Offer Support,  
Aid To China's Fight Against Coronavirus

## "You Are Not Alone"



### OVERVIEW

Heads of more than 160 countries and international organizations have shown their support through telegrams or letters, while the governments and peoples of many countries have donated much-needed supplies, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

BEIJING, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- "Don't be afraid. The light from all over the world is on you. Let's join hands and form an armor to escort you. Don't be afraid. You're never alone in the night. Don't cry. It's not just me, everyone is together to give you strength."

These are the lyrics of the song "You Are Not Alone," created by a group of musicians in Malaysia to support China in its battle against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The heartwarming track is just one of many goodwill gestures and offers of support from countries across the world to help China combat the COVID-19 outbreak.



Malaysian music producer Ong Peng

Chu (8th L, 2nd row), singers of the song "You are not alone" and guests pose for photos in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Feb. 13, 2020. (Xinhua/Zhu Wei)

**A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED"**

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen paid a special visit to Beijing earlier this month, which, as Chinese President Xi Jinping put it, demonstrated the unbreakable friendship and mutual trust between the two countries and showcased the essence of building a community of shared future.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed as the Cambodian people stand with the Chinese people at this special moment," Xi said.

In a phone conversation with Xi on Thursday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said his country appreciates China's great efforts in the fight against the epidemic, and considers such actions as China's contribution to safeguarding global health as a responsible

major country.



Achim Steiner, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said Thursday that the United Nations is fully committed to supporting China's efforts to contain the novel coronavirus epidemic. The UNDP is donating critical medical supplies through initial emergency funding of 500,000 dollars, to help China's frontline health personnel combat the novel coronavirus epidemic.



Staff members transfer medical supplies provided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to help China combat the novel coronavirus in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 12, 2020. (Xinhua)

### SHARED HUMANITY

"Rivers low, mountains high, The same moon in the sky." Such was a Chinese verse written on the boxes of 20,000 masks donated by a Japanese institution to Hubei province, the most affected in China. Many Japanese prefectures and cities have offered donations to China, including Oita Prefecture, a sister prefecture of the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, as well as the cities of Mito, Okayama, and Maizuru, among others.



A Japanese girl wearing a red Chinese cheongsam bows deeply to passers-by with a donation box in hands to raise money to help those in China affected by the virus on the Chinese Lantern Festival in Tokyo, Japan, on

Feb. 8, 2020.

(Photo by Zhang Huiqing/Xinhua)

As China's "iron buddy," Pakistan allocated 300,000 medical masks, 800 hazmat suits and 6,800 pairs of gloves from the stocks of public hospitals around the nation, sending them to China on Feb. 1.

South Korea also offered large amounts of medical and anti-epidemic materials to China, including 2 million face masks, 1 million medical masks, 100,000 hazmat suits and 100,000 pairs of goggles.

The U.S. private sector has donated a batch of medical supplies to China, including 2 million masks, the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC) announced Thursday.

"This is the time to demonstrate our shared humanity and dedication to the common good," said USCBC President Craig Allen. "In particular, we want to help and honor the courageous healthcare workers throughout China."

In Cambodia, 86 families, whose children had received free heart surgeries in China, donated over 5,000 masks to the Chinese doctors at Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital in Yunnan province.

### "CHINA, JIAYOU!"

On Thursday night, the Tel Aviv Municipality Hall, a landmark in the central Israeli city of Tel Aviv, was illuminated with the colors of China's national flag, showing solidarity with China in the

fight against the novel coronavirus. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns of the Philippines Brígido J. Dulay said his country believes that China will emerge from these trying times with reinforced vigor and strength. "To the people of China, we say 'Jiayou' (Be strong)!" Dulay said.

Heads of more than 160 countries and international organizations have shown their support through telegrams or letters, while the governments and peoples of many countries have donated much-needed supplies, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday.

"True gold can stand the test of fire," Wang said, adding that emerging from this test, the Chinese people will become more resilient and united and the Chinese economy will achieve more solid and sustainable growth. (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english>)



# BUSINESS

Countries Worldwide Offer Support,  
Aid To China's Fight Against Coronavirus

## "You Are Not Alone"



### OVERVIEW

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Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

BEIJING, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- "Don't be afraid. The light from all over the world is on you. Let's join hands and form an armor to escort you. Don't be afraid. You're never alone in the night. Don't cry. It's not just me, everyone is together to give you strength."

These are the lyrics of the song "You Are Not Alone," created by a group of musicians in Malaysia to support China in its battle against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The heartwarming track is just one of many goodwill gestures and offers of support from countries across the world to help China combat the COVID-19 outbreak.



Malaysian music producer Ong Peng

Chu (8th L, 2nd row), singers of the song "You are not alone" and guests pose for photos in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Feb. 13, 2020. (Xinhua/Zhu Wei)

**A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED"**

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen paid a special visit to Beijing earlier this month, which, as Chinese President Xi Jinping put it, demonstrated the unbreakable friendship and mutual trust between the two countries and showcased the essence of building a community of shared future.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed as the Cambodian people stand with the Chinese people at this special moment," Xi said.

In a phone conversation with Xi on Thursday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said his country appreciates China's great efforts in the fight against the epidemic, and considers such actions as China's contribution to safeguarding global health as a responsible



Staff members transfer medical supplies provided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to help China combat the novel coronavirus in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 12, 2020. (Xinhua)

### SHARED HUMANITY

"Rivers low, mountains high, The same moon in the sky." Such was a Chinese verse written on the boxes of 20,000 masks donated by a Japanese institution to Hubei province, the most affected in China. Many Japanese prefectures and cities have offered donations to China, including Oita Prefecture, a sister prefecture of the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, as well as the cities of Mito, Okayama, and Maizuru, among others.

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