

China Health Bibliography Update June 2005

EASHD---China Rural Health AAA

***Contents in this update are from the following databases: [PubMed](#), [Social Science Citation](#), [EconLit](#), and [Factiva](#)

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- [China Daily: QUACKS UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY IN JIANGSU](#)
- [Reuters: China gets grant to stop AIDS among drug users](#)
- [Huasheng Daily: China has become the 4th biggest non-prescription drug in the world](#)

Note: Below are selected results from PubMed using EndNotes (search terms:
2005/03/01:2005/03/31, China)

Zhao, F. M., S. F. Guo, et al. (2005). "[Survey on the situation of antenatal care in different regions of China, in 1971 - 2003]." Zhonghua Liu Xing Bing Xue Za Zhi **26**(3): 172-6.

OBJECTIVE: To comprehensively understand the situation of antenatal care in the last thirty years and to identify the existing problems and challenges. METHODS: PPS method was used to select those women under study and face to face interview was carried out at the house. RESULTS: The quality and coverage rate of antenatal care as well as the rate of hospital delivery had been continuously increasing over time and the coverage rate of antenatal checkup had increased from 38.7% in 1970s to 95.9%, while the institutional delivery rose from 20.1% to 87.4% in the last three years. However, problems and challenges were found referring to the of delay first antenatal care, inadequate timing and with incomplete contents. Only 71.7% of the pregnant women had received first checkup during the first three months. 64.1% of the women received 5 times or more of the checkups while only 29.1% of the women had received all the 7 basic checkup items. Rate of hospital delivery was unsatisfactory that most (79.5%) of the women had the delivery not in the hospitals when under the assistance of midwife/village doctors. Indicators showed that the worst was in the western regions. CONCLUSION: Great progress had been made in the field of antenatal care in last thirty yeats in China. The coverage rate of antenatal checkup and institutional delivery had been improved. But the quality of antenatal care should be further improved, especially in the western regions.

Note: Below are selected results from Social Science Citation using EndNotes (search terms: 2005, China, health)

Wang, X., Y. Wang, et al. (2005). "Feeding practices in 105 counties of rural China." Child Care Health and Development **31**(4): 417-423.

China has the largest population in the world with more than 70% of the people living in rural areas. Over 34% of children under the age of 5 years are responded to show moderate or severe growth stunting, so United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and Chinese Ministry of Health conducted this large-scale survey in China. This study aimed to learn the feeding practice, to find the problems in child-feeding practice and to provide evidence for the government to develop an approach to child malnutrition in rural China. A structured questionnaire was used to survey 21 036 mothers of children with age of 0-24 months. Of the 20 915 children, 98.22% were breastfeeding and 24.36% were exclusively breastfeeding. The proportion of children with weekly protein intake was 78.47%. Among the infants under 4 months, the risk of pneumonia in the group of exclusive breastfeeding was 1.69%, while in the group of non-exclusive breastfeeding was 3.63%, showing a statistically significant difference between the two groups. The risk of diarrhoea in the group of exclusive breastfeeding and in the group of non-exclusive breastfeeding among the infants under 4 months was 24.37% and 40.86%, respectively, also showing a statistically significant difference between the two groups. For children with age 4-6 months, the complementary feeding contributed to a higher prevalence of diarrhoea, but not pneumonia. The breastfeeding was very common, but the exclusive breastfeeding was quite low and the exclusive breastfeeding for children under the age of 4 months decreased the risks of pneumonia and diarrhoea. For children with age 4-6 months, the exclusive breastfeeding could decrease the risk of diarrhoea, too. Protein intake was insufficient for children in rural China. The rural people lacked health knowledge and were greatly influenced by traditional feeding practices.

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Below are selected search results from EconLit using EconLit Advanced Search (search terms: China, 2004 and 2005, rank by date)

** Kanbur, R. and X. Zhang (2005). "Fifty Years of Regional Inequality in China: A Journey through Central Planning, Reform, and Openness." Review of Development Economics **9**(1): 87-106.

The paper constructs and analyzes a long-run time series for regional inequality in China from the Communist Revolution to the present. There have been three peaks of inequality in the last fifty years, coinciding with the Great Famine of the late 1950s, the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s and 1970s, and finally the period of openness and global integration in the late 1990s. Econometric analysis establishes that regional inequality is explained in the different phases by three key policy variables--the ratio of heavy industry to gross output value, the degree of decentralization, and the degree of openness.

**** Lin, S. (2005). "Excessive Government Fee Collection in China." *Contemporary Economic Policy* 23(1): 91-106.**

There are several thousand administrative and operating fees, compared to 23 taxes in China. Excessive fee collections are largely targeted at business enterprises and farmers. The growth of fee collection resulted from the increase in the gap between government expenditures and revenues, the self-collection and self-utilization policy, and weak law enforcement. Excessive fee collection tends to reduce businesses' investment incentive, aggravate income inequality, breed corruption, and distort the fiscal system. Fee reduction is not possible if the government size and revenue shortage problems of local governments persist. Policy options such as cutting government size are recommended.

**** Wan, G. and Z. Zhou (2005). "Income Inequality in Rural China: Regression-Based Decomposition Using Household Data." *Review of Development Economics* 9(1): 107-20.**

A considerable literature exists on the measurement of income inequality in China and its increasing trend. Much less is known about the driving forces of this trend and their quantitative contributions. Conventional decompositions, by factor components or by population subgroups, provide only limited information on the determinants of income inequality. This paper represents an early attempt to apply the regression-based decomposition framework to the study of inequality accounting in rural China, using household-level data. It is found that geography has been the dominant factor but is becoming less important in explaining total inequality. Capital input emerges as a most significant determinant of income inequality. Farming structure is more important than labor and other inputs in contributing to income inequality across households.

Wan, G. H. (2005). "Convergence in Food Consumption in Rural China: Evidence from Household Survey Data." *China Economic Review* 16(1): 90-102.

The aims of this paper are to propose an econometric model for studying consumption convergence, to apply the model to a set of panel data from China, and to discuss various implications of research results. Major findings of the paper include (a) conditional convergence is confirmed for total grain, fine grain, edible oil, poultry, aquatic product, and sugar; (b) animal fat and red meat exhibit consumption divergence; (c) rising income inequality and underdevelopment of market are identified to be obstacles to consumption convergence; and (d) for commodities that converge, the speed of convergence is slow.

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Note: Below are selected search results from Factiva using search builder for news in the last month. Search terms: China and health; China and medical and insurance; 卫生; 医疗, 医院. All sources, All companies, Subject: Analysis or Audio--visual links or Commentary/opinion or Country profile or Dow Jones/Reuters Top Wire News or Economic News or Editorial or Intl Pol-Econ Organizations or Interview or Letter or News Digest or Political/General News or Review or Routine General News or Transcript, Region: China, All industries, Language: Chinese simplified or traditional or English, Sort results by: publication date, most recent first

China AIDS victims fight bad drugs, ineptitude

ELINE00020050630e16u0008d

By Juliana Liu

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SHUANGMIAO, China (Reuters) - Wang Shuling's skin is stretched tight over her bones and her body shakes like a leaf, to the point that she cannot walk on her own and her hands are not steady enough to lift a glass of water.

Wang, 50, has AIDS and is one of tens of thousands in China's central Henan province who contracted the HIV virus through botched local blood-selling schemes in the mid-1990s.

The epidemic in Henan, where some believe as many as one million people have been infected, was initially covered up, but in recent years the government has come relatively clean on its AIDS problem and taken steps to help victims, offering them subsidies and free medication.

But poverty and inept leadership keep Wang and many others from getting the kinds of treatment and other support they really need.

"Officials just hand out medicine and consider their work done," said Wan Yanhai, an AIDS activist and director of the Aizhixing Institute of Health Education. "They are not trying to improve the lives of these people."

Early this year, Wang switched from effective, but expensive, drugs she bought herself to the government's free medication. Six months later she stopped taking those pills because they made her hands shake uncontrollably and left her neck painfully stiff.

"I refuse to take the government's medication any more. I know there's better medicine out there, but it costs more than I can afford," Wang said, sitting in her modest house with bare brick walls and dirt floors.

BAD COCKTAILS

Wang's story is not unusual among the thousands living with AIDS in Henan and around the country.

China claims it has 840,000 AIDS victims nationwide, but that figure is less than half estimates from activists and expert groups. The United Nations has said China could have as many as 10 million cases in 2010 if it does not take AIDS seriously.

"Overseas experts say that the cocktail we are currently using to treat AIDS is incomparably bad. While it can help in some cases, the side effects are enormous,"

Chinese AIDS activist Hu Jia told Reuters by telephone.

"A lot of people cannot use it, they cannot take the side effects, and sometimes using the cocktail will speed death, as their livers can't handle the stress."

The government's free medication drive was hampered by the limited types of drugs available in China and the detachment of local officials, who might not even know the treatments were not working, Aizhixing's Wan said.

"The government has done a lot, but there are still big problems. They rarely talk to people with AIDS about their treatments or their needs," he said in Beijing.

"Doctors should prescribe medications to patients and clearly explain how to use them. But in China, these drugs are being doled out to patients by infectious disease control authorities."

In the 1990s, while coastal cities grew wealthy from trade and industry, densely populated Henan encouraged villagers to sell their blood to earn money.

Plasma from the donated blood was extracted for hospitals and the remainder of the blood was then returned to donors to avoid anaemia, meaning one infected donor could pass the virus to all the others.

Now bone-thin except for a pair of swollen feet, Wang Shuling was one of the first in Shuangmiao to sell her blood. She earned about 45 yuan (\$5) each time and encouraged dozens of her impoverished neighbours to roll up their sleeves with her.

"I don't know how many times I sold blood. I did it any time I needed money," she said.

LEFT ALONE

In another part of Shuangmiao, a private orphanage for children with parents dead from AIDS is struggling to stay open.

It was established by Zhu Jinzhong, a local man who died of complications from AIDS this year. His wife, Yang Guixiang, 39, has kept the orphanage going, despite having little money and support from the local government.

"As long as I have food to eat, these kids will have food to eat," Yang said.

When Zhu set up the village orphanage, known as the Care Home, 53 children lived under its roof. But in January 2004, local officials closed it down and moved almost all the kids to a government-run facility.

Now only four children live there all week and 17 visit on weekends.

The local government had also diverted a substantial donation to the orphanage from China Central Television to the state-run home, Yang said.

"Everything local officials have done is only meant to preserve their power. They won't allow anyone to make them look bad," said Liu Xin, 16, one of the children moved to the government orphanage. "They're very selfish."

On a warm Sunday morning, Liu and his friends rode to Yang's house on a three-wheel tractor. Once there, they chatted and played chess, and in the afternoon they squatted on the floor of the dark living room, where pictures of Zhu hang on the wall, for a lunch of tomatoes and steamed bread.

"After I graduate high school, if I can, I want to do something like this to help people like me. I want to repay the favour," said Liu, who lost both his parents to AIDS.

"There are people whose lives are much worse than ours. The government should take care of them. We already have care and love."

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Ministries, companies exposed in Chinese audit report talk to media

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Chinese news agency Xinhua interviewed some of the government ministries and companies named and shamed in the auditor-general's report on financial irregularities to solicit their reaction. Some of the interviewees included staff from the Ministry of Health and sports authorities over alleged kickbacks, the Ministry of Water Resources over embezzled public funds, and the Ministry of Education over institutions of higher learning charging excessive fees. Reporters also spoke to state-owned enterprises allegedly involved in defrauding central budget funds, siphoning off state assets as housing for staff, unauthorized insider auctions of flats, and exaggerating the number of employees on the payroll. The following is the text of the report by Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Beijing, 28 June: The time was 1540 [local time] on 28 June and the place, the meeting room of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress [NPC] on the second floor of the Great Hall of the People. Li Jinhua, the 62-year-old auditor general of the National Audit Administration, went up to the podium. He bowed to the members of the NPC Standing Committee and then, in a calm and assured tone, delivered the audit report on the execution of the central budget and other fiscal receipts and expenditure for the year 2004.

Another batch of departments, units, and companies are spotlighted on the "honour roll". Without losing time, our staff reporters visited the relevant departments, units,

and companies to solicit their response.

Ten audited hospitals are fraught with problems; Ministry of Health sets "deadline for improvement"

(Excerpt from the report) Ten hospitals under the Ministry of Health and Beijing Municipal Government were audited. In 2003, the average outpatient fee per visit was 307 yuan, up by 8.8 per cent over the previous year; the average charge for each hospital bed per day was 1,006 yuan, up by 10.9 per cent; and the manufacturing costs of 34 out of 46 medicine from five pharmaceutical factories that were randomly checked were inflated twofold or more. Since 2001, the 10 hospitals had received approximately 300m yuan in all manner of discounts and rebates from pharmaceutical and medical equipment manufacturers. A random audit of some of the medical charges collected by the 10 hospitals from 2003 to August 2004 revealed that they had charged their patients 11.27m yuan more than they should have.

(Response to audit) A spokesperson of the Ministry of Health said: The Ministry of Health is of the opinion that the audit report unveils the problems that exist in the financial management of the hospitals and the buying and selling of medicine; analyses the causes of such problems; and provides very valuable reference data for deepening the health reform and strengthening hospital management.

The spokesperson said: The Ministry of Health is urging hospitals to implement the audit verdict and is checking on their progress in this regard. It has requested hospitals to identify the weakest link in their financial management and to strengthen financial management in a substantive manner, so as to ensure the monetary security of hospitals. It is also introducing a system for the supervision of the response to audit findings, so that rectification and improvement can be done within a prescribed timeframe for such rectification and improvement. If a hospital fails to enforce the audit verdict before the deadline, the individuals concerned shall be held to account.

In order to regulate hospital financial management, the Ministry of Health has issued a "Circular Concerning the Opinions on the Further Strengthening and Improvement of the Economic Management of Hospitals Affiliated to or Under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry" and "Regulations on Strengthening the Management Function of the Finance Departments of Medical Institutions and Standardizing Economic Accounting and Distribution Management". The purpose is to centralize hospital financial management and strictly ban off-the-books accounts and "unauthorized coffers". Procurement of medicine and expensive medical consumables shall be placed under public bidding or centralized. Price control on medical services shall be strengthened and arbitrarily imposed fees strictly forbidden.

With "new debts" added to unsettled "old scores", State Sports General Administration says they are "studying the report"

(Excerpt from the report) Regarding the problems identified during last year's audit, except for the uncompleted rectification and improvement of how the State Sports General Administration [SSGA] draws on the funds of the Chinese Olympic Committee, other departments and local governments had conscientiously put right any irregularities and looked into the responsibility of the individuals concerned in

accordance with the State Council's requirements.

This year's audit revealed that between 2003 and 2004, the SSGA decided for the Sports Lottery Administration Centre to pay its two subordinate companies for the issue of sports lottery tickets, including the printing and distribution of such tickets. However, the payment exceeded the actual amount required for the issue. The profit that went to the two companies after deduction of all costs and expenses was as high as 558m yuan. With the SSGA's approval, the two companies had spent 130m yuan buying general-purpose properties, some to be rented out, and distributed 37.5m cash dividends in 2003 among investors, such as the Sports Lottery Administration Centre and the sports bureaus of all provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), at 125 per cent of the invested amount. Furthermore, 131m yuan was given away as bonuses and remuneration. During the printing of lottery tickets, the person[s] in charge of the Sports Lottery Administration Centre also practiced fraud and instructed the subordinate company to contract out the importation of special-purpose thermal paper for computerized ticket printers to some private enterprise that was not authorized to conduct import-export business. This was a deliberate effort to bring an extra link into the value chain, so that the product could be repurchased at a higher price. As a result, 23.41m yuan was lost between February 2003 and January 2005 in the form of lottery ticket issue cost.

(Response to audit) Some relevant individual at the SSGA said that the SSGA was in the middle of studying the audit report. Our staff reporters shall keep track of the development.

Stagnant funds exceed 1.3bn yuan; person in charge of Ministry of Water Resources points to "five reasons"

(Excerpt from the report) Some of the funds for the construction of water control projects were held, diverted, misappropriated, lost, or wasted. The audit discovered that at the end of 2003, there was 1.385bn yuan on the accounts of the Ministry of Water Resources and its offices in seven river valleys.

(Response to report) Wang Aiguo, deputy director of the Planning Department of the Ministry of Water Resources, said: The findings of this audit are comprehensive, objective, impartial, and timely. Not only do they reflect the problems present in the management of the funds for the construction of water control projects, but more importantly, this audit will effectively promote law-based administration, which is imperative for the management of investment in waterworks.

He said: The stagnant funds of 1.385bn yuan are clearly earmarked for specific projects. For some projects, the examination and approval formalities have not been completed according to the current procedure and the plans for some projects are being further refined. That is why the funds for those projects have not yet been allocated to the projects as planned. But all the money is held on the account and has not been misappropriated or diverted.

Wang Aiguo said: The issue of stagnant funds is closely related to the existing fiscal planning and budget system of our country and the characteristics of water control projects. There are five main reasons: The current system makes it impossible for developers to fulfil all the investment for the year as required by the plan and within

the timeframe of a fiscal year. Because of planning, geological prospecting, surveying, design, and other stages in the preparatory process, as well as the complexity of the examination and approval process, there are delays in the preliminary work of water control projects. In China, a fiscal year is not identical to a water year. As a result, investment planned for the year cannot be completed before the end of the current fiscal year. There are too many levels for the examination, approval, and relay of state investment plans; the procedure is complicated and the cycle long; and it is difficult for the relevant departments to coordinate with one another. These management system-related factors gave rise to the stagnation of funds. Moreover, the outbreak of atypical pneumonia [SARS] in 2003 also caused the postponement of some projects, which were carried forward to the following year.

He said: The Ministry of Water Resources will come up with rectification and improvement plans for all the issues mentioned in the report one by one; perfect the examination and approval procedure for water control projects as soon as possible; and release the stagnant funds to lower levels as soon as possible. The Ministry of Water Resources will consider this audit list as an important starting point for strengthening fund management in two ways: one, to expedite preliminary examination and approval of projects by leveraging the energetic support from the State Development and Reform Commission, land authorities, environmental evaluation authorities, and so on; two, to introduce rules and regulations to further strengthen internal management and intensify internal audit.

Eighteen institutions of higher learning charge over 800m yuan against rules; Ministry of Education says they are "studying it without wasting time"

(Excerpt from the report) An audit of, and investigation into, the 2003 financial receipts and expenditure of 18 institutions of higher learning affiliated to central organs and ministries revealed that in 2003, those 18 institutions of higher learning collected 644.27m yuan in unauthorized training fees, MBA tuition fees, and so on; 60.10m yuan worth of fees expressly prohibited by the state; 52.19m yuan in tuition fees, accommodation charges, and so on, over and above the standard rates and scope; and other excessive fees. The total came to 868m yuan, up by 32 per cent over the previous year and representing 14.5 per cent of total fee income for that year. These audit findings indicate that collection of excessive fees in violation of rules and norms by some institutions of higher learning was particularly serious during the admission stage.

(Response to audit) A spokesperson of the Ministry of Education said: The Ministry of Education is studying, without losing time, the problem of 18 institutions of higher learning collecting excessive fees against the rules, as mentioned in the audit report.

Unauthorized buildings are erected in a "piecemeal" manner; National Tourism Administration says "not yet ready to respond today"

(Excerpt from the report) Three departments had built office towers and training centres without authorization and in violation of rules and regulations. Among those cases, from 2003 to 2004, the National Tourism Administration took a piecemeal approach and built a branch campus and logistics base of the Cadre College for Tourism Management against the rules in Zhuozhou, Hebei. The site was 168 mu

[one mu is equal to 0.0667 ha; 11.2 ha] in area and 56m yuan was invested.

(Response to audit) Our reporter twice contacted a staff member of the National Tourism Administration General Office. Before getting off work, this staff member said: Directors of the relevant departments and bureaus have discussed this issue. We are not yet ready to respond today. We may respond later.

At the site of the enclosed land in Zhuozhou, Hebei, some workers were drilling a well. According to them, nobody from the National Tourism Administration is living here. They would only come over from Beijing when something arises that needs their attention.

According to Zhang Youlin, deputy director of the Land and Natural Resources Bureau of Zhuozhou City, the 168-mu site occupied by the branch campus of the Cadre College for Tourism Management is a piece of state-owned stock land, not a newly requisitioned plot. It was assigned to the National Tourism Administration in May 2004 for a consideration of 10.15m yuan and a period of 50 years. "The formalities of the land transfer were lawful." The public bidding and design planning for the project have now been completed.

Waterworks fund of 100m yuan becomes subsidies and bonuses; Shaanxi Finance and Taxation Department vows to "put it right as soon as the problem is pointed out"

(Excerpt from the report) Between 1998 and 2003, the finance and taxation authorities of Shaanxi retained an operational fee of 122m yuan from the waterworks fund raised, which represented 10 per cent of the total amount of fund raised across the province for that period. Most of it was spent on subsidies and bonuses for employees.

(Response to audit) The finance and taxation authorities of Shaanxi Province admitted that this was true and vowed to put it right without delay, now that it had been pointed out.

Shi Lei, deputy director of the General Section of Shaanxi Provincial Finance Department, said: There was no alternative to rewarding the land tax collectors. The waterworks fund is not a taxation project, so we cannot collect it entirely by invoking the Tax Law. If the labour service fee is not decent enough, the land tax collectors at the grassroots level will be less motivated and the contributions to the fund collected will decrease. In order to meet the funding demand of water control projects across the province, the finance authorities siphoned a portion of the fund to give incentives to the collectors.

According to the information supplied, after this was found out by the Chengdu Office of the National Audit Administration last year, it caught the attention of the finance and taxation sector of Shaanxi Province. In December 2004, the relevant departments of Shaanxi Province issued a joint notice demanding that all departments responsible for collecting contributions to, and allocating, the waterworks fund draw from the fund in strict accordance with policy requirements without exceeding the prescribed percentages. In 2004, the Finance Bureau of Xian City also stopped the practice of keeping a 7-per cent incentive from excess

contributions to the waterworks fund.

Lanxiang General Factory of Machinery obtains central fiscal grant by deception; former factory manager Jiang Shuibao is handed over to judicial authorities

(Excerpt from the report) An audit on the economic liability of former leaders of 10 central enterprises during their tenure revealed that Changzhou Lanxiang General Factory of Machinery had defrauded the central treasury of an aggregate total of 11.1m yuan in basic subsistence allowances for laid-off employees, by inflating the number of layoffs. The legal representative of the factory made a personal decision to use 1m yuan of public money as bribes and the individuals involved are suspected of being guilty.

(Response to audit) Lanxiang General Factory of Machinery is a large state-owned enterprise affiliated to China Aviation Industry Corporation II. According to Zhang Quansheng, deputy secretary of the factory's party committee and chairman of its trade union, former factory manager Jiang Shuibao was found through the audit to have defrauded the central treasury of an aggregate total of 11.1m yuan in basic subsistence allowances for laid-off employees by inflating the number of layoffs. In January 2005, the authorities concerned started investigating Jiang Shuibao and he has now been handed over to the judicial authorities. Furthermore, the corporation is conducting a termination audit on Jiang Shuibao.

State-owned assets "metamorphose" into cadre housing; Huaming Co argues "there is nothing wrong"

(Excerpt from the report) From 1998 to April 2002, Guohua Power Co, a subsidiary of Shenhua Group Co Limited, offered its decommissioned generating units, free of charge, to its diversified subsidiary, Beijing Huaming Heating and Power Engineering Co, so the latter could run them and bring them into its core production plan for on-grid generation, thereby encroaching on the profit margin of its core business. Huaming Heating and Power Engineering Co made a profit of 88.25m yuan, of which 40.92m yuan was spent on commercial housing for the middle-ranking and senior officers of Guohua Power Co.

(Response to audit) Initially, a person in charge of Shenhua Group said: We are one of the five high-profile mega enterprises founded towards the end of last year. What kind of problem can there be? A deputy party secretary of Guohua Power also said: We do not know what kind of problem the audit discovered. They did not give us any feedback on the shop floor.

After some back-and-forth communication, a deputy party secretary of Huaming Co consented to an interview. He said: In 1999, Huaming Co, a subsidiary of Guohua Power, scrapped seven generating units, with a combined capacity of 300,000 kW, which had been in operation since 1958, in accordance with what was required by the documents of such departments as the then Ministry of Power Industry. We sold the equipment and spent part of the proceeds purchasing commercial housing for our employees. We also made the employees pay a certain amount towards the cost, as required by the regulations.

This deputy party secretary said: "Throughout the process, we acted in strict

accordance with the relevant regulations every step of the way. There is nothing to rectify or improve upon. I have contacted those who conducted the audit. There is indeed nothing wrong with our handling of the seven generating units. We hope the media would report the facts as they are."

Thirty-three residential units sold through irregular "insider auction and purchase"; several people in charge of Great Wall Asset Management Co disciplined

(Excerpt from the report) The Changchun office of Great Wall Asset Management Corporation organized an auction for 33 repossessed commercial residential units. The actual sale price was 54 per cent lower than the going rate and 80 per cent of the successful bidders were the staff of that office and the remainder were mostly relatives of the staff.

(Response to audit) Liu He, a person in charge of the General Management Department of the Changchun office of China Great Wall Asset Management Corporation, said: The audit findings are basically true. He admitted that close to 30 employees of the company's 102-strong staff bought properties at the auction and that he also bought an apartment of 140 sq.m., at a price of over 200,000 yuan.

Liu He said: Although we bought the properties at a public auction, it was nevertheless a serious violation of the corporation's rules and regulations, such as "prohibition against participation by cadres and employees in the purchase of bad assets disposed of by the company". After the National Audit Administration raised this point, the corporation took it very seriously and requested the Changchun office to organize a revaluation of the right of land use associated with the 33 repossessed commercial residential properties or to determine the actual value of such right by referring to the price of the adjacent land and apportion it among the successful bidders, to make up for the loss incurred by the omission of land valuation in the auction. Shi Deyi, general manager of the Changchun office, was given an administrative disciplinary warning; Hua Changchun, deputy general manager and chairperson of the office committee, was given an administrative disciplinary warning; Mou Tiejun, deputy general manager, was given an admonition; and Wang Yafeng, section chief leading the project team with direct responsibility for the case, had an administrative demerit recorded.

Wang Xingyi, president of China Great Wall Asset Management Corporation, said: The National Audit Administration's audit findings on the financial asset management company are comprehensive, objective, and impartial. Great Wall Corporation will regard this audit as a new starting point; analyse and study the problems identified in the audit in a comprehensive manner; identify the inadequacies in our mechanisms and systems and in the means of internal management; and further strengthen our internal management and intensify our internal audit. Confronted with these problems, Great Wall Asset Management Corporation is guarding against the occurrence of various internal risks with the development of the "Three-Iron" Programme, namely, "ironclad rules and regulations, iron account books, and iron files".

Exaggerating number of employees by nearly 4,000, Oriental Asset Management Co says it has undergone "thoroughgoing rectification and improvement"

(Excerpt from the report) From 2000 to 2003, Oriental Asset Management Co misrepresented the size of its workforce to the Ministry of Finance, inflating the figure by 3,983. The Ministry of Finance allocated an additional staff budget of 198m yuan, of which extra payroll alone amounted to 133m yuan.

(Response to audit) Oriental claimed that the company had employed a large number of temporary workers in different periods over the past five years, as dictated by the actual needs of its work. If they were indiscriminately categorized as made-up staff, it would be very inconsistent with what really happened.

But Oriental did admit that the company had failed to regulate the management of temporary employees adequately and failed to manage them properly in the same way as the formal employees were managed. This might seriously undermine the company's effort to refine its operational mechanism, move towards commercialization, and maintain sustainable development. The party committee of the company indicated that it was deeply critical of its own failure, sincerely accepted the criticism, and would plug the loopholes by perfecting the system as the first step. This problem has now been put through thoroughgoing rectification and improvement and the Ministry of Finance has meted out stern punishment.

Oriental said: The specific individuals liable have now been penalized with administrative expulsion and expulsion from the party; the departmental heads directly responsible, as leaders, for the disorganized labour management of the company have been removed from all positions in and outside the party; and the departmental heads responsible for the disorganized monetary management of the company and negligence in financial supervision have been demoted and removed from positions within the party. Other individuals with general liability have been dealt with differently according to their circumstances: 10 cited for criticism in a circular (including four general managers and deputy general managers of the corporation), nine admonished (including one general manager and six managers), and 27 fined.

Source: Xinhua news agency domestic service, Beijing, in Chinese 1735 gmt 28 Jun 05

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China sees a health-care gold rush

STIMES0020050628e16t00004

Prime News

Tschang Chi-chu , China Correspondent

1064 Words

29 June 2005

Straits Times

English

(c) 2005 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

BEIJING - WHAT'S a Taiwanese snack-food giant doing building a hospital in China?

That was a question stock market analysts puzzled over after Singapore-listed Want

Want Holdings decided to set up a hospital in Hunan province.

As Taiwan's largest snack food manufacturer, 92.3 per cent of its revenue comes from rice crackers, gummy sweets and milk. Until now, it has had no experience running a hospital.

Yet it has invested 640 million yuan (S\$131.8 million) to build the 520-bed Hunan Want Want Hospital, which opened on May 28 in Changsha. It has plans to triple the number of beds.

Want Want is one of a growing number of multinational corporations and foreign investors with no health-care experience putting their money into joint-venture hospitals in China.

China allowed foreign investors to take a majority stake in hospitals three years ago. Since then, investors from Hong Kong, Taiwan and as far away as America have set up more than 200 hospitals and clinics.

'There's a 'gold-rush' fever in China with health care,' said Mr David Wood, the American president of China Care Group, a consulting firm that advises would-be investors in this sector.

With a population of 1.3 billion set to age dramatically over the next 50 years, China can expect demand for health-care services to boom.

Its mainly state-run hospitals are in a sad state, even as a large and growing pool of better-off Chinese are willing to pay more for higher-quality care.

Almost 90 per cent of China's hospitals are still managed by state-owned enterprises or government organisations, including the People's Liberation Army.

They charge rates which are fixed at artificially low levels by the government to keep health care affordable.

To bump up their revenues, Chinese hospitals are notorious for over-prescribing drugs or charging patients for needless tests and scans.

Newspapers said a recent audit of 10 Beijing hospitals found they bilked patients of a total of 11.9 million yuan last year. Some officials are under investigation.

Patients also complain about poor service and the attitudes of doctors, nurses and receptionists.

At the Beijing Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital, one of the bigger hospitals in the capital, patients must first buy a 5 yuan numbered ticket to see a regular doctor. It is 14 yuan to see a specialist.

Tickets go on sale from 7am and patients often arrive hours earlier. A woman who went there at 5am recently found more than a dozen others already in line.

Some hospitals offer a 'VIP' registration service - you beat the queue if you pay 200 to 300 yuan for a ticket. Xinhua news agency reported recently that a Chinese-foreign clinic in Shanghai was charging 600 to 1,000 yuan for a ticket.

There are many smaller, less well-known hospitals with no crowds, but patients say they avoid those because they do not trust the doctors.

Five years ago, Beijing began efforts to reform the health-care sector by opening it up to foreign and private investments.

Since then, scores of state-owned enterprises have unloaded their hospitals to local governments or Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs.

Foreign investors can now take as much as a 70 per cent stake in a joint-venture hospital.

Those who have come include South Korean conglomerate SK Group, which opened a modest 50-bed facility in Beijing in April last year. The SK Hospital focuses mainly on cosmetic care, from plastic surgery to eye and dental treatments.

Taiwanese mobile phone giant BenQ is going big with plans to open a 1,500-bed hospital in Nanjing in 2007, and to double the number of beds within five years.

Company chairman and chief executive officer K.Y. Lee told The Straits Times it is a way to contribute to Chinese society, and added: 'We think it's good to promote our brand awareness to the local community as well.' There are sceptics who warn that foreign investors buying hospitals may be heading for disaster.

China Care Group's Mr Wood tells of two groups of foreign investors with no health-care experience which each bought several hospitals.

When he asked an executive of one company why it bought four hospitals in Shanghai without a plan to improve them, the reply was: 'Well, I had to buy them before someone else did.'

'That's why I call it gold-rush fever,' said Mr Wood, president of China's first joint venture hospital, the Beijing United Family Hospital, for three years until 2003. The people behind most of these new private hospitals and clinics say they do have a business model, but it is generally the same: offer specialty services aimed at the upper and middle classes.

As for-profit hospitals, they are not subject to government limits on how much they can charge patients.

Mr John Born is the American chairman and CEO of Capitis-China, which opened a 100-bed primary care clinic in Beijing two months ago. He said it hoped to attract expatriates, but that target group would not be enough in the longer term.

A more sustainable growth model would aim at attracting the emerging Chinese

middle class, he said.

Still, hospital operators must be mindful that if they charge too much, Chinese patients may not come.

Each consultation with a doctor at the Beijing United Family Hospital costs about US\$100 (S\$169); a regular room costs US\$830 a night, and a VIP room, US\$1,200.

When Chinese singer Na Ying gave birth there last year, she reportedly spent a total of 120,000 yuan.

At those rates, the hospital charges 35 times more than a local hospital. For now, more than three-quarters of its 35 beds are empty on any given night, and Mr Wood says it did not turn a profit from 2000 to last year.

Want Want Holdings director Cheng Wen-Hsien says his company's Hunan hospital will charge rates competitive with local hospitals while aiming to be profitable. He expects it to break even in two or three years, as many hospitals in Changsha already charge rates fast approaching international standards.

'Our hospital wasn't built for the wealthy,' said Mr Cheng.

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Sino-British joint medical aid project launched in Yinchuan

BDU0000020050629e16t00014

180 Words

29 June 2005

Industry Updates

English

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A Sino-British medical aid project, which aims to provide free medical service for the impoverished, is officially launched in Yinchuan, capital of Northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, according to a local official Tuesday.

Since first startup in 2001, the project was jointly set up by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Civil Affairs and British International Development Office, with the aim to improve China's community health service system and medical aid system for urban poor people.

The project will benefit 40,000 poor urban residents in Yinchuan, and the service includes clinics, community, and family health service, according to the Chinese side of the project.

Martin Tyler, representative of the British side, said both Chinese and British governments have attached great importance to this project and shared the same goal as preventing HIV and pulmonary tuberculosis.

Wu Zengfeng, a local health official, said Britain and China may cooperate more extensively in the field, and this project is bound to help China's development of

medical aid system.

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China seeks to curb over-prescribing, but causes go beyond doctors' actions.

MKLT000020050628e16r0001r

670 Words

27 June 2005

Pharma Marketletter

0

ISSN: 1355-8501

English

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The widespread abuse of antibiotics by Chinese doctors is alarming the government to the extent that drug authorities have been forced to take control measures, according to Wu Wongpei, director of the Department of Pharmacy Regulation at the National Institute of Hospital Administration.

"There is no cure for the common cold caused by a virus, yet doctors, especially in rural areas, indiscriminately prescribe an antibiotic, which is endangering public health," said Dr Wu. China lacks a united, complete administration policy for drug research, production, marketing, usage and surveillance, and the irrational use of antibiotics and other drugs is not just due to doctors, he said. "Other factors, including national drug policies, hospital management and even the ignorance of the public leads to the situation. To cure a cold, many people go for the antibiotics option, either intravenously or drugs bought at pharmacies," he noted, and warned: "the abuse of antibiotics will make more and more pathogenic bacteria become resistant and, one day, there might be no effective antibiotics."

Nine state depts producing Rx policy independently

A major reason for the problem is that, in China, nine State Council departments are involved with drugs, including their use, production, pricing and advertising. Each department usually focuses on its own interests when making policies, instead of cooperating with the others, say local reports.

Moreover, almost all the western medicines made by China's 6,000 domestic drugmakers are copies of patent-expired products. There are strict monitoring regulations for the production of new western medicines but not for patent-expired drugs. Some firms may be licensed to produce an out-of-patent antibiotic and many smaller companies are totally dependent on one particular drug, so they will use any method, legal or not, to sell it to hospitals, pharmacies and rural clinics.

Their most successful method is through commissions to doctors and hospitals to give their drugs priority. Hospitals suffering a chronic shortage of funds, due partly to limited government subsidies, are particularly susceptible to this boost to their income from drug sales. Inevitably, faulty or over-prescribing by doctors and incorrect use by patients is the result, producing resistance and, subsequently, an increase in the incidence of the disease being treated.

In order to improve usage control, the State Food and Drug Administration has, since last July, required drugstores to sell antibiotics only to those customers who have a doctor's prescription. This has led to antibiotics' gradual disappearance from drugstores, as patients can buy them for less at hospitals. Yan Min, director of the SFDA's Department of Drug Safety and Inspection, says the aim is to ensure that all prescription drugs are sold only in this way by January 1, 2006.

In most hospitals, doctors dominate the provision of prescriptions, with no intervention by pharmacists. The Ministry of Health accepts that doctors lack effective knowledge of many modern drugs and that they prescribe new antibiotics without due care. To strength surveillance of prescribing practices, an MoH regulation issued last year requires prescriptions to be carefully screened by clinical pharmacists and physicians, and for patients to be shown how to use the drug effectively, but its effectiveness is reduced by a shortage of clinical pharmacists.

China has some 320,000 hospitals and clinics but just 370,000 pharmacists, and most of those involved with direct medical treatment are not clinical pharmacists. This year, the MoH has instituted training schemes for pharmacists and strengthened doctors' pharmaceutical training, and is drafting new rules on pharmacy administration in hospitals, to highlight the role pharmacists should play in clinical treatment.

However strong the government's determination to control excessive and illegal drug use, some basic problems in drug administration and health education remain, with piecemeal attempts having only limited and sometimes adverse effects. As millions of people in China cannot access adequate health care, rational and effective drug use, at all levels, remains a long-term but vital objective.

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CITY DOCTORS HEADING TO RURAL CLINICS

CHNDLY0020050624e16p00009

By Wang Zhenghua

524 Words

25 June 2005

China Daily

English

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Farmers have always had lower quality medical services than people in the city, so now the Ministry of Health intends to fix the imbalance.

But whatever form comprehensive reform of the country's medical system ultimately takes, State-owned hospitals will not be opened to market competition, a top official in the ministry told China Daily on Friday.

Instead, the ministry plans to send tens of thousands of sophisticated medical practitioners from premium hospitals nationwide to local clinics as part of a one-year programme designed for personnel training and service improvement.

They have been instructed to alleviate difficulties rural residents have in accessing

and affording medical services and to help diagnose common diseases.

Each hospital could get 24,000 yuan (US\$2,900) from the Ministry of Finance for each doctor sent to work in rural areas on top of any subsidies the provinces already provide.

"The hygienic conditions in rural areas and the health of farmers have been a major cause of concern for us," Health Minister Gao Qiang said yesterday in Beijing as he addressed a ceremony attended by health professionals who each signed a responsibility pledge for the programme.

Aside from medical equipment and facilities, professional medical personnel are also urgently needed in villages.

Sun Dongdong, a professor at Peking University's law School, cited one example.

"Patients in Pinggu and Huairou, two suburban counties of Beijing, have a hard time getting access to proper treatment, though they are quite near the capital, which has the most high-level hospitals in the country," Sun said.

During the ceremony, which attracted about three dozen leaders of provincial health departments, Gao urged the programme to be carried out on a regular basis.

"Premium hospitals in cities and medical institutions at and below the county level should establish a fixed co-operative relation," Gao said, adding that by-then-experienced physicians could offer regular and long-term assistance.

Also yesterday, Vice-Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei told China Daily: "The ministry has never thought of transferring the ownership of hospitals, and it will definitely not be a key issue in a comprehensive medical system reform."

Sun, who's also an expert appointed to the ministry's committee formed to discuss possible changes, said reform has not even reached the draft stage yet.

In the meantime, teams in 10 provinces and autonomous regions, including Beijing and South China's Guangdong Province, are examining actions taken by local governments to fight illegal medical practices.

"Since April 21, a nationwide action team in charge of striking at illegal medical practices has received about 180 reports of quack doctors, 160 of medical institution departments' illegally renting to individuals, and a few cases of misidentifying the sex of fetuses," the ministry's statement said yesterday.

Local governments had been told to take firm action based on the reports, and supervision teams are supposed to report the outcome of the crackdown early next month. "Standardizing medical practices will protect public health and help maintain public order," Zheng Bixian, a Jiangsu Provincial Health Bureau official, said.

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UN warns of serious consequences if China does not stop misuse of flu drug

AFPR000020050622e16m001uq

CS

610 Words

22 June 2005

08:14 GMT

Agence France Presse

English

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BEIJING, June 22 (AFP) -

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned Wednesday there could be serious consequences for China and Asia if the government does not stamp out misuse of a bird flu drug.

"If farmers here are provided with amantadine and the virus becomes resistant, that means if something happens to another country or within China, if people take amantadine against the flu, it would be useless," Nouredin Mona, the FAO's representative in China, told AFP.

"We feel this situation is risky. We have to be very concerned about it and well prepared."

Misuse of the anti-viral drug amantadine is at the centre of a health scare triggered by a Washington Post report citing experts saying Chinese farmers, with government backing, had widely used the drug to combat the deadly bird flu virus in poultry since the 1990s.

Using the drug on animals could render it useless as it raises the chances of the virus becoming resistant to it, and resistance could easily develop in animals as it is more difficult to ensure proper dosage, experts said.

The fear is that a resistant virus in animals could be easily transmitted to humans, in which case amantadine -- one of only a few anti-viral flu medicine available -- would be ineffective.

China has denied it permitted farmers to use the drug, but comments by one official in the state media suggested some farmers may have used amantadine illegally to save their infected flocks, instead of culling them as recommended.

The Chinese government has said it will investigate and punish those who misuse the drug, suggesting misuse has occurred.

The FAO Wednesday was still awaiting information from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture on how widespread use of amantadine in poultry was. The World Health Organization has also requested details.

"How many and where, we really don't know. It's the ministry's duty to really know

how many, where and to stop them," Mona said.

The Washington Post report said amantadine could be purchased cheaply and easily in China.

"It should not be sold in markets, but by prescription only," Mona said, adding that it was crucial China stop farmers from using the drug.

"It's not only about saving your flock for today or one month, but you are creating a very risky situation within China and outside of China," he said. "It's not just a matter for China, but a matter for the region."

The consequences were not only in terms of health, but economics, Mona said.

If farmers use amantadine instead of destroying infected flocks, that could lead to the spread of bird flu, which could devastate not only China's but other countries' poultry industry.

"This type of disease is not just a matter of disease, it's a matter of economics. The consumers also will be affected, by shortage of supplies, meat. ... This will affect many countries, such as Thailand and Cambodia," Mona said.

"China knows their responsibility as an emerging superpower in economic terms ... We trust they are fully aware of the consequences."

So far bird flu is mainly transmitted between birds, but experts fear the H5N1 virus could be devastating to humans if it genetically mutates and develops the capacity to be transmitted from human to human.

The WHO has warned that if this happens it could trigger a new human flu pandemic, potentially killing up to 50 million people worldwide.

A total of 54 people have died from the H5N1 virus since the beginning of the epidemic in 2003.

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China healthcare: Ministry puts focus on AIDS

EXBR000020050622e16l0000r

329 Words

21 June 2005

Economist Intelligence Unit - Executive Briefing

Executive Briefing

6

English

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FROM THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

China's HIV/AIDS epidemic was recently brought into the spotlight following

comments from the nation's premier, Wen Jiabao, at a meeting with the executive director of the United Nations HIV/AIDS Programme. Mr Wen asserted that the government was "determined and capable" of curbing the spread of the disease, which official figures say affects 840,000 Chinese. International groups believe this is a serious underestimate, and the United Nations has predicted that China will have 10m cases on its hands in five years if the current situation is not addressed.

A new law has been drafted by the Ministry of Health to protect HIV/AIDS sufferers from discrimination, and is due to be implemented by the end of the year. AIDS has long carried a stigma in China, and according to a 2004 survey carried out among urban residents at the instruction of the Ministry of Health, 60% of those asked said they would be nervous to have contact with people who are HIV positive. Fear and ignorance of the disease are believed to be major stumbling blocks on the route to slowing or halting its spread, while the government has long been unwilling to acknowledge the full extent and implications of the virus's presence in the country. Only since the beginning of 2003 have the authorities been openly tackling the problem, when the provision of free anti-retroviral treatment to certain patients was announced, along with free screening and financial assistance for AIDS orphans. In 2004, the AIDS Prevention Committee was established, involving 23 government departments and institutions. During his meeting with the UN, Mr Wen pointed to the recent enactment of a series of policies concerning HIV/AIDS prevention, increased intervention work among high-risk groups and enhanced public education aimed at improving people's awareness and understanding of the disease.

Executive Briefing 21 Jun 2005 (T00:15), Part 6 of 28

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Chinese medicine kills one child, makes 151 sick

ELINE00020050621e16l0005o

147 Words

21 June 2005

Reuters Health E-Line

English

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BEIJING (Reuters) - Herbal medicine prescribed to primary schoolchildren in southwest China to ward off chickenpox killed one and made 151 sick, Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday.

The accident happened in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, on Wednesday when more than 200 children took a homemade herbal concoction, Xinhua said.

About 150 children suffered diarrhea, nausea and vomiting after taking the medicine, a mixture of some 15 types of traditional herbs, it said.

"The investigation team ... confirmed that each ingredient of the recipe was safe and measured up to the state's medical standards," Xinhua said, blaming the ill effects on

a reaction to a faulty combination of the herbs.

The 151 children had all recovered and left hospital by Monday.

Last Updated: 2005-06-21 10:41:33 -0400 (Reuters Health)

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China, US to train 500 senior Chinese health officials

XNEWS00020050621e16l0066b

220 Words

21 June 2005

Xinhua News Agency

English

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BEIJING, June 21 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Ministry of Health, Beijing-based Qinghua University and US-based Harvard University on Tuesday signed a memorandum of intent on senior health executive training project.

"China not only needs excellent doctors, but also needs excellent health policy makers and qualified presidents of hospitals", said Health Minister Gao Qiang at the signing ceremony.

The development of Chinese public health service should rely on support and cooperation with the international society as well as China itself, Gao noted, adding that the project is hopefully a successful and fruitful one under the collaboration with the two distinguished universities.

"Harvard is anxious to be helpful in the project, which will help create open-minded and knowledgeable leaders in the health sector of China," said Barry Bloom, president of Harvard School of Public Health.

They are looking forward to creating a partnership and establishing the project in a bid to improve policy analyzing and implementation capacity among senior Chinese health officials and managers of health, Bloom said.

Qinghua University has trained nearly 1,000 health officials for the ministry since 2003, according to vice-president of the university Gong Ke.

The five-year project will hold two training courses every year which will enroll 500 senior health officials and administrative leaders.

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China and WHO to provide AIDS intervention for homosexuals

AFPR000020050619e16j004s9

CS

286 Words

19 June 2005

07:47 GMT

Agence France Presse

English

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BEIJING, June 19 (AFP) -

China and the World Health Organization (WHO) will run a joint project to help homosexuals protect themselves against AIDS in the central province of Hunan beginning this year, state media said Sunday.

Beijing-based WHO expert Zhao Pengfei, quoted by Xinhua news agency, said the program would involve spending four million dollars to reach out to homosexual groups in eight areas of Hunan province by 2007.

The program is unusual since homosexuality is still considered a taboo subject in China and China's AIDS prevention programs rarely target homosexuals.

The program will also cover six other cities in Hunan by monitoring AIDS/HIV infections among homosexuals and providing medical treatment and psychological counselling.

It includes providing male homosexuals with meeting places where condoms and advice on HIV/AIDS will be available.

"WHO will provide technical support for all the activities," said Zhao.

Trial operations will be launched in the cities of Changsha and Hengyang before the end of this year, the report said.

AIDS/HIV monitoring and intervention programs were introduced in Hunan just two years ago, but like the rest of China, few such programs are geared towards homosexuals.

During a visit to China this month, the United Nations top HIV/AIDS official urged China to provide more assistance to high-risk groups such as drug users, sex workers and homosexuals.

"The most vulnerable population are at highest risk but they are getting the least attention," said Peter Piot.

China has an estimated 840,000 people infected with HIV, including 80,000 with full-blown AIDS, according to official figures. International groups believe the real figure is much higher.

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Chinese province to screen foreigners for AIDS

BBCAPP0020050617e16h001gt

521 Words

17 June 2005

09:38 GMT

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific

English

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Text of report by reporter Qin Qing by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency) Asia-Pacific service

Kunming, 17 June: Yunnan province recently issued a circular on strengthening the work of monitoring the entry of aliens with HIV. The circular requires inspection and quarantine organs to notify their local public security organ in writing details regarding aliens screened and tested positive for HIV. The local public security organ will cut short their stays in China or cancel their residence status.

According to the person of the Yunnan Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in charge of this work, this decision was made by Yunnan pursuant to the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the PRC [People's Republic of China] and its implementing rules, the Implementing Rules for the Law on the Entry and Exit of Aliens, and other laws and regulations. These regulations require aliens who are 18 years of age or over to present the Certificate of Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Physical Examination Record of Visitors or the Health Examination Record for International Travels issued by the entry-exit inspection and quarantine organ at ports of entry when they apply to the public security organ for residence permits with a validity of more than one year for the first time. Aliens in prefectures and cities without entry-exit inspection and quarantine organs must go to their nearest entry-exit inspection and quarantine organs to complete health attestation procedures or receive health examination according to regulations.

Once an alien is confirmed to be HIV-infected, the inspection and quarantine organ must provide written details regarding the patient to the Yunnan public security and frontier defence general unit at regular intervals and have his or her name included in the border control alert list. This alien will be escorted out of the country by the local inspection and quarantine organ and the reception unit concerned with the assistance of public security organs.

It is understood that Yunnan has also established a monitoring and control mechanism for aliens. In the case of aliens screened and found by local medical and health departments to be HIV-infected, medical and health departments at all levels should promptly report the confirmation findings to their local inspection and quarantine organ under the coordination of the local office of the working committee for the prevention and control of AIDS, and the patients will be escorted out of the country by the inspection and quarantine organ that received the report and the reception units with the assistance of the public security organ.

Inhabitants of border areas outside the country who need to make short stays in a frontier county (city) in Yunnan or make their transit there before moving on must present to the public security organ the Health Certificate for International Travels issued by the port inspection and quarantine organ. The port frontier defence departments will assist the inspection and quarantine organs in doing a good job of

quarantine inspection work on arriving aliens.

Source: Xinhua news agency, Beijing, in Chinese 0116 gmt 17 Jun 05

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Beijing to tackle Aids in 5-year plan

STIMES0020050615e16g00016

Asia - China

Chua Chin Hon , China Bureau Chief

298 Words

16 June 2005

Straits Times

English

(c) 2005 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

BEIJING - FOR the first time, China plans to write its Aids prevention policies into the country's upcoming five-year plan, a sign of the growing urgency in reining in the epidemic.

In its nine-point plan, Beijing will step up educational campaigns and Aids-related research, as well as ensure that patients have access to free medicine.

Beijing will also allocate funds specifically to Aids prevention in the budgets of agencies and ministries in the 11th five-year plan from next year to 2010, the Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. The plan was discussed at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, who told a top United Nations official last week that China was capable of controlling the Aids epidemic.

China has so far officially acknowledged having only 840,000 people infected with HIV, including 80,000 with full-blown Aids.

Health experts and international health groups have said that the figure is outdated and underestimates the extent of the problem in China.

The UN has predicted that 10 million people in China would be infected by 2010 if the epidemic goes unchecked, while a US human rights group said this week that Beijing's harassment of Aids activists and heavy-handed approach to controlling information could hinder prevention efforts.

Beijing has acknowledged the severity of the situation on numerous occasions, with Xinhua reporting last night: 'China's Aids prevention efforts are at a crucial period. We must recognise the importance and urgency of this task.'

Under the new plan, China also plans to tackle the wider social fallout by providing free education to children orphaned by Aids, as well as upholding the legal and labour rights of patients.

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China AIDS workers face harassment, threats-rights group

LBA0000020050615e16f0000a

By Lindsay Beck

544 Words

15 June 2005

00:01 GMT

Reuters News

English

(c) 2005 Reuters Limited

BEIJING, June 15 (Reuters) - Chinese AIDS activists face harassment, censorship and detentions in their work, persecution that hampers China's fight against the disease, a human rights group said on Wednesday.

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said state controls prevented the establishment of grassroots groups to battle the spread of the virus and Internet restrictions had shut down Web sites that provided information to gay men and lesbians.

The problems were most acute in Henan, the central province where millions sold blood to unsanitary, often state-run clinics during the 1990s in a scandal that made it the centre of China's AIDS crisis.

"Henan officials have detained those activists who complained too loudly or who took matters into their own hands by initiating grassroots initiatives to fill the gaps left by the state," the group said in a report.

After being slow to acknowledge the problem, China has stepped up its fight against AIDS, with top leaders publicly shaking hands with patients and a new law to protect those infected against discrimination, aware of UN warnings of 10 million cases by 2010 unless action is taken.

STIGMA

But China still says it has only 840,000 cases and its battle against the disease remains hamstrung by its suspicion of civil society groups established to help fight AIDS and social stigmas surrounding fastest-growing groups -- drug users and sex workers.

"How can drug users go to the government? The police could be waiting for you at the same time you exchange clean needles with health officials," said Chinese AIDS activist Hu Jia.

"They ask sex workers to carry condoms in their handbags. But if the police find condoms in the bag of a young woman, that is the evidence they use to arrest them," said Hu, who himself has experienced police harassment because of his work.

Hu said because of those problems, non-governmental organisations could be more effective at AIDS prevention work, but Chinese restrictions made it difficult to establish such groups.

And while experts agree the central government's attitude towards AIDS has changed since the SARS outbreak in 2003, the situation is often different in the

provinces.

"Many entrenched local officials who may have a limited understanding of AIDS and how it is transmitted and fear any public discussion of the disease as a source of embarrassment that threatens external investment," Human Rights Watch said.

In Henan, for example, a home for AIDS orphans was forcibly closed last year and staff who tried to raise the issue with authorities were detained for a month.

Visiting Beijing, the head of UNAIDS said the top leadership was "fully committed" to the fight against AIDS, but added there was more to be done at the grassroots level.

The next step is to "make sure that every provincial government takes the same type of leadership", Peter Piot said.

"And that's not going to be easy in a country of 1.3 billion people, particularly in those provinces that are the worst hit by AIDS, which also happen to be poor provinces."

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With less of a safety net, Chinese practice thrift

INHT000020050614e16e0000c

NEWS

David Lague

International Herald Tribune

1333 Words

14 June 2005

International Herald Tribune

3

2

English

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BEIJING:

Zhang Yilei feels that she is living through the best times of her life, what she calls her "golden years."

She and her husband have well-paid jobs in this thriving capital at a time when China's prolonged economic boom is delivering prosperity and opportunity on a scale that would have been difficult for earlier generations to imagine. But Zhang, a 32-year-old examination services officer with the British Council, just cannot bring herself to relax and spend freely.

Instead, she and her husband live frugally and save as much as 8,000 yuan, or \$965, each month, more than half their combined salaries.

Zhang and her husband are typical of millions of Chinese who, after the disintegration of China's cradle-to-grave welfare system, save more and more of

their income rather than spend it on consumer goods and services.

"We are very concerned about our future," she said. "How will we pay for housing, health, education for the next generation or even further education for ourselves?" The urge to save by Zhang and people like her is frustrating economic policy makers who want China's new affluence to translate into sharply higher domestic consumption.

If consumer spending could take over from exports and investment in fixed assets as the driver of economic growth, a number of China's pressing economic and political ills could be minimized, according to analysts.

The problem for economic managers is that although sustained economic growth has delivered rising incomes for many Chinese over the last 25 years, the state's capacity to provide affordable services and social welfare across large parts of the country has disappeared almost as fast.

From gleaming new high-rise coastal cities to remote terraced villages, income earned today is earmarked for outlays tomorrow.

"They want to unleash the savings in the system, but people dare not spend," said Li Hui, who heads China research for CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets, an investment bank and brokerage firm based in Hong Kong.

"Nowadays people will not go to hospital until they are nearly dead."

Despite sharply rising living standards, the savings rate in China climbed to more than 43 percent of income in 2004 from about 26 percent in 1985, according to official figures, and some economists expect it to increase further. This rate puts Chinese in the same league as Singaporeans as the world's biggest savers, although much of Singapore's savings consists of mandatory contributions to a social security program.

In the United States, the savings rate fell to less than 1 percent in the first quarter of this year, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, an agency of the Department of Commerce.

In major West European economies, savings rates now stand at about 10 percent or slightly higher, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Freer-spending Chinese might also buy more imported goods and divert some domestic production away from exports, which would cut China's trade surplus and reduce intense international pressure for a revaluation of the yuan. Instead, exports in April rose 32 percent from a year earlier as imports slowed sharply. The World Bank projects that China is on course for a trade surplus well in excess of \$100 billion this year, compared with \$32 billion last year.

Increased domestic consumption might also allow the authorities to move more firmly to curb the huge investment in infrastructure, manufacturing and real estate that has led to overheating and the risk of overcapacity in some key sectors.

Stephen Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, wrote in a recent research paper that excessive investment had the potential to create a chronic imbalance between supply and demand that could lead to deflation.

But curbing excess investment must be accompanied by measures to increase consumption, Roach said. He said household consumption in China accounted for 42 percent of gross domestic product in 2004, compared with 48 percent in 2000. By comparison, in most advanced economies, consumption typically makes up 65 percent of GDP.

"Without the internal support of private consumption, China's investment-led growth model will become top-heavy and unsustainable," Roach said. "This is a key strategic imperative for the rebalancing of the Chinese economy."

Chinese consumers seem to have different priorities. Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the central bank, the People's Bank of China, acknowledged at a conference in Beijing last Tuesday that it was difficult to persuade Chinese to open their wallets.

"On the contrary, we have seen a drastic increase in exports," he said. "This is not something which we wish to see."

Many Chinese say a deeply rooted cultural predisposition to prepare for some future disaster or upheaval explains the country's huge savings rate. Some economists, though, say the relatively low savings rate before economic changes were introduced in 1978 leaves that explanation open to question.

What is beyond doubt is that increasingly expensive medical care, rising school fees, the absence of a soundly financed, comprehensive pension system and rocketing housing prices mean that wage earners are convinced that they will have to fend for themselves in an uncertain future. For Zhang, the exam services officer, this contrasts sharply with the relatively carefree attitude of the expatriates she works with in Beijing at the British Council, Britain's international education and culture organization.

"I'm working with foreigners who can enjoy a relaxed life but I can't," she said. "Even though I can afford it, I still can't." This insecurity is probably most keenly felt in the countryside, where the well-documented collapse of the public health system means that serious illness could all but wipe out the gains that entire families have made since the economic changes began. Even in the cities, illness can place a heavy burden on families as hospitals expect patients to pay for a bigger share of medical bills.

"Health care financing has become increasingly dependent on user charges and the sale of drugs," said a recent report that focused on urban poverty and was financed by the British government.

Even so, Li, the research chief for CLSA, said she had thought that rising incomes throughout the 1990s and into this decade would eventually lead to a repeat of the 1980s consumption boom, when millions of Chinese seemed eager to spend on household goods.

"I was wrong," said Li, who was born on the mainland. "The situation is totally different. In the early 1980s, we were poor, but we had fairly decent education and medical care coverage, so people dared to spend. Now, incomes are up, but expectations of future living costs are very blurry."

Most explanations for increased thriftiness concentrate on economics, but some analysts suspect that political uncertainty could also be a factor, even if it is subliminal for many Chinese. In a country where political upheaval is very much a part of living memory, it is difficult to predict what lies ahead for the Communist Party.

In his speech to the finance conference, Zhou said that China was working to improve pension and medical insurance systems and alter education fees in an effort to lift consumer confidence. But he also said there was a downside to increased consumer spending in a country with such a big population.

New apartments consume more of China's precious farmland and traffic becomes steadily worse as people rush to buy cars. This means that the government is also concentrating on developing service industries.

"We see that the percentage of service industry of GDP is quite low in this country," Zhou said, "so therefore there is a large potential for increase."

In the meantime, Chinese like Zhang remain skeptical that the authorities can provide a safety net that would allow them to abandon their caution. "It is ridiculous that the government encourages people to spend money," she said. "We can't be fooled by the government."

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China Becomes World's Second Largest Raw Medicine Producer

APRT000020050613e16d0000d

200 Words

13 June 2005

SinoCast China Business Daily News (Abstracts)

Page 1

English

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CHINA, June 13, SinoCast -- Along with enhancement of raw medicine production technology and improvement of pharmaceutical devices, China has soared to be the world's largest raw medicine producer after the US.

At present, China can produce more than 1,400 kinds of raw medicines with an annual production capacity of 800,000 tons, over 60 kinds of which have strong competitiveness in the global market.

90 percent of raw medicines from China is sold in the international market, and China has become an important medicine export country.

In 2004, China's medicine and health care product export amounted to USD 22.1

billion, a growth of 26 percent from the same period of last year.

For a long time, the export of raw materials for western medicine has been a source of growth for Chinese medical industry.

In the whole year of 2004, the import and export of raw materials for western medicine totaled USD 11.1 billion, 25.7 percent up year on year.

Correspondingly, the world's raw medicine production center is transferring to Asia, and prosperous Chinese market has got increasing interest from all over the world.

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HIV/AIDS Prevention; Pharma company joins fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in China

OBWK000020050603e16b000ma

751 Words

11 June 2005

Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week

783

English

(c) Copyright 2005 Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week via NewsRx.com

2005 JUN 11 - (NewsRx.com) -- The Ministry of Health (MOH) of the People's Republic of China and Merck & Co., Inc. officially established the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Cooperative Project, a public-private partnership, for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in China.

The project, the largest of its kind in China, was launched with the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Wang Longde, vice minister of health, and Judy C. Lewent, executive vice president, chief financial officer and president Human Health Asia, Merck & Co., Inc.

"China welcomes the support of the international business community to join the fight against HIV/AIDS," said Vice Premier Wu Yi, People's Republic of China, in a meeting with Lewent at Zhongnanhai. "Combating AIDS, however, is not just a government obligation. It is also the common responsibility of society as a whole, including business."

"We are dedicated to a long-term partnership with the government of China and are committed to supporting efforts towards deterring the progress of the epidemic in China," stated Lewent. "Merck brings extensive expertise in the field of HIV/AIDS and experience in supporting a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS management."

Merck has collaborated with other national governments to support the development of comprehensive initiatives in Botswana, Romania and other countries severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Merck Company Foundation has committed US\$30 million to support the partnership over the next 5 years. The government of China, through the leadership of the MOH, will provide resources such as staff, facilities and equipment. The

Ministry of Health and Merck will introduce the program in Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province starting in the fall 2005.

The goal of the partnership is to develop and apply a model that joins together all aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention, patient care, treatment and support. The model is focused on providing a range of interventions including: education, counseling, testing, harm reduction, and health services, including treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The core elements of the model are (1) identifying high risk populations that drive the epidemic, such as intravenous drug users and commercial sex workers, (2) conducting disease awareness and education programs, (3) expanding prevention strategies, such as condom distribution and needle exchange, (4) offering care and treatment programs, (5) enhancing healthcare worker training and patient management skills, and (6) providing social and economic support, ranging from establishing community networks to job skills training.

China's first HIV case was reported in 1985. There are an estimated 840,000 people living with HIV in the country today, among which about 80,000 have AIDS.

"The current situation we face in China to prevent HIV is severe," said Wang. "We are in urgent need of the support from every aspect of society to fight this disease. This partnership with Merck is a valuable example of government and business cooperation. It will have a positive impact on the comprehensive prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through mobilizing the contributions of society as a whole."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), China ranks second in Asia and 14th in the world in terms of the number of people living with HIV/AIDS. Disease prevalence varies significantly in different areas in China, and in some areas and populations the epidemic is quite serious.

China's HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts are now at a critical moment. The Chinese government has given the highest priority to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and has made HIV/AIDS prevention an important issue for the government.

The measures taken by the government include: adhering to the principle of putting prevention first, integrating prevention and treatment, and conducting a comprehensive approach to managing HIV/AIDS; establishing a working mechanism with government guidance, multi-department cooperation and social participation; and increasing funding support for HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs.

Additional measures include improving the surveillance and testing network; sponsoring health education programs targeted at the general public; carrying out behavioral interventions among the high-risk populations; promoting and implementing treatment and care; and establishing a national demonstration project aimed at comprehensive prevention and treatment under the "Four Frees and One Care" policy.

Merck & Co., Inc. is a global research-driven pharmaceutical company.

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China's migrant workers a high AIDS risk - expert

LBA0000020050609e169000iu

By Tan Ee Lyn

349 Words

09 June 2005

07:13 GMT

Reuters News

English

(c) 2005 Reuters Limited

HONG KONG, June 9 (Reuters) - China faces a tragic surge in AIDS/HIV cases unless it curbs the spread of the disease among the vast country's transient rural workforce, a Chinese health expert said on Thursday.

Wan Shao Ping, a medical doctor and project officer with the China-UK HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project in southwestern Sichuan province, said poorly educated migrant workers had highly risky sexual practices.

Wan told a health seminar in Hong Kong that there were at least 100 million such workers in China.

"The Chinese government is now putting a lot of attention on HIV/AIDS but we have to focus on the most risky group, this floating population," Wan told Reuters.

"Otherwise, they will carry the virus all over the country and it will cause a tragedy in China's public health system.

"According to surveys, 10 percent to 48 percent of males in this floating population exhibit highly risky sexual behaviour," Wan said, adding that they often visited prostitutes.

"And in this risky group of males, 70 percent have never used condoms," he said, adding that most of them were unaware of the dangers of HIV and AIDS.

Among the women, many often resort to becoming sex workers when they cannot find other work.

"These women have up to four customers a day. They spread the virus and the men take the virus all over the country," Wan said.

"So their threat to China's HIV/AIDS problem is huge."

Although China's official estimate of 840,000 HIV/AIDS cases has raised eyebrows among international health experts, the country has recently paid more attention to the epidemic after ignoring it for years.

It has sent teams of counsellors to villages across the country to teach safe sex. But Wan said that was not enough and that more effort must be put into educating migrant workers.

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China's immunization scheme makes progress amid problems

XNHA000020050608e16800106

263 Words

08 June 2005

Xinhua's China Economic Information Service

English

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BEIJING, June 8 (CEIS) -- China has made "noticeable" progress in its immunization program, while problems still exist due to such reasons as imbalanced regional development of the program and shortage of funds, Chinese Vice Minister of Health Mao Xiaowei said at an international medical conference held here on June 8.

Mao said that the incidence rates of chincough, diphtheria and tetanus and other epidemic diseases included in the country's immunization scheme have dropped to a historic low.

On the other hand, the program has witnessed "retrogression" in some economically backward and remote areas, Mao said at the 15th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and Poliomyelitis Eradication in the Western Pacific Region, which is jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization and China's Ministry of Health.

China's national immunization scheme has successfully protected "hundreds of millions of people" from being infected by once common and deadly diseases, according to the "2004 International Review of the Expanded Program on Immunizations in China" prepared by the secretariat of the meeting.

Nevertheless, statistics show that 10 poor provinces and autonomous regions failed to reach the national coverage target of either equaling or exceeding 85 percent in terms of the number of people having been inoculated against, Bacillus-Calmette-Geurrin, oral polio, combined diphtheria-pertussis- tetanus and measles.

The report suggests that special attention should be given to inoculation work in remote and backward areas and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, so as to make the scheme benefit more people.

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China becomes world's second largest medical material producer

BBCAPP0020050608e168002mh

252 Words

08 June 2005

11:04 GMT

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific

English

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Text of report in English by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Shanghai, 8 June: With annual output of 800,000 tons [tonnes] of medicinal raw materials, China has risen to be the world's second largest producer of raw materials for medicine, next only to the United States, said an official with China's health care products organization.

Cui Bin, secretary of China chamber of medicine and health care products import-export commerce, said China is capable of manufacturing 1,400 kinds of medicinal raw materials, 60 of which are competitive in the world market, and more than 90 per cent are exported.

He noted that import-export of China's medicine and health care products surpassed 22.1bn US dollars in 2004, up 26 per cent from the previous year.

The world's medicinal material manufacturing centre has shifted to Asia, and the booming Chinese market has riveted global medicinal material giants, who have already come for the market by establishing joint ventures in China.

The 2005 world pharmaceutical material exhibition, to be staged in Shanghai, is expected to attract more than 100 pharmaceutical enterprises from 20 countries and regions such as the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Germany.

However, Cui pointed out that China should strive to increase export of the ready-made Chinese medicine and raw material of traditional Chinese herbal medicine.

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UN says 'truly exceptional response' needed from China to beat AIDS

AFPR000020050608e168002s1

MP

336 Words

08 June 2005

05:57 GMT

Agence France Presse

English

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BEIJING, June 8 (AFP) -

The United Nations said Wednesday it was encouraged by China's commitment to tackle AIDS but a "truly exceptional response" was needed to get on top of the epidemic.

"Chinese leadership at the highest levels has made AIDS a priority issue -- these commitments must be made real," said UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot.

"We're encouraged by what we see but a truly exceptional response is needed to get ahead of the epidemic."

Piot is travelling with US Global AIDS Coordinator Randall Tobias to monitor the progress and challenges facing China in its response to AIDS.

They were due to spend three days in the southwestern province of Yunnan, where HIV is prevalent and there are thousands of drug addicts who share needles.

A fundamental issue for China's campaign against AIDS is the lack of information about how far the epidemic has spread.

China officially has an estimated 840,000 HIV carriers -- a figure disputed by many independent observers -- but the government has precise knowledge of only a small percentage of that conservative number.

A mere 12.7 percent of carriers was registered with the health authorities and disease control centers only had detailed records of 4.2 percent of them, according to reports by Xinhua news agency.

The United Nations has predicted 10 million cases in China in five years' time if the epidemic goes unchecked.

Tobias said the United States was committed to helping China battle the disease.

"The United States will continue to support China's efforts in our shared fight against HIV/AIDS," he said in a statement.

"This visit and the opportunity I've had to meet with Chinese officials helps to ensure US support is consistent with China's HIV/AIDS goals and objectives."

During the trip Piot and Tobias will discuss issues such as reducing stigma and discrimination, raising HIV and AIDS awareness and strengthening the response to the epidemic.

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PROSTITUTES TARGETED IN ANTI-AIDS BATTLE

CHNDLY0020050607e1680000f

By Wang Zhenghua

272 Words

08 June 2005

China Daily

English

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Prostitutes are being made the focus of the Ministry of Health's latest efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS.

According to a draft guideline released by the ministry on Monday, prostitutes are to be offered HIV/AIDS and safe-sex education, as well as tests and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the draft, education will be provided by trained peers and professional

health workers.

"Intervention with prostitutes is more difficult compared with drug addicts who are more easily identifiable because they often gather together and only a certain group of people take drugs," Wang Longde, vice-minister for health, said earlier this month.

Although illegal, prostitution is widespread throughout China.

A part-time homosexual masseur from Beijing's Chaoyang District who identified himself only as Zhang was all for the new approach.

"The test for HIV/AIDS or STDs is totally OK with me," he said.

The man, who said he engaged in prostitution only "occasionally," believes it is extremely unlikely he is infected with HIV/AIDS because he uses condoms.

As well as STD patients, prostitutes and homosexuals, the health ministry is also to target long-term migrant workers and drug addicts.

Patients with STDs will be given standard medical treatment and free condoms and information about HIV and AIDS will be disseminated in areas frequented by people from high-risk groups.

The ministry said medical workers involved in the plan should have knowledge of the patterns of transmission of HIV and other sexual diseases in the areas where they are to work.

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China prevents vehicles from spreading infectious diseases

XNHA000020050608e1680005I

161 Words

08 June 2005

Xinhua's China Economic Information Service

English

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BEIJING, June 8 (CEIS)-- China's five ministries will set up an information coordination system to prevent vehicles from spreading infectious diseases, said the Ministry of Railways on June 7.

The five ministries included Ministry of Health, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Communications, State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and General Administration of Civil Aviation.

Under the coordinate mechanism, the Ministry of Health will report major infectious diseases regularly to the other four departments, who, in turn, take measures to

prevent the disease from spreading.

If a disease is discovered in a vehicle, the transport department will report it immediately to local health and quality supervision, inspection and quarantine departments.

When an epidemic infectious disease occurs, transport departments will stop suspected patients from traveling.

At the same time, bus and railway stations and airports will set up related medical appliances to quarantine passengers. Passengers with abnormal symptoms will be registered and reported.

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China Urges Needle Exchanges to Fight AIDS

APRS000020050607e167001r2

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press Writer

436 Words

07 June 2005

19:23 GMT

Associated Press Newswires

English

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SHANGHAI, China (AP) - In an aggressive new anti-AIDS push, China's Health Ministry is urging the promotion of free condoms and needle exchanges -- strategies previously considered taboo by the conservative communist government.

The proposed guidelines urge local governments to tailor those measures to high-risk groups in one of the boldest nationwide campaigns yet against the disease.

The most striking proposal calls for combining methadone treatment with needle exchanges to promote safe behavior among drug users -- a group almost completely ignored in the past.

"Under the national health system's launching of a people's war against drugs, drug eradication, AIDS prevention, and daily tasks must be closely joined," said a copy of the guidelines posted on the Health Ministry's Web site.

China says it has 840,000 people infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 80,000 have the full-blown disease. But health experts say the true figures are much higher and warn that China could have 10 million infected by 2010 unless stronger measures are taken.

The government only recently became open about its AIDS epidemic after years of denying it was a problem, although independent activists are still frequently detained and harassed.

China launched a new national anti-drug campaign last month. Its aggressive new

approach on AIDS was praised Tuesday by Randall Tobias, the U.S. global AIDS coordinator.

"I'm very encouraged by the commitment that the senior leadership of the government has made," Tobias said at a news conference in Beijing.

He warned, however, of massive challenges in the countryside, where AIDS has often spread through unsanitary blood-buying schemes.

"It will be a very long journey," Tobias said.

Washington is providing China with \$35 million for AIDS from 2004-08.

At the news conference, Tobias and actor and anti-AIDS spokesman Pu Cunxin rolled up their sleeves and took a blood test to demonstrate its safety.

Most AIDS victims are thought to have become infected through sharing needles during intravenous drug use. Widespread prostitution is also a chief cause of infection, one that experts warn could spread the virus into the wider population.

The guidelines say prostitutes should be encouraged to require customers to use condoms, seek reproductive health services, and be treated for venereal disease. People infected with sexually transmitted diseases are to be given free condoms, they say.

They also call for disease prevention education to be carried out at places where gay men gather, as well as at job sites and other areas where migrant workers live.

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GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SPEND MORE TO FIGHT AIDS/HIV

CHNDLY0020050603e16400004

By Wang Zhenghua

412 Words

04 June 2005

China Daily

English

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The Chinese Government will spend 3.9 billion yuan (US\$474 million) by the end of 2007 to help local governments fight AIDS and HIV, Health Vice-Minister Wang Longde said on Friday.

Also, China's central government won the praise of a United Nations official for its significant efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention of control.

"The Chinese central government has doubled its resources in fighting HIV/AIDS from 2003 to 2004," said Joel Rehnstrom, co-ordinator of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS' China office in Beijing.

He said that although he has seen a significant increase in the central government's

political commitment, the anti-HIV/AIDS campaign nationwide needs more funds.

Liu Jiankui, a financial administrator with the Ministry of Health, said on Friday that he cannot confirm the monetary figure Wang gave at the UN's high-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York.

Last year, the central government allocated 3.7 billion yuan (US\$450 million) to help local governments to improve public health, and around 700 million yuan (US\$85 million) of it was used to fight HIV/AIDS.

Liu said the central government will earmark about 5 billion yuan (US\$608 million) to improve public health, "but I am still not sure how much will be spent on HIV/AIDS prevention and control."

Since the second half of 2003, the central government has earmarked more funds each year to arm local hospitals with HIV testing facilities and offer patients free AIDS drugs.

Even so, the campaign against HIV/AIDS progressed in an uneven manner across China.

In Central China's Henan and Southwest China's Yunnan provinces, which were hardest hit and drew the most attention, governments are focusing mainly on dispensing more free medication to HIV/AIDS victims.

In other provinces, however, most emphasis is placed on enhancing public awareness and drawing more people from high-risk groups, including blood sellers, drug abusers, prostitutes and homosexuals, to free HIV testings.

It is that part of the campaign that needs more attention, Rehnstrom said.

An official with a farm in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, where at least 16 people were infected by HIV through illegal blood transfusions between 1999 to 2004, said he had never heard of AIDS until those workers were confirmed with HIV last year because "it's such a small place."

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QUACKS UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY IN JIANGSU

CHNDLY0020050602e1630000I

By Bao Xinyan

406 Words

03 June 2005

China Daily

English

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NANJING: Quack doctors, underground clinics and identifying the sex of foetuses are among illegal medical practices to be stamped out under new plans being drawn up

by the Jiangsu provincial government.

Uncertified cosmetic surgery, hiring doctors without proper qualifications, clinics falsely claiming to cure venereal disease and products being promoted under the guise of voluntary consultations are among other practices coming under scrutiny.

Medical practices

"To standardize medical practices will protect the health of the people and maintain public order," said Zheng Bixian, an official from the Jiangsu Provincial Health Bureau.

"Illegal practices like this are rampant in the province, even throughout the country."

He said many people fell victim to the treatment given by some beauty parlours.

"Girls go to these parlours to improve their looks, but they get just the opposite in some of these illegal parlours," Zheng said.

All the big, regular hospitals China Daily approached yesterday said they welcomed the plan.

"The illegal practices are mostly found in underground clinics, small hospitals especially in the countryside," said Liu Ningcun, head of the information office of the Gulou Hospital in Nanjing.

"There are people hired by these clinics who wait in front of the gates of regular hospitals, trying to introduce their doctors or medicines to patients," she said. "Many patients are cheated, not just out of money but because they are wasting time to get proper treatment."

Patients

Liu said one of her patients, a 30-year-old man from Anhui Province, went to see a doctor for his anxiety and insomnia.

He was taken to a small hospital before he could get through the gates of Gulou Hospital and was charged several hundred yuan for some herbal medicine.

The medicine had no effect and he later discovered it was actually only worth a few yuan.

The plan is also welcomed by ordinary people.

Zong Junying, 56, was bothered by a conman when she went to a voluntary medical consultation near her home.

The so-called experts tested one drop of her blood and said she had huge problems with her lungs and should take their medicine.

Zong was scared, but on talking to a real doctor, was told there was nothing wrong with her lungs.

"These conmen are so annoying that they should be punished," she said.

Details of the plans and punishments have not been released.

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China gets grant to stop AIDS among drug users

LBA0000020050602e1620020w

293 Words

02 June 2005

17:13 GMT

Reuters News

English

(c) 2005 Reuters Limited

GENEVA, June 2 (Reuters) - China will receive its first grant to prevent the spread of AIDS among drug users and prostitutes from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Fund said on Thursday.

Another grant for tuberculosis aims to increase detection and awareness of the infectious disease, transmitted by coughing and sneezing, especially in poor communities of China, a statement said.

The two-year grants, of \$24 million and \$28 million respectively, bring the total amount approved by the Geneva-based fund for China to \$138.4 million, according to spokesman Jon Liden.

The grant for HIV/AIDS targets intravenous drug users and sex workers in seven southern and western provinces (Yunnan, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan and Jiangxi) which have "high rates of infection", according to the Fund.

The provinces are home to 2.5 million to three million drug users, about half of the total nationwide. Between 20 to 30 percent of the drug users throughout the vast country are estimated to carry the HIV virus, the Fund said.

China, which was slow in acknowledging the AIDS epidemic, reported some 840,000 people living with HIV at the end of 2003.

But experts say at least one million poor farmers were infected in the central province of Henan alone as a result of botched blood-selling schemes in the early and mid 1990s.

China also has an estimated five million people with active tuberculosis, ranking second only to India worldwide, and records 150,000 deaths per year from it.

The Fund said Beijing had pledged to match the grants.

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中国已经成为全球第四大非处方药市场

BCIDCN0020050630e16u0000j

中国医药每日新闻

176 Words

30 June 2005

中国产业每日新闻 (简体)

Chinese (Simplified)

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2005-6-30

中国非处方药物协会表示，中国的非处方药以 11% 的增长率成为全球市场中增长最快的地区，并已经成为全球第四大市场。

中国处方药物协会称，该协会刚刚完成的一项调查表明，中国居民对非处方药的认识在不断提高，认知率已经从 2003 年的 32% 提高到 2004 年的 45%。预计，随着药品分类管理的进行、医疗卫生体制和医疗保险的改革，中国非处方药市场将进一步增大。

English Summary: China has become the 4th non-prescription drug market

Beijing, June 30th 2005 (Xinhua) – China has become the 4th biggest non-prescription drug market in the world with the annual sale growing at 11%, one of the biggest growth in the world, according to the Association of China Non-prescription Drug.