

CHINA

On loan, city doctors raise level of care

In a remote part of Xinjiang, a county hospital gets a professional makeover

By **AYBEK ASKHAR** and **ZHAO XINYING**

In May last year, doctors told Awanisa Mahsut that she had a brain tumor.

After suffering a stroke, Awanisa, who lives in the southwestern part of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, planned to go to Urumqi, the regional capital, for treatment, but she changed her mind when she heard there was an expert from Urumqi working at a local hospital.

Akbar Yalkun, 45, a neurosurgeon with more than 20 years' experience in Urumqi, gave Awanisa hope. One of 13 medics assigned to Pishan county, he provides medical support as part of an assistance program initiated by his home hospital in May.

The program aims to improve management and medical treatment at the smaller hospital by drawing on the experience of a team of doctors and administrators on loan from Urumqi.

"The treatment level of neurosurgery was quite low before I came. Few doctors can perform this kind of operation here," Akbar said. "If there are related conditions, patients generally need to be transferred to hospitals in big cities."

Awanisa's home — Pishan county — is one of the most impoverished and remote areas in Xinjiang. It lacks well-trained doctors, and the hospital doesn't have enough money to buy modern equipment. As a result, patients often find it difficult to get the care they need.

The poor medical service often means that seriously ill patients would rather spend more money and travel farther to Hotan or Urumqi to see a doctor, rather than receive treatment locally.

"One of my relatives told me that Dr Akbar, one of the best neurosurgeons in the region, is at the hospital in our county," Awanisa said. "I was relieved, not only because he was there, but also my insurance covered most of the treatment at the local hospital."

The operation was successful. At a follow-up consultation on March 1, Akbar told Awanisa she had fully recovered. The operation would have cost her at least 40,000 yuan (\$6,000) in Urumqi, but she spent less than 10,000 yuan in her hometown.

In March last year, after investigating the Pishan county hospital, Manglek Syit, vice-chairman of the autonomous region, ordered the hospital in Urumqi to improve the healthcare situation in Pishan county.

"Before we came here, it could not be called a modern hospital. You could hardly tell the difference between the outpatient and inpatient departments," said Yerzat Yerzhan, an administrative staff member of the team. "To provide an effective healthcare system, the hospital needed to change from its registration office."

The regional health commission arranged for the hospital in Urumqi to launch a program giving all-around help to Pishan county. Bahtiyar Kerem, a specialist in critical care, was one of the first doctors to arrive. "Our team members normally live

and work in Urumqi, but after learning about the medical conditions here, we came without hesitation," he said.

Hu Yanmeng, the newly appointed director of the county hospital and head of the assistance team, said, "It is not enough to send medical experts. We need to comprehensively improve the hospital's medical services, so we also brought management personnel."

Among the 13 people on the team are a director, an accountant and specialists in the medical, nursing, outpatient and logistics departments. Seven administrative staff members and six doctors were dispatched to different departments.

"Seven administrators will be replaced by new members after a year. It's six months for doctors," Hu said.

At the same time, the two hospitals signed an agreement covering specialists in other fields of medicine, including gynecology, pathology and neurosurgery, which makes it possible for other specialists from Urumqi to visit local patients if needed.

To help attract medical talent to an underfunded hospital in a rural area, the team made a priority of retaining the original staff and improving their medical capabilities.

A review of the program said that after the team took over, the hospital reformed its performance appraisal system and gradually improved the salaries of doctors, nurses and administrative staff. The pay increases were significant.

"In addition to treating patients, doctors from Urumqi need to train local doctors to ensure the people in Pishan county will continue to get better medical care after they leave," Hu said.

Doctors from the team taught local doctors, and the county hospital invited other experts from Urumqi to give medical lectures every month.

"I have done more than 50 surgeries since I came," Akbar said. "In addition, I have trained two local doctors who I believe will be able to perform neurosurgical operations independently soon. More patients like Awanisa will benefit from it."

Medical facilities in other impoverished counties in China are also improving.

According to the National Health Commission, more than 60,000 medical workers from top hospitals were sent to hospitals in impoverished regions last year to improve their management and medical treatment.

Commission figures show that 963 top hospitals have teamed up with 1,180 hospitals in 834 impoverished counties since 2016, enabling them to provide better medical service to residents.

"Only a few patients came to the county hospital before, but after nearly a year of effort, the residents gradually regained their trust," Hu said. "I hope more patients in poverty-stricken counties can get access to better medical services at their local hospitals."

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Admiration for a master



Visitors take photos of a traditional Chinese painting by Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), one of the most prestigious Chinese artists of the 20th century, at the Taipei Palace Museum in Taiwan on Monday. The exhibition marks the 120th year since the birth of Zhang, who was renowned for his ink-wash landscapes. A total of 87 sets of his works and more than 80 of his personal seals were on display. ZHANG GUOJUN / XINHUA

Radio silence rules strengthened for huge telescope

By **ZHANG ZHIHAO** zhangzhihao@chinadaily.com.cn

China has tightened its regulations in areas surrounding the world's largest single-dish telescope in Guizhou province — the Five-Hundred-Meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, or FAST — to protect it from electromagnetic signals that might interfere with its scientific research.

The latest rules, which took effect on Monday, increased punishments for violators. Those who produced harmful radio interference can now face fines of up to 200,000 yuan (\$30,000), much higher than the previous 5,000 yuan penalty cap.

The new rules also said people who carry or used electronic devices without approval in the core radio silence zone will be slapped with a fine between 1,000 and 30,000 yuan. The core radio silence zone refers to areas within a 5-kilometer radius of the telescope.

The rules define the intermediate zone as a radius of 5 to 10 kilometers, and the external zone as a radius of 10 to 30 kilometers. Air

routes near the region have also been changed to avoid radio interference with the telescope.

Sun Xuelei, Party chief of the Guizhou Department of Justice, said the new rules upgrade those established in 2013. Since the old regulations had some management and supervision problems, they needed to be amended to better protect the telescope's electromagnetic environment, Sun said during a news briefing on Thursday.

"The telescope is a key instrument of national importance," Sun said. "It is a vital tool in basic research for fields ranging from astronomy to national defense."

Since trial operations began in September 2016, FAST has discovered 55 new pulsars — superdense, superbright cores of massive stars that have gone through the supernova phase and died. The telescope is set to be fully operational by September, and it will find more pulsars that can help scientists understand the origin and evolution of the universe, navigate spacecraft, find gravity waves and possibly alien life forms.

These scientific goals have drawn

tourists around the country to Pingtang county — the telescope's home — to witness one of China's greatest engineering wonders. The remote county has become the epicenter for astronomy tourism, with star-themed parks, restaurants and hotels hoping to capitalize on the stellar enthusiasm and boost the local economy.

During the first half of last year, Pingtang received more than 5.13 million visitors and earned more than 5.5 billion yuan in revenue, a 38.7-percent year-on-year increase, according to the local tourism bureau.

However, the influx of tourists has also meant introducing more electronic gadgets, including cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and GPS devices that produce electromagnetic signals. They can interfere with FAST's ultrasensitive receivers, said Jiang Peng, the telescope's chief engineer.

"The signals produced by distant celestial bodies are very faint, so a clear radio environment is key for FAST to make effective observations," he said. "We must reduce the

source and frequency of radio interference. These are the key basic requirements for FAST to do great scientific work."

Wang Shijie, vice-governor of Guizhou, told Science and Technology Daily in March that the province will put in more effort to keep the radio environment for FAST clean, adding that the three counties closest to the FAST site have all adjusted their economic and social development plans.

Guizhou also scrapped a planned airport in Luodian county out of concern for possible electromagnetic interference, he said. More than 2,000 rural households have been relocated, at a cost of several billion yuan.

Wang said FAST is to be used mainly for scientific exploration and that Guizhou will not rely on it for tourism. A tour currently offered at the site, available to 2,000 visitors daily, is aimed at promoting science. All visitors must hand over their electronic devices before entering the core radio silence zone.

Yang Jun contributed to this story.

Customs officers clamp down on meat smuggling

By **ZHENG CAIXIONG** zhengcaixiong@chinadaily.com.cn

Guangzhou customs officers in Guangdong province will expand cooperation with their counterparts in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions to curtail the smuggling of frozen meat, a senior officer said on Monday.

Tan Junquan, deputy director of Guangzhou Customs' anti-smuggling bureau, said at a news conference in Guangzhou that officers have seized more than 1,800 metric tons of frozen meats and related products, valued at 43.1 million yuan (\$6.44 million) after cracking 12 major cases since the beginning of the year.

Twelve suspects were detained during a special campaign

launched in January, Tan said. Seized products include beef, tripe, cow stomach, chicken feet and pig feet, he added.

In one case, customs officers seized 750 tons of frozen chicken and pig feet smuggled from Brazil, Britain and Germany, after investigating a ship at the mouth of the Pearl River on Feb 26. Two suspects were detained.

On March 14, customs officers seized 390 tons of frozen beef, tripe, and chicken after investigating a ship. Four suspects were detained in the operation.

Two days later, officers seized another 75 tons of frozen pig and duck feet from Germany and Hungary, and detained two more suspects after investigating a suspected smuggling boat.

43.1 million yuan

Value of frozen meat products seized by Guangzhou Customs so far this year

Lin Zhichun, a front-line customs officer with Guangzhou's Panyu customs, said smuggling frozen meat has become a lucrative industry in the region.

"The smugglers can now earn up to 15,000 yuan if they successfully smuggle 1 metric ton of frozen beef into the mainland," Lin said. "The big price gap and the large profits have encouraged smuggling in recent years."

Many of the seized products had not yet passed health inspections

and would pose a serious threat, Lin said, adding that some of the meat might have come from areas with animal epidemics.

Tan said that in addition to expanded patrols in the major water channels, and big data analysis, Guangzhou customs will further expand information exchanges with their Hong Kong and Macao counterparts.

Top priority will be given to cracking down on major cross-border smuggling gangs active in the region, he added.

Cooperation with domestic law enforcement departments, including the police and fishery authorities, will also be advanced to ensure the security of the country's economy, market order and people's health, he said.



Doctors from Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, offer free medical services in Pishan county of Hotan prefecture.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Hainan offers housing incentives to attract talent

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Hainan is offering housing incentives to attract talent to the tropical island province, where the country's 12th free trade zone — its largest — is being created.

A notice from the provincial government on Friday said the employees of companies that move their headquarters to the island will enjoy the same housing policies and credit support as locals when buying a house, even though they don't have household registration in Hainan.

The supplementary measure, which is intended to address problems of new employees settling in the Hainan FTZ, will improve the

business environment, attract investors, promote opening-up and development of headquarters, and optimize the living environment, local officials said.

In April last year, after the central government said Hainan would become a pilot free trade zone, the island announced it would attract 1 million skilled workers. To accomplish that, it has adopted measures to support free housing for top-notch personnel, child education, spousal employment, medical insurance and car purchases.

Hainan also announced an islandwide housing quota — regarded as the strictest in the country — to curb speculation. The new rules required those who do

not live on the island but want to buy houses to provide local tax records for the past 60 months from at least one member of the applicant's family — making it impossible for nonnative residents to buy a home there.

"The latest move to help newcomers buy a home will make talented people feel more at ease and work more wholeheartedly," said Xia Feng, director of the economic research department of the China Institute for Reform and Development.

"The government should also promote the rental housing market for those who cannot afford to buy, and cultivate more diversified business platforms to attract talent from outside the island," he said.

Wang Lu, chairman of Jincheng Consultancy, a Haikou-based real estate information provider, said that because of the province's small population base and weak economic and industrial foundation, investment and talent attraction are two urgent issues for the development of the FTZ.

Since April last year, 65,000 market entities have entered Hainan, up 33 percent year-on-year. Twenty-seven of the world's top 500 companies have landed in Hainan, including Ernst & Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Thomas Cook, Sinopec, Alibaba and Tencent, said Fu Xuanchao, director of the provincial Development and Reform Commission.