

CHINA

Rebuilding history



University students work on an architectural model of Shanghai in the early 20th century displayed in Lanzhou, Gansu province, on Wednesday. The art majors from Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics spent a month building the miniature city, which includes many landmark venues of the time. YANG YANMIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Care for disabled in Guizhou boosts rural incomes

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and LI LEI

A poverty relief program that supports disabled villagers in centralized care centers has expanded across hilly Guizhou province after being pioneered in Yuliangxi village.

The village, in the northeast of the province, set up Guizhou's first specialized nursing home for disabled people four years ago.

It is staffed by six volunteers, including village officials and other members of the local Communist Party of China branch.

With clinics, a canteen and a rehabilitation room, it offers free services that have helped relieve 15 poor families of the burden of caring for disabled family members.

That has eased financial pressure by freeing up other family members to seek job opportunities elsewhere.

Yang Zailian, the village's Party chief, was a major advocate of the program.

The reform-minded farmer was elected in 2004 and has since pushed for a shift in local farming to

more lucrative cash crops, ranging from watermelon to strawberries, and promoted the raising of fish and pigs.

With Yang's leadership, the village, which has a population of 4,600, formed eight rural cooperatives and a mutual-aid program as part of an attempt to address the root cause of local poverty, provide incentives for entrepreneurial farmers and boost sales of farm produce.

As villagers got richer, Yang discovered that families with disabled members were still struggling.

"On the road to *xiaokang*, no one shall be left behind," he said, referring to the central government's effort to build China into a "moderately prosperous society in all respects" by 2021.

Yang, 62, started his social experiment in 2013 in an attempt to tackle disability induced poverty.

As part of the early endeavor, he offered welfare jobs such as street-sweepers, cooks and janitors at the cooperatives.

The village's 116 certified disabled residents are given priority in appli-

cations for those jobs, which can pay 400 yuan (\$61) a month.

Three years later, Yang upgraded the effort to target those with "severe disabilities" — people with intellectual, mental or severe physical disabilities who cannot do such jobs.

He created the nursing home with financial support from the provincial disabled persons' federation.

In addition to caring for the severely disabled, the program also encouraged capable residents to help people with lesser disabilities raise pigs, fish and grow vegetables.

The simple jobs can bring in 800 to 1,500 yuan a month, helping shore up family incomes and shake off poverty.

"As long as I am here, I will not sit by leaving disabled people unattended to," Yang said.

Yao Jinhua, 58, who has congenital dwarfism, moved into the nursing home four years ago and now helps to look after another resident.

"I used to rely entirely on government benefits," she said, adding that she now leads a more dignified life, earning about 1,300 yuan a month

by cooking and taking care of one disabled senior at the home.

The village's success has spawned a province-wide endeavor that has attracted more financial resources.

The provincial disabled persons' federation says Guizhou now has six rehabilitation centers and 20 nursing homes for the disabled, with scores more to come.

The nursing home program was one of a number of innovative approaches adopted by authorities around the country to curb poverty among the disabled as China raced to eradicate the last traces of absolute poverty.

For example, authorities in Xinyang, Henan province, have improved accessibility in the homes of disabled people by installing toilets, hand rails or lowering the height of stoves so that wheelchair users and other disabled people can take care of themselves.

Che Weiwei contributed to this story.

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Farmers reap benefits of geographical indication

CHANGSHA — Geographical indication, a type of trademark commonly used in global food and wine markets, is now helping farmers in Central China stay out of poverty.

Sangzhi county, in Zhangjiajie, Hunan province, is known for its distinctive pillar-like peaks and precipitous cliffs featured in the movie *Avatar*. With a population of 470,000 and 28 ethnic groups, it was once home to some of the poorest people in China.

In past decades, many people left their rural homes to find work in big cities. Only a few stayed in the villages to grow corn or potatoes for a living.

Since 1995, the National Intellectual Property Administration has helped to fund poverty alleviation projects in the county.

One of the highlights was using GI to raise locals' incomes.

A GI is a sign to show a product has a specific geographical origin and possesses qualities or a reputation due to that origin. It can be seen as a quality guarantee, distinguishing it from competitors.

Benefits include standardized processes, increased production and more employment for locals.

Research found the poverty-stricken region had rich GI resources, such as tea.

Abundant water and mild temperatures make the county suitable for growing white tea. A tradition among the Bai ethnic group, white tea has a history dating back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

Faintly sweet, the tea was found to have anti-inflammatory properties, but it did not attract much market attention.

Before 2012, tea plantations in the county covered around 1,333 hectares. Poor sales disappointed many local enterprises and farmers.

In 2017, the administration began assisting local tea companies to obtain a GI. Two years later, Sangzhi white tea was listed as a protected product under China's national geographical trademarks.

Since then, the tea industry has developed rapidly, with more factories and tea plantations now cover-

ing more than 5,200 hectares. The tea leaves are processed by 46 enterprises and the output value last year was 228 million yuan (\$34.9 million).

More farmers are involved in tea production and marketing. The standardized production process provides guidance for farmers and reduces production costs. About 35,000 people working in the county's tea industry have been lifted out of poverty, said county head Zhao Yunhai.

Li Yanping is among them. In 2010, a car accident left her husband paralyzed and her family one of the most impoverished in her village, relying on government aid.

Li has worked for a tea company since March, selecting tea leaves, and she can earn up to 4,000 yuan a month. It also allows her to have time with her 16-year-old child and bedridden husband.

"I can support the family by my own labor, rather than by handouts," she said.

The success of the GI-based

approach in Sangzhi is also clear in *zongzi* leaves, a raw material for Chinese glutinous rice dumplings as well as sushi.

With the administration's assistance, Kanghua Reed Leaves obtained a trademark for the leaves in August. The industry now employs 40,000 farmers, including some with disabilities, and has helped 12,000 people cast off poverty, county authorities said. Some large factories are exporting their products.

The administration has launched 21 projects to promote GI industries in poverty-stricken regions since last year, benefiting more than 600,000 people, Gan Shaoning, deputy head of the administration, told a news conference in November.

Shi Peng, a poverty-alleviation official sent by the administration to Sangzhi's Canguanyu village in 2017, said GI industries will make further contributions to the revitalization of China's countryside.

XINHUA

Progress seen in scientific outreach work

Online platforms, especially social media accounts, see rapid growth

By ZHANG ZHIHAO

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China saw steady increases in manpower and spending to popularize science last year, signaling healthy and positive growth of the nation's scientific outreach effort, the Ministry of Science and Technology said on Thursday.

Last year, science popularization events in China attracted a total of 1.15 billion visits, a 28.6 percent year-on-year increase. China will continue to expand the popularization of science by building more grassroots science education facilities, allowing younger generations to directly observe and interact with new technologies, an expert said on Thursday.

Last year, there were 1.87 million full-time and part-time personnel dedicated to popularizing science, up 4.8 percent year-on-year, Yang Qiming, head of the ministry's national 2019 science popularization survey, told a news briefing in Beijing on Thursday.

Around 250,000 were full-time science communicators, and 1.62 million were part-time, Yang said. Roughly 150,000 full-time personnel held a bachelor's degree or higher, 11 percent more than in 2018.

China spent around 18.5 billion yuan (\$2.84 billion) on science popularization last year, a year-on-year increase of 15.1 percent.

Government grants accounted for 14.7 billion yuan, or 79.6 percent of the total.

There were 1,477 science museums and education centers across China at the end of last year, one for every 947,900 people. However, that was still significantly behind the 500,000 people per science museum in developed countries, said Qiu Chengli, an expert on science popularization statistics.

China is hoping to remedy the situation by hosting more open days at universities, State key laboratories, major scientific facilities and other science institutes. They hosted around 11,600 events that attracted 9.47 million visitors last year, Qiu said.

Online science education platforms, especially social media accounts, saw rapid growth last

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It is still vital for the public, especially young children, to see, play and interact with real technologies in person.”

Qiu Chengli, an expert on science popularization statistics

year. There were 4,834 science popularization accounts on Sina Weibo, a microblogging platform, up 72.1 percent year-on-year. There were also 9,612 science education accounts on the WeChat instant messaging platform last year, 36 percent more than in 2018.

“While online science education platforms and resources have been booming in recent years, it is still vital for the public, especially young children, to see, play and interact with real technologies in person,” Qiu said. “This will instill a stronger sense of curiosity in them and foster their interest in science and technology.”

However, two developments last year warranted attention. The first was the shrinking number of part-time science educators in villages, which fell 7.7 percent to 409,700.

The second issue was a 6.7 percent year-on-year decline in the number of science education facilities in communities and a 16.8 percent drop in the number of science outreach caravans. There were 54,700 such facilities and 1,135 vehicles last year.

Qiu said expanding scientific outreach in rural and remote regions has always been one of the priorities of the ministry's science popularization effort. But maintaining a designated space within a community for science education may not always be cost-efficient.

Increased access to local museums and science centers also meant there was less need for science caravans — mobile exhibitions able to visit the most remote parts of the country — he said, adding that China will build more science education facilities in rural and remote regions.

Counterfeit alcohol destroyed



Police officers prepare to destroy counterfeit alcohol seized in a campaign known as Kunlun 2020 in Beijing on Wednesday. The campaign, launched in May, targets crimes involving food and drug safety, waste dumping and the wildlife trade. Nearly 20,000 bottles of counterfeit alcohol have been seized and destroyed by Beijing police. GAN NAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Ruling: WADA to 'present its case robustly again'

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The CAS ultimately ruled that Sun was guilty and issued the ban.

Sun, a three-time Olympic champion swimmer, reiterated his innocence during the CAS hearing, claiming that he refused to cooperate during the test only after finding sample collectors from IDTM, a FINA-hired agency, operating

without adequate identification and authorization.

Having won two gold medals in the 400 and 1,500 meters freestyle at the 2012 London Olympics and the 200 meters freestyle at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Sun was considered China's biggest gold medal hope at the delayed Tokyo Olympics, which will open on July 23 next year.

The potential second CAS hearing

will decide whether Sun will be eligible in time to catch up with the delayed qualification program for the Tokyo Olympics.

"Sun Yang's case will return to the CAS under a panel with a new chairman," WADA Vice-President Yang Yang said in a China Central Television interview on Thursday.

"The WADA has now only received a short message instead of more details.

There will be further communication once the WADA has more information," said Yang, who is also a retired Winter Olympic champion skater.

However, Sun's journey back to the sport won't be easy, as the WADA has made it clear that it will present its case "robustly" again.

"In the CAS award, the WADA clearly prevailed on the substance of the case as it was able to show that there

were a number of aspects of the original FINA decision that were incorrect under the World Anti-Doping Code and the related International Standard for Testing and Investigations," said the WADA statement.

"The WADA will take steps to present its case robustly again when the matter returns to the CAS panel, which will be chaired by a different president."

The news became a trending topic on Chinese social media, with the hashtag "Swiss court overturned Sun Yang's case" viewed over 230

million times by Thursday afternoon on Weibo. Most fans expressed their support for Sun to continue his legal fight and hoped to witness the star shine again at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I firmly believe in my innocence. I was shocked and angry, and I'm unable to understand the CAS's decision," Sun told media earlier this year. "I will definitely appeal to let more people know the truth. I believe the facts will eventually defeat lies."

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