

5 dead, 1 injured after house on fire in east China

Five people died and another person was injured after a fire broke out in a residential house in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, early Friday morning.

The fire began at around 2:50 a.m. in the house located in an industrial cluster area. The fire has been put out. An investigation is under way to probe the cause of the fire.

Tayside MS Therapy Centre – volunteers wanted!



I recently visited the Tayside MS Therapy Centre in Peddie Street to discuss a number of local issues with the team. I have been asked to advertise the following notice for HBO Chamber Operator Volunteers that the centre has recently issued :

HBO Chamber Operator Volunteer

Due to the retirement of 2 long serving volunteers, we are now recruiting for Chamber Operator Volunteers

(To comply with operator guidelines, the minimum age is 18)

This is an opportunity to undertake a satisfying and rewarding role as part of our team of trained volunteer operators, working in our friendly therapy centre while providing an extremely useful and appreciated service to the community.

We are looking for people who are physically fit, friendly, caring and available for a couple of hours (ideally early evening, but hours variable to suit) and who are willing to undertake appropriate training to be capable of operating our HBO Chamber along with a second, back-up, operator. This is a very important role involving following simple documented procedures, which meet Health & Safety requirements while providing a secure and relaxed atmosphere for people undergoing treatment. Involvement can be on a regular, relief, back-up or emergency basis.

The charity operates a volunteer policy which provides a two-part agreement,

that volunteers attend any relevant training sessions to ensure they are confident and comfortable in their role(s) and that we are providing the best possible service for our members while meeting legislative requirements such as Health & Safety and Data Protection.

Please feel free to get in touch or pop in to see us and find out what we do.

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[China will continue to keep its promise on climate change](#)



Experts from home and abroad take part in a round-table discussion on May 24. [Photo/China.org.cn]

China will continue to meet promises made at the Paris Climate Change Conference and take effective measures to tackle climate change, no matter what kind of choices the U.S. new administration makes on the issue, a top Chinese climatologist said.

He Jiankun, an expert from the Specialist Committee on National Climate Change, made the remarks during a seminar on “China-U.S. Action and Cooperation in the New Age of Global Climate Governance” held in Beijing on May 24 by the Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy, Tsinghua-Berkeley

Joint Research Center on Energy and Climate Change, and World Resources Institute.

The seminar provided an opportunity for experts from home and abroad to discuss the new age and trends of global climate governance, and also share progress made in China-U.S. cooperation on controlling global climate change.

He Jiankun, also director of the Institute of Low Carbon Economy at Tsinghua University, devoted much of his speech to China's policy on climate change.

He said that, in order to keep China's promises in signing the Paris Agreement, a series of plans and strategies on energy development had been formulated. According to the 13th Five-Year Plan, the aim is to put in place measures that can ensure, by the end of 2030, that carbon emissions per unit of GDP will decrease by 60 percent to 65 percent from the 2005 level, and non-fossil energy will account for 20 percent of primary energy consumption.

"China will, as always, seek to ensure progress to be made regarding the Paris Agreement whether the Trump administration withdraws from the agreement or not. Under the international climate governance mechanism, China will strengthen its cooperation with other countries and speed up energy production and consumption reform, greatly reducing carbon emissions," He said.

Collaboration on climate change between China and the U.S. has always been a focus of the bilateral relationship. As the leading carbon emitters in the world, the two countries have to fulfill their responsibilities and make their own contributions to reducing the intensity of such emissions.

Manish Bapna, executive vice president and managing director of the WRI, spoke about America's recent climate action development, and stressed the importance of China-U.S. cooperation on climate change.

"China and the United States should continue to join hands on climate change, cooperation at the state and local level, or within the private sector should be strengthened. Only in this way can the momentum of reducing greenhouse gases in these two countries be maintained," he said.

In his speech, he introduced data showing carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. had fallen while economic growth had been maintained. When talking about the new changes in America's climate actions, he said that policies adopted by the previous Obama administration was capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but the new administration led by President Trump has already started to roll back climate and clean energy progress.

He also mentioned that, after signing the Paris Agreement, actions on creating job, investing in infrastructure and trading should be carried out together with climate change governance.

The attending experts then took part in a round-table discussion. Sam Adams, chief representative of U.S. office, WRI, shared his experiences on dealing with the carbon emission-reducing activities in Portland, Maine of the U.S. Manish Bapna and He Jiankun also discussed climate change governance from the

perspective of education, technology, job and infrastructure building.

[This election and Brexit](#)

I have spoken to various Remain voters so far during this election. Many say to me they accept the result of the vote and just want the government to get on and do the best deal they can. Some tell me they voted Remain because they did worry about the possible economic consequences, and they are now relieved to see the bad predictions of recession this winter and collapse of confidence did not come true.

A few have told me they still cannot accept the decision and still fear there will be bad economic results in due course. They seem to think when we leave there will be all sorts of new barriers and restrictions imposed which will get in the way of normal travel, trade and collaboration across the Channel. They have perhaps been Lib Dem voters in the past and are often particularly concerned about academic and student links, research and cultural exchanges.

Let me try to reassure. The UK government has made very clear it wants a UK open to talent and university collaboration. The UK is not planning closed borders, making it more difficult for people to come here to courses in UK universities. We will still welcome tourists, visitor performers, people with good qualifications, entrepreneurs wanting to invest. The government will be generous with visas for talented and qualified people wanting to come to the UK to be faculty members, just as we are today with academics coming from the USA and other non EU countries. It will also want to see a continuation of the many musical, artistic and cultural links and exchanges that take place with EU and non EU countries today.

Nor do I expect the rest of the EU to want to stop EU citizens travelling to the UK or undertaking university work here. Under international law the EU would not be able to block people and ideas to and from the UK, nor can I imagine they would want to. There are no restrictions the EU could place just on the UK – they would have to be common restrictions against the rest of the world. I do not think the EU wants to cut itself off.

The UK has several world class leading universities and many other good ones. Their interests will be upheld by the government. More importantly, as the UK and the EU both pride themselves on a belief in freedom and on a pluralistic society, universities, individual students and academics will remain free to travel, study, work and collaborate in each other's countries as they see fit. I want to live in a free society. Such a society does not stop free institutions doing as they wish, and allows them under the law to pursue their aims and development. Some people think government is more important and more powerful than it is, and have a very dim view of how the EU will seek to behave.

Doorstop with Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training

PRIME MINISTER:

It's great to be here at Bondi Public, to see all these bright young children – great minds, the nation's future – dedicated teachers, a charismatic headmaster.

This school, ten years ago, had only 70 students and was expected to be closed. But due to great leadership from the principal, great staff, passionate parents and the community, it now has nearly ten times that number, 600 students. It's a great story of public education.

Of course, our schools policy that we have delivered in the budget is committed to supporting schools all across Australia, over 9,000 schools.

This school Bondi Public, will receive \$3.8 million in additional funding over the next decade. Every public school in Australia, every government school will, by 2027, be receiving 20 per cent from the Commonwealth, of the schooling resource standard. In the non-government sector, it will be 80 per cent of the schooling resource standard.

It will be a schools funding policy that for the first time in our history is national, consistent, transparent, needs-based, totally fair. Ensuring that the students and the schools with the most needs, get the most funding. That's what needs-based funding means.

That's what David Gonski recommended all those years ago and the Labor Party failed to deliver.

Now we see the hypocrisy, the absurdity, of Labor wanting to defend 27 secret, inconsistent deals, cooked up in a rush, piled one on the other, with students with the same needs getting different levels of funding from one system to another, from one state to another.

So we are delivering on that Gonski vision; fair, transparent, consistent, needs-based funding right across Australia and parents can see exactly what their school will receive from the Commonwealth.

They can see it on their smartphone. They can see what it's estimated to be

over the decade to come.

That's our commitment.

It's wonderful to be here, to see these children, whose future for quality education, we are assuring through our fair, transparent, national needs-based funding model as David Gonski recommended.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Thanks PM and it is great to be here at Bondi Public, one of more than 9,000 Australian schools that is set to see real growth, real benefits, from the Turnbull Government's application of true, consistent, fair, needs-based Gonski school resourcing standards.

This school over the next ten years stands to gain around \$3.8 million in additional resourcing under our reforms. Resources that can go into backing hardworking teachers to deliver better programs that support children to achieve more in the classroom.

Of course, this is a needs-based funding formula.

I had a look this morning at similarly-sized New South Wales schools in other parts of Sydney. James Erskine Public for example, in an area with some higher levels of social disadvantage and challenges and that school will receive some \$4.4 million in additional funding, demonstrating the true needs-based principles that we're putting into practice.

Not different treatment based on a state border or based on a sectoral border between parts of the non-government sectors. This is about applying what David Gonski recommended six years ago.

It's taken six years of political argument with Labor having done a whole bunch of dodgy deals; secret arrangements, that didn't do what David Gonski recommended, but simply created a mess of incoherent, inconsistent, lacking-in-transparency arrangements, that were put in place.

We, with the legislation that I hope will pass the House of Representatives next week and hopefully will then proceed through to the Senate by the end of June, are giving Australia what was recommended.

That's why David Gonski stood in Sydney with the Prime Minister and I just a few weeks ago as we announced this policy.

It's why so many independent commentators – be it former Labor cabinet minister Craig Emerson, the Grattan Institute, the Mitchell Institute – these are the people saying this is the right for reform Australia. This is the way to fix the school funding wars of the past and to give us a model in the future that delivers for principals, for teachers, for parents, for schools and most importantly for children.

Fair, needs-based funding to help them get ahead and succeed in life.

PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, Theresa May has had to rebuke Donald Trump over the US agency's leaking Manchester intel. What makes you so certain that the US intelligence community won't jeopardise sensitive intel on Australia?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, we have a very strong and intimate relationship with the United States on intelligence matters, as indeed we do with the United Kingdom. The leak of information you referred to was disappointing and no-one was more disappointed than President Trump himself. As you know, he's said that he's going to find out how the leak occurred and ensure that anyone responsible is brought to account.

But it is a very strong and intimate relationship and one which is the bedrock, the foundation, of our national security.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, can I get your reaction to the Australian Electoral Commission initiating a formal investigation into One Nation?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well the Electoral Commission is doing its job. It's an independent agency and it should do that free of political interference or influence. Tom Rodgers is an outstanding Electoral Commissioner and he will do his duty under the Act.

JOURNALIST:

Is there a concern that these constant dramas around parties such as One Nation are damaging to all politicians and the public's faith in their elected representatives?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well it's important that the electoral laws are complied with. It is the job of the Electoral Commission to ensure that they are complying. That is their job. But it is equally important that politicians and governments, do not seek to influence the Electoral Commission in doing its work, which must be done independently.

JOURNALIST:

The Commission has had to use its coercive powers to investigate One Nation, do you think Senator Hanson is being fully cooperative with that investigation?

PRIME MINISTER:

Again, I will leave this matter to be dealt with by the Electoral Commission. They have full powers to investigate these matters and they should do so free of interference or influence from any political party and indeed, any government.

JOURNALIST:

But do you believe she's being completely open and transparent?

PRIME MINISTER:

Again, I will leave that matter to be dealt with by the Electoral Commission. You can understand that it's very important as part of maintaining the integrity of our political process that the rules which underpin our government, the rules in the Electoral Act that the Electoral Commission has to enforce, that investigations are conducted and enforcement is undertaken by the Electoral Commission, independently of the government.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, how much weight will the Government give to this week's Uluru talks, when determining the referendum question? How open is Government to a new, permanent Indigenous representative body?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, the first thing we have to do is await the conclusion of the meeting at Uluru. That will then come back to the full Referendum Council, which will then present its recommendations to me and to the Leader of the Opposition and through us to the Parliament. So we'll consider those recommendations in due course. Of course, we will consider them with the greatest of respect and gravity, as is appropriate to accord to them. These are weighty matters, momentous matters and they deserve very serious consideration.

JOURNALIST:

And a new representative body. How open is the Government to that?

PRIME MINISTER:

Again, we will consider what the Referendum Council presents. To do so respectfully, requires us to await their recommendation. Then we will respond in a respectful and responsible manner.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister the head of ASIO last night said that he doesn't see the terror threat going down any time soon. What's your message to Australians who want to continue travelling and attending major events?

PRIME MINISTER:

Australians when they're travelling – if you mean travelling overseas – should always follow very carefully and have regard to, the travel advisory on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. It changes regularly, frequently in fact, as circumstances change. So it's important to stay up to date.

It's obviously also important when you're travelling overseas, I should add, to obey the laws of the country that you're in. We do provide consular services to Australians who get themselves into trouble, but the best thing is to avoid getting into trouble overseas and obeying the laws of the countries that you're visiting.

In terms of how we respond to terrorism, we respond to terrorism with defiance. We have the best intelligence, police, security services, in the world. Since September 2014, when the threat level was raised to 'probable', there have been 63 arrests for terrorism in Australia. There have been a number of terrorist incidents in Australia and a number of Australians have lost their lives but a dozen terrorist plots have been thwarted, including several which could have resulted in very large casualties.

You'll recall the plot that was uncovered and thwarted just before Christmas, which would have involved an explosive device being detonated and other attacks in and around Federation Square in central Melbourne.

Now, our agencies give us a very high level of security and protection, but there can be no guarantees. Night and day, relentlessly, dynamically, we are working to keep Australians safe. That's my commitment, the obligation of the Government. We respond to every incident, whether it is at home or abroad, by updating and reviewing our procedures. We are constantly reviewing how we keep Australians safe.

I am talking as Prime Minister with the heads of my agencies, with the head of ASIO, with the head of AFP, counterterrorism coordinator, I talk with state counterparts, I was speaking to Premiers yesterday about these issues. We are tireless in our efforts to keep Australians safe and we must be even more agile than those who seek to do us harm.

JOURNALIST:

What about Careers Australia going into voluntary administration – what is the Government prepared to do to help students who have been left in the lurch?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Obviously our first consideration is for the students enrolled at Careers Australia, as well as for the staff of Careers Australia. Careers Australia is required to have tuition insurance protection, which they have through TAFE Directors Australia. That will provide protection for those students if Careers Australia stops trading. It's important to draw the distinction at present that they've entered into voluntary administration. My Department has been in touch with the administrators as well as the tuition insurance

services and TAFE directors, to make sure that all appropriate support is there for the students. But also to talk about how it is that the different parts of Careers Australia may continue to operate in future. It is possible that some of them could be picked up by other training providers of repute and continue to provide training services around the country.

But the background to this is also important to understand. We have refused Careers Australia a licence to provide VET student loans in the future. This comes because we closed down Labor's failed VET-fee-help scheme, which saw blowouts in the scale of student debt go from a few hundred million dollars to \$3 billion just in the space of a few years. An enormous waste of money, of taxpayer money, and vulnerable people targeted for debt and completion rates below 20 per cent in so many instances, including in many of the instances with Careers Australia. Our new program only let's in the highest quality training providers to give training services and student loans in the future. That's as it should be. That's what we've guaranteed. But of course, we will do everything possible to work with Careers Australia, with TAFE Directors Australia to provide support for the students who need it.

Thank you.

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