

Public hospitals to become nonprofit by 2020, State Council says

Public hospitals in China will operate under a new system not driven by profits by 2020, according to a guideline the State Council, China's Cabinet, released on Tuesday.

China should establish a "modern hospital management system" that adheres to putting people's health at the center and adheres to the nonprofit nature of public hospitals and putting the public's interest as a priority, the guideline said.

By 2020, it said, the new system will ensure that a nonprofit, higher-efficiency and sustainable development has been established.

Public hospitals are the main provider of healthcare in China. These hospitals, which numbered more than 12,700 by the end of last year, provided 2.85 billion outpatient and emergency services last year, accounting for more than 87 percent of the cases provided by all hospitals in China, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission. Private facilities accounted for the rest.

To ensure the new nonprofit hospital structure is sustainable, health authorities will make new health plans and establish integrated healthcare systems in different regions for a better distribution of health resources between big hospitals and community health centers, Wang Hesheng, vice-minister of the health commission and head of the State Council Medical Reform Office, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

The government will increase funding to public hospitals and help them repay loans so they can retain a nonprofit status, he said.

Health authorities also will establish a new merit evaluation system on presidents of public hospitals that is not profit-oriented, highlighting indexes such as quality of medical services provided, cost control and satisfactory ratings from patients, he said.

The result of the evaluations will be linked with the amount of government subsidy, payment of public medical insurance fund and salaries and promotions of hospital presidents, he said.

China started a new round of medical reform in 2010 aiming at public hospitals. One major task was abolishing the generally practiced price markups of drugs sold in hospitals. Drug prices contributed to a profit-driven system, in which many public hospitals were encouraged to use excessive and more expensive drugs and even unnecessary checkups to generate higher profits, according to experts.

Under the system, doctors' incomes are closely linked with the incomes of their departments in public hospitals, which increased medical bills for

patients, according to some experts.

The practice of markups for medications, which has been practiced in public hospitals in China for decades, will be abolished in all public hospitals before the end of September, the National Development and Reform Commission said earlier this year.

“Establishing the new public hospital management system in China that emphasizes their nonprofit nature can ensure a healthy development of public hospitals,” said Fu Wei, director of the Health Development Research Center, which is part of the health commission. “In the process, public hospitals should be given more autonomy in their management, and more participation from hospital employees in management and supervision of hospitals should be encouraged.”

[BRICS youth debate innovation and entrepreneurship](#)



Guest speakers from five BRICS countries join a discussion at the 2017 BRICS Youth Forum in Beijing on July 25. [Photo by Zhang Jiaqi/China.org.cn]

The innovativeness and entrepreneurship of the youth stand out as the two main focal points at a panel discussion of young delegates at the 2017 BRICS Youth Forum in Beijing on July 25.

The BRICS countries have similarities in their development course, and exchanging experiences in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the BRICS youth is conducive to coordinated cooperation among the BRICS countries.

Marco Vinholi, an official from the Legislative Assembly of the State of San Paulo of Brazil, introduced the concept of active entrepreneurship and the obstacles faced by start-ups in Brazil.

“The mark of our generation is innovation and entrepreneurship,” he said. “The basic obstacles to youth entrepreneurship are the lack of qualifications, international cooperation and funding for young entrepreneurs, as well as the bureaucracy. The BRICS countries should improve people-to-people exchanges, increase cooperation on innovation and provide more funds.”

Svetlana Skorikova, project manager of the Center for International Cooperation of the Russian Union of Youth (RUY), called for setting up a BRICS youth business incubator.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are among the interesting areas of cooperation for young people, said Skorikova, further specifying that the main purpose of the incubator is to generate and encourage more business cooperation among BRICS countries.

Gitika Lakhota, risk consultant of Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler, a professional service company and one of the Big Four auditors, outlined the measures the Indian government introduced to promote youth entrepreneurship since 2014.

The Start-up India and Stand-up India initiatives facilitated business registration by providing a one-stop service. Besides, India also established a new bank to help the re-financing of SMEs and provided professional training to SME entrepreneurs and women.

Xu Zewei, CEO of 91jinrong.com, an e-finance platform in China, shared his experience of operating a start-up company in China.

“You will not succeed unless you try,” He encouraged the youth to start new companies under the favorable policies towards youth entrepreneurs.

He also called for further decreasing the cost of starting new companies, and encouraged mutual help among investors and entrepreneurs.

South African representative Abel Motsoge, chairman of JHB head office, pointed out the major difficulties for start-ups in South Africa.

He said many new companies failed to operate for more than two years due to the high bidding cost and bureaucracy. He called for more government support and increasing BRICS cooperation in communications, finance, infrastructure, logistics and renewable energy.

First Mars simulation base to be built in Northwest China

China's first Mars simulation base will be built in Northwest China's Qinghai Province, China News Service reported on Tuesday.

Located in Dachaidan Hongya region of Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan autonomous prefecture, a hinter land of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the base will be established in Qaidam Basin. The area's landform, natural landscape and climate condition resemble closely to those of Mars, said Wang Jingzhai, the prefecture's deputy Party chief.

Spread over 95,000 square kilometers of desert, the area has China's largest Yadan landform, or dry areas with wind erosion landscape. It also has other elements, such as mountain, prairie, Gobi desert, river and lake.

Adjacent to many tourist attractions along the Hexi Corridor, a part of the Silk Road in Gansu Province, the Mars simulation base will be turned into a cultural and tourist experience base that combine elements of "science, science fiction, nature, ecology and culture", said Liu Xiaoqun, director of lunar and deep space exploration general department, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The base will comprise two functional areas – "Mars community" and "Mars campsite" – which will be connected by road but invisible to each other, Liu said.

As the only one of its kind in China, the base has filled the gap in science practice education base that combines the fields of space, astronomy, geology, meteorology and new energy, Liu said.

Traffic jam eased in most Chinese cities in Q2



Mobikes are lined up on a street in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province. [Photo/China Daily]

Nearly 80 percent of Chinese cities saw an easing in traffic jams in the second quarter of the year, mainly thanks to an online car-hailing service and shared bicycle service, according to a report released yesterday.

The report was released by Amap, a major mapping and navigation platform, along with China Academy of Transportation Sciences, the Research Center for Sustainable Transportation set up by Tsinghua University and Daimler, Alibaba Cloud and Ofo.

It showed that, in the quarter, the number of traffic jams in many Chinese cities dropped sharply.

Fifteen cities recorded a drop of more than 8 percent in terms of traffic easing, with Tianjin, Qingdao and Wuhan taking the top three spots. It was the first time such statistics had shown a downward trend since Amap started to survey traffic flows in 2014.

Among the 100 cities in the report, 77 percent witnessed significant traffic easing, especially among first and second tier cities. Even Beijing, notoriously for "forever jam," recorded a drop of more than five percent in the index on a year-on-year basis.

However, the remaining 23 percent of Chinese cities surveyed saw the worse traffic jams. Most are third or fourth tier cities. The top three cities with the largest rise in traffic jams are Qingyuan, Zhaoqing and Hong Kong. Qingyuan's traffic jam situation index rose by 12.9 percent.

The report said less traffic jam in most cities is due to new policies involving an online car-hailing services and shared bicycle services, as well

as improvement in the urban road networks and efficient internet-aided traffic management.

Farmer spots footprints of rare tiger



Footprints left by a wild Siberian tiger have been discovered in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. [Photo/people.cn]

Footprints left by a wild Siberian tiger have been discovered in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, further evidence of the species' presence in the region.

Xu Jinxue, who lives in Hulin's Zhenbaodao Township, stumbled upon the footprints when he was tending his paddy field.

"The footprints were larger than my palm and were shaped like those of cats," Xu said. He took pictures of the prints and sent them to the local authority. The footprints were later identified by wildlife experts as belonging to a Siberian tiger.

“From the footprints we concluded that the tiger had been walking slowly and was quite heavy,” said Zhou Haixiang of the Chinese National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Program.

Evidence of wild Siberian tigers has been confirmed several times this year by Raohe County and Dongfanghong forestry bureau, close to Hulin, meaning it is highly possible that the big cats live in the area. The footprints also prove that there are adults and cubs among the tigers.

China has strengthened ecological protection in recent years, resulting in the gradual increase of wildlife living in areas near the Russian border.

Siberian tigers are one of the world’s most endangered species.

They predominantly live in northeast China and eastern Russia.