

Beijing to invest US\$40 billion in key projects in 2017

The city of Beijing plans to invest 274.4 billion yuan (about US\$40 billion) in a total of 230 key projects in 2017, an increase of 20 projects from the year earlier.

The fixed-asset investment of the municipal government will reach 55 billion yuan in 2017, a year-on-year increase of 6.5 percent. Apart from the government, other kinds of investment will also be used, including PPP (public-privatization partnership), capital investment and investment in funds.

A total of 274.4 billion yuan will be invested in 230 key projects in 2017, which will contribute more than 30 percent of the overall investment. Investment will focus on basic education, the aged care, renovation of the city's shantytown, air pollution, traffic congestion, water quality, garbage disposal and other areas that the public is most concerned.

Beijing's transportation will involve 19 key projects, the shantytown renovation projects 11 projects, the public service 14 projects. And the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region will carry out 62 projects. Beijing also plans to invest 38.4 billion yuan in 61 infrastructure projects this year, including the first phase of the new airport line and other 21 rail transit projects.

Poisonous gas may have driven prehistoric extinction

Chinese scientists have developed a hypothesis that poisonous gas from the deep ocean may have driven one of the severest mass extinctions on the planet.

Sulfureted hydrogen in the depths of the sea may have contributed to the end-Permian extinction that wiped out more than 80 percent of marine life about 250 million years ago, according to the University of Science and Technology of China.

Scientists have posited many hypotheses explaining the mass extinction, including a possible celestial impact and volcano activity.

Through the study of samples of deep-sea sediment, the Chinese team believe they have found evidence indicating the presence of rich sulfureted hydrogen, a poisonous gas, said Shen Yan'an, head of the research.

The interaction between the gas in the deep water with oxygen-rich water on the surface is a deadly mixture, Shen said.

“Today, sulfureted hydrogen exists in some waters in Gulf of Mexico, California and India”, said Shen, adding that the findings could also give insight into climate and environmental changes and inform policies.

The findings have been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Fake cosmetics worth over 800 mln yuan seized in China

Fifteen suspects have been arrested in east China’s Zhejiang Province for producing and selling fake and substandard cosmetics, Zhejiang Police said Wednesday.

Police in Taizhou City dismantled seven underground dens during a raid earlier this month and seized over 1,200 boxes of counterfeit cosmetic products and commodities labeled as high-end brands such as Chanel, Lancome, Dior and Estee Lauder.

The goods had a street value of over 827 million yuan (120 million U.S. dollars) at market prices.

A total of 15 suspects were detained, of which 13 have been charged by procurators.

The case surfaced in February last year after a complaint about an Amway-branded toothpaste bought online that was found to be fake.

Investigation into the online store shone a light on a chain that manufacture and distribute counterfeit top brand cosmetics in Henan, Heilongjiang, Guangdong and Zhejiang provinces.

China’s Yunnan reports another H7N9 fatality

Southwest China’s Yunnan Province has reported another death from the H7N9 strain of bird flu.

The female patient, 23, was mother of the three-year old infant girl who died of H7N9 earlier this month, according to the Health and Family Planning Commission of Yunnan Province Wednesday.

The family of three went to east China's Jiangxi Province for the Spring Festival holiday on Jan. 21, and had contact with live poultry there.

The patient, who has only been identified by her surname Yang, developed symptoms on Feb. 4. She was hospitalized four days later as she had close contact with her daughter, who tested positive for H7N9 virus and died on Feb. 7.

Her condition deteriorated rapidly and she died in hospital Tuesday night.

Other people who had been in close contact have all tested negative for the virus so far.

H7N9 bird flu has been reported in several provinces in China so far this year, with 79 people died in January from the virus nationwide, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

The live poultry trade has been suspended in cities across the provinces of Sichuan, Hunan and Zhejiang.

H7N9 is a bird flu strain first reported to have infected humans in China in March 2013. Infections usually occur in winter and spring.

[China reports 79 deaths from H7N9 bird flu in January](#)

China reported 79 fatalities from H7N9 avian flu in January, health authorities said Wednesday.

Since the beginning of the year, 16 provincial regions have reported human H7N9 avian flu cases, with 192 cases in January, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

From Feb. 6 to 12, 69 such cases were reported across the country, including eight fatalities.

In China, most cases were around the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta areas, said Shu Yuelong, director of the Chinese National Influenza Center.

Contact with infected poultry and exposure to live poultry markets pose risks of infection, Shu said, adding that evidence rules out sustained human-to-human transmission of avian flu.

Health authorities are implementing a raft of measures to address the situation, including improving surveillance and risk assessment, more training for medical staff, and allocating medical resources more effectively.