

Chinese head home after hurricane

Relief, gratitude show as planes leave for Shanghai



Chinese workers get aboard a plane at V.C. Bird International Airport, Antigua and Barbuda, on Saturday. They were expected to arrive in Shanghai on Sunday night. YIN LIQIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda — China Eastern Airlines crew members greeted Chinese nationals who had been transferred to St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in the West Indies with a warm "Welcome home!" as two chartered planes landed at V.C. Bird International Airport.

After Hurricane Maria devastated the Caribbean island of Dominica, 377 of the more than 400 Chinese who found shelter are finally getting a ride home.

Chen Gangjun, 48, had been doing construction work in Dominica as part of an assistance project carried out by China Civil Engineering Construction Corp.

"Many of our fellow workers woke up very early and came to the canteen at 4 am, much earlier than usual. ... Everybody is very excited and eager to go home. They couldn't bear waiting anymore," Chen said. "I shared the feeling, and I

don't feel tired at all." Sun Haojie, director of a Chinese agricultural aid program in Dominica, waited to board with his wife and their 2-year-old son.

"I really want to express my gratitude for our motherland. With the combined efforts of so many departments, we would not be able to return

home in such a short period of time," Sun said. "My son seems to understand the good news, too. He is particularly excited this morning — I just hope he will not be troubled by the long flight."

Meanwhile, the 64 China Eastern Airlines crew members had also prepared for the

flight, which will take them over 19 countries. The total round trip is about 35,000 kilometers, said Guo Wanjing, one of the chief pilots in command. "We might not be able to send you to all the places around the world, but we have the ability to bring you back home when you are in trouble, wherever you are."

Embarking on the journey back home, relief and anticipation were clearly written on the faces of the formerly stranded Chinese. Everyone was holding a small national flag. Among them, a passenger held a sign saying "CCECC worker, gratitude toward the motherland".

Antigua and Barbuda also played a crucial role in helping the Chinese embassy get in touch with and transport Chinese displaced by the earlier Hurricane Irma.

Anthony Liverpool, director general of the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and International Trade, said: "It was very easy for us to extend a helping hand in time of need to the people of China," he said. "This is something that we think friends should do for friends."

The two planes were scheduled to arrive at Shanghai Pudong International Airport on Sunday night, as Chinese people celebrate double holidays — National Day and Mid-Autumn Day — which happen to coincide this year.

XINHUA

Sun's disciplinary case sounds an alarm bell for Party

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made a decision on Friday to expel Sun Zhengcai, former Chongqing Party chief, from the Party, dismiss him from public office and transfer the case involving his suspected crimes to the judiciary.

The timely discovery of and thorough investigation into Sun's "serious discipline violations" before the 19th National Congress of the CPC, scheduled to open on Oct 18, fully demonstrates the resolute will and unambiguous attitude of the CPC Central Committee, with comrade Xi Jinping as the core, to adhere to the Party's self-management and promote stricter self-governance, and also fully incarnates the Party's firm determination and unflinching mettle to carry through to the end the fight against corruption and the building of the Party style and clean governance.

As a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee when investigated, Sun should have made himself an example for others and taken the lead to fulfill Party principles. However, he was found to have oscillated on those ideals and faith, betrayed Party principles and lost his political stance. He was found to have seriously violated the Party's political discipline and rules, its eight-point conduct on frugality and its mass discipline and organizational discipline. He was also found to have seriously violated Party discipline on integrity, its working discipline and the discipline of life.

Sun did not refrain from doing this after the 18th National Congress of the CPC in late 2012, and his glaring wrongdoing has caused strong reactions from the people. With his malpractice, Sun has completely deviated from Party principles, violated the trust of the top leadership and the expectations of the people, caused huge losses to the causes of the Party and nation and brought extremely negative consequences to society. The thorough investigation into Sun's case will be of great significance in eliminating hidden dangers within the Party, giving force to Party discipline and purifying the Party team. It once again proves the Party has strong self-purification, self-correction, self-innovation and self-improvement capabilities.

Corruption is a tumor that has intruded into the Party's healthy body, and the campaign for stricter self-governance of the Party is a war, but without the smoke of gunpowder. To persistently fight corruption, unwaveringly reset the tumor and resolutely win the battle against corruption are requirements of adherence to our Party's nature and principles and its

bid to promote stricter self-governance. Sun's case reminds us that despite achieving a significant victory in fighting corruption, the Party's anti-corruption battle still faces grim and complicated circumstances. That means the Party must continuously advance its anti-corruption campaign, continuously maintain high pressure on and zero-tolerance toward corruption, keep unchanged stern punishments on wrongdoers and probe any corruption clues to resolutely eradicate "sources" of corruption.

What means can the Party resort to for better self-management and stricter self-governance? It should put in place unambiguous Party discipline and keep a close watch on the "key few" leading officials. To abide by discipline and rules, officials must first abide by political discipline and rules. From Zhou Yongkang to Bo Xilai, Xu Caihou, Guo Boxiong, Ling Jihua and Su Rong, and to the most recent Sun Zhengcai, their serious violations of Party discipline can invariably be traced to their abandoning of the political stance they should possess as Party members, their serious sabotage of political discipline and their serious violation of Party principles on "centralized unity". Sun's case once again sounds the alarm bell to the whole Party that leading officials, senior ones in particular, must consolidate their political stance, firmly establish the "Four Consciousnesses" — the ideology, the whole, the core and the line — continuously consolidate their loyalty to the Party and constantly remind themselves that the high positions held by them should not lead to power trampling and pursuit of selfish interests.

The Party's self-governance campaign is forever on the road. Party organizations at various levels and all Party members, especially various levels of leading officials, should unite their thinking and actions with the spirit of the top leadership, use Sun's case as a negative example from which to learn lessons, further practice various significant initiatives taken by the top leadership to promote stricter self-governance of the Party and fight corruption, and ideologically and politically keep them in line with the spirit of the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as the core. All Party members should keep a serious intra-Party political life and remain self-restrained and self-disciplined in the use of power to brace for the upcoming 19th National Congress of the CPC.

Editorial opinion from People's Daily, Sept 30

Through paper and pottery, artisans redefine village

By XING WEN xingwen@chinadaily.com.cn



Zhang Shengdi, an entrepreneur in Fengxiang, Guizhou province, has been working to revive papermaking — her part in the fight against poverty — ever since President Xi Jinping visited Huamao village in June 2015.

Huamao falls under the administration of Fengxiang, which is part of the larger Zunyi city.

To alleviate poverty by developing tourism and cultural industries, the local government has made great efforts to protect traditional crafts such as pottery and papermaking, as well as developing other creative products.

Zhang's company once marketed Moutai liquor. Now she has set up a cultural brand called Hua Mao Ren Jia, which means "households of Huamao".

"President Xi's visit to Huamao drew public attention to my hometown, with the village welcoming many more tourists than ever before since he came here. So I thought it was time for me to ride the growth wave and do something for my poverty-stricken fellow villagers," Zhang, 43, said.

She spent some time with poor families who receive government subsidies and discovered that dependence on subsidies might not be the best answer to make their situation better. She decided to train some people in the village to help with long-term employment.

Making paper by boiling the bark of mulberry trees is an old tradition in the village. Zhang drew up a blueprint to help diversify the products made of paper — notebooks, umbrellas, lanterns — and gave customers an opportunity to participate in the process of papermaking.

"There's an old Chinese saying that goes, 'Teaching a man how to fish is better than feeding him fish,'" Zhang said. Her papermaking startup gained the support of the village Party committee and the local government. Three households in Huamao were rented out for the purpose.

"I paint Chinese pictures on paper products to enrich their design," said Wang Peikuan, a member of the Calligraphy and Painting Association of Fengxiang.

"Working on the poverty alleviation project gives me a sense of achievement." Last month, Zhang and representatives from 13 other cultural enterprises in Guizhou attended the China Beijing International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo, where they promoted their products.

With the help of the local branch of the All-China Women's Federation, she learned about the mass entrepreneurship and innovation drive that China has launched to generate more jobs.

Members of the village committee also used their social networks to find potential customers for her, she said. Developing sales channels, especially online, is a priority now.

"I would like to cooperate with universities in the future to see if young people can give us ideas for product designs," she said.

To find young talent for startups, the local government established the Maker Center in Huamao, where students majoring in visual communi-

cation design at Zunyi Normal College interact with local artisans involved in traditional pottery.

Wang Weiqi, a volunteer at the center, said the students' brainstorm about how to turn clay into exquisite pottery pieces so that men and women in the craft can break out of their insularity in designing such works.

They also want to find ways to pass down traditional techniques to the younger generation.

Achieving both within the crafts — inheriting and innovating — is the long-term goal of the village's cultural and creative industry, even though the approach is being used to fight poverty at the moment.

With the help of the government of Fengxiang, Mu Xiangang, 50, a local pottery maker whose workshop was visited by Xi in 2015, has become a pioneer in his ancestral craft. His workshop serves as a base



Mu Xiangang, a resident of Huamao village, Guizhou province, works a piece of pottery on a wheel. CHEN ZEBING / CHINA DAILY

for college students to create artwork out of clay.

Mu also offers tourists the experience of making pottery themselves, at 20 yuan (\$3) per person.

He said he uses an electric kiln instead of his old coal-fired furnace now because Xi urged traditional artisans to be environmentally friendly.

"My annual income has increased to 300,000 yuan from 30,000 yuan as tourists flock to my workshop to experience pottery and buy my wares," Mu said of the big change in his life.

"Since President Xi's visit, we have a clearer idea about lifting the village out of poverty. We should try to make papermaking, farming and revolutionary culture the symbols of Huamao. These symbols will strengthen the cultural identity of the village, thereby raising its profile and boosting tourism," said Shuai Bo, Fengxiang's Party secretary.

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Weather forecast section for Monday, October 2, 2017. Includes a map of China and surrounding regions, and tables of weather data for various cities in Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Africa.