

CHINA

Hainan resumes visa-free travel policy

Province preparing to welcome intl visitors again after three long years

By CHEN BOWEN in Haikou chenbowen@chinadaily.com.cn

Alina Oleinikova hasn't seen her mother for more than three years. In that time, the 26-year-old Russian has been doing international trade in Hainan province, and now she's about to welcome her mother for a visit.

China resumed visa-free entry to Hainan on Wednesday to the delight of Alina's mother, who is now looking for a flight to Sanya, the province's main resort.

The policy, which covers tourists from 59 countries, was implemented in 2018 but had been suspended due to the pandemic since March 28, 2020.

Individuals from qualifying countries can enjoy visa-free entry to Hainan and are entitled to remain in the province for up to 30 days for business, tourism, family visits, medical treatment, exhibitions or sports competitions.

Its resumption demonstrates Hainan's welcome to the world, and the deepening of connections between Hainan and the 59 countries, especially in terms of economy, trade and cultural exchanges, according to the Hainan Bureau of International Economic Development.

A representative from the bureau noted that more foreign companies and projects are expected in the province's free trade port.

The third China International Consumer Products Expo will be held in Haikou, capital of Hainan, in April. As a result of the policy, more CEOs from leading global companies, overseas exhibitors and foreign buyers are expected to participate in person, the bureau said.

"The resumption will improve international accessibility to the Hainan FTP," said Li Shijie, dean of the School of Economics at Hainan University on Tuesday. "It will facilitate short stays by foreign visitors

“We have communicated with airlines and travel agencies, conducted research, streamlined entry procedures and made plans for staff deployments at the airport.”

Zhang Yuwei, official from Haikou Public Security Bureau

and enhance the province's ability to attract international talent.”

Li believes it will also activate inbound tourism, benefit civil aviation, accelerate the return of spending and help the province become an international tourism hub.

The provincial department of tourism, culture, radio, television and sports said that it will promote aviation subsidy measures and encourage airlines and chartered-

flight companies to open direct routes to and from the province. It will also help tourism companies develop inbound markets.

Mai Weiwen, CEO of Hainan Wenhua Tourism Group, said on Thursday that inbound tourists were mainly from Japan, South Korea, Russia and Southeast Asia.

“We’ve already planned offerings for Cambodian, Thai and Vietnamese tour groups, and we’re also thinking about catering to tourists from Singapore and Malaysia. We’ll encourage them to experience local customs and culture, including local delicacies,” said the group’s Wang Tiezhu on Thursday.

“When I heard that the visa-free entry policy had been resumed, I immediately booked a ticket and flew here. The entry procedure was very convenient,” said a Singaporean tourist surnamed Ho, who arrived in Haikou on Wednesday.

Zhang Yuwei, from the entry and exit administration department of Haikou Public Security Bureau, said a lot of work has been done to prepare for international visitors.

“We have communicated with

airlines and travel agencies, conducted research, streamlined entry procedures and made plans for staff deployments at the airport,” he said.

Russian expatriate Sergei Orlov, an entrepreneur and travel marketer in Sanya, believes it’s definitely good news for Hainan’s travel industry.

“With visa-free opportunities, more international tourists will come to Hainan, and my company will likely be in demand,” he said.

Albert Yip, director-general of the Sanya tourism promotion board, said that in recent years it has been committing to the renewal of tourism resources and to introducing large-scale cultural and sports activities, and a range of musical events, exhibitions, conferences and exhibitions. With the resumption, these activities will attract more international visitors.

“The board is also carrying out tourism promotion activities overseas. With the policy, we’re confident in making Sanya a new indicator in the construction of the Hainan FTP,” Yip added.

Graduates told enough jobs if they aren’t ‘picky’

By ZOU SHUO zoushuo@chinadaily.com.cn

National lawmakers and political advisers have suggested that university graduates find employment at grassroots levels and make the most use of their skills in China's vast rural hinterlands.

With an estimated 11.58 million fresh graduates expected this year, employment was a heated topic at this year's two sessions, the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

In a 2020 reply to 118 graduates studying at the China University of Petroleum-Beijing in Karamay in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, President Xi Jinping expressed support for their decision to take grassroots jobs in Xinjiang to work with different ethnic groups for the development of the western region.

Xi encouraged the graduates to aim high, be down-to-earth, brave difficulties and obstacles, shoulder the mission of the times, integrate their pursuit of ideals with the cause of the Party and country, and contribute more.

Ma Huaide, a member of the National Committee of the CPPCC and president of the China University of Political Science and Law, said that graduates are being encouraged to find jobs where they are needed the most.

The record number of graduates is making employment more challenging, and universities are faced with a heavier task, Ma said, adding that employment is a major concern for graduates, their families and the future of the country.

Both Party and government are attentive to employment and have issued a series of support policies, and universities have also made graduate employment their top priority, Ma said.

Over the past 10 years, many graduates have found jobs in government institutions, companies, law firms and arbitration institutions, said Ma, adding some 3,300 found work in western regions, border areas and serving the people in grassroots-level posts.

He added that young people in the new era accept the importance of going where they are most needed to contribute to the country's development, but that it is important they find the kinds of jobs that will benefit them in the long term.

Wang Hong, a National People's Congress deputy and professor at the China University of Mining and Technology, said that as a result of the expansion of higher education in China, university graduates are no longer the rarity they were before, so they should have a clearer picture of the employment situation and not fixate on finding jobs in big cities or high-paying jobs in specific industries.

Pursuing a degree is a means of broadening one's horizon and learning, not a means of escaping from one's hometown, she told Beijing Youth Daily, adding that by returning to rural areas, graduates are able to make use of what they have learned to improve their hometowns.

There are neither good nor bad professions, only suitable or unsuitable ones, Wang said, and no matter what careers students pursue, they can make a difference if they work hard.

She encouraged students to try different paths and not to set limits on their development.

Ni Mingjing, a CPPCC National Committee member and head of the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, said that he is confident about graduate employment this year as the economy is set to recover and the demand for workers will increase.

Ni, who had served as deputy director of the Shanghai Education Commission until February told media outlet ThePaper.cn that the number of job vacancies is much higher than the number of university graduates, so as long as graduates are not too picky, they can find work.

“The starting point of one's career does not determine their future. As long as one works hard and has real talent, one's prospects for development are immense,” he said.

Ni encouraged graduates to first find a job and then improve their skills along the way.

Institute to contribute to emissions targets

By HOU LIQIANG houliqiang@chinadaily.com.cn

Peking University launched a new institute dedicated to carbon mitigation research on Wednesday, vowing to make full use of its advantages in both the humanities and science to contribute to the national goal of becoming carbon neutral.

The new Institute of Carbon Neutrality has 93 researchers from 21 schools, including the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, the School of International Studies and the School of Government, said Piao Shilong, director general of the institute.

Eight of the researchers are academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, he added.

China announced in September 2020 that it aims to reach peak carbon dioxide emissions before the end of this decade and carbon neutrality before 2060.

The institute will endeavor to create a talent training system to help meet those goals, Piao said and plans to offer doctoral degrees in science, engineering, law and economics that contain elements related to meeting the goals.

He said the institute will focus on six research areas, including climate change and carbon cycles, energy system engineering, climate legislation and global climate governance.

Han Qide, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and honorary president of the China Association for Science and Technology, expressed high expectations for the new institute as the humanities and science are strengths of Peking University.

“Carbon neutrality is not only a

93 researchers

from 21 schools of Peking University work at the new Institute of Carbon Neutrality, the university announced.

scientific, but also a social matter,” he stressed.

A lot of work related to strategic planning, policymaking, social governance and international relations needs to be done to make the country's carbon targets a reality, he noted.

According to Han, 40 carbon neutrality institutes have been set up at universities across the country. If the Peking University institute can better promote the disciplinary integration of the humanities and science, it will surely contribute to carbon neutrality efforts.

While addressing the launch ceremony via video link, Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, said he looks forward to seeing the institute offer guidance to policymakers in China and beyond.

Lauding Peking University as a vital force for driving the country's development, Zhao Yingmin, vice-minister of ecology and environment, said he believes the institute will not only contribute to China's climate targets, but also play an important role in global efforts to create a clean and beautiful world.

The vice-minister said he expects the institute to usher in technological innovation to address national decarbonization needs, and accelerate efforts to train the talent needed.

He said he also hopes to see it develop into an institution with academic impact around the world, and play a role in interpreting China's climate action through international exchange.

Fish out of water



Fishermen haul a giant fish from Tianjing Lake in Tongling, Anhui province, on Saturday. The two-week fishing period will lead to the netting of the lake's larger fish, which live near the bottom of the lake and are increasingly affecting the quality of sedimentary soil on the lake bed.

GUO SHINING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Agro-climatic survey to tweak farming

By LI HONGYANG lihongyang@chinadaily.com.cn

The third national agro-climatic resource survey and zoning work to create a suitable agricultural production structure and a regional layout tailored to local conditions is needed, according to experts and deputies to the National People's Congress.

China has conducted two such surveys since 1949, in 1964 and 1979.

Xue Zhilong, Party chief of Huangqitan village, Ulaanqab, Inner Mongolia autonomous region, said that after field research south of Hohhot, he was assured that a new agro-climatic resource survey and zoning is needed to help farmers decide what to plant.

Inner Mongolia is one of four provincial regions with more than 6.7 million hectares of arable land.

“I was surprised that the frost-free period in neighboring villages can differ by more than 10 days. That means while crops in one village are good, those in the other are frozen, so it is quite necessary to do the agro-climatic resource survey,” said Xue, who is also a deputy to the National People's Congress.

“My village experiences a frost-free period of just 97 days at most a year. Waxy corn and sweet corn with long growth cycles cannot ripen in time some years, so we only grow crops with short growth cycles,” he added.

Xue said that science can give farmers a better understanding of the climate and what crops are more suitable to cultivate, and through climate prediction, farmers can maintain production.



Visitors learn how a radar functions at Kunming Meteorological Station in Kunming, Yunnan province, on Saturday. Some 200 people were invited to the station to learn about climate research ahead of World Meteorological Day on Thursday.

YANG ZHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

By way of example, Xue said that a lot of slopes in the area are suited to growing caragana, the Siberian peashrub, a windproof shrub which sheep and camels can eat.

Zhang Lei, a senior engineer at the National Meteorological Center's Ecological and Agro-meteorological office, said the survey and zoning completed four decades ago no longer meet the needs of modern agricultural production.

“China has been undergoing changes to crop layout and production due to climate change,” Zhang said.

Since the period from 1951 to 1980, 30 climate zones have shifted, she said, and for example, the eastern section of the northern boundary of the warm and wet

zone has shifted northward.

Annual precipitation has increased by an average of 5.1 millimeters every 10 years. The increase of water and heat has expanded the area suitable for corn and rice in Northeast China, and has also shifted orange planting areas northward, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

In February, the central government released the No 1 Central Document saying that it is necessary to start a new round of national agro-climatic resource surveying and zoning work.

Meteorological departments will assess crop growth and distribution based on satellite data collected since the 1980s to support the survey.

Gripping times



People watch wrestlers compete during a traditional sports contest in Bohu, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Saturday. The event also included horse races and rooster and goat fights.

NIAN LEI / FOR CHINA DAILY