



Human resources officers of a company conduct an online interview with a graduate student in Shanxi. LIU BIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Job-hunting graduates turning to online fairs

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, graduate students in Shanxi's universities and colleges have resorted to attending online fairs to look for jobs.

Since the graduate students returned to school on April 10, Shanxi University in Taiyuan has organized two job fairs for them.

At the second fair held on Thursday, a total of 6,534 vacancies from 170 companies from Shanxi and the rest of the country were available for the students.

Yuan Siming, a graduate student at the university, attended the two online job fairs.

"The situation is unusual compared to the previous years as the epidemic poses great pressure on the job market," Yuan said. "I was very anxious when I was staying at home to wait for the school's reopening."

He said the anxiety was relieved when he returned to school and was told there were a number of online job fairs available.

"We submitted resumes and took interviews online. This is a totally different experience but it is actually even more efficient than on-site events," Yuan said, adding that he has received offers from several companies.

Huang Xu, a graduate student from Taiyuan University of Technology, also succeeded in finding a job through the online job fairs.

"I think there are a lot of advantages in online fairs. You can quickly identify your target employers and thoroughly research them," Huang said, adding he received offers from seven or so companies.

Majoring in civil engineering, he decided to work with China Construction Sixth Engineering Division Group.

Taiyuan University of Technology's online job fairs have attracted more than 2,900 companies, including 191 companies on the Fortune Global 500 list, with more than 60,000 vacancies available, according to the university.

Li Xiangyan, a student from Shanxi University, shared the same opinion with Huang on the efficiency of online events.

"At the noisy and crowded job fair venues, it's not easy for you to calm down to study your target employers and to communicate

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Huang Xu, a graduate student from Taiyuan University of Technology

with human resources officers," Li said.

On the contrary, the student said she has more time to prepare when attending an online event.

Liu Liyan, HR manager at China Construction Sixth Engineering Division Group, said online job fairs are among the best options in the circumstance of the epidemic.

However, he admitted that "it's a regret that we cannot have face-to-face communications with interviewees for a better understanding of their characters and potentials".

The online job fairs are held according to the requirements of the Shanxi Department of Education for dealing with the novel coronavirus epidemic, according to Wu Junqing, head of the department.

More than 220,000 students will graduate from Shanxi's universities and colleges this year, Wu said.

He noted that the department has cooperated with a number of information technology companies to ensure the success of the job fairs.

The official said his department has demanded all universities and colleges in Shanxi pay special attention to students in difficulty, especially those from Hubei, a province that was hit hard by the epidemic.

Li Xiang, an official at Taiyuan University of Technology, said the school's officials have kept in touch with all 130 graduate students from Hubei, to help them access various online job-hunting platforms while they are still at their homes.

Li Yali contributed to this story.

Industrial heartland reinvents itself for new-age technology

Shanxi moves on from traditional coal mining to attract investors through emerging industries



By YUAN SHENGGAO

As a province that used to rely heavily on coal mining, Shanxi in North China is now diversifying its economy through industrial reform.

According to the provincial government of Shanxi, the province is using cutting-edge technologies such as cloud computing, big data, mobile internet, the internet of things, industrial internet and blockchain to create eight new economic pillars.

The eight pillars are: information technology, civil aviation, finance, cultural tourism, new energy and new materials, natural gas, advanced manufacturing and modern chemicals.

The outbreak of COVID-19, which began in December and declined in March in China, has not stopped the pace of industrial structure reform.

According to the Shanxi provincial government's requirements on normalizing economic activities, many businesses and investment promotional organizations in the province have stepped up their efforts to attract investors to these emerging sectors.

The administrative committee of the Changzhi Economic and Technological Development Zone in Changzhi city, southeast Shanxi, is one such organization.

Li Wenbin, head of the committee, has been busy meeting investors, making research tours and offering services to local businesses.

"I met some visiting businesspeople from Jiangsu province on April 3," Li said.

The business representatives were from Donghua Aluminum Technology in Jiangyin city, Jiangsu province.

The delegation visited the local Zhongde Group, a producer of cells for new energy vehicles, hoping to manufacture and provide cell cases for the company.

According to Li, the committee's officials made great efforts to help the two companies reach a deal.



From top: Workers assemble cells at an electric vehicle plant of BYD in Taiyuan. SUN RONGXIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY Workers assemble tunneling machines at a construction machinery plant of Datong-based Zhongke Weishi. WANG ZHONGXUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

They held a special seminar to explain the development zone's advantages in policies, market potential and resources to the investor.

As one of the demonstrative areas of Shanxi's industrial restructuring, the Changzhi zone has competitive industries such as advanced manufacturing, solar power equipment production, new energy and new materials, according to Li.

The official said since the beginning of 2020, the zone has signed 47 investment projects, with total funding reaching 11.78 billion yuan (\$1.66 billion).

In addition, Li said 22 investment projects are under construction, with investment totaling 6.82 billion yuan.

While investment officials are busy promoting local investment

destinations, the province has seen gradual production resumption in its emerging industries.

In the Shanxi Transition and Comprehensive Reform Demonstration Zone located on the borders of Taiyuan and Jinzhong cities, all the enterprises above designated scale — which refers to companies with annual sales revenue surpassing 20 million yuan — have resumed their operations, according to the zone's administrative committee.

SND New Energy Special Vehicle was one of the earliest companies in the zone to resume production.

"Our company resumed operations on Feb 14 and now about 99 percent of our employees are back to work, except for those who are still in Wuhan, Hubei province," said Que Wenxiu, president of the company.

SND was founded in 2018, with a total investment of 1 billion yuan. It has a designed production capacity of 100,000 special vehicles a year, which are used in such fields as cold-storage transport, street cleaning, snow removal and emergency rescue.

Despite COVID-19's negative influence on the market, the company recently secured orders for 286 cold-storage vehicles, according to Que.

The executive noted that his company started trial operation last year, with only 48 vehicles produced.

"As formal operation begins, we are expecting to produce 5,000 vehicles this year, with an estimated revenue of 1.5 billion yuan," Que said.

The executive said he is optimistic about the new energy vehicle industry, especially in sectors for special vehicles.

In the IT sector, local computer manufacturer 100Trust signed an agreement with the Taiyuan-based North University of China for all-round strategic cooperation.

NUC, formerly known as North China Institute of Technology, is a multidisciplinary university with expertise in IT research. 100Trust is a manufacturer of computers, servers and components based on China's independently developed central processing units like Kunpeng developed by Huawei and Loongson by the Institute of Computing Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The collaboration with a strong research institute will improve our competitiveness in the domestic market," said Wang Xianchao, founder and board chairman of 100Trust.

He added that the partnership will also make 100Trust an important base of research and training for NUC.

The authorities in Shanxi made it clear that the IT industry is a vital sector for the province to foster new growth areas and upgrade traditional industries.

A document recently released by the provincial government called IT-based innovation "the No 1 program in Shanxi" as it can lead to "a beneficial ecosystem for startups in many emerging industries".

Guo Yanjie contributed to this story.

Rare bird adds color to local environment

Wildlife researchers in Shanxi recently spotted a group of golden pheasants in the forests of Zhongtiao Mountains in Yicheng county. The bird is a unique species in China.

Featuring colorful feathers, the bird is on the nation's second-level list for protection. As the core habitats of the birds are in the south of Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, researchers said it is unusual to find such a species in Shanxi. The discovery in Yicheng demonstrates a steady improvement of the local environment. In addition to golden pheasants, researchers have also found flocks of other wild birds in the county. LIU JIANG AND GUO QIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY



Airport shoulders the burden to prevent imported virus cases



A customs officer uses a smart monitoring system to check the temperature of a passenger at Taiyuan Wusu International Airport. ZHAO DEWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

By YUAN SHENGGAO

As the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to spread throughout the world, preventive measures targeting imported cases have become a pressing challenge in China.

To relieve pressure at large international airports, Wusu International Airport in Taiyuan, Shanxi province began receiving flights originally scheduled for Beijing on March 19.

As of April 21, Wusu has received 12 flights diverted from the capital, according to Shanxi's civil aviation officials.

The flights were from Canada, Ethiopia, Russia and Belarus.

Officers at the airport's customs have provided checks for more than

3,000 international travelers to date.

To ensure smooth processing, Taiyuan Customs has established a special task team for examination and quarantine, including 100-plus customs officers and 75 medical workers from various hospitals in the city.

According to Zhang Biqi, an official responsible for quarantine in customs, team members must comply with the strictest preventive measures and procedures to ensure the health of passengers and themselves.

"We usually wear two layers of gloves to ensure our safety," Zhang said. "Our standards to judge the passengers' health conditions are not limited to taking body temperatures. We will ask passengers their

travel history and pay close attention to symptoms like cough and difficulty in breathing." The official said all passengers will be classified into three categories according to their risk levels.

"Passengers with marked symptoms will be led to a specific area, and passengers in close contact with the former will be led to another area," Zhang said.

She added the various groups of passengers will be taken to separated areas at customs for further examinations and tests.

Confirmed and suspected cases will be given a nucleic acid test in an airport laboratory, according to Zhang.

Passengers without symptoms are required to undergo a two-week quarantine in nearby hotels before

they can leave for Beijing.

The process of examination and quarantine for one flight usually takes more than five hours, according to Zhang.

However, airport examination does not end there.

Fleets of ambulances and buses wait outside the airport, carrying confirmed and suspected patients to designated hospitals and asymptomatic passengers to designated hotels for quarantine.

There are two hospitals and more than 100 medics designated to serve confirmed and suspected patients, and 46 hotels to accommodate other international passengers, according to the Shanxi Health Commission.

Li Yali contributed to this story.