

CHINA

New policies to incentivize employment

Stronger financial measures unveiled to encourage the hiring of job seekers

By CHENG SI
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The State Council, China's Cabinet, unveiled a batch of new policies on Wednesday to further promote employment and keep the country steered toward its economic goals, with an aim to stabilize the job market and bolster high-quality economic development.

According to a notice about the policies released by the State Council, a series of stronger financial incentives for employers, such as reimbursing them a higher proportion of unemployment insurance payments, will be offered if they meet certain standards.

Employers having trouble keeping their businesses afloat can apply to defer their payments into the pension, unemployment and work-related injury insurance programs. No late fees will be charged during the deferment periods.

Small and medium-sized companies in the nation's pillar industries, including modern manufacturing and new energy, will receive social insurance subsidies upon hiring people from key groups such as college graduates, migrant workers and demobilized military members and signing standard labor contracts lasting at least one year. The company is responsible for applying for the subsidies and passing them on to employees promptly.

Companies and social organizations which are hiring young registered unemployed people between the ages of 16 and 24, and have signed standard labor contracts and also paid their portion of the social insurance for at least three months, will receive one-time subsidies from the government. The subsidy is up to 1,500 yuan (\$209) per person and is for the employers. It is available until December.

County-level authorities are encouraged to start construction programs focusing on urban-rural

integration and countryside development, thus providing jobs to migrant workers and people who have been laid off.

Skills training is highlighted in the notice. The government will give stronger financial support to companies to encourage them to organize skills training programs for their workers. Vocational colleges and schools are encouraged to relax their age restrictions for new students and to enroll young laid-off people or migrant workers who want to improve their professional competence.

Governments at all levels are required to optimize job services to both employers and job seekers. For college graduates who are having trouble landing jobs due to physical disabilities or financial problems, local human resources bureaus should recommend high-quality job openings or internships. According to the notice, local authorities are required to offer unemployment insurance to registered workers who have paid into the insurance for at least a year before being laid off so they can meet their basic living needs. Employment aid or assistance should be available to people who go for long periods without finding work because they are older or have a disability.

Governments at all levels should also strengthen employment data collection and analysis to get a more comprehensive picture of the job market, strengthen supervision over the use of employment funds and prevent illegal practices such as cheating or submitting fraudulent applications to receive the funds.

Employment should be prioritized by the governments, who should analyze the impact the new policies will have on the job market before establishing further policies or programs and prepare for potential unemployment risks, the notice said.

Water work



A "sand painting" made along a section of the Yellow River depicts tree-like patterns in Pinglu county, Shanxi province, on Wednesday. The pattern was made on a riverbed with assistance from waters washing up and receding due to water and sediment regulation operations. XUE JUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Authorities ban use of LVA surgery to treat Alzheimer's

By WANG XIAOYU
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China's top health authority has banned the use of a minimally invasive surgical procedure to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The procedure, which is still undergoing clinical research, connects neck lymphatic vessels to adjacent veins to enhance the brain's lymphatic clearance system.

The National Health Commission said, in a notice released on Tuesday, it has recently learned that some medical institutions are conducting lymphaticovenous anastomosis, also known as LVA surgery, on patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Following the commission's discovery, it conducted assessments on the

procedure's safety and efficacy.

"Our evaluation concludes that there is a lack of evidence from pre-clinical studies in the use of LVA surgery for Alzheimer's disease treatment," it said.

"The procedure remains at an early stage of clinical research with its indications and contraindications yet to be clarified, and there is insufficient medical or health economic evidence attesting to its safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness," the commission added.

Local health authorities are advised to instruct medical institutions to halt treating Alzheimer's disease with LVA surgery and guarantee proper follow-up care for affected patients.

"When sufficient preclinical evi-

dence is collected, qualified medical institutions can carry out clinical studies under the full deliberation of ethics committees," it added.

LVA surgery has been primarily used to treat lymphedema, a disease that can cause an accumulation of fluid and the painful swelling of limbs.

The technique's potential in treating Alzheimer's disease — a condition linked to a buildup of toxic proteins in the brain — builds on the notion that by making a connection between a lymphatic channel and a vein, the clearance of cerebral metabolic waste will be enhanced and thus progression of the disease will be slowed down.

The Chinese PLA General Hospital in Beijing said in a statement released in June that it successfully

performed LVA surgery on an 80-year-old woman with severe cognitive impairment.

She was unable to recognize her family members and relied entirely on others for daily activities. "Since undergoing the surgery, the elderly patient has shown significant improvements in memory. She can not only accurately say relatives' names and occupations, but also engage in daily conversations," said the hospital.

A hospital in Lu'an, Anhui province, said last month that it had already carried out over 50 LVA surgeries on patients with Alzheimer's disease. A hospital in Dalian, Liaoning province, said that the procedure at their facility costs about 20,000 to 30,000 yuan (\$2,750 to 4,130) out-of-



A participant of the 11th Nishan Forum on World Civilizations tries on a *mamianqun*, or horse-face skirt in Qufu, Shandong province, on Wednesday. ZHAO XIAO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Nishan attendees tout diversity as key to advancing global modernization

By ZHAO RUIXUE
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Diversity can promote shared prosperity and guide the global modernization process, scholars and experts from around the world said at the 11th Nishan Forum on World Civilizations in Qufu, Shandong province, on Thursday.

More than 560 guests from over 70 countries convened for the two-day event in the historic county-level city, where Chinese philosopher Confucius was born in 551 BC.

At the forum, participants discussed how Confucian culture continues to resonate in the modern world, the critical role of global collaboration in driving modernization and the impact of artificial intelligence on human civilization.

Faced with various natural or human-made challenges in the process of modernization, no member of the international community can go through it alone, participants said.

They called for a concerted effort to eliminate suspicion and barriers, resolve conflicts and contradictions, and strengthen ideological and cultural foundations to

advance global modernization collectively.

Addressing the opening of the forum, Sun Chunlan, president of the International Confucian Association, said that a thorough exploration of how to manage the relationships between different civilizations and their role in advancing modernization holds great practical significance.

"Today, China is committed to offering new opportunities to the world through the achievements of its unique path to modernization, and providing new momentum to global partners through its vast domestic market," she added.

Hussain Mohamed Latheef, vice-president of the Maldives, noted that the theme of the forum — "Beauty in Diversity: Nurturing Understanding Among Civilizations for Global Modernization" — is timely and crucial in today's uncertain world.

"In the tide of global modernization, we need to draw strength from our differences and discover the beauty of civilizations and encourage mutual understanding among different cultures," he said.

Quoting an expression from Confucius' wisdom — "Gentlemen seek harmony, but not uniformity" —

Jean Louis Robinson Richard, Madagascar's ambassador to China, said that true harmony comes from respecting diversity, not imposing uniformity, and this wisdom is essential for building a peaceful and prosperous global community.

"A forum on the dialogue of civilizations such as the Nishan forum is even more relevant today in a turbulent world where armed conflict seems to be resurfacing," he said.

Some of the participants who are attending the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, which kicked off on Thursday in Beijing, joined the opening ceremony of the Nishan forum. They also took a tour of Qufu to gain a better understanding of Confucian philosophy.

"China is furthering the inheritance of Confucius, and his fairness, his wisdom and his loyalty are still valuable, and this is how the traditional background and modern China can match up, can come together and be under a single roof, and that's perfect," said Erdem Ilker Mutlu, chief adviser to the chairman of Turkey's Patriotic Party.

He noted that the world will find peace as civilizations come to understand each other and interact with respect.

Awards honor promoters of culture

By CHENG YUEZHU
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Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, former director-general of UNESCO, a United Nations agency that promotes international collaboration, received the Lifetime Honorary Award at the second Orchid Awards held in Beijing on Thursday.

Launched by the China International Communications Group in 2022, the Orchid Awards recognize non-Chinese individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to cultural exchanges, mutual learning and the promotion of Chinese culture.

Bokova, the first woman to lead UNESCO, has visited China more than 10 times and advanced numerous collaborations between China and UNESCO in education.

"I believe that this honor that is bestowed on me testifies to the very

strong attachment of China to UNESCO, to multilateralism and to everything that UNESCO does — to promote culture, to protect heritage, both tangible and intangible, and to foster intercultural dialogue," Bokova said in her acceptance speech.

She said dialogue among societies should be part of everyday life, both at the grassroots level and on the global stage, to work toward a shared future for humanity.

This year's Outstanding Achievement Award recipients are Rashid Alimov of Tajikistan, former secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; French writer and journalist Maxime Vivas; and the Philadelphia Orchestra from the United States.

The Friendship Envoy Award was presented to six individuals, including Thomas Rabe of Germany, chairman of the John Rabe Commu-

nication Center; Ali Mohammad Sabeghi of Iran, chairman of the Culture and Social Committee of the Iran-China Friendship Association; and Issah Abiola, Nigeria's first female train driver.

According to the awards' secretariat, this year's event received nearly 300 nominations from 114 organizations in about 80 countries, with candidates coming from diverse cultural fields.

The awards aim to advance the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the common values of humanity, build the cultural foundation for a global community of shared future, and facilitate exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

From July 9 to 14, the awards' international jury members are taking part in field visits in Beijing and Harbin, Heilongjiang province, to learn about China's cultural heritage and recent developments.

Meeting: China hailed for boosting development

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United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a congratulatory message to the meeting, underlining the significance of dialogue in promoting peace and development.

Noting that cultural diversity is a powerful force driving mutual understanding and global unity, he called on countries around the world to join hands to resolve hatred with love, transcend differences through dialogue, and collectively build a diverse, harmonious, mutually supportive human family where everyone equally enjoys dignity and rights.

Foreign participants in the event hailed the GCI, which was proposed by Xi in 2023, saying that the initiative is greatly relevant in addressing global challenges in the current complex international landscape.

Megawati Soekarnoputri, general chairwoman of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle and former Indonesian president, said that the GCI makes a significant contribution to achieving a more equitable, inclusive and harmonious world.

Nangolo Mbumba, former president of Namibia, said that the GCI helps promote understanding and friendship among peoples and jointly advances the development and progress of human civilization.

Former Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama said that the Ukraine crisis and the Palestine-Israel conflict have led to innocent people being killed in the warfare, and these tragedies have brought into focus the importance of the GCI.

By transcending hegemonic logic and acknowledging cultural diversity, China injects sustainable strength into global governance and plays a pivotal role in promoting world peace and development, he added.

Speaking at the plenary session of the meeting, Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said that China has always actively promoted dialogue among civilizations, and will continue to take more concrete steps to do so.

Bond: Visit offers chance for mutual appreciation

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"My hope is that we will leave with a better understanding of the culture and unite both the United States and China," Hubbard added.

Yang Wanning, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, noted that the ongoing choir festival marks the largest thematic youth exchange event since the establishment of China-US diplomatic ties in 1979.

He compared cultural exchanges to arranging different voices in choral music. "Only by listening to each other, coordinating and resonating with each other, can we appreciate one another's beauty and share beauty together," he added.

Hu Wangyihan, a student and choir member at the Affiliated High School of Fuzhou Institute of Education, said his choir has recently been fully absorbed in preparations for performing at the festival.

"Some members wrote the lyrics on the back of their hands," he said. "When we had our first rehearsal, the sunlight happened to pass through the hall's window. Then I suddenly realized: The encounter of different voices can create a miracle greater than a rainbow!"

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