

## Gradually Returning to Everyday Life (3<sup>rd</sup> September)

In the blink of an eye, two thirds of 2020 has already gone by. Life here in Liyang City has gradually returned back to normal. The intense summer heat has been replaced with a cool autumn breeze and the new school term has begun. The COVID-19 virus situation in Liyang City has settled down, however, in order to ensure each and every student can safely attend school, schools began preparing for the new term earlier than previous years. Schools have been thoroughly disinfected including all classrooms and other spaces which students use. All students must bring their own masks to school, however, unless the school announces otherwise, masks do not have to be worn on school grounds.

During the time of the Star Festival, following the theme of “Love” we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Liyang City Water Festival” at a well-known sightseeing spot called “Caoshan Niumatang”. We implemented a wide arrange of virus infection prevention measures including restricting the number of participants, requiring registration of all participants and only allowing people with registered scan codes into the event area. We broadcasted the event live on 9 electronic monitors throughout the city and also online to give as many people as possible an opportunity to enjoy the event.

The COVID-19 virus has dealt a massive blow to the restaurant, travel and leisure industries. Currently, the Chinese government has created strict measures to suppress the further spread of the virus, meaning leisure facilities, tourist attractions and eating establishments across the country can be re-opened. Here in Liyang City which is designated a “Superb Chinese Tourism City”, we are beginning to see signs of industrial recovery. During this year’s summer holiday, “Seian” the panda who lives at the tourist attraction Nanshan Zhuhai, celebrated their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday amidst the applause of visiting guests.

In order to help alleviate the labor shortage brought about by the virus, The Liyang government held a new event called the “Human Resources Evening Market”. At this event which was held in the town square, consultation booths were setup where participants could gain professional advice regarding employment opportunities, business startup information and financial support advice. Over 110 companies collaborated with this evening market event offering a total of 2000 potential employment opportunities. The event was well received and close to 400 participants were successfully matched with collaborating companies.

I heard that the virus situation in Hakusan City still calls for a high level of awareness and so, I hope that everyone’s lives will return back to normal as soon as possible. I believe that this hardship Haksuan is facing will pave the way to a chance for great development. Finally, I pray for the deepening of our cities friendship and greatly look forward to the day we can exchange cultures in person once more.

### Reporter Introduction

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