



**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – Confucius Institute**

**TAG-Confucius Newsletter** | Issue 45 - February 2020

### **Talal Abu Ghazaleh-Confucius Institute:**

The Institute was established in September 2008 to introduce the Chinese language and culture, as well as achieving a greater mutual understanding between the Arab and Chinese cultures. This unique initiative is based on the cooperation agreement between TAG-Org and Confucius Institute in China. The Institute has been named after the great intellectual, mentor and philosopher, Confucius, whose ideas had influenced China and other regions around the world for over 2,000 years.

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**TAG-Confucius Institute is the first institute accredited by the Chinese Government to teach Chinese language in Jordan.**

**TAG-Confucius Institute is holding a new course to teach the basics of the Chinese language for beginners:**

**A. Threshold Level for Adults: starting 08/03/2020**

**Schedule: Sunday and Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**B. Threshold Level for Kids : starting 07\03\2020**

**Schedule of the course: Saturday from 3:00- 4:30 pm**

**And Tuesday from 3:00-4:30 pm**

**\*All Chinese language teachers are from China specialized in teaching Chinese language for foreigners and accredited by the Confucius Institute in China.**



In his meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Jordan

**Abu-Ghazaleh Expresses Solidarity with the People's Republic of China in Fighting Coronavirus**



**AMMAN – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), visited the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jordan, HE Mr. Pan Weifang, and expressed his deep sympathy and support to the Chinese government and people in their battle against the coronavirus.**

During the meeting held at the Chinese Embassy in Amman, the Ambassador thanked Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh for his continuous support to the Chinese people, expressing his pride in the strong relations that exist between China and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and also with TAG. Global, at both official and personal levels over the years.

For his part, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh affirmed TAG.Global's support to China's efforts and keenness to protect its people, saying he has total confidence that China will manage to overcome the coronavirus.

“Our belief and confidence in the significance and impact of the Chinese culture, civilization and technology was the main driver for us to become one of the leading international corporations to



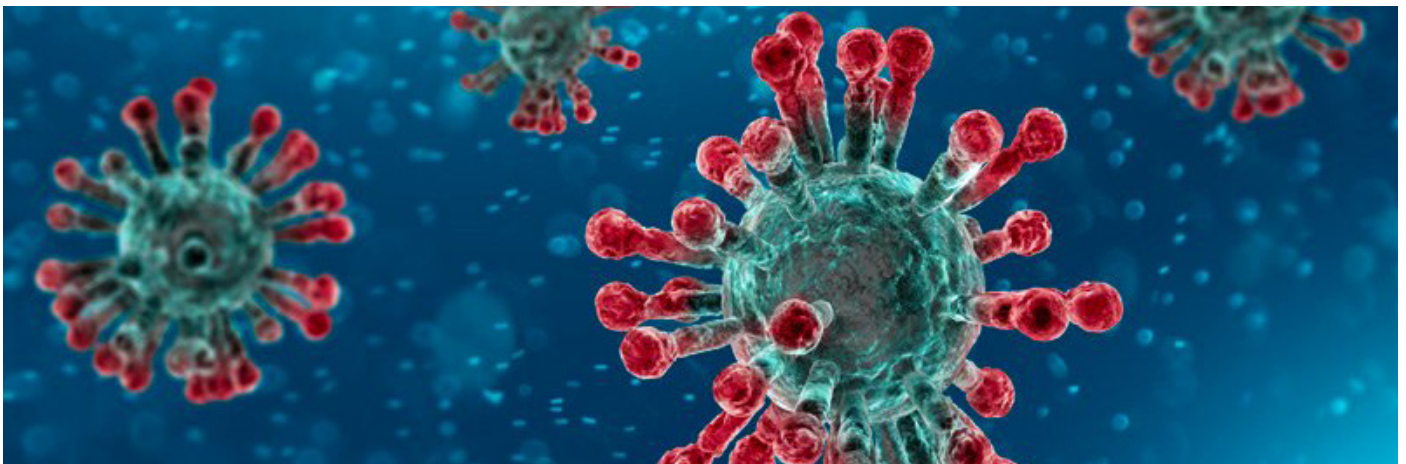
establish branches in China. Therefore, TAG.Global opened three offices in full operational capacity in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong in addition to two representative offices in Guangzhou and Chengdu to offer our world-class services,” Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh referred to the recently signed memorandum of understanding at Jordan’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply to establish the first Jordanian-Arab factory that designs and manufactures high-tech devices including laptops, tablets and smartphones at competitive prices under the name of “Talal Abu-Ghazaleh”, benefiting from the Chinese expertise in this domain.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh concluded by highlighting the role exerted by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG.Confucius) which is considered the most prominent tool of cooperation with China for disseminating its language and culture in addition to organizing activities and celebrations on various Chinese occasions including Chinese New Year, the Spring Festival and others.



### **China coronavirus: All you need to know in 500 words**



*New virus thought to have originated in China’s Wuhan city has killed at least 2,236 people and infected over 75,000.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the new coronavirus outbreak, which originated in Wuhan, China, a global health emergency.

At least 3,300 people have died from the disease and there have been more than 100,000 confirmed cases worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University.

#### **What is coronavirus?**

According to the WHO, coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

These viruses were originally transmitted between animals and people. SARS, for instance, was transmitted from civet cats to humans while MERS moved to humans from a type of camel.

Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

The name coronavirus comes from the Latin word corona, meaning crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, the image of the virus looks like a solar corona.

The novel coronavirus, identified by Chinese authorities on January 7 and since named COVID-19, is a new strain that had not been previously identified in humans. Little is known about it, although human-to-human transmission has been confirmed.

### **What are the symptoms?**

According to the WHO, signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

In more severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, multiple organ failure and even death.

Current estimates of the incubation period - the amount of time between infection and the onset of symptoms - range from one to 14 days. Most infected people show symptoms within five to six days.

However, infected patients can also be asymptomatic, meaning they do not display any symptoms despite having the virus in their systems.

Read more on what the coronavirus does to your body if you catch it [here](#).

### **How deadly is it?**

With more than 3,300 recorded deaths, the number of fatalities from this new coronavirus has surpassed the toll of the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, which also originated in China.

SARS killed about 9 percent of those it infected - nearly 800 people worldwide and more than 300 in China alone. MERS, which did not spread as widely, was more deadly, killing one-third of those it infected.

While the new coronavirus is more widespread in China than SARS in terms of case numbers, the mortality rate remains considerably lower at approximately 2 percent, according to the WHO.

### **What is being done to stop it from spreading?**

Scientists around the globe are racing to develop a vaccine but have warned that one is unlikely to be available for mass distribution before 2021.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities have effectively sealed off Wuhan and placed restrictions on travel to and from several other cities, affecting some 60 million people.

Many international airlines have cancelled flights to China. Some countries have banned Chinese nationals from entering their territories and several more have evacuated their citizens from Wuhan.

### **Where did the virus originate?**

Chinese health authorities are still trying to determine the origin of the virus, which they say likely came from a seafood market in Wuhan where wildlife was also traded illegally.

On February 7, Chinese researchers said the virus could have spread from an infected animal species to humans through illegally-trafficked pangolins, which are prized in Asia for food and medicine.

Scientists have pointed to either bats or snakes as the source of the virus.

## Is this a global emergency?

The outbreak now constitutes a global health emergency, the WHO said on January 30.

The decision to sound the top-level alarm was made after the first cases of human-to-human transmission outside China were confirmed.

The international health alert is a call to countries around the world to coordinate their response under the guidance of the United Nations health agency.

There have been five global health emergencies since 2005 when the declaration was formalised: swine flu in 2009, polio in 2014, Ebola in 2014, Zika in 2016 and Ebola again in 2019.

[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/coronavirus-symptoms-vaccines-risks-200122194509687.html?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=article\\_page&utm\\_campaign=read\\_more\\_links](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/coronavirus-symptoms-vaccines-risks-200122194509687.html?utm_source=website&utm_medium=article_page&utm_campaign=read_more_links)



## Healthcare in China



**Healthcare** in China consists of both public and private medical institutions and insurance programs. About 95% of the population has at least basic health insurance coverage. Despite this, public health insurance generally only covers about half of medical costs, with the proportion lower for serious or chronic illnesses. Under the «Healthy China 2020» initiative, China is currently undertaking an effort to cut healthcare costs, and the government requires that insurance will cover 70% of costs by the end of 2018.

The Chinese government is working on providing affordable basic healthcare to all residents by 2020.

China has also become a major market for health-related multinational companies. Companies such as AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, and Merck entered the Chinese market and have experienced explosive growth. China has also become a growing hub for health care research and development.

## History

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has been practiced for years, and served as the basis for health care in China for much of its history. Western-inspired evidence-based medicine made its

way to China beginning in the 19th Century. When the Communist Party took over in 1949, health care was nationalized, a national «patriotic health campaign» attempted to address basic health and hygiene education, and basic primary care was dispatched to rural areas through barefoot doctors and other state-sponsored programs. Urban health care was also streamlined. However, beginning with economic reforms in 1978, health standards in China began to diverge significantly between urban and rural areas, and also between coastal and interior provinces. Much of the health sector became privatized. As state-owned enterprises shut down and the vast majority of urban residents were no longer employed by the state, they also lost much of the social security and health benefits. As a result, the majority of urban residents paid almost all health costs out-of-pocket beginning in the 1990s, and most rural residents simply could not afford to pay for health care in urban hospitals.

### **System reform**

Since 2006, China has been undertaking the most significant health care reforms since the Mao era. The government launched the New Rural Co-operative Medical Care System (NRCMCS) in 2005 in an overhaul of the healthcare system, particularly intended to make it more affordable for the rural poor. Under the NRCMCS, some 800 million rural residents gained basic, tiered medical coverage, with the central and provincial governments covering between 30-80% of regular medical expenses.[6] Availability of medical insurance has increased in urban areas as well. By 2011 more than 95% of the total population of China had basic health insurance, though out-of-pocket costs and the quality of care varied significantly.[4] The health infrastructure in Beijing, Shanghai, and other major cities were approaching developed-world standards, and are vastly superior compared to those operated in the rural interior.

### **Current healthcare system**

Further information: Healthcare system reform in the People's Republic of China

All major cities have hospitals specializing in different fields, and are equipped with some modern facilities. Residents of urban areas are not provided with free healthcare, and must either pay for treatment or purchase health insurance. The quality of hospitals varies.

The best medical care in China is available in foreign-run or joint venture Western-style medical facilities with international staff available in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and a few other large cities. They are highly expensive; treatment there can often cost up to ten times more than a public hospital.

Public hospitals and clinics are available in all Chinese cities. Their quality varies by location; the best treatment can usually be found in public city-level hospitals, followed by smaller district-level clinics. Many public hospitals in major cities have so-called V.I.P. wards or gaogan Bing fang.

These feature reasonably up-to-date medical technology and skilled staff. Most V.I.P. wards also provide medical services to foreigners and have English-speaking doctors and nurses.

V.I.P. wards typically charge higher prices than other hospital facilities, but are still often cheap by Western standards. In addition to medical facilities providing modern care, traditional Chinese medicine is also widely used, and there are Chinese medicine hospitals and treatment facilities located throughout the country. Dental care, cosmetic surgery, and other health-related services at Western standards are widely available in urban areas, though costs vary.



Historically, in rural areas, most healthcare was available in clinics providing rudimentary care, with poorly trained medical personnel and little medical equipment or medications, though certain rural areas had far higher-quality medical care than others. However, the quality of rural health services has improved dramatically since 2009. In an increasing trend, healthcare for residents of rural areas unable to travel long distances to reach an urban hospital is provided by family doctors who travel to the homes of patients, which is covered by the government.

Reform of the health delivery system in urban areas of China has prompted concerns about the demand and utilization of Community Health Services Centres; a 2012 study, however, found that insured patients are less likely to use private clinics and more likely to use the centres.

A cross-sectional study between 2003 and 2011 showed remarkable increases in health insurance coverage and inpatient reimbursement were accompanied by increased use and coverage. The increases in services use are particularly important in rural areas and at hospitals. Major advances have been made in achieving equal access to insurance coverage, inpatient reimbursement, and basic health services, most notably for hospital delivery, and use of outpatient and inpatient care.

Nowadays, with substantial urbanisation, attention on health care has been changed. Urbanisation offers opportunities for improvements in population health in China (such as access to improved health care and basic infrastructure) and substantial health risks including air pollution, occupational and traffic hazards, and the risks conferred by changing diets and activity. Communicable infections should also be re-focused on.

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare\\_in\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_China)*

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