

Coronavirus epidemic reaches bleak milestone, exceeding SARS toll

The coronavirus epidemic in China surpassed a **grim** milestone Sunday with a death toll that exceeds that of the SARS outbreak 17 years ago, a development that coincided with news that World Health Organization experts might soon be in the country to help **stanch** the crisis.

grim 冷酷的; 糟糕的

stanch 止血; 平息

The outbreak has killed 908 people in China in the month since the first death was reported in January in Wuhan, the city where the coronavirus emerged in December, apparently in a **wholesale** food market.

wholesale 批发

respiratory 呼吸的

The SARS, or severe acute **respiratory** syndrome, crisis, which began in southern China in similar circumstances in 2002, ultimately killed 774 people worldwide over the course of several months. The number of infections overall in China now far exceeds that of SARS, rising above 40, 100, compared with some 8, 000 then.

In a possible sign of good news, the number of new cases confirmed in China has stabilized in recent days. World Health Organization officials, though, cautioned against reading too much into the figures, saying that Wuhan and other cities in Hubei province were still in the midst of a “very intense outbreak.”

The WHO advance team traveling on Sunday was being led by Dr. Bruce Aylward, a **veteran** of the global fight against the 2014 Ebola outbreak. “We are coordinating with the World Health Organization,” Cui Tiankai, the Chinese ambassador, said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” “I’m sure that they will be going to China very soon.”

veteran 老兵; 经验丰富的