China Daily

# 1.Basic nationwide elderly care service system a step closer

## Ministry of Civil Affairs tasked with developing policies for aging population.Wang Xiaoyu reports.

Institutional reforms related to elderly care work and progress toward the establishment of a basic elderly care service system across China were highlights for the sector last year.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs,which assumed responsibility for most elderly care work from the National Health Commission in March,has completed the setting up of a new bureau,and local administrations are making progress in restructuring.

National and regional lists for basic elderly care services were formulated last year,and campaigns were launched to increase catering services for the elderly and care for those having financial difficulty.The number of elderly care facilities in China also kept climbing.

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Jan 17,China's elderly population—those age 60 or older—grew to 297 million by the end of last year,making up 21.1 percent of the total population,compared with 19.8 percent by late 2022.

China's total population also dropped for a second consecutive year,by around 2.1 million,due to factors such as low fertility levels,fewer women of childbearing age and delays in marriage.

By the end of last year,the ministry said that about 235,000 homebased elderly care beds had been set up and 418,000 seniors had received door-to-door elderly care services at home.Nearly 1.5 million households with seniors had seen their homes upgraded to be more elderly-friendly.

The number of elderly care facilities nationwide topped 400,000,with 8.2 million beds,by the end of September.The ministry said 41,000 were elderly care homes,with the remainder community facilities.

# 2.Shanghai improves eldercare

****Medical center to serve city's growing need for healthcare for aging residents****

The medical center is a proactive measure by the Shanghai government to address the increasing needs of its aging population,according to the hospital.

The center's outpatient consultation section defies the traditional division of medicine and surgery.Instead,it focuses on comprehensive diagnosis and treatment services that unite healthcare professionals from various fields dispatched by Zhongshan Hospital to determine patients'treatment plans.

"We endeavor to build an intelligent healthcare environment to provide advanced medical services specially catered to the needs of the elderly,"said Gu Jianying,Party secretary of Zhongshan Hospital.

The integration of humanistic medical care and the promotion of innovative medical service models will be facilitated by modern technologies,Gu added.

# 3.Local government organizes golden wedding ceremony for elderly couples

By Liu Kun and Chen Meiling|chinadaily.com.cn|Updated:2023-10-20 21:05

With the Double Ninth Festival approaching,local government held a golden wedding ceremony for 78 couples in Xingshan,Hubei province.Professional photographers were invited to shoot wedding photos for elderly couples free of charge.For the majority of the couples,it was the first wedding photo of their lives.

The Double Ninth Festival dates back 2,000 years,and refers to the 9th day of the 9th month of the Chinese lunar calendar.In modern times,it is seen as a day to celebrate longevity,which is why it is celebrated in honor of the elderly.

# 4.More efforts made to boost hospice care

By Wang Xiaoyu

"After six years'work,China has basically set up a hospice care system that combines hospitals,community-level or home-based services,facilities that integrate medical and elderly care services,and remote services,"the Chinese Association for Life Care said in late May.

# WHO recognizes China for health promotion for elderly

The World Health Organization honored a Chinese institution on Friday for its contribution to the promotion of health care for the elderly.

The His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion was presented by the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation to China's National Center for Chronic and Non-communicable Disease Control and Prevention at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva,Switzerland.

The Chinese institution has hosted a department focusing on the health of older people since 2013.

The WHO said the Chinese institution has delivered a broad range of activities that advance health promotion for the elderly,including a death registry,national surveillance for non-communicable diseases,a nationally representative survey on health literacy in older age,and a dedicated knowledge toolkit for the elderly.

The WHO also mentioned the center's project that aims to improve the mental and cognitive health of older people,which involves more than 700,000 people from nearly 2,000 urban and rural areas.The work involves the construction of a mental health database,to better understand the needs of older people.

"The Chinese often say filial piety is the most important of all virtues,and respecting and loving the elderly has always been a traditional virtue of the Chinese people,"said Wu Jing,director of the center,upon accepting the award."Putting people and their lives first,the Chinese government has attached great importance to elderly health and implemented a healthy aging strategy and a healthy China strategy.China has also integrated the concept of healthy aging into the entire process of socioeconomic development."

Wu added that the award will also offer an"opportunity to share more Chinese experience and wisdom,work closely with global partners and make more contributions to this course,a course full of love and warmth".

"Respecting the elderly is a fact not only expressed in words but also in practice,"Wu added.

Ahmad Al-Awadi,the State of Kuwait's minister of health,said when presenting the award that he wished China further progress and success in its health care endeavors.

It was the fourth time China had won the award.

In addition to China,individuals or organizations from Nepal,Thailand,the Philippines,Lebanon,Guatemala,and Bahrain also received awards for advances in public health or the health of local communities.

"At a time when the world faces many challenges,each of you is an inspiration and a reminder of the progress that can be made to improve health and well-being for all.I salute you all and I thank you all,"Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,the WHO's director-general,said at the awards plenary.

# 6.Laws on time for parental care questioned

By Yang wanli

As some provinces introduce or draft new regulations to provide leave to the only child of families to take care of ailing parents,doubts have emerged on the fairness of,and ability to implement,such regulations.

In recent weeks,provincial laws have been introduced or are being drafted in several regions nationwide.These require an employer to give at least three days'leave per year to an only child for taking care of sick parents who are older than 60.

On March 1,Fujian province included such a requirement in its Protection Act for Elderly People's Legal Rights.It allows an only child to have a maximum of 10 days,with wages paid,to take care of parents who have been hospitalized.

Similar regulations were introduced into the draft of the act in Hubei province in May,in Sichuan province in June and in Chongqing municipality in July.In the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region,a similar regulation will be enacted on Sept 1.

The regulations of each province differ on the number of days allowed for leave.In Sichuan,a minimum of three days is specified,while in Henan the maximum is 20 days.

"But there is still a question of whether such regulations can be successfully implemented,especially in some privately owned companies,"said Professor Qiu Zeqi,director of the Center for Sociological Research and Development Studies of Peking University.

Some who are not the only child of their family see the new regulations as unfair and say the requirements are not the solution to the problem of an aging society.

Jia Biao,33,works in Beijing,but his parents live in Tai'an,Shandong province.His younger sister now lives in New Zealand and comes back to China just once a year.

Jia's 61-year-old father broke an arm and was hospitalized two weeks ago.Jia begged his boss for a week off and took care of his father in Tai'an.He said he was paid no wages for that week.

"The new regulation was issued with very good intentions.But it only gives privilege to the only child,which is unfair,"Jia said.

Additionally,he said the age limit of sick parents-older than 60-is unreasonable."Age should not be a standard to decide whether the parent needs care or not,"he said.

yangwanli@chinadaily.com.cn

(China Daily USA 08/22/2017 page3)

基本全国养老服务体系深入发展

民政部负责制定老龄化政策王晓宇报道。

去年，与养老工作相关的机构改革和全国基本养老服务体系的建立进展成为该领域的亮点。

民政部于去年3月从国家卫生健康委员会接管了大部分养老工作，并已完成新局的设立，地方政府也在重组方面取得了进展。

去年制定了全国和地区基本养老服务名单，并启动了增加老年人餐饮服务和关爱经济困难人群的活动。中国的养老设施数量也在不断增加。

根据国家统计局1月17日发布的数据，中国60岁及以上的老年人口在去年底达到2.97亿，占总人口的21.1%，而2022年底为19.8%。

由于生育水平低、适婚年龄女性减少和延迟结婚等因素，中国总人口连续第二年下降，减少约210万人。

截至去年底，民政部表示已建立了约23.5万个家庭养老床位，并为41.8万名老年人提供了上门养老服务。近150万户有老年人的家庭进行了老年人友好型改造。

截至9月底，全国养老设施数量超过40万个，床位数达820万。民政部表示，其中4.1万个是养老院，其余是社区设施。

上海改善养老护理

医疗中心为城市日益增长的老年居民的医疗需求提供服务

医院表示，该医疗中心是上海政府为应对日益增长的老年人口需求而采取的积极措施。

该中心的门诊咨询部门打破了传统的医学和外科的划分，而是专注于综合诊断和治疗服务，由中山医院派遣的各个领域的医疗专业人员共同确定患者的治疗计划。

中山医院党委书记顾建英表示：“我们努力建立一个智能医疗环境，为老年人提供专门针对他们需求的先进医疗服务。”

顾还补充说，现代技术将促进人文医疗护理的整合和创新医疗服务模式的推广。

地方政府为老年夫妇组织金婚典礼

刘坤、陈美玲报道|chinadaily.com.cn|更新时间：2023-10-20 21:05

随着重阳节的临近，湖北省兴山市政府为78对夫妇举办了金婚典礼。专业摄影师受邀为老年夫妇免费拍摄婚纱照。对于大多数夫妇来说，这是他们一生中的第一张婚纱照。

重阳节可以追溯到2000年前，是指农历九月初九。现代社会将其视为庆祝长寿的日子，因此以老年人为荣。

加大努力推动临终关怀

王晓宇报道

中国生命关怀协会于5月底表示：“经过六年的工作，中国基本上建立了一个将医院、社区级或家庭为基础的临终关怀系统，以及整合医疗和养老服务的设施和远程服务。”

世卫组织表彰中国在老年人健康促进方面的贡献

世界卫生组织周五向一家中国机构颁发了老年人健康护理和健康促进研究的谢赫·萨巴赫·艾哈迈德·贾比尔·阿勒萨巴赫奖。该奖项由科威特国家健康促进基金会颁发给中国国家慢性与非传染性疾病预防控制中心，颁发地点为瑞士日内瓦举行的第76届世界卫生大会。

自2013年以来，中国机构一直设有一个专门关注老年人健康的部门。

世卫组织表示，中国机构开展了一系列促进老年人健康的活动，包括死亡登记、非传染性疾病的全国监测、老年人健康素养的全国代表性调查以及专门针对老年人的知识工具包。

世卫组织还提到了该中心旨在改善老年人心理和认知健康的项目，涉及近70万人，来自近2000个城市和农村地区。该项目涉及建立一个心理健康数据库，以更好地了解老年人的需求。

该中心主任吴静在接受奖项时表示：“中国人常说孝道是最重要的美德，尊敬和爱护老人一直是中国人的传统美德。”他还说：“中国政府把人民和他们的生活放在首位，非常重视老年人健康，实施了健康老龄化战略和健康中国战略。中国还将健康老龄化的理念融入到整个社会经济发展过程中。”

吴补充说，这个奖项也将为“分享更多中国经验和智慧，与全球伙伴密切合作，为这个充满爱和温暖的事业做出更多贡献”提供机会。

吴补充说：“尊敬老人不仅仅是口头上的说辞，也是实际行动。”

科威特国家卫生部部长艾哈迈德·阿瓦迪在颁奖时表示，他希望中国在医疗保健事业中取得更大的进展和成功。

这是中国第四次获得该奖项。

除中国外，尼泊尔、泰国、菲律宾、黎巴嫩、危地马拉和巴林的个人或组织也因在公共卫生或当地社区健康方面的进展而获得奖项。

世卫组织总干事谭德塞在颁奖典礼上表示：“在世界面临许多挑战的时候，你们每个人都是一个激励和提醒，可以取得改善所有人健康和福祉的进展。我向你们致敬，感谢你们。”

关于亲情关怀时间的法律受到质疑

杨婉莉报道

随着一些省份出台或起草新的法规，为独生子女提供