

2 FEBRUARY 2023

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Sonalika Hossain | Research Intern



[writetous.orca@gmail.com](mailto:writetous.orca@gmail.com)

## Explore our other verticals:

- [CiCM Insights](#)
- [Opinion Pieces](#)
- [Issue Briefs](#)
- [Backgrounders](#)
- [Expert Speak](#)
- [Mapping China](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Podcast: The ORCA Files](#)
- [Projects](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Experts comment on connection between young people's low salaries and their work skills:** The Deputy General Manager and Chief investment officer of AVIC Fund Deng Haiqing recently commented on disparities between young people's salary expectations and their real wages. During his speech at 2023 Changbaishan Summit Forum, he explained that many young people in China feel that their salaries are too low and insufficient to sustain. However, these salaries are result of their professional capacity and thus, young professionals should focus on skill development instead of blaming others. This video of his speech was widely circulated across Chinese social media with a hashtag #专家称年轻人工资低可能是能力不够 and received strong reactions from netizens, especially from young people. Many criticized him for comparing China to other low-wages countries like Thailand and Vietnam as their economic conditions are not at par with China. Some netizens also described harsh labour conditions in urban China such as low social security benefits for higher salary expectations. Many netizens also criticized him for not explaining worsening situation of employment conditions in China and just blaming young people for their conditions. Few netizens also highlighted rising economic inequality in China caused by favouritism in job opportunities.
- **Family discusses Grandfather's funeral options in his presence:** On Chinese social media, a video of a family [debating burial options](#) and cemeteries in front of their grandfather who has hearing problem, has gone viral. After his granddaughter posted the video online, the unnamed

---

grandfather from Anhui province in eastern China became a popular news story. The granddaughter also wrote that she prayed for her grandfather to recover soon from lymphoma cancer. The grandfather is seen in the video sitting in his living room as his wife and their two sons discuss about his cremation process at a nearby table. The grandfather sits with his head lowered, fiddling with a piece of tissue paper as they talk. Following its popularity on the Chinese social media, the narrative startled its users and sympathized with the grandfather, with many also claiming that this disturbing video left them feel overwhelmed and disgusted.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- General Stoltenberg, the Secretary-General of NATO, recently returned from a visit to South Korea and Japan. During the visit, Stoltenberg frequently brought up China and emphasised the supposed threat posed by China. Regarding this, Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dismissed his claims and asserted that the Asia-Pacific region does not support the Cold War mentality and camp hostility. She said that China is dedicated to uphold the global peace and stability, refrains from geopolitical rivalry, and has no intention of threatening or endangering any nation. In her final remarks, Mao Ning urged NATO to re-evaluate its contributions to the security of Europe and to stop destroying Europe and attempting to jeopardize peace in the Asia-Pacific region and in the rest of the world.
- At the press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council,

Director of the Department of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Commerce Li Xingqian stated that China's foreign trade has successfully overcome various risks in 2022 and attained stability and improvement. Overall, China's exports will increase to a new level in 2023, creating new momentum and making new contributions. He also noted that new development areas for China's high-tech, high-value-added products for exports will be lithium batteries, solar devices, and electric automobiles. In addition, emerging overseas trade channels like international e-commerce, overseas warehouses and market-based trade methods are flourishing. In 2022, China's total trade reached 42 trillion Yuan (\$ 6.3 trillion) and also maintained its position as the largest trader of goods. According to Li Xingqian, new trade policies will be implemented in 2023 to assist businesses in lowering costs, boosting productivity, resolving issues in global industrial supply chains, and generally increasing China's competitiveness in global trade.

- The "Hu Xinyu incident" has garnered a lot of attention on Weibo recently. Weibo has been closely monitoring the development of the incident ever since Hu Xinyu's disappearance was made public. The website is still looking into any relevant illegal content there may be, and it is resolutely dealing with violations like spreading rumours and using the occasion to gain attention and draw traffic. Weibo removed about 3,500 pieces of illegal content that disseminated associated rumours in accordance with pertinent laws, such as the Community Convention, and banned 138 accounts for 7 days.
-

---

It also advised its users to respect the deceased and stop believing and spreading misinformation.

- On the World Wetlands Day, a total of 18 new wetlands, including Yanqing Wild Duck Lake in Beijing and Baima Lake in Huai'an, Jiangsu province, have been added to China's list of wetlands of international importance, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration's announcement. China currently has 82 wetlands of international importance, covering roughly 7.6 million hectares, placing it fourth in the world. According to a report on the Wetlands environmental situation as of 2022 published today, their biodiversity has increased to 2,391 species of plants. The study also mentions the restoration of degraded wetlands in the provinces of Heilongjiang, Hubei, Shandong, and Hainan has been completed. China has also added 2,02,600 hectares of wetlands since 1992 and has restored 4,67,400 hectares of degraded wetlands.
- Hong Kong Disneyland conducted an extraordinary employment fair today in an effort to attract 600 frontline personnel to work in a number of new facilities being launched this year. After three years of strict COVID restrictions, the city is now being opened to tourists from abroad and mainland China. The management of the struggling theme park added that it would not rule out adding more employees this year if the tourism sector revives with the easing of travel restrictions. Along with young people, some middle-aged job seekers also visited the park in search of employment which took total number of

candidates to around 3000. Moreover, Hong Kong administration launched "Hello Hong Kong" campaign to attract tourists along with 7,00,000 free airline tickets. Thus, many candidates were attracted by the job security that Disneyland can provide as tourism will be growing in Hong Kong in coming years.

- Two indigenous large amphibious aircrafts of the AG600 project have been transferred to Yanliang, Xi'an in Shaanxi province for scientific research during test flight work and later, for airworthiness test flights. AG600M (1007) aircraft was built in Zhuhai, Guangdong. According to a concerned official in charge of information office of Aviation industry Corporation of China (AVIC), this project will help fulfil commitments given in the 14th 5-year plan as these aircrafts will be used for forest fire incidents and thus named as 'kunlong' (water dragons). These aircrafts can carry water up to 12 tonnes and can also do low-altitude flying at low speed for more accuracy. Before being put into service, these aircrafts will go through various tests like iron-bird test, lab validation test, airworthiness test, quality test and so on.

## INDIA WATCH

- India has deliberately avoided any military alliances since its independence in 1947 and has made strategic autonomy the cornerstone of its foreign policy. However, India's participation in political discussions with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) over the past year has provided insight into New Delhi's evolving geopolitical calculations. India and NATO have been working together for a while now. Over the past 20 years, India's
-

---

development initiatives in Afghanistan have been assisted by NATO's security apparatus. India and NATO have also collaborated in anti-piracy operations. Given that NATO is more focused on the risks posed by China and that China is one of India's top security concerns, India can explore opportunity to consult with NATO on informal basis. By entering into a political dialogue with NATO, New Delhi would have the chance to reorient NATO's perception of Indo-Pacific regional conditions vis-à-vis Indian interests. However, the current situation in Ukraine serves as a limitation on this potential cooperation. As the West continues to pour in cutting-edge weaponry in an effort to beat Moscow, the war in Ukraine now threatens to formally escalate into a Russia-NATO confrontation. India must take precautions to avoid getting involved in conflicts as it maintains non-alignment in such affairs. A particularly close connection with NATO would also jeopardise India's professed aim of promoting a multi-polar world and peace.

---