

provincial government and its assets divided, according to international press reports. The Hainan-based HNA operates Hainan Airlines – which has 13 China-U.S. routes, all of which were suspended amid COVID-19. HNA Group has been shedding foreign assets since 2018.

(U) State-owned Guangzhou Auto Corp. (GAC) announced it would begin mass production of facemasks on February 20 using five production lines. GAC said the masks would be distributed by Guangzhou authorities to medical personnel and public transit workers. The firm on February 12 had said it wanted 12 production lines running by February 22, with eventual goal of 30.

(U) Hainan Governor Shen Xiaoming visited Qionghai city February 18, home of the Bo'ao Forum for Asia, to observe epidemic-control efforts on the site, according to press reports. The Forum, which annually convenes senior Chinese officials and high-level foreign attendees, is currently scheduled for March 24-27.

Support for U.S. Citizens

~~(SBU)~~ *There are no known COVID-19 cases of American citizens in Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi, or Hainan. ACS is in contact with one Amcit in mandatory centralized quarantine in a Shenzhen.*

Post Operations

~~(SBU)~~ *Post Medical Provider returned to Guangzhou February 19 with medical equipment that can test for a variety of respiratory viruses and bacteria. While it cannot test for COVID-19, it can test for 22 other respiratory pathogens and give medical personnel a better picture of any illnesses that occur at Post.*

~~(SBU)~~ *There was no change to post security posture. Essential LE staff reported to work February 20, with others on administrative leave. All LE staff are still required to file daily reports to Diplomatic Services Bureau on their health and work status.*

~~(SBU)~~ *Supermarkets, public transportation, hospital services, bank, and ride hailing services in Guangzhou are all operating without indications of significant disruption. Staple goods are continuously stocked, including fresh produce, meat, and eggs. ConGenOff has observed inconsistent inventory of some dry goods and frozen prepared foods. Residential water delivery is currently not available for standard delivery, but Post has made arrangements with the vendor to ensure availability. Dine-in restaurant service has been suspended throughout the city since February 13. Delivery and take-out options are abundant. DPO disruptions have been resolved through alternate routing.*

Media/Social Media Roundup: Guangzhou Edition

~~(SBU)~~ *South China PAS media contacts posted satirical comments on the government's response to COVID-19. The manager of an online media outlet in Guangzhou noted that with the increasing closed management policies of cities and provinces in the COVID-19 campaign, there has also been an uptick in the blocking of WeChat groups, Weibo posts, and other websites. A leader of a WeChat public account in Guangzhou posted commentary that the*

government should gain respect and authority to govern by not completely squashing rumors. A Guangzhou-based blogger had written about a January order given by the Director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology to the staff in January to not discuss COVID-19. This post has since been blocked on social media.

(U) Guangzhou netizens shared comments made by Wang Chen, the Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering who said that society should prepare for long-term co-existence with COVID-19 after this year, with commenters expressing concern. They also discussed reports that nine individuals are being investigated by the Guangzhou police for obstructing the COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control measures, including deliberate concealment of symptoms and refusal to quarantine, with some netizens commenting that these individuals should be severely punished for their actions.

Drafted: (b)(6)

Approved: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Drafted By:	GUANGZHOU: (b)(6)	(Guangzhou)
Released By:	GUANGZHOU: (b)(6)	(Guangzhou)
Attachments:	South China Flight status- 20 FEB- info cut off 0915.xlsx	

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~