

City's largest makeshift hospital opens

The largest makeshift hospital in Shanghai was put into use last Saturday to aid the city's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic resurgence.

The hospital, converted from the National Exhibition and Convention Center, covers about 600,000 square meters with a capacity of 50,000 beds.

Thanks to the arduous efforts of more than 25,000 builders, the hospital will inject confidence into Shanghai's pandemic prevention and control work.

Shanghai has been reporting a high number of COVID-19 cases since March and had registered more than 180,000 COVID-19 infections as of Saturday. At the crucial stage, workers from across China raced against time to construct the hospital.

Zhao Zeming and his team, from Guangzhou, capital of southern Guangdong Province, got a call about aiding Shanghai at 1am on Tuesday. Their mission was to assist in the construction of part of the sewage treatment system in the makeshift hospital.

"Our 12-member team assembled within half an hour after receiving the call. And we took the train to Shanghai immediately following COVID-19 nucleic acid tests at 5am," said Zhao, who works for the China Construction Third Bureau Green Industry Investment Co.

"We didn't want to waste any time," he added.

Tens of thousands of construction workers from Hebei, Shandong, Guangdong and other provincial-level regions traveled from across China to aid Shanghai.

"There was no need for hesitation," said 22-year-old Li Bin, one of the first batch of 5,000 constructors sent by the China Construction Second Engineering Bureau. "Our task was tough given the short construction period. I could barely sit down for a meal."

"All construction institutions made the best efforts to advance projects as quickly as possible," according to Jin Chen, deputy director of Shanghai's housing and urban-rural development management committee.

"All other work should make way for the hospital construction. The sooner it is built, the sooner more patients can be treated," Li Guangbin, Party chief of China Railway Construction Engineering Group's Shanghai branch, told his staff.

Starting from April 3, the

