



Barista Yin Tianbao takes an order from a customer at the new Hinichijou coffee kiosk in Shanghai's Lujiazui financial district.

more difficult for my adviser than for me."

Repetition, repetition. It was tedious, but Tianbao didn't give up. However, just when he mastered the ability to draw a heart on the latte foam, Shanghai went into a lockdown and training stopped.

Two months later, when lockdown ended, Tianbao was distressed to find that had lost some of his prowess.

"But my advisers encouraged me to start again," he said. "They told me they wouldn't give up as long as I didn't."

Tianbao gradually recovered his expertise, but he admitted it's still not perfect every time. He's working on that.

Apart from making coffee, Tianbao has had to learn other elements of managing the kiosk, such as using an emergency electricity button or escaping if an emergency presented itself.

Hinichijou staff will be at Tianbao's side for the first couple of weeks of operation. After that,

they will keep in touch through remote response calls. If there is an accident, such as spoiled coffee or equipment failure, staff will immediately go to help him.

"We have also received great support from Times Square, where security guards will keep an eye on Tianbao," Wang said.

"Just like our other outlets, we often receive help from malls and other venues — like free rent. Seed of Inspiration is no exception."

Wang said he hopes the new kiosk will become a model that can be copied and promoted for the visually impaired.

Tianbao himself remains cautious.

"At present, I don't think about the future at all," he said. "I believe that you can only find a future after you take the first step. Now I just think about what I can do with the café. Ask me again in a month, and I might have something new to tell."



Yin Tianbao with poor eyesight serves a cup of coffee at the new coffee kiosk, called Seed of Inspiration.