**China expands state jobs for graduates**

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| China’s thousands of state-owned enterprises, local governments and public institutions are expanding hiring as a record number of students graduate into a job market left reeling by the COVID-19 pandemic.  Around 8.7 million Chinese students are graduating this year, almost half a million more than last year, heading into an uncertain future as private firms rein in recruitment.  Job stability for the young is a long-standing political concern in China. President Xi Jinping, who has previously warned that struggling graduates could “turn into negative energy,” is urging more hiring.  Graduates, who generally enter the workforce in June or July, face a “severe” situation, officials have said. Available positions for them in the recent pre-graduation spring recruiting season fell by 22 percent year on year, according to BOSS Zhipin Research.  State-owned enterprises (SOEs), local governments and public institutions — known collectively as “the system” — are responding to Xi’s call.  Oil giant Sinopec Corp is more than doubling its 2020 recruitment numbers, with an additional 3,500 positions for new graduates. In Henan province, provincial SOEs have been told to expand hiring and reserve at least half the new positions for graduates.  Government schemes sending young people to work in less developed areas of China have also been bulked up: One, where graduates help with poverty alleviation and other community support, has 5,000 more places than last year.  Thousands more graduates than in 2019 will be granted passing grades in the highly competitive civil service exams, mainly held in the summer. Central Hubei province has increased its quota by more than 40 percent, while the northern region of Inner Mongolia has more than quadrupled its quota.  Efforts to directly soak up labor are limited as China’s private sector accounts for 80 percent of urban jobs.  Coveted jobs in “the system” can provide security, status and help getting a more desirable *hukou*, a residential permit linked to access to local public services. |

Read the full article at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/27/business/economy-business/china-state-jobs-graduates-coronavirus/>

**Understanding Questions**

1. Why are state-owned enterprises and other groups increasing the number of new graduates that they will hire?
2. What did China’s president say would happen if young people struggle to find jobs?
3. What benefits are there for workers who join “the system” in China?

**Vocabulary**

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| public/private sectors | state-owned enterprise | reel (verb) |
| urge | rein in | soak up |

**Key phrases**

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| The role of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sector is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is best handled by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sector. |

**Discussion topics**

* What are the benefits of working in the public sector or the private sector?
* How should each sector help when there is a crisis?

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| Pair Discussion – **A**   1. If you talked to a high school student, would you recommend a public job or a private industry job? 2. How could the government help new graduates in Japan? 3. What are the advantages of working in the private sector? 4. Which do you think is more efficient, the public sector or private sector? |
| Pair Discussion – **B**   1. Did you ever consider working in a public job? 2. What problems will new graduates have if they can’t find jobs? 3. What industries could work well with a state-owned enterprise? 4. Should any industries or companies in Japan change into a state-owned enterprise? |

**Public sector or Private sector?**

In your opinion, which would be the best way to manage each of these industries?

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| **Public** |  | **Private** |
|  | Trains |  |
|  | Electric power |  |
|  | Post offices |  |
|  | Banks |  |
|  | News Media and Broadcasting |  |
|  | Airlines |  |
|  | Casinos and Gambling |  |

In your opinion, which industries are best managed by….

|  |  |
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| the **public** sector? | the **private** sector? |
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