

Interview: Countries need to work together to "collectively win" over COVID-19 outbreak -- U.S. expert

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Xinhua) -- All nations need to work together to fight the COVID-19 outbreak and "collectively win," or "fight each other and collectively lose," a leading U.S. expert has said.

Despite there being room for correction and improvement, the immediate priority is "for all nations to work together to stop the scourge, and make sure that new drugs can control the infections and new vaccines can prevent future tragedies," Robert Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, said in a recent email interview with Xinhua.

"Emotions are running high throughout the world. People are suffering globally," he said. "It is sadly easy to inflame feelings with glib rhetoric or politically tinged remarks."

"Rational people on all sides need to work together, not let fringe comments upset the necessity of working together to fight our common enemy that threatens the well-being of the world," said the U.S. expert.

"Truly, humanity will fight the virus and collectively win or fight each other and collectively lose," Kuhn added.

"Humanity has a choice: either we can all work together ... or we will all suffer the consequences of self-centered interests in an out-of-control spread of a global epidemic and in an out-of-control undermining of the global economy," he said.

The COVID-19 outbreak that has affected at least 114 countries and killed more than 4,000 people is now officially a pandemic, the World Health Organization announced on Wednesday.