



ZHANG ZHENXIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Meng Jirui, a student at Liaocheng University, processes a copper pipe at an automobile parts factory in Liaocheng, Shandong province, recently. The university recommended 80 students to work at local factories for two months during the summer vacation.

Grads should take blue-collar work

By CHEN XIN
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Zhu Yuwei was relieved to find a job at a car factory two months after graduating from college last year.

The 24-year-old, who majored in mechanical engineering, was uneasy looking for work because he was one of only a few students in his class not employed after graduation.

"I wanted to work in a big company and do a decent job, like some of my classmates did," said Zhu, who works in the factory's product testing department. "But I was not that lucky."

After graduating from college in Sichuan province, he returned to his hometown, Chongqing, in August.

He decided to lower his expectations and took a job as a technician.

"What I learned in school is not related to my work, but I'm a quick learner and I gradually got used to the work," he said. "Several division chiefs in my company used to be technicians, so maybe through hard work I'll have a chance to get

promoted someday," he said. Zhu is not alone in believing college graduates should consider taking blue-collar work.

In a recent China Youth Daily poll of 2,008 people, 83 percent supported the idea that unemployed college graduates should take blue-collar jobs. More than 73 percent of respondents were born after 1970.

The employment outlook for graduates is tougher now because 200,000 more graduates are expected to leave college this year. Graduates are having a hard time getting a job, and many businesses have difficulties recruiting workers and technicians, revealing structural problems in the work market, Yin Weimin, minister of human resources and social security, said at a news conference in March.

A survey by the labor authority in Shanghai revealed that as of 2011, among all unemployed residents in the city's urban area, 30 percent were younger than 35 and nearly 20,000 had been unemployed for more than a year.

Liu Qingrui, an official at the

employment promotion center at Northeastern University in Shenyang, Liaoning province, said his school encourages graduates who have difficulty finding work to take a blue-collar job.

"Many students have the idea that they have to find a job at a well-known company or at least take white-collar work," he said. "But some do not realize that they may not be qualified and there are insufficient vacancies for such work."

Liu suggested that graduates who cannot find their ideal job should lower their expectations so they can accumulate working experience, then they can choose what they want to do in the future.

Liu said that because many businesses are shifting from traditional, labor-intensive manufacturing to more high-tech production, there is huge demand for technicians.

"Grassroots jobs are essential for graduates because they can pave the way for higher positions in research and develop-

ment or management," he said.

Eighty-one percent of respondents in the China Youth Daily survey said unemployed college graduates would rather stay unemployed than take a blue-collar job because blue-collar workers have a comparatively low social status and the work is difficult.

Chen Yu, director of the China Institute for Occupation Research at Peking University, said blue-collar workers on assembly lines in the United States might earn more than white-collar workers but in China their pay is still low.

"China should gradually raise workers' pay, especially technicians, who are in great demand, to attract more young people to blue-collar work," he said.

Chen also suggested that the surplus of college graduates and shortage of technicians shows that the country needs to adjust its education structure to better match market demand.

Boys have lower bar for university entry

By LUO WANGSHU
and CHENG YINGQI

An NGO that focuses on women's rights has urged authorities to look into allegations that several colleges have lowered their minimum entrance-exam scores only for boys.

In a letter to the Ministry of Education this month, Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counseling and Service Center argues that the practice allows schools to discriminate against female candidates.

"Many colleges, including prestigious ones, have set different admission grades based on gender without reasonable explanations," said lawyer Lu Xiaquan, who was in charge of drafting the NGO's letter.

"It is more demanding for girls than boys, as they must get a higher grade in the national college entrance exam just to get accepted for the same major at the same school."

He said the letter, which was also addressed to the All-China Women's Federation, aims to raise awareness on this issue, and to demand a thorough investigation.

"A few universities claim the Ministry of Education had authorized them to set the admission grades based on gender," Lu said. "We hope for verifi-

cation from the authorities."

Lu said the NGO has received no reply from the ministry or the federation.

According to the website of Beijing Foreign Studies University, the minimum admission score for girls in Beijing who apply as a German major at the university is 639, while for boys it is 598.

Renmin University of China, another prestigious college, has set a minimum admission score in the capital area in four language majors this year at 601 for boys but 614 for girls.

And this is not happening only in Beijing. According to the Education Examinations Authority of Guangdong province, many universities set different admission standards based on gender in 2012.

Li Xiangqian, director of admissions at Renmin University of China, told China Youth Daily that the purpose of lowering the boys' standards is to attract more male applicants.

"Otherwise, these majors will be left only to girls," he said.

However, Lu, of the Zhongze Women's Center, said there is no such benefit for girls in majors in which boys are the majority, such as mechanics.

Yuan Zhengguo, president of the National Institute of Education Sciences, disagrees that the

issue is simply discrimination. "It reflects the market demand," he said, adding that some jobs need men instead of women.

Zhou Haipeng, a recent graduate who majored in Arabic at Beijing Foreign Studies University, echoed the sentiment.

"Boys have an easier time getting a job in our major," the 22-year-old said, adding that the majority of his classmates end up working in companies related to the Arabic world. However, Zhou said, in Arabic countries, many local people feel more comfortable working with men.

"Chinese companies respect the religion of their counterparts, who prefer male employees," said Zhou, who will start work soon at an international affairs office in the Guangdong provincial government.

Tan Songhua, a member of the State Education Counseling Committee, acknowledged that students are admitted with different grades in the same college entrance exam.

"The focus of the exam is memorizing, which girls are better at," Tan said.

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Zhou Wa contributed to this story.

Invitation for Bids

Date: July 24, 2012; Bid No.: 0733-122001503301
Loan 2724-PRC: Railway Energy Efficiency and Safety Enhancement Investment Program-Tranche 2

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the "ADB Business Opportunities" on December 21, 2010.
- The People's Republic of China has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of The Railway Energy Efficiency and Safety Enhancement Investment Program-Tranche 2, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for Fastener (Hereinafter referred to as "the Goods").
- CITIC International Tendering Co., Ltd. (the Procurement agent, CITIC), authorized by, and acting on behalf of, Foreign Capital & Technical Import Center, Ministry of Railways, China (the Purchaser), now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following supply of Goods:

Lot No.	Type of Fastener	Quantity
F01	WJ-8B Fastener	352890 sets

- International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope Procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from CITIC, and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below from July 24, 2012 to September 3, 2012 at working time 9:00-12:00 / 13:30-17:00.
- The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased in CITIC by interested eligible Bidders on submission of a written application to CITIC and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of RMB2,000 or US\$300. The method of payment will be by cash or cashier's cheque. For mail order, the document will be sent by EMS at an additional cost of RMB100 (for domestic delivery) or US\$20 (for overseas delivery). No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
- Bids must be delivered to CITIC International Tendering Co., Ltd. at or before 9:30 a.m. (Beijing time) on September 4, 2012. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount described in the bidding document. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at CITIC at 9:30 a.m. (Beijing time) on September 4, 2012.
- CITIC and the Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
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The Purchaser: Foreign Capital & Technical Import Center, Ministry of Railways, China
Address: No. 10, Fuxing Road, Beijing 100844, China
Contact: Ms. Zheng Rui; Tel: 86 10-51845895; Fax: 86 10-51848417
The Procurement Agent: CITIC International Tendering Co., Ltd.
Address: 2/F, 17th Unit, Su Yuan, Beijing Friendship Hotel, No. 1, South Zhongguancun Street, Haidian District, Beijing 100873, China.
Contact: Ms. Wu Si / Mr. Liang Wei
Tel: 86 10-68948709; Fax: 86 10-68940233

Invitation for Bids

Date: July 24, 2012; Bid No.: 0733-122001503301
Loan 2765-PRC: Railway Energy Efficiency and Safety Enhancement Investment Program-Tranche 3

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the "ADB Business Opportunities" on October 12, 2011.
- The People's Republic of China has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of The Railway Energy Efficiency and Safety Enhancement Investment Program-Tranche 3, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for Fastener (Hereinafter referred to as "the Goods").
- CITIC International Tendering Co., Ltd. (the Procurement agent, CITIC), authorized by, and acting on behalf of, Foreign Capital & Technical Import Center, Ministry of Railways, China (the Purchaser), now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following supply of Goods:

Lot No.	Type of Fastener	Quantity
F02	Elastic Rod Type-II Fastener	195606 sets
	WJ-8B Fastener	826696 sets
F03	WJ-8B Fastener	704690 sets

- International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope Procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from CITIC, and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below from July 24, 2012 to September 3, 2012 at working time during 9:00-12:00 / 13:30-17:00.
- The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased in CITIC by interested eligible Bidders on submission of a written application to CITIC and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of RMB2,000 or US\$300. The method of payment will be by cash or cashier's cheque. For mail order, the document will be sent by EMS at an additional cost of RMB100 (for domestic delivery) or US\$20 (for overseas delivery). No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
- Bids must be delivered to CITIC International Tendering Co., Ltd. at or before 9:30 a.m. (Beijing time) on September 4, 2012. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount described in the bidding documents for Lots F02 and F03. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at CITIC at 9:30 a.m. (Beijing time) on September 4, 2012.
- CITIC and the Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
- In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

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(2012 Edition)

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