LIBERAL STUDIES 通識天下

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EDITORIAL 大公社評

Our nation provides wider stage for HK science research

Results of appraisal and election for the annual National Natural Science Awards in 2011 have been publicized. Eight academics from three schools in Hong Kong – Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) – have been elected for the second prize. Among them include Professor Nancy Ip Yuk Yu, the laureate of the L'Oréal–UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Awards for Women in Science who is popular among Hong Kong people, and the four-member research team headed by Professor Yunhao Liu from HKUST's Computer Science and Engineering Department. This is the 15th **consecutive** year that Hong Kong scientists win this national award in natural scientific studies. And this year, both the number of Hong Kong scientists elected and the number of prizes they are elected to win are the largest ever.

Hong Kong scholars being elected to win major national science and technology awards this year fully shows Hong Kong researchers can entirely rely on their own advantages to find their places and play their roles in various national undertakings. As such there is great potential for their future development.

Professor Nancy Ip, one of those elected for this year's national awards, can be said a **role model** for Hong Kong researchers. She was elected as the youngest academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in 2001, won her first prize of the National Natural Science Awards in 2003, and won the Women in Science Awards (known as the "Nobel Prizes for women") in 2004. For years, she has not only kept **pegging away at** her scientific researches but also actively participated in cooperation and exchange with Mainland scientists. As a neuroscientist, she again is elected for this year's National Natural Science Awards with her fresh achievements. Her success is not just a result of her talent and unremitting efforts, it has also benefited from Hong Kong's comparatively good environment for scientific research. It is also beyond doubt that the great attention given by our nation to science research as well as our nation's development has opened a large stage for her to bring her talent and potential into full play.

Hong Kong owns eight high-standard public universities and numerous research institutions. Hong Kong's outstanding research capability and teaching standards are highly praised in the world, which also form part of Hong Kong's core competitiveness. But for a long time, what has perplexed the sector of science research is the lack of space for development and the difficulty to marketize research results. These problems have even caused a **brain drain**. Fortunately, with the incessant development of our nation in recent years and especially the start of implementing the 12th Five-Year Plan this year, fundamental changes may hopefully take place to **put this situation into reverse**.

As an official from the Ministry of Science and Technology said earlier in Hong Kong, development of science and technology is a major focus of the 12th Five-Year Plan. In next five years, the state will increase its input in innovative science and technology – from 1.62% of the national gross domestic product (GDP) at present to 2.2% in 2017. Greater importance attached and more input no doubt will open a greater stage for science research personnel. In fact, the SAR Government has also seen potential opportunities from this, making it clear that Hong Kong will strengthen cooperation with the Mainland in science and technology. The SAR Government will encourage Hong Kong researchers to participate in national programmes and to coordinate with the country's development. Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah proposed in this year's Budget to provide financial support to 12 Hong Kong laboratories which have formed cooperative partnership with key national laboratories. Each of them would be granted $2 million every year to upgrade their research capability. Financial support is just the first step. For various research institutions the opportunity to expand room for cooperation is more significant.

Input is one thing. Another is correct orientation. Under the 12th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong's relations with the Mainland inevitably will become increasingly closer. Hong Kong's science and technology development, research projects and research personnel's vision must be upgraded to the higher level of national development, instead of focusing on Hong Kong alone. It is true that not all research works are policy concerned, but strengthening exchange and cooperation with science research institutions and productive enterprises on the Mainland to speed up turning research results into efficient production definitely will open broader prospects for Hong Kong's science researches. At the same time, Hong Kong could also help introduce international advanced and sophisticated information and technology into the Mainland.

We congratulate on the Hong Kong scientists who are elected for the National Natural Science Awards. At the same time we hope that Hong Kong's science research could upgrade itself during the period of the 12th Five-Year Plan, that Hong Kong's research personnel, while gaining broader development space, could also make their contributions as Hong Kong compatriots to help turning the Motherland into an innovative country. 16 September 2011

WORDS AND USAGE:

① **Consecutive** (adj) – Describes events, numbers, etc. that follow one after another without an interruption. (連續的，連貫的)

Examples: 1.The numbers 4,5,6 are consecutive. 2.It has rained for four consecutive days.

② **Role model** (phrase) – A person regarded by others, esp younger people, as a good example to follow. (行爲榜樣，楷模)

Examples: 1.Sports stars are role models for thousands of youngsters. 2.A teacher should act as a role model for his students.

③ **Peg away** (at sth) (phrasal verb) – To work doggedly or persistently. (堅持不懈地工作，勤奮工作)

Examples: 1.She keeps pegging away at her dissertation. 2.The boy pegged away at a home assignment.

④ **Brain drain** (idiom) – The loss of qualified scientists, doctors, engineers, etc. to another place for better pay, equipment, or conditions. (人才流失)

Examples: 1.Brain drain, also known as human capital flight, is a serious issue in many countries. 2. To reverse its brain drain, China is making effort to lure back top Chinese scientists working overseas.

⑤ **Put sth into reverse** (idiom) – Start to make something happen in the opposite way. (逆轉)

Examples: 1.Sales of luxury homes may be put into reverse as prices have gone up too high. 2.The financial crisis started in 2008 put the US economy into reverse.

中文基本功

既是恩相豈能降格稱爲大人 前仆後繼不宜寫成前赴後繼

無綫電視所播內地的《水滸傳》字幕也很有問題，如魯智深、楊志自稱「洒家」，這是當時關西用詞，搞字幕的可能怕香港的觀衆不明白，翻譯爲「我」，失去原味。看來，負責字幕的人，估計無綫觀衆沒有一個人看過《水滸》，才有此譯，會不會估計過低呢！

如果說，這是情有可原。那末，把「恩相」翻譯爲「大人」，那就牛頭不對馬嘴了。嚴格來說，「大人」只能是四品官知府的尊稱；雖然也泛指一般中等官員，但決不能拿來代替「恩相」，因爲有個「相」字，就是丞相，明清無宰相制，稱「恩相」者，也是一品大員了。在宋代，簡直非用來尊稱有恩於自己的宰相不可，怎可以用低幾級的「大人」來濫竽充數呢。

「如之奈何」是問話，用「無可奈何」這個嘆詞來代替，也是牛頭不對馬嘴。

七月三十日的《水滸傳》，無綫電視的字幕弄錯一個成語——當畫面出現「大刀」關勝讚嘆梁山泊旗手「前仆後繼」時，字幕打出「前赴後繼」，這是把「仆」誤作「赴」。

按：「前仆後繼」出自宋人王楙《野客叢書》。而《清史稿》乃至魯迅的作品都用過，意思是前邊的倒下了，後邊的繼續衝上前，形容戰鬥場面壯烈。只要稍具成語知識，儘管不懂其出處，也不會寫錯。

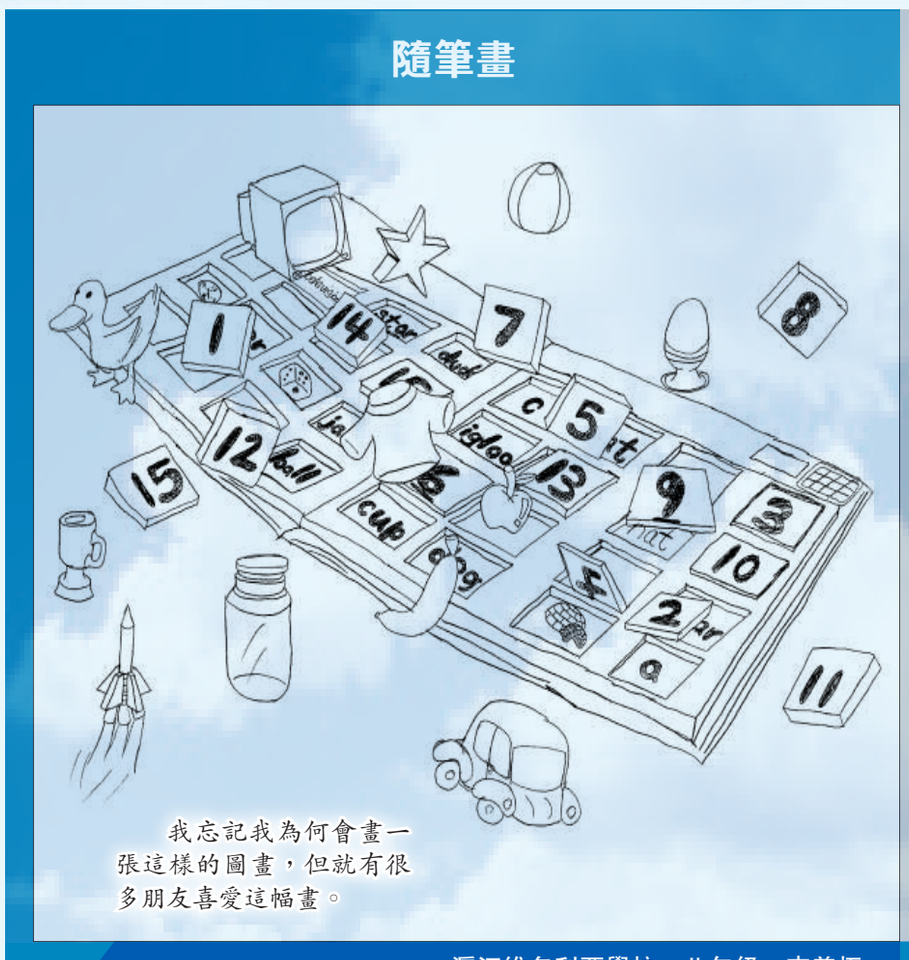
可是，有人認爲值得原諒，因爲有名人曾寫成「前赴後繼」，名人效應，造成同音或形似之誤，也就難怪。那就再一次原諒無綫配字幕的人吧。但要記住：寫成「前仆後繼」才正確；那個名人，妄改成「前赴後繼」，全無壯烈氣氛，寫別字而不自知，迷信他的，應該自認蠢人，自我反省。

此外，《水滸》中人說「脫困」，無綫譯爲「脫險」，《水滸》中人說是「姣好」，無綫譯成「端莊」，同樣是牛頭不對馬嘴，顯出其「中文半桶水」！

容若

觸景立畫

隨筆畫



滬江維多利亞學校 八年級 李善恆

國家為港科研提供廣闊舞台

年一度的國家自然科學獎評選結果公布，來自香港科技大學、理工大學、浸會大學三所大學的八位學者入圍四項自然科學二等獎。當中包括廣爲港人熟悉的、曾獲聯合國教科文組織世界傑出女科學家成就獎的葉玉如教授，以及科大信息科學部的劉雲浩教授四人團隊。這是香港科研工作者回歸以來連續第十五年獲得這一國家自然科研領域的榮譽，也是獎項及人數最多的一次。

這次香港學者入圍國家科技大獎，充分說明，香港科研人才完全能夠憑藉自身優勢，在國家各項事業發展中確立自己的方向和定位，未來發展大有可爲。

此次獲獎的葉玉如教授，可謂香港科研人員的榜樣。她零一年成爲中國科學院最年輕的院士，零三年第一次獲得國家自然科學獎，零四年獲得有「女諾貝爾獎」之稱的傑出女科學家成就獎，多年來不僅孜孜於科研事業，更廣泛參與內地的科研合作交流。作爲神經學專家，她此次又以嶄新的成果再次獲得國家自然科學獎。她的成功，不僅是自身聰明才智與不懈努力的結果，也是香港相對良好的科研環境使然；而毋庸置疑的是，國家對科研的高度重視，以及各項事業發展，則爲她提供了一個展示自身才華的廣闊舞台。

▲葉玉如教授率領團隊破解大腦神經訊號傳導機理，榮獲本年度國家自然科學獎

香港擁有八所高水平的公立大學，以及爲數衆多的科研機構，優秀的科研能力與教研水平向來受國際社會稱道，這也是香港核心競爭力之一。但過去一直困惑香港科研界的便是發展空間與科研成果市場轉化問題，不少人才更因此流失。所幸的是，近年隨着國家不斷發展，尤其是今年「十二五規劃」的落實，情況可望發生根本性轉變。

一如國家科技部官員早前在港表示，科技發展是「十二五規劃」重點之一，未來五年國家將會加大創新科技上的投資，投資額將從現時佔GDP的1.62%提升至二零一七年的2.2%。高度的重視以及巨大的投入，無疑爲科研人員提供了更大的舞台。事實上，特區政府也已看到了機遇，表明香港會加強與內地科研合作，政府鼓勵香港科研人員參與國家科技計劃，配合國家發展。財政司司長曾俊華今年在預算案中便決定，會爲國家重點實驗室在香港的十二間夥伴實驗室提供營運資助，每年每間達二百萬港元，協助他們提升科研能力。資助僅僅是第一步，合作空間的拓闊機會增加，對於不同科研機構而言則更爲重要。

一方面是投入，另一方面也需要對方向的正確把握。在「十二五規劃」之下，香港與內地的關係必將更趨密切，香港的科技發展、科研項目、人員視野，應該及時提升至國家發展的大層面，不應僅僅局限在香港本地。雖然並非所有科研都具有政策廣度，但加強與內地科研機構、生產企業的交流合作，加快科研成果轉化爲效益性生產，將會爲香港的科研開拓更廣闊的天地，同時也能爲內地引入國際先進、尖端的信息和技術。

我們祝賀入圍今年度國家自然科學獎的香港科學家們，同時也期望，在「十二五規劃」期間，香港的科研水平能再上新台階，香港的科研人員在獲得更爲廣闊的發展空間的同時，也能爲祖國發展成爲創新型國家貢獻香港同胞的一分力量。

2011/09/16 大公報社評

通識記憶體

中港科研合作4大領域»»»

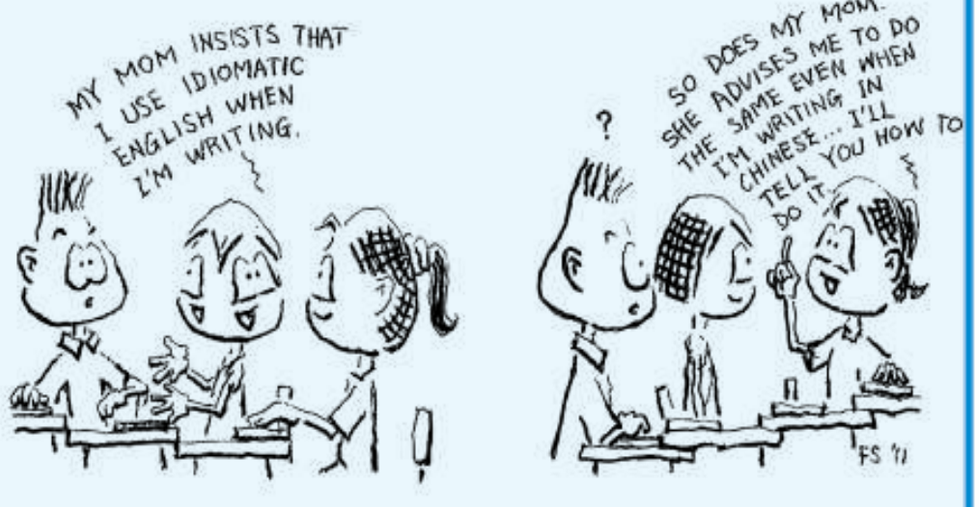
香港和內地合作開展科學研究活動有3種方式：共同申報科研課題及研究、高校及科研機構科研人員互訪、建立聯合實驗室。目前，國家科技部已批准12個設於香港的國家重點實驗室夥伴實驗室，專用於國家重點項目的研究與合作。兩地的科研合作已在4個領域取得可喜的進展。

- **自然科學**：由香港中文大學教授黃捷主持、內地科學家參與的科研項目「非線性輸出調節問題及內模原理」，獲得中國自然科學領域的最高榮譽「國家自然科學獎」二等獎。
- **醫學**：主要深入研究生殖醫學的根本和前沿及相關重大疾病，並促進科研成果向臨床應用轉化的「四川大學——香港中文大學生殖醫學聯合實驗室」成立。

香港臨床與基礎研究中心——南方醫院藥物臨床研究合作中心在廣州成立。研究中心的科研範圍廣泛，包括骨質疏鬆、糖尿病、肝病、哮喘等多個項目。

- **農業**：由香港中大、華大基因研究院、農業部、中國科學院等單位合作的「大豆回家」項目研究成果，首次對野生大豆和栽培大豆全基因組進行了大規模遺傳多態性分析，爲全球大豆的遺傳學研究、大豆種質資源保護和分子育種提供了非常有價值的資源。
- **能源**：河海大學副校長唐洪武和香港科技大學副校長李行偉等學者共同完成的「複雜環境下水力射流新理論關鍵技術及應用」獲2010年度國家科技進步二等獎。

SOHO DIARY



Idiomatic English (1)

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

A friend read a story I have written and sent me an e-mail: "I have started looking at the text, but the early pages, at least, strike me as being rather un-idiomatic." She sent me a short text edited by her.

I wrote her an email in reply: "I have read your text very carefully. It does read a lot smoother. If we work together, I am sure we can write a bestseller (暢銷書). An English scientist told me he did not know what I was talking about, but as he read on, he found the text interconnected. Please excuse my endless optimism. Waiting for Godot and Harry Potter were both considered unfit for publishing by many well-known publishers. Had their writers not have enough confidence to bring them to the world..." I know what I am saying and why I say it that way.

And I am trying to write in 'Hong Kong English'. Many Hong Kong people tend to look down upon 'Hong Kong English'. I am a bilingual (雙語) writer and will never write in the way one who speaks and writes only in English. Sometimes English comes in when I write in Chinese and my Chinese is different from that of a writer who writes only in Chinese.

I will try to do a bit of 'expectation management': perhaps telling the readers about my way of writing at the beginning of my book. In any case, those who pick up my book are not ordinary readers. They are probably 'adventurers' like me.

After writing for nearly 30 years, I have learnt to live with my style.