

LIBERAL STUDIES 通識天下



ISSUE NO. 381

EDITORIAL

大公社評

Donald Tsang persists in getting his job done

Speaking in a vehement tone with slightly saddened emotion, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen yesterday delivered his last policy address - From Strength to Strength - in the new Legislative Council Building.

The sharp contrast of this "scene" not only fits in with the title of the policy address but is also very appropriate and meaningful. In face of ever changing social circumstances, in face of ever emerging challenges and opportunities, both the Chief Executive personally and the SAR Government as a whole must have the courage to face up to difficulties, keep abreast of latest developments and take up their duties. Only in this way, can they go beyond the past to create the future.

Now when he is about to finish and hand over his "examination paper", it can be said that Chief Executive Tsang indeed not only has not let down Hong Kong citizens and grass-roots people - as he himself put it, but also has been faithful to "one country two systems" and worthy of the Central Government's trust. Hence he has nothing to be ashamed of. He has got his job done and will leave his valuable inspiration and experience to his successor.

The title of the policy address, From Strength to Strength, well fits in with reality. There are new breakthroughs in housing policy and welfare policy for aged people to answer popular appeals in society. This suggests that the CE has really listened to public opinions and kept abreast of people's aspirations through his public consultations, enabling him to work out short- medium- and long-terms measures and arrangements in this policy address which serves as a link between past and future.

In this regard, the resumption of the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) is no doubt a piece of "representative work". Donald Tsang has previously repeatedly said the government would not intervene in the property market because of the bitter lesson learnt from the "85,000-flat policy". But in just one year's time, housing prices has skyrocketed so uncontrollably that potential home buyers who otherwise could have afforded have now turned to bemoan their lack of funds.

17,000 flats will be provided over four years from 2016-17 onwards. After five years, owners may sell their flats on the open market after paying a premium. This is like "new wine in an old bottle" - while the old bottle with its advantages is retained, new benefits are added into it.

Likewise, there is the improved My Home Purchase Plan (MHPP) targeted at families with a monthly household income up to \$40,000. It offers a new option of "buy-or-rent" apart from the originally proposed "rent-and-buy" mode, and sets the initial market selling price of a flat as the ceiling price. This is another creative move to benefit people.

What is more significant in carrying on the past and opening a way for future is a spate of new arrangements in the welfare policy for aged people. This includes a new "Guangdong Scheme" allowing an Old Age Allowance (OAA) recipient who chooses to reside in Guangdong to receive the allowance there without the need to come back and stay in Hong Kong for two months a year.

With the hope to have their own homes, people can put their minds at ease and look forward to future. With aged people being taken care of properly, society tends to be more harmonious. Donald Tsang's "farewell address" puts a good play on the stage, which draws wide praise. This is once again proves that it is always "better late than never". As long as one sincerely seeks to improve people's well-being, he can get his job done to the last minute. 13 October 2011

WORDS AND USAGE

- 1. Fit in with (phrasal verb) - To belong or agree with something. (適合, 一致)
2. Keep abreast of sth (idiom) - to have the most recent facts and information about something. (並駕齊驅, 掌握最新情況)
3. Let sb down (phrasal verb) - To fail to meet the expectations of someone; to disappoint someone. (使某人失望, 對不起某人)
4. Nothing but (idiom) - Only; just. (只有, 只不過)
5. Better late than never (idiom) - It is good this happened now although it should have happened sooner. (遲做總比不做好, 晚來總比不來好)

居有屋老有養曾蔭權堅持做好份工

特首曾蔭權, 昨日以一種高昂而又略帶傷感的語調和情緒, 在新啓用的立法會大樓內宣讀了他任內的最後一份施政報告:《繼往開來》。

這一對比相當鮮明的「場景」, 不僅貼合「報告」的名字, 同時也具有非常適切和深刻的意義: 無論是作為特首個人還是特區政府, 面對不斷變化的社會事物, 面對不斷湧現的挑戰和機遇, 都必須勇於面對困難、不斷更新, 承擔起自己應有的責任, 才能超越從前、開創未來。

而在此將要掩上這一份「考卷」之際, 曾特首確實不僅可以如他自己所言對得起港人、對得起基層民衆, 而且, 也是對得起「一國兩制」、對得起中央的信任、對得起自己的。他打好了這份工, 也為未來的特首工作留下了寶貴的啓發和經驗。

《繼往開來》名副其實, 在房屋政策、安老政策這兩大施政議題上有了新的突破和開展, 回應了社會上的民意訴求, 顯示前一階段特首通過廣泛的諮詢, 確實聽取和掌握了民情民意, 在這一具有承前啓後「跨屆」性質的報告中作出了短、中、長期的措施和安排。

其中, 復建居屋無疑是一個「代表作」, 曾蔭權過去曾經講過



▲特首曾蔭權 12 日在記者會上向傳媒展示他任內最後一份施政報告

不會介入樓市、不會復建居屋, 因為「八萬五」教訓深刻; 但過去短短一年時間裡, 樓價如脫韁野馬直線上升, 本來有能力、有計劃買私樓的市民都只能望門興嘆, 甚至慘成「劊房一族」, 社會上因而怨氣大增。如果這時候政府仍堅持不介入、不復建, 則不但無法化解社會矛盾, 「福為民開」也將成爲一句空話。

同樣, 以月入不逾四萬元家庭爲對象的「置安心」計劃, 也由「先租後買」改爲「可租可買」, 且樓價按現價「封頂」, 又是一項有新意的利民創舉。

而更具「繼往開來」意義的, 是一系列的安老政策新安排, 包括推出「廣東計劃」, 老人家返回鄉下定居仍可月月領「生果金」, 不必再限定每年要返港住兩個月; 還有六十五歲以上長者兩元乘坐公共交通工具, 由每周一元擴大爲全年適用, 如此公公婆婆可以日日出外飲茶、探朋友、睇孫仔, 不亦樂乎。

居者有其屋, 市民有指望; 老人有所養, 社會顯吉祥。曾蔭權「告別作」上演了一齣好戲, 得到了廣泛好評, 也再一次說明了「有心唔怕遲」, 只要「福為民開」, 「做好呢份工」可以直至最後一分鐘。

2011/10/13 大公報社評

中文基本功

鄺不讀鹿正如郭不讀享 此所以爲有邊讀邊者戒

九月卅日晚上商業電台《光明頂》節目主持人與嘉賓大談文學。他唸起唐代大詩人杜甫兩句詩:「今夜鄜州月, 閨中只獨看。」他有邊讀邊, 把鄺字讀成鹿。

字, 不少可以有邊讀邊; 但有些卻不可以, 其讀音同它的偏旁讀法相差很遠。就舉邑部的字爲例: 鄺, 不讀甘而讀寒, 鄺, 不讀有而讀旭, 郭, 不讀呈而讀影, 郭, 不讀享而讀國。可見鄺不讀鹿, 也很平常。

鄺, 讀夫, 與鹿音相差很遠, 而且不是入聲字, 而是平聲字。「今夜鄜州月, 閨中只獨看」, 上句是平仄平平仄, 下句是平平仄仄平, 讀來比較順口。

鄺州, 在今陝西省, 其治所鄺縣。五十多年前, 大陸搞漢字簡化, 有所謂「淘汰生僻字」, 嫌鄺字生僻, 鄺縣就改名富縣以迄於今。

鄺改富, 是根據普通話定出, 因爲普通話鄺富同音, 而古漢語則不同。古漢語倒與今天粵語相同。用粵語讀杜甫這兩句詩, 非常合拍。不過, 鄺改富, 改了原意, 也改掉歷史!

鄺被改爲富, 鄺這個「生僻字」淘汰了嗎? 當然不可能。你不能竄改唐詩, 將杜詩中的「鄺」字改成「富」, 學生讀唐詩, 老師教唐詩, 仍然是「今夜鄺中月, 閨中只獨看」。讀歷史, 更非照舊不可, 因爲鄺這個地名, 唐宋元明清一千多年一直沿用。除非你禁讀歷史——這決無可能。

鄺讀夫太令人難明, 可否有邊讀邊, 改讀鹿? 也可以。這就像鄺不能讀甘, 郁不能讀有, 郭不能讀呈, 郭不能讀享。讀音的標準, 勢難推翻, 除非你要攪亂漢字, 破壞中文! 容若

觸景立畫

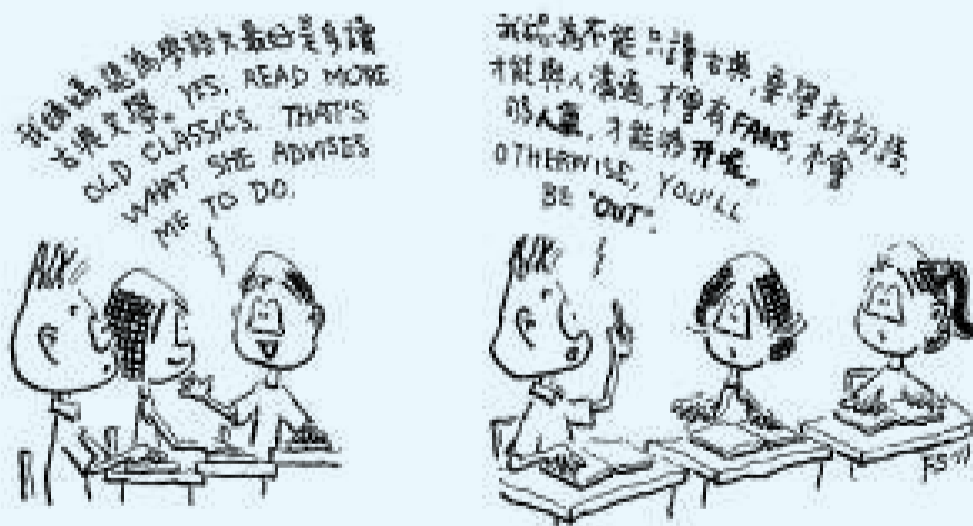
夢幻遊樂場設計比賽得獎作品

「原創遊樂場」中學組大獎 《千園》



伊利沙伯中學學生會湯國華中學

SOHO DIARY



The Language We Use

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The way Hong Kong people speak Cantonese is not the same as many American Chinese do, even though those American Chinese were born in Hong Kong.

It is interesting that, over the years, many Japanese words have entered the Cantonese language in Hong Kong. For example, the adjective "famous" has evolved to be the combination of "people" and "energy" (人氣).

If a Hong Kong writer sends a Chinese manuscript to an American Chinese friend for comments, probably that friend will find out a lot of "mistakes".

If that American Chinese was born over one hundred years ago and could still read, he or she would find out even more errors. Why? Because in the old days, Chinese people used classical Chinese when they wrote. Over the past century, a lot of changes have taken place in the Chinese

language. How about the English language in the 20th Century?

In many secondary schools in Hong Kong, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice (傲慢與偏見) is a recommended reading. A lot of words we are using today had very different meanings at Austen's time. Words like "server", "delete", "toxic", "equal opportunities" and "crisis" did not mean what they mean now. Yet many Hong Kong students who are learning English as a second language are told to learn English through reading those classics.

Of course, many students in the United Kingdom and the United States also learn English through the same readings. The difference is that they know the English they are using in everyday life and can compare it with the usage in the old literature.

通識記憶體

2011 施政報告重點

居有屋》》》》

- 香港大學最新民調顯示, 近九成市民認爲施政報告「非常需要」處理房屋問題。
本年《施政報告》有關房屋的有 45 段, 佔內容的四分之一。
「新居屋」計劃在樓市失衡時提供緩衝, 緩和社會矛盾。
復建居屋, 爲月入 1.6 萬至 3 萬的家庭提

- 供面積 400 呎、樓價 150 至 200 萬的單位, 供款佔月入四成。
現時市區二手居屋的售價在 200 萬以上。
4 年內推出 17,000 個單位, 首年 2500 個, 土地供應增加後, 每年平均推 5000 個。
業主在購入單位 5 年後, 在向房委會繳付補價後, 便可自由出售。
過去的補地價政策, 是業主在單位升值時要根據市值支付補地價金額。
當市場可提供合理價格及數量的中小型單位時, 會調節居屋供應數目, 甚至停止興建。

- 將原「置安心」計劃中的「先租後買」改爲「可租可買」, 樓價按現價「封頂」。
老有養》》》》
本港社會老齡化趨勢日益突出, 並有 35 萬 65 歲以上長者生活貧困。
隨粵港兩地社會經濟融合深化, 提出「廣東計劃」: 老人返鄉(廣東)定居後, 可於當地領取每月「生果金」, 回應一直被社會詬病的長者「生果金」限制。