



EDITORIAL

大公社評

Food safety above all else for infants

Suspicious about radiation leakage from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan have yet to be dispelled. Even yesterday, Meiji Holdings announced the recall of 400,000 cans of Meiji Step infant milk powder which have been found to be contaminated by radioactive cesium-134 and cesium-137. This has caused panic among Hong Kong mothers. The Centre for Food Safety said it has not found any infant formula with any contaminant exceeding safety limits. Such assurance can hardly **set parents' minds at rest**.

This occurrence of contamination is really unnerving. The Fukushima nuclear plant was hit by the March 12 earthquake, causing radiation leakage to pollute some water resources and agricultural products. The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has since taken steps to ban sales and exports of products from the disaster-hit area. However, there have been reports **from time to time** about certain agricultural produce and processed foodstuffs being found to be polluted, such as beef, rice and vegetables. However, this is the first time that infant milk powder has been found to be contaminated by radioactive cesium.

As a matter of fact, eight months after the Fukushima earthquake, countries and regions which import Japanese foodstuffs remain suspicious about the safety of Japanese foodstuffs. This is especially because information released from Japan seems to be confusing. At one time, it was said that all foodstuffs were safe. But later on, some foodstuffs were found to be contaminated by radioactive materials. As a result, one can hardly tell whether imported Japanese stuffs are safe at all. This time, the Meiji Holdings' sudden announcement to recall 400,000 cans of infant milk powder **has taken parents by surprise**.

Meiji infant formula products have been on sale in Hong Kong for a long time. Because of the publicity that they are more suitable for Asian babies, they have been especially favoured by some parents despite relatively higher prices. After the radiation leakage at the Fukushima nuclear plant, Meiji Holdings widely announced that its raw materials were not from the disaster area, so parents could **rest assured** about the safety of its products. As babies may have difficulties adjusting to formula switches, many parents using Meiji milk powder have continued buying it or resuming purchases after a short suspension. No one expected that something would go wrong just half a year later.

On this, Meiji Holdings' explanation is hardly satisfactory. The company claimed the raw material, or milk, of the infant formula came from Kasukabe city of Saitama Prefecture. The quality of the milk was good. And it was believed to have been contaminated by radioactive material in the air during the drying process.

Such an explanation is unacceptable. In fact, Saitama Prefecture is right within the disaster-hit area. Although it is not in the epicentre of the earthquake nor is it the seat of the nuclear plant, it is still relatively close to Fukushima. Now according to Meiji Holdings, there is no problem with the milk, but the air is problematic. Isn't this exactly an expected outcome of a nuclear leakage? How could Meiji Holdings have claimed that its milk products were safe?

奶粉不同別樣 嬰幼食安第一

日本福島核電站核輻射泄漏疑雲未散，昨日，日本明治乳業公司宣布回收四十萬罐輸出含有放射性物質鈾的嬰兒奶粉，事件立刻在本港「媽咪」群中引起恐慌；食環署食安中心宣布本港並未驗出「問題奶粉」，但家長疑慮仍未能消除。

事件的發生，確實令人感到不安。日本自今年三月十二日發生福島大地震核電站事故以來，部分水源及農產品受到輻射污染，日本厚生省當局已採取了禁止災區物產銷售及出口的措施。但是，部分農牧產品及加工製成品被驗出含有放射性物質的報道仍時有所聞，包括牛肉、大米及蔬菜等。嬰兒奶粉被驗出含有放射性物質鈾則是首次。

事實是，儘管福島地震發生至今已八個多月，但有進口日本食品的國家和地區，對日本食品的安全仍未能釋疑，特別是有關信息的發放仍顯得混亂，一時說已經全部安全，但不久又會有食品被驗出含輻射，是安是危，頗令人莫衷一是。而此次全日本最大的明治乳業公司突然宣布回收四十萬罐奶粉，更令為人父母者感到意外和吃驚。

明治嬰幼兒奶粉在本港市場長期有售，而且由於被宣傳為更適合亞洲嬰幼兒體質，所以特別為部分家長所鍾愛，儘管售價偏高也在所不惜。而福島地震輻射泄漏事故發生後，明治公司曾公開宣稱產品原料並非來自災區，呼籲家長放心。而由於嬰幼兒中途換奶粉腸胃不一定能適應，所以不少慣用明治奶粉的本港家長仍照舊購買或停用了一段日子後又再重新採用，不想事隔半年後才出事。

對此，日本明治乳業公司方面的解釋是未能令人滿意的。公司



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方面聲稱，問題奶粉的原料即牛奶，產地是埼玉縣春日部市，牛奶本身經化驗並無問題，相信是在製成奶粉的乾燥過程中被大氣中的輻射物質所污染。

這一說法就是令人無法接受的。事實是埼玉縣就在地震災區範圍內，雖非中心震區，亦非核電站所在，但與福島的距離仍是相對接近的。如今按明治乳業公司的說法，牛奶沒有問題，但大氣有問題，這不是災區核泄漏產生輻射的嚴重後果又是什麼？如此明治公司焉可以說其奶粉產品是安全的？

當前，對日本明治公司的抨擊與追究是另一回事，對本港家長和食安中心來說，加強對明治奶粉及其他製品的抽查、化驗以至是否需要回收，則是更加迫切和嚴峻的問題。對此，昨日已有部分超市主動將明治奶粉下架，而可以相信，未來數日，原本使用明治奶粉的媽咪也會立即改買別牌，以免孩子可能受到禍害。

事實是，在有關問題上，日本明治乳業以至厚生省強調的什麼一千克奶粉放射性物質不超過二百貝克仍屬「安全」的說法是不切實際、也不負責任的，儘管驗出的問題明治奶粉所含「鈾」只有三、四十貝克，但嬰幼兒就是嬰幼兒，健康必須受到最大的安全保障，難道要吃下一、二百貝克才叫不安全和「有問題」嗎？

對此，本港食安中心也不能只以抽查數字或放射性物質安全系數作為對家長的回應或安全的指標，如何確保入口奶粉的品質安全、確保嬰幼兒健康才是最重要的，包括加強抽查及必要時停售。

2011/12/07 大公報社評

食安中心驗3蔬菜樣本超標》》》

目前，本地部分超市仍有售外傳含輻射的明治奶粉，認為奶粉生產時間未受地震影響，但也有部分日本超市把日本奶粉下架。自地震發生後一天，即3月12日起，本港食品安全中心已根據食品安全法中有關意外核污染後食物內放射性核素含量的指引限值作標準，對從日本進口的食品進行輻射水平測試。至今已檢測57000個樣本，並發現其中有3個進口蔬菜樣本不合格。奶粉至今未發現問題。然而奶粉為嬰兒主要食糧，放射性質物的影響不容忽視，有關部門應加強監控。

中文基本功

島嶼在粵音不能讀島魚 大嶼變大魚有過訛變史

十一月十六日晚上，香港電台《講東講西》，由一位嘉賓講述廣州高第街許氏宗族同香港的關係，提到第三代的許應驊任浙閩總督（駐福建），也提到福建的一個小島鼓浪嶼；提到第四代追隨孫中山，包括許崇智任粵軍總司令和他的兩個堂弟許崇灝、許崇清；也提到魯迅夫人許廣平。有兩點值得商榷：一、嘉賓把鼓浪嶼的嶼字讀成魚；二、嘉賓說許崇智晚年在港搞「第三勢力」。

一、鼓浪嶼的嶼字，就是島嶼的嶼。此字粵語讀序，嘉賓既然用粵語講述，讀成魚是錯了的。可以說，魚在粵語中，是平聲字，而嶼在粵語中是去聲字（屬仄聲）。唐末詩人方干，有兩句詩膾炙人口，那就是：「鶴盤遠勢尋孤嶼，蟬曳殘聲過別枝。」正由於上句的「嶼」是仄聲字，才對得上下句的平聲字「枝」。如把「嶼」讀成魚，就同「枝」字撞聲了。即使此字不讀序，也絕對

不能讀魚，除非你用的是另外一種方言。

嘉賓把鼓浪嶼讀成鼓浪魚，那是受了大嶼山讀大魚山的影響。其實，大嶼山的嶼，本來也該讀序。道理簡單，不論《廣東通志》或《新安縣志》，這個大島，都標明「大嶼」這個名稱。換句話說，也就是大島的意思。島嶼的嶼怎麼不讀序呢？

原來，大嶼（島）上的山，宋代稱為大奚山。奚在某些鄉音（或是瑤話），其音近魚，所以，又有人把大奚山稱為大魚山。把大奚山寫成大嶼山，本意是大嶼上的山之意，不想以訛傳訛，人們竟然忘記原來寫法，就把大嶼（的）山讀成大魚山，這早已積非成「是」了。

二、許崇智雖曾被張發奎邀請參加「第三勢力」的活動，始終不讓他加入組織。

容若

觸景立畫

自畫像



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SOHO DIARY



New Terms

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The word "crisis"（危機）is used so often now while we talk about Europe – the Euro Zone in particular. Most Hong Kong students know this word because it appears nearly every day in newspapers. It is a big word for very serious situations. As it appears so often, it has become a very familiar word.

When I was a secondary school student, I did not know this word. I came to know it in my twenties, when economic problems started to dominate the newspaper headlines.

Then I came across another new term: "crisis management". At first, the term was not something totally logical for me. The word "crisis" appeared to be too extraordinary to go with the word "management". I could imagine that if I used the term "crisis management" in my composition in my

secondary school days, my teacher would underlined it in red and put a question mark there. I would then tell myself not to use the term again in examinations.

The word "management" is commonly used in the 21st century. Now, even some school students know the term and the meaning of "wealth management".

Once, I was stopped on the street by some people doing promotion for a bank. They were promoting the bank's service. They handed me a leaflet（傳單）featuring the beautiful images of paintings by Vicent van Gogh（梵高）. They had their programme named "Van Gogh Wealth Management".

My friend, an artist, looked at the title of the programme and said, "van Gogh did not have wealth to manage at all in his lifetime."

通識記憶體

日核事故後湧現輻射農產品

明治回收40萬罐嬰兒奶粉》》》

日本自3月11日大地震引發福島核事故後，農產品包括茶葉、稻米、香菇等相繼驗出含鈾。2011年12月6日，佔日本國內奶粉銷售量四成的日本明治乳業公司宣布回收40萬罐嬰兒奶粉。原因是供9個月以上嬰兒食用的奶粉「STEP」（俗稱「大仔」奶粉），驗出每千克含21.5至30.8貝克的放射性鈾。