

New body to open new horizon in poverty alleviation

廣九直通車開通一世紀
客運量累計過億人次

Chief Executive-elect Leung Chun-ying yesterday announced the setting up of a preparatory task force on the Commission of Poverty to consider its composition and responsibility.

The seven-member task force will be led by Leung himself, with the Chief Secretary as the vice chairperson. Other members include Law Chi-kwong, an associate professor from the Department of Social Work & Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong; Fang Man-sang, head of the Council of Social Service; Ho Hei-wah, director of Society of Community Organization; Henry Cheng Kar-shun from the business sector, and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare.

In view of its composition, the task force is professional, appropriate and practical. During his election campaign, Leung once visited the old Sham Shui Po area with Ho Hei-wah as his guide. He climbed nine flights of stairs to the roof of a building to see with his own eyes the living conditions of rooftop dwellers. Ho Hei-wah, Fong Man-sang and Law Chi-kwong do not belong to the pro-establishment camp, but are rather harsh critics of the government's welfare policy. But given their long-time devotion to social work, their sincerity, experience and capabilities are beyond doubt. Poverty alleviation is not a political issue. There is no need to have a "camp" classification. Whoever is sincere and committed to poverty alleviation, his or her opinion should be listened to. In future, Leung must better cooperate with the social work sector. Only in this way can he alleviate poverty.

However, the establishment of a Commission on Poverty does not necessarily mean that the problem of poverty can be solved. Poverty is a social phenomenon induced by various causes. In present-day Hong Kong there is poverty among helpless, elderly people, there is poverty caused by joblessness, and there is poverty resulting from low incomes. There is also poverty among new immigrants from the Mainland or single-parent families. There are also trans-generation poverty and so-called "poverty of the post-1980s generation" because some young people decline to work though they are educated. All in all, there is a great variety in the type of poverty cases, resulting from different causes, which should not be lumped together, let alone be treated with one and the same solution. This is why the Chief Executive-elect wants to restructure the Commission of Poverty. The aim is to clarify the status, nature and sources of the current poverty problem in order to find specific ways to deal with it.

Needless to say, "money" is the first factor that must be considered in any attempt to solve the poverty problem. Money must be spent in various ways to provide practical help for those who have difficulty providing food, clothing, housing, medical care and education for their children. However, the problem of poverty or the widening wealth gap facing today's Hong Kong does not merely lie in lack of money for food, clothing, housing, transport or medical care, but also because of problems relating to social harmony, mutual trust and care, and the driving force in society. There is not just poverty in material life. Something is also amiss in our social spirit and willpower. Many people talk about poverty, but in the same breath curse the rich, the property developers, the government and even some effective poverty alleviation measures adopted by the government. What on earth is this intended for, to help poverty alleviation and narrow wealth gap, or to create social antagonisms and resentment under the excuse of poverty alleviation? What help can such actions really do towards alleviating poverty and

扶貧委員會要開創扶貧新境界

候任行政長官梁振英昨日宣布成立扶貧委員會籌備小組，就新一屆政府重組扶貧委員會的職能、人選等問題提供意見。

小組由梁振英自任主席、政務司長副之；成員有港大社工系副教授羅致光、「社聯」總幹事方敏生、「社協」總幹事何喜華、工商界人士鄭家純及勞工福利局局長共七人。

從小組成員觀之，是專業、恰當和幹實事的。梁振英在競選期間，曾經由何喜華帶往深水埗舊區，行樓梯上九樓了解天台屋居民的生活情況。何喜華和方敏生、羅致光都不是建制派人士，且是政府社會福利政策的有力批評者，但他們長期從事社會工作的誠意、經驗和能力不容置疑。扶貧不是政治問題，不必區分什麼「派」，誰對扶貧有熱誠有承擔，就應該多聽誰的意見。未來梁振英必須和社工界更好合作，才能切實推動扶貧工作。

但是，扶貧委員會的成立，絕不代表就能解決貧窮問題。貧窮是一種社會現象，由多種不同原因造成，如眼前的本港，有年老無依的長者貧窮，有找不到工作的失業貧窮，也有低收入的在職貧窮，還有內地來港新移民或單親家庭的貧窮以及跨代貧窮，還有年紀輕輕、也有一定學歷卻不願工作的「八十後貧窮」，總之情況不一、成因各異，不能一概論之，更不能只用一種方法來解決。這也是候任特首為什麼要重設扶貧委員會的原因，目的就是希望釐清當前貧窮問題的形態、性質和根源所在，從而對症下藥，找出解決之道。

當然，要解決貧窮問題，首先必須從「錢」字入手，通過各種途徑切實協助有需要者解決吃飯、穿衣、住屋及醫療、子女教育的



▲候任特首梁振英聯合工商界的鄭家純（圖圓）及社福界人士組成扶貧委員會籌備小組

金」、多發「醫療券」、兩元乘車坐船等優惠都是必要的，為基層貧困家庭子女提供上網學習、課外活動和午膳津貼也是德政，但同時需要更多研究和闡述貧窮問題的社會成因和扶貧工作的真正意義，要鼓勵貧困人士振奮起來，不要自怨自艾或心存怨氣，更要支持和鼓勵貧困家庭的孩子發憤向上、擺脫「窮二代」的宿命，更要在全社會大力營造一種窮不丟人、富不足恃的和諧、團結、互重氣氛，從根本上扭轉近年反對派從政治上煽起的不同階層、官民之間互相提防、敵視、互不信任的歪風。只有一個團結、奮進、有希望和有愛的社會，才可以緩解貧窮、戰勝貧窮，才能夠讓不同階層的人在不同的生活質素下也同樣活得有尊嚴、活得開心。扶貧委員會要面對的不是窮人、而是全社會；扶貧委員會要解決的不僅僅是貧窮，還有光明、理想和精神上的共同富裕。

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providing help to people in need?

Therefore, the future Commission of Poverty directly headed by Leung must not just work with an eye to drafting some concrete welfare measures as its predecessors did. Surely it is necessary to raise the Old Age Allowance, give out more Elderly Health Care Vouchers and carry on with the \$2 Public Transport Concessions for the Elderly. It is also benevolent to provide subsidies to children of poor grass-roots families so that they can have access to the Internet, participate in extra-curriculum activities and afford lunches. But at the same time, greater effort should be devoted to studying and explaining the social causes of the poverty problem and the genuine significance of poverty alleviation, to encourage poor people to brace themselves up rather than simply bemoaning their fate or becoming resentful, and – more importantly – to encourage children from poor families to rouse and exert themselves so as to change their fate of becoming the "second poor generation". Furthermore, an atmosphere of harmony, unity and mutual respect must be fostered in the whole society in which being poor is not looked down upon while being rich is not to be envied, so as to fundamentally reverse the evil trend in society of recent years that has been politically instigated by the opposition, characterized by mutual distrust and hostility between people from different strata and between officials and citizens so that they are suspicious of each other. Only when a society is united, active, full of hope and love, can it reduce and overcome poverty, can it enable people in various social strata with different living standards to equally live with dignity and happiness. What the Commission of Poverty will be facing is not just the poor but the whole society. What the Commission of Poverty will have to deal with is not only poverty alleviation but also the poor but the whole society. What the Commission of Poverty will have to deal with is not only poverty alleviation but also a search for a road toward a brighter future with shared ideals and spiritual wealth.

20 June 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

① In view of sth (idiom) – In consideration of something.（鑒於，從……看）

Examples: 1.The prospect for passage of the bill was somewhat cloudy, in view of its evident unconstitutionality. 2.In view of the high cost of gasoline, I sold my car.

② Belong to sth (phrasal verb) – To be a member of something.（屬於，是……的成員）

Examples: 1.I don't belong to any political party. 2.Right now, Greece still belongs to the European Union.

③ Result from sth (phrasal verb) – To be the outcome of something.（由……引起）

Examples: 1.It will be interesting to see what results from your efforts. 2.Nothing has resulted from all that work.

④ All in all (idiom) – Everything considered; in the final analysis; considering everything.（總的來說，大體而言）

Examples: 1.All in all, the criticism seemed fair. 2.All in all, it was a good vacation.

⑤ Lump sb/sth together (phrasal verb) – To put different people or things together and think about them or deal with them in the same way.（混為一談）

Examples: 1.All the children are lumped together in one class, regardless of their age and ability. 2.You can't lump the elderly and the disabled together.

數看天下

廣九直通車開通一世紀
客運量累計過億人次

作為首條直通香港與內地的交通大動脈的廣九直通車，到今年6月19日，累計運客量已超過1億人次（包括廣九直通車恢復開行前的3000多萬客運量）。廣九直通車恢復運行33年，年客運流量從最初的近30萬人次增長近10倍，到如今已超過300萬人次。

廣九直通車於1911年10月建成運營，此後，因戰亂等各種條件干擾數度停運。新中國成立後，廣九直通車只開行廣州至深圳區段，直到1979年4月4日才恢復開行廣州至香港九龍區段。廣鐵集團有關負責人表示，廣九直通車恢復通車33年來，日益成為粵港經濟融合的「黃金線」和兩地同胞血脈相連的「親情線」。期間，一群又有一群香港人乘坐直通車返鄉拜親祭祖、投資興業。

70年代末至80年代初，香港人到內地置業開工廠日漸增多，而廣九直通車是當時香港直通內地最便捷、舒適的大眾化交通工具。因此，1979年廣九直通車恢復運行初期客流幾乎全是香港人，以及從香港口岸進來的外賓、華僑、澳門和台灣同胞。

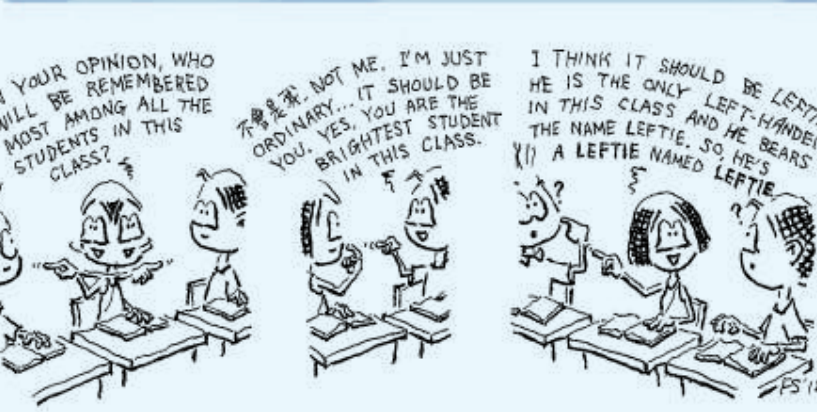
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觸景立畫

街燈夢影

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SOHO DIARY



Good Memory (1)

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In the schools in Hong Kong, students who have a good memory often manage to get higher marks in examinations.

There is a story on the CNN（美國有線電視新聞網）about how a young man trains himself to remember a lot of things in a short time.

Here is an example given by that young man: Have two participants and give them the photo of a man. Then tell one of them that the occupation of the man in the photo is a baker but tell the other one that the man is called baker. After some time, ask the two participants the information of the man in the photo. The participant who was told that the man was a baker would be more likely to recall the information. It is because the occupation "baker" is a familiar thing for us and we know what a baker does. The

name "baker", however, does not have anything related to the lives of most of us and it is easy for the participant to forget him.

As said by that young man, it is possible for us to turn what we need to remember into something like baker the occupation and make the information stay in our mind for a longer period of time.

That is a good example. But it is nothing new for me. Most story-tellers, novelists in particular, have been trying to do the same thing. They want their readers to remember or even absorb the information in their novels so that the readers would get interested in the characters and follow their stories eagerly. If the readers keep forgetting what a novelist tells in his/her story, they would give up and put the novel down.

通識記憶體

2005年初，香港整體經濟稍呈復蘇，但貧窮的問題凸顯。特區政府為跨部門的扶貧工作廣徵意見，成立了扶貧委員會，主席為當時的財政司長唐英年，成員有中央政策組首席顧問、四局局長和18名非官方人士，下設秘書處。目的是為社會不同界別提供一個平台，共同研究貧困人士在經濟、就業、教育和培訓各方面的需要，並提出可行的建議，借以幫助貧困人士。2007年7月1日前解散，其工作由勞工及福利局和社會福利署接手。

2006年唐英年就表示，從該財政年度開始的5年，每年預留6000萬元資助扶貧工作，其中3000萬元用作推動地區層面的防止和紓解貧困工作。目前看救貧的效果並不明顯。

2005年首設扶貧委員會

2012年特首競選時唐英年與梁振英有關社會福利政綱

唐英年	梁振英
成立由政務司司長統籌的「社會共融委員會」，訂立扶貧策略；為合資格長者發放每月3,000元長者退休津貼；落實殘疾人士2元乘車優惠安排	重設扶貧委員會；增設特惠生果金為合資格長者每月提供約雙倍津貼；考慮合併長者綜援金和生果金計劃；研究為殘疾人士設立就業資助津貼計劃

從兩人2012年政綱看，仍是從「錢」入手，但面對現今的香港貧窮問題，僅派錢無助於長遠地解決貧窮問題，治標不治本。有俗話說「救急不救窮」，救急是一個過程，刻不容緩；而救貧往往是一個漫長的支援，貧窮是一個狀態，其背後有各種原因，應重點研究並找出相應的扶貧策略。

訂正：6月19日本欄標題應為「全國科技競爭力排名 港僅列第26」