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香港久困疫城,何時與內地通關仍是未知 數,市民心中焦急自不待言。有人等不及了, 建議特區政府考慮先與國際通關。該建議的實 質是效法歐美等地「與疫共存」,既與香港主 流民意相悖,也不切實際,是一場必輸的賭 局。香港社會應打消有關念想,全力爭取早日 與內地通關。

首先從民意上看,大部分香港人希望先與 内地通關。香港雖然是國際大都會,但絕大多 數香港人是中國籍,內地是他們的故鄉,探親 的需求強烈;內地也是港商主要投資地,需要 通關打理生意;香港與內地人員交流最密切, 單是廣東省就有超過50萬香港永久居民。結束 兩地分居的痛苦是港人最大的心願。而從大灣 區建設、融入國家發展大局的角度看,與內地 通關最符合香港利益。

其次,香港目前並不具備與國際通關的條 件。且不論「與疫共存」的科學與道德風險因 素,那些決定「與疫共存」的歐美國家,共同 點是疫苗接種率較高,達七成至八成以上,但 即便如此,放鬆抗疫措施後仍導致疫情大幅反 彈,死亡人數也掉頭回升。香港接種率至今未 到七成,如果冒然決定與國際通關,結果必然 是確診及死亡人數急增,醫療資源被擠兑,也 會帶來巨大經濟損失,這是香港社會希望看到 的嗎?

新加坡是最好的例子。該國曾嚴格實施 「清零」政策,確診和死亡率都很低,因此被 視為「抗疫模範生」。該國接種率達83%,也 令其政府認為有足夠「本錢」與疫共存。不料 實際情況十分嚇人,自八月份實施與疫共存 後,單日確診人數屢創新高,前日更接近4000 人。兩個月內,確診人數逾9萬,超過過去一年 確診的總和;平均每日因疫死亡7人,最多的一 天死亡14人,而過去一年總死亡人數僅20多 人。當局只好再次收緊防疫政策,儘管如此, 美國還是將新加坡歸入疫情風險最高國家之 列。

香港與新加坡都是城市經濟體,具有一定 可比性,在抗疫策略方面各走各路,引起不少 人關注。近日有台灣輿論比較香港模式的「一 條命都不能少」以及新加坡模式的「不計代 價」,認為更應學習香港。可見香港抗疫雖然 也有不少漏洞,有待進一步完善,但做得比不 少地方都好,被視為相對成功模式,香港沒有 理由放棄對「清零」的追求,改而效法風險極 高的對外國「關門」大開。

# 堅決打消「先與國際通關」的念想

英文

## The idea of "opening doors to foreign countries first" must be given up without hesitation

Hong Kong is isolated in quarantine for a long period of time, and it remains unknown when its border with the Mainland can be reopened. It goes without saying that Hong Kong residents feel very anxious. Unable to wait any longer, some individuals suggest that the SAR Government consider opening doors to foreign countries first. Such a proposal in essence is equivalent to ask us to follow the example of Europe, the United States and some other places and resort to "coexisting with the epidemic", which not only goes against the main-stream public opinion in the SAR but also is infeasible. Thus it is a wager that is bound to lose. Hong Kong society must give up such thinking and make an all-out effort to strive for re-opening the border with the Mainland as early as possible.

First of all, in view of the popular will, the majority of Hong Kong residents hope to reopen the border with the Mainland first. Although Hong Kong is an international metropolitan, the overwhelming majority of Hong Kong people are Chinese in nationality. Their hometowns or home-villages are in the Mainland and their aspiration to go back visiting relatives is very strong. The Mainland is also a major investment destination for Hong Kong business people, who need to travel there to take care of their businesses. Personnel exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland is the most frequent. There are now more than half a million permanent Hong Kong residents living in Guangdong province alone. Hong Kong people's greatest wish is to end the pain of living separately in two places. From the perspective of the Greater Bay Area construction and Hong Kong's integration into the overall situation of national development, reopening the border with the Mainland is in Hong Kong's best interest.

Secondly, Hong Kong at present has yet to satisfy the requirements for reopening its doors to foreign countries. Putting aside the scientific and moral risk factors in "coexistence with the epidemic", those European countries and the U.S. which have adopted the policy of "coexistence with the epidemic" have one thing in common, which is that each of them has a high vaccination rate - up to 70-80 per cent. Even so, they still all suffer sharp rebounds of the epidemic situation with death cases increasing again. The vaccination rate in Hong Kong has yet to reach 70 per cent. If we now recklessly decide on opening doors to foreign countries, it will surely result in sharp increase in both confirmed cases of infection and deaths. Then medical resources will be squeezed and the economy suffer huge losses. Is this what Hong Kong society want

to see?

Singapore provides the best example in this regard. It used to strictly enforce a "zero infection" policy, with both the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths remaining quite low. Because of this the country had been once praised as an "anti-epidemic model". With vaccination rate reaching 83 per cent, Singaporean government then thought it had enough "capital" to coexist with the virus. The reality however turned out to be vary scaring. Since it adopted the policy to coexist with the epidemic in August, the daily number of confirmed cases kept setting new record high, which went up to nearly 4,000 the day before yesterday. And in two months, the accumulated number of confirmed cases already exceeded 90,000, more than the total sum of confirmed cases in the past year. On average, there were seven deaths each day, and in the worst case there were 14 deaths in a single day. By comparison, total deaths in the past year were just a little bit more than 20. Singaporean government now has no choice but to tighten anti-epidemic policy again. In spite of all this, the U.S. still categorises Singapore as one of the highest risk countries.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore are urban economies, hence they have certain comparability. Yet they take different approaches towards fighting the virus, which attracts much attention. Recently, public opinion in Taiwan has made a comparison of Hong Kong's "every-life-counts" mode with Singapore's "at-all-cost" mode, and concluded that Hong Kong was a better example to follow. From this, it can be said that Hong Kong performs better than many other places in fighting the virus and is seen as relatively successful, despite there are still quite a few loopholes to be plugged. There is no reason for Hong Kong to give up its pursuit of "zero infection" and follow the extremely high-risk example to reopen its "closed doors" to foreign countries.

It must also be pointed out that, if Hong

see clearly the target and set the right direction to single-mindedly put reopening the border with the Mainland on top priority. As long as requirements for reopening the border with the Mainland are satisfied to let the Mainland society rest assured, the border reopening will happen without extra effort. 21 October 2021

### WORDS AND USAGE

#### It goes without saying (idiom) –

It is unambiguous, perfectly clear, or self-evident (that something is the case). (不言而喻)

#### **Examples:**

- 1.I know it goes without saying, but the staff restrooms are not to be used by students or visitors.
- 2.It goes without saying that you are to wear formal clothing to reception.

#### All-out (adj.) –

Using all the resources available. ( 竭盡全部 的……)

#### **Examples:**

- 1.We made an all-out effort to get the project finished on time.
- 2.He launched an all-out attack on his critics.

#### In one's interest (idiom) –

For one's benefit or advantage. (為了…的 利益)

#### **Examples:**

- 1.It's obviously in their interest to increase profits.
- 2.I suspect it's in your own best interest to quit now.

#### • Put aside sth (phrasal verb) -

To ignore or not deal with something. ( 撇開 不理,抛開)

#### **Examples:**

1.Let's put aside our differences.

還須指出的是,如果香港放棄「清零」先 與國際通關,那就意味着風險提升、與內地通 關的日子將更加遙遠,這是香港市民願意接受 的嗎?

說到底,選擇何種抗疫模式與國情、民意 有關,都有不同程度的代價,關鍵是着眼長遠 還是只顧眼前利益,是以少數人的利益為重還 是以香港整體利益為依歸。全社會需要看清目 標,認準方向,心無旁騖,真正將與內地通關 當成頭等大事來做,只要滿足通關的條件,讓 内地社會放心,通關將水到渠成。

2021-10-21

Kong gives up the "zero infection" policy and opens doors to foreign countries first, it is meant the day to reopen the border with the Mainland will become even farther away as risks will grow. Will Hong Kong people be willing to accept this?

In the final analysis, whichever anti-epidemic strategy to be adopted is dependent on the national circumstances and popular will in a place, and either way there is a price to pay to a certain degree. The crux of the matter lies in whether the focus is on long-term interests or imminent interests, whether the policy is in the interests of a minority of people or in Hong Kong's overall interests. Whole society must

2.We need to put these problems aside for now and get the work done.

• In the last/final analysis (idiom) -

Something you say when you are talking about what is most important or true in a situation.(歸根究柢,總而言之)

#### **Examples:**

1.In the final analysis, the only people who will benefit are property owners. 2.It was a difficult decision but, in the last analysis, it was the right choice.



很多時候學生認為,要在沒有準備的情況 下,發揮即興的演講(Impromptu Speech)是 最具挑戰性的口語測試。但需知道其實測試的 目的不是100%知識的內容,意思是,不是要 知道考生懂得多少個英文字(當然,才高八斗 的考生相對比較有優勢),很多時候是要知道 考生懂不懂得Think on your feet,就是所謂 的思維敏捷度。要懂得在適當時候「執生」。 不只是中、小、大學生,很多在職人士在 不同崗位上也需要發揮即興演講的技巧。今集 介紹三個「百搭貼士」,也歡迎讀者跟我分享 討論自己的Impromptu Talk。 1) 焦點在觀衆 (Focus on the audience) 要即時了解到講稿的內容及語文是否迎合 觀眾口味,這跟一般的presentation一樣,不 是為自己而演講。主題及用詞要適當。

2) 精簡獨到(Less is more)

## 非即興的Impromptu Speech



我經常跟學生說,不論是寫作還是演講 保持三個重點便足夠。花多一點時間部署內 容,而不是長篇大論列舉10個甚至20個論點 不是多便是好,最後弄巧反拙,整體變得鬆 散,觀眾也不能記着你所講的事情。自己準備 的時間也浪費了。

一般來說, 觀眾在演講的開首60秒最能專 注演講內容,若然在這60秒不能吸引他們的專 注力,那其餘的時間也未必會吸引他們繼續期 聽之後的內容。

	3) 建立一個強而有力的結構 (Develop a	點、原因、相關例
	compelling structure )	子及後再強化論
	這些簡單結構一般演講題材也適合採用:	點。
	A. Sequential events	E. Local, National, International
	跟事情始末相關的結構就是像重複歷史故	一些全球化的題材,
	事一樣。	例如氣候變化,加強環保意識等
	B. Cause, effect, remedy	等也可以本地性、全國
,	討論社會民生的問題就是以因果關係及相	性、國際性作一個框架。
內	關補救措施作為結構的經典例子。	選取適當結構相當重要,除了講者
,	C. Past, present, future	可以有系統地把資料表達出來,觀眾
鬆	我們在面試的時候經常會以過去、現在、	們也能易於明白內容。所以,
備	將來相關的結構作自我介紹。	Impromptu Speech
	D. Point, reason, example, point (PREP)	是可以非即興,可以
專	大部分關於勵志性的即時演講也是列出論	準備的。
專		
聆	Miss Carol	
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