



堅決打消「先與國際通關」的念想

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

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內地通關。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，但即使如此，放鬆防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，醫療資源被擠兌，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。

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，讓內地社會放心，通關將水到渠成。

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英文

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 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

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.

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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:

- I know it goes without saying, but the staff restrooms are not to be used by students or visitors.
- 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:

- We made an all-out effort to get the project finished on time.
- 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:

- It's obviously in their interest to increase profits.
- 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，拋開)

Examples:

- Let's put aside our differences.
- 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:

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



續FUN英語

非即興的Impromptu Speech

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) 焦點在觀眾(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)



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聆聽之後的內容。

3) 建立一個強而有力的結構(Develop a compelling structure)

這些簡單結構一般演講題材也適合採用：

- Sequential events
跟事情始末相關的結構就是像重複歷史故事一樣。
- Cause, effect, remedy
討論社會民生的問題就是以因果關係及相關補救措施作為結構的經典例子。
- Past, present, future
我們在面試的時候經常會以過去、現在、將來相關的結構作自我介紹。
- Point, reason, example, point (PREP)
大部分關於勵志性的即時演講也是列出論

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點、原因、相關例子及後再強化論點。

E. Local, National, International
一些全球化的題材，例如氣候變化，加強環保意識等等也可以本地性、全國性、國際性作一個框架。

選取適當結構相當重要，除了講者可以有系統地把資料表達出來，觀眾們也能易於明白內容。所以，Impromptu Speech是可以非即興，可以準備的。