

社評
雙語道

公僕與民共度時艱更顯擔當

Civil servants demonstrate sense of duty by riding out difficult times with the public

原文

行政會議決定公務員連續第二年凍薪。疫情持續，本港經濟處艱難時期，失業率高企，打工仔困頓，在此時刻公務員與市民共度時艱，當局決定合理，值得肯定。作為受疫情衝擊相對較小的群體，公務員更應在抗疫紓困、服務市民的工作上有更大擔當，尤其要帶頭接種疫苗，提升疫苗接種率；同時努力落實好各項紓困利民措施，以實際行動推動本港抗疫，加快經濟民生復甦步伐，讓全港市民早日擺脫苦況。

按公務員薪酬調整既定機制，今年本港公務員應減人工，但行會考慮去年公務員本應加薪但最終凍薪，為激勵公務員士氣，今年未跟隨機制減薪而選擇繼續凍薪。決定平衡了機制和本港經濟民生的實際情況，亦考慮到公務員理應與市民共度時艱的因素，市民對決定反應普遍正面，大多數公務員團體都表示接受。

應該看到，本港在疫情打擊下，經濟已連跌超過一年，今年一季度雖有7.8%的少見增長，終止連跌趨勢，但這一增長是基於去年一季度收縮9.1%的超低基數，實際經濟狀況依然慘淡；加上政府去年財赤2,576億元，今個財年預計赤字將高達1,000億元，未來4年政府將錄得240億至407億元的赤字，數字皆顯示本港仍處困難時刻。另外，今年一季度本港失業率高達6.8%，就業不足率亦有3.8%，約40萬人「痛感

強烈」，多個行業要大幅減薪。比較之下，公務員群體薪高糧準，不必為飯碗擔憂，是受疫情衝擊最小的群體。此時此刻，公務員與市民共度時艱，是社會合理期望。

無人願意凍薪、減薪，經濟盡快復甦，大環境好轉，市民和公務員才有望加入人工。目前而言，決定本港經濟復甦的關鍵因素，就是疫情能否受控。新冠疫苗接種率達至七成，實現群體免疫，是最有效、最根本遏制疫情的手段。

目前，內地和歐美等地區正在加快接種疫苗，但本港疫苗接種至今仍未到160萬人，接種率才兩成多，公務員、醫護、教師等特殊群體獲安排優先接種，但公務員接種率卻低於本港平均數。在變種病毒入侵下，這種狀況顯然不利防疫，令人擔心經濟復甦之路更加艱難。

本港艱難時刻，社會期待公務員為抗疫作出更大承擔，而努力提高疫苗接種率既關係到本港經濟社會的復常，也直接關係着公務員薪酬調整。因此，各公務員團體要動員所有公務員主動接種疫苗，並以更大擔當投入防疫之中，與市民共同努力渡過難關，為經濟民生復甦多出一分力、多盡一分責。

（摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-6-9）



●行政會議決定公務員連續第二年凍薪。 資料圖片

Exercise

1. 行政會議 2. 公務員事務局 3. 公務員薪酬調整機制 4. 群體免疫 5. 變種病毒

Answer
1. Executive Council 2. Civil Service Bureau 3. civil service pay adjustment mechanism 4. herd immunity 5. virus variants

譯文

The Executive Council decided to freeze the salaries of civil servants for the second year in a row. As the pandemic continues to rage on, Hong Kong's economy is still in a bad shape. The unemployment rate is high, and wage earners are in dire straits. The authorities' decision to have civil servants riding out such difficult times with the public is therefore reasonable and deserves recognition. As a group that is relatively less affected by the pandemic's economic impact, civil servants should shoulder up more responsibility in Hong Kong's fight against Covid-19, particularly in taking the lead to receive Covid-19 vaccines and boosting the vaccination rate. At the same time, the government should also strive to implement various relief measures and accelerate economic recovery, so that the people of Hong Kong can get out of the current predicament as soon as possible.

According to the established mechanism for civil service pay adjustment, civil servants should receive a pay cut this year. However, considering that their salaries were frozen last year despite the positive figures in the pay trend survey, the Executive Council decided not to follow the mechanism and continue the pay freeze in order to boost the morale of civil servants. As a balance has been struck between the pay adjustment mechanism and the socio-economic realities in Hong Kong, and that the duty of civil servants to ride out difficult times with the public was also factored in, the Executive Council's decision was met with a positive response from the public and was accepted by most of the civil service unions.

It should be noted that under the impact of the pandemic, Hong Kong's economy has been declining for over a year. Although the rare 7.8 per cent

growth recorded in the first quarter of 2021 has put an end to this declining trend, the figure is based on a comparison with the first quarter of last year which recorded a 9.1 per cent contraction, and the actual economic situation is still sluggish. Coupled with the government's fiscal deficit of HK \$257.6B last year, the expected deficit of HK \$100B this year, and the projected figures of HK\$24B to HK\$40.7B in the next four years, it is apparent that the road ahead is still treacherous.

In addition, the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2021 was as high as 6.8 per cent while the underemployment rate was also 3.8 per cent. Nearly 400,000 people are bearing the brunt, and many of those who kept their jobs have received pay cuts. In comparison, civil servants are the least impacted by the pandemic as they enjoy relatively higher job security. It is therefore a reasonable expectation for civil servants to

ride out the difficult times with the public.

No one wants to face pay freezes or pay cuts, but wage earners and civil servants alike will not receive a pay rise until the economy recovers. At present, the key factor determining the pace of Hong Kong's economic recovery is whether the pandemic could be brought under control. Pushing the Covid-19 vaccination rate above 70 per cent and achieving herd immunity is the most effective and fundamental means to bring the pandemic under control. But when other regions such as mainland China, Europe and the United States are accelerating their vaccination programmes, only 1.6 million people have been fully vaccinated in Hong Kong, which is just over 20 per cent of the eligible population. Civil servants, healthcare workers, and teachers are among the government's vaccination priority group, and yet the vaccination rate for civil ser-

vants is even lower than Hong Kong's average. This is certainly not ideal for Hong Kong's pandemic control efforts amid the new threat of virus variants, and one cannot help but worry that the road to economic recovery will be even more difficult.

These are adverse times for the people of Hong Kong, and the society expects civil servants to assume a greater role in the fight against the pandemic. A higher vaccination rate is not only beneficial to Hong Kong's economic recovery, but also positively related to the civil servants' salary adjustment.

Civil service unions should therefore mobilise their members to get vaccinated, encourage them to take greater responsibility in Hong Kong's anti-pandemic efforts, and have them join hands with the public to brave the difficulties ahead. By doing so, civil servants can make more contribution to both the economy and people's livelihood.

多角度研究 寨城回憶中「重生」

歷史今昔

九龍寨城現已經變成公眾公園，但讀者可曾想過，寨城曾是媒體、政治、流行文化和學術界所關注的話題之地？筆者曾閱讀多份與之相關的著作，希望在此專欄與大家分享閱讀心得。

學術界最早有關寨城的文章並非中文，而是英文。其中蕭國健便曾在1980年就此話題發表名為《The Kowloon Walled City》的論文，講述由1668年至1898年的寨城歷史。此文發表雖早，但將寨城定始於宋朝可謂影響深遠。蕭又於1986年在同一期刊發表論文《More about the Kowloon Walled City》，論1899年港英政府以安全為由，從清廷奪回寨城管制權。

另一早期關注寨城的學者乃是史密斯（Peter Wesley-Smith），史密斯是香港大學法律系首位博士生，1980年以博士論文《Unequal treaty 1898-1997: China, Great Britain, and Hong Kong's New Territories》畢業，由於是法律系學生，史密斯多關注中英兩國之外交周旋與法律爭議，其中具爭議性的寨城問題自然是書中其中一個重要討論點。

過去20年，學術界有關寨城的著作越來越多，而西方學者對之觀察遠比中方學者多元。其中包括弗雷澤（Alistair Fraser）的《九龍寨城的再生：犯罪、媒體和文化記憶》（The Second Life of Kowloon Walled City: Crime, media and cultural memory）關注點不停留在寨城歷史，而是寨城所衍生出來的文化，他認為這即使寨城被拆卸，但媒體及集體回憶卻賦予了寨城「重生」。另有學者為寨城製作照片集，不但收集舊照片，更親臨當地為未搬遷的居民做各式各樣的訪問，既有文化研究，也有建築研究，更有人類學的元素，例如《黑暗之城：九龍寨城的生活》（City of Darkness: Life in Kowloon Walled City），《寨城三部曲》（The Walled City Trilogy）。

中方學者對寨城的研究則比較集中，均集中在寨城之歷史或政治周旋。其中由梁炳華發表的專書《城寨與中英外交》最為宏觀且深入，梁從各地尋找適應檔案，並且將之



●九龍寨城實景模型 資料圖片

結合分析，討論兩國在1898年到1948年的寨城周旋，但擱筆至1948實屬可惜。另也有其他中方學者針對個別事件發表深入論文，例如鄭會欣的《宋子文與九龍城寨事件》，討論民國政治家宋子文和九龍寨城的關係，也有孫楊的《大國夢幻中的弱勢外交——1948年中英九龍城寨事件交涉析論》，以民國時期中英兩國就九龍寨城事件展現的弱勢外交進行討論。而本港學者黎偉聰及蔡榮燦發表的《九龍城寨的規劃歷史》（The history of planning for Kowloon City）則集中討論兩國百年來對寨城規劃的種種意圖和目的。

九龍寨城不過是佔地0.044平方公里，但學術界對之研究從未停止，且角度多元而深入。

觀潮量數據 碼頭年輕化

氣象萬千

尋尋覓覓，每一個人都有一個故事，每一個碼頭，都有。大埔滘碼頭看來平平無奇，它的故事還有沒有人記得起？

現在每當我們提起這個碼頭，往往都是打風的時候。2017年超強颱風「天鴿」襲港，大埔滘碼頭被海水淹過，當時位於大埔滘碼頭的潮汐站，仍在量度吐露港在颶風下的潮汐數據。這些數字用來評估低窪或沿岸地區會否造成水浸，發揮重要作用。

大埔滘潮汐站早在70年前已有記載，大埔滘在內的部分碼頭在1950年正式劃為潮汐站，並在1960年代建成現時的潮汐站，1986年正式交由天



●大埔滘潮汐站已有多歷史，即將轉型升級。 資料圖片

文台負責運作。土木工程拓展署直到今天仍然負責潮汐站碼頭面以下的維修工作。土木工程拓展署目前負責全港超過300個碼頭和相關梯台的維修，其中在大廟灣和石壁的碼頭，都設置了天文台的潮汐站。

潮汐站提供實時數據，用來監測香港水域內不同地點的海平面變化，包括潮汐、風暴潮、海嘯、全球暖化引致的海平面上升，對天文台發出風暴潮預警以及長期海平面監測非常重要。有些潮汐站不僅測量潮水高度，同時亦安裝不同的氣象儀器，量度其他氣象數據，例如風、雨和海水溫度。

由街渡碼頭華麗轉身，幾十年來風雨不改記錄潮水漲退，大埔滘潮汐站即將再一次轉型，今次還會改外形。轉型後站內會多了空間，儀器可以放得整齊一點，同時潮汐站年輕了，可以抵受風吹雨打多幾十年，而且新設計還得過設計比賽獎項，稱為冰山一「閣」，提醒大家全球暖化對我們的影響。考慮到全球暖化，整個設計的室內高度會升高，預留空間興建一層像閣樓的地方，天文台的儀器就可以放高些，不怕被水浸。

新設計要考慮多一步，我們作為地球的一分子，都要多行一步，做好環保，減低海平面上升的速度，將來我們下一代要尋找碼頭的美景，就不用好像尋找當年的新聞人物般，跌跌碰碰都未必找得到。

●布安東（歷史系博士，興趣遊走於中西歷史文化及古典音樂。）

●香港天文台（本欄以天文台的網上氣象節目《氣象冷知識》向讀者簡介有趣的天氣現象。詳情可瀏覽天文台YouTube專頁：<https://www.youtube.com/user/hkweather>。）

