

社評 雙語道

# 控疫為重 外傭來港宜漸進

## Foreign Domestic Helpers Should Come in Stages as Hong Kong Continues to Fight the Pandemic

原文

特區政府預計本周內與菲律賓及印尼達成重新輸入外傭共識，菲律賓政府更透露外傭將可於下周一來港。恢復外傭來港，可緩解本港外傭短缺，但過往本港新冠確診外來輸入個案中有四成來自菲律賓與印尼，專家提醒若完全放開外傭來港，可能引爆社區感染。本港控疫成績來之不易，是爭取與內地恢復正常通關的基礎，重新輸入外傭應以控疫安全為重，先小規模輸入、抵港後入住檢疫中心，待情況穩定再循序漸進增加輸入配額。

本港自4月起禁止疫情嚴重的菲律賓、印尼等地航班來港，過去三四個月無外傭「新血」，許多家庭大幅加人工亦難以請到外傭。菲律賓勞工部表示，香港特區政府由下星期一起，批准完成接種兩劑新冠疫苗的菲律賓傭工入境香港，但需出示當地檢疫局發出的疫苗接種證明。香港僱傭公會估計，單是菲律賓便有4,500名外傭將入境。

特區政府在本港疫情趨穩下重啟外傭來港，對亟需外傭的僱主是好消息。但香港家庭傭工協會主席容瑪珊兒表示，其實僱主是「一半歡喜一半憂」，擔心即使外傭完成接種並檢測陰性，在入住檢疫酒店期間都有機會受到感染，可能會將病毒帶入家中。港大

感染及傳染病中心總監何栢良亦指，即使已完成接種疫苗，亦未能預防Delta變種病毒輸入，本港今年約830宗外來輸入個案中，40%來自菲律賓和印尼，估計恢復外傭輸入後，輸入個案無可避免會立即飆升。呼吸系統專科醫生梁子超亦指出，菲律賓、印尼兩國疫情嚴重，可能有10%至30%來港外傭近期已染疫，若感染後已「陽轉陰」、來港前後的核酸檢測呈陰性，或有1%至2%曾染疫外傭進入社區後才「復陽」，有可能引發社區傳染。

多名專家建議，在外傭來港控疫上，一是先導試行、循序漸進；二是安全為上，外傭抵港後應入住檢疫中心而非在酒店檢疫。特區政府可用「先導計劃」形式，先安排一兩班包機接載外傭來港；初期應控制輸入外傭人數，即使有「復陽」個案也較易應付，待機制成熟後再擴大輸入規模。

本港抗疫的大方向仍是堅持「清零」；創造條件與內地和澳門盡早正常通關，仍是本港抗疫的最大目標。特區政府要認真做好外傭來港的控疫部署，安排周全，避免在外防輸入方面出現漏洞。

(摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-08-24)



●重新輸入外傭應以控疫安全為重，待情況穩定再循序漸進增加輸入配額。

資料圖片

譯文

The SAR Government is expecting to reach a consensus within this week with authorities in the Philippines and Indonesia to allow newly-hired foreign domestic helpers to come to Hong Kong. The Philippine Government also disclosed that foreign domestic helpers would be able to come to Hong Kong starting from next Monday. Resuming the import of workers can help relieve the city's shortage of foreign domestic helpers. Nevertheless, 40% of Hong Kong's previous confirmed imported cases of COVID-19 came from the Philippines and Indonesia. Experts alert the risk of community outbreak if the city's border is fully reopened to foreign domestic helpers. The progress achieved in Hong Kong in combating the pandemic did not come easily, and it is based on such progress that Hong Kong seeks to resume cross-border travel with the mainland. In resuming the import of new helpers to Hong Kong, the government should put public

health and safety as its priority by allowing first a small portion of foreign domestic helpers to come and arranging for them to stay at quarantine centres after their arrivals. The government may gradually increase the import quota as the situation stabilises.

Since April, Hong Kong has banned flights from places with serious outbreaks, including the Philippines and Indonesia. It has seen no new incoming foreign domestic helpers over the past three to four months. Many families found it difficult to hire foreign domestic helpers despite offering a substantial wage increase. The Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines said that starting from next Monday, the HKSAR Government would allow Filipino helpers who have completed two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to enter Hong Kong upon checking their documentary proof for completion of vaccination issued by the Philippine quarantine authorities. The Hong Kong Union of Employment Agencies estimated that

4,500 helpers would come to Hong Kong from the Philippines alone.

The resumption of the import of foreign domestic helpers by the SAR Government amid the stabilisation of the local epidemic situation is a good news to the employers who are in urgent need of domestic helpers. However, Betty Yung Ma Shan-ye, chairwoman of the Hong Kong Employers of Domestic Helpers Association, said that employers are actually "half happy and half worried", as they are concerned that helpers would be infected during their stay at the quarantine hotels and bring the virus home even though they are fully vaccinated and tested negative beforehand. Ho Pak-leung, the director of the Centre for Infection of the University of Hong Kong, noted that it may not be able to help prevent the import of the Delta variant even though all helpers are vaccinated. He said Hong Kong has recorded around 830 imported cases this year, 40 percent of which came from the Philippines and Indonesia.

He believed it is inevitable that the number of new cases would surge as the government restores the inflow of foreign domestic helpers. Respiratory medicine expert Leung Chi-chiu also raised concerns about the serious outbreaks in the Philippines and Indonesia. He said 10% to 30% of the incoming helpers may have recently contracted the virus, and that if these people "convert from positive to negative" and obtain a negative result in the PCR-based nucleic acid test before or after coming to Hong Kong, there is a chance that 1% to 2% of them would become "re-positive" upon entering the community and lead to local transmission.

It is suggested by a number of experts that the government should carry out trials and lift restrictions step by step before gradually allowing a full resumption of admission of foreign domestic helpers to Hong Kong. Also, it should put public health and safety as its first priority and require incoming helpers to stay at quarantine centres

rather than hotels. To start with, the SAR Government may launch a "pilot scheme" and arrange a few chartered flights to bring the first batch of foreign domestic helpers to Hong Kong. It should control the number of incoming helpers at the initial stage of the scheme. That way, it would be easier for the government to handle the situation if "re-positive" cases are reported. The government should wait until the scheme is mature to increase the number of helpers allowed to enter Hong Kong.

Hong Kong should stick to its "zero infection" approach in fighting the virus. The ultimate goal is to create the conditions necessary for Hong Kong to resume free travel with the mainland and Macau.

As it reopens the city's border to newly-hired foreign domestic helpers, the SAR Government should make comprehensive plans and arrangements to contain the virus and plug any loopholes in measures to prevent the importation of new cases.

## 穩定幣真的穩定嗎？

恒 大譯站

隔星期一見報

最近有位工作了好幾年的學生問我：「老師，我有一點點積蓄，想投資保本。有些朋友建議我買入穩定幣，究竟穩定幣穩定嗎？」我問她：「他們說的穩定幣，是指價值穩定的貨幣，還是那種叫穩定幣的加密貨幣？」她說：「穩定幣不就是價值穩定的貨幣嗎？」我說：「我教過妳的東西，妳似乎已忘記得一乾二淨！要了解財經術語，不能望文生義，翻詞典不一定管用，上網也不一定管用。」我的學生看到我的表情，知道又要被我教訓一頓了！

穩定貨幣 (stable currency) 指那些價值或購買力長期穩定的貨幣。要做到這一點，有關國家便要維持低通脹率。那就是說，用作計算消費物價指數 (Consumer Price Index) 的一籃子貨物和服務的價格波動不大。在世界各國的貨幣中，美元、挪威克朗 (Norwegian Krone, NOK)、科威特第納爾 (Kuwait Dinar, KWD)、日圓 (Japanese Yen, JPY)、瑞士法郎 (Swiss franc, CHF) 都符合上述條件。

穩定幣 (stable coin) 跟穩定貨幣是兩碼事。Stable coin並非法定貨幣，而是一種加密貨幣 (cryptocurrency)。說到加密貨幣，大家一定聽過比特幣 (bitcoin)。加密貨幣是一種數字或虛擬貨幣，買賣雙方進行任何經濟活動，可以通過俗稱區塊鏈 (blockchain) 的分散網絡將資金轉移，毋須通過銀行等金融中介機構，從而將身份保密，但大前提是雙方都願意接受加密貨幣作為交易媒介。

加密貨幣並非由央行發行，價格波動很大，因為背後沒有任何貴金屬或儲備貨幣支持。舉例來說，在去年12月，比特幣的價格曾一度升至19,700美元，到了今年2月，卻跌至6,900美元。所以我常常開玩笑說，投資者最需要的，是個強壯的心臟。有見及此，有人便想發行一種兼具加密貨幣和法定貨幣特點的東西，穩定幣也就應運而生。

穩定幣只是一個統稱，並非只得一種。有些穩定幣跟法定貨幣一樣，以美元、貴金屬，甚至石油等商品作為儲備。換句話說，這些穩定幣的發行量，取決於其美元、貴金屬或石油等儲備有多少。這套機制跟聯繫匯率制度有點相似。港元跟美元掛鈎，官方匯率是1美元兌7.8港元。香港三家發鈔銀行（即滙豐、渣打、中銀）每發行一定數量的港元，便要把等值的美金存放於外匯基金 (Exchange Fund) 作為儲備。換句話說，港元的發行量，取決於外匯基金的美金儲備有多少。然而，並非所有穩定幣都跟美元掛鈎，有些穩定幣以其他加密貨幣作為儲備，有些穩定幣並無任何儲備，而是由發行機構通過增加或減少穩定幣的發行量來調節其價格。

穩定幣近來發展迅速，卻不受監管，連美國財長耶倫（她也是前任聯邦儲備局主席）最近也呼籲美國的金融監管機構盡快考慮制訂新的規例來監管穩定幣。聽了我的解釋後，我的學生問：「那麼穩定幣還值得投資嗎？」我說：「我不是證監會的認可人士，沒有資格正式向你提供投資建議，不過我可以跟你分享股神巴菲特的名言：不熟悉的行業便不要投資 (Never invest in a business you cannot understand)。」

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## 趣談英語

逢星期一見報

BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish Teens

### Reading skills practice: Finding a job

Look at the job adverts and do the exercises to practise your reading skills

Preparation Match the duties to the jobs. There are two duties for each job.

- |                      |                   |              |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. babysitter        | 2. shop assistant | 3. paper boy |
| 4. waiter / waitress | 5. cleaner        | 6. cashier   |

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. display items on the shelf       | b. give customers their change               |
| c. sell shop's items                | d. serve food and drinks                     |
| e. deliver newspaper                | f. read stories and play with young children |
| g. look after children              | h. make somewhere tidy                       |
| i. help customers find items to buy | j. wake up early                             |
| k. clean the floor                  | l. take customers' order                     |

### Checking your understanding: matching

- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. .... advert A | a. delivering newspaper          |
| 2. .... advert B | b. looking after children        |
| 3. .... advert C | c. working in a shop             |
| 4. .... advert D | d. working in a small restaurant |

### Discussion

Do you have a part-time job? What type of part-time job would you like?



**JOBS classifieds**

**Babysitter needed**  
We need a babysitter to look after our two boys aged 5 and 7 after school from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Mon - Fri. £40 a week. Call Mary on 678345211

**Holiday job**  
Do you want to earn some extra money this summer? Do you speak another language? We need French, Spanish or German speakers to work for us in the City Museum shop Tuesday - Saturday. Send your CV to citymuseum@shopjob.lk

**Munchies Café**  
PART-TIME WORK  
We are looking for breakfast and lunchtime staff to work in our café on Saturdays. Come in (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) or call Bella on 612398745 (after 4 p.m.)

Preparation 1. f; 2. a; 3. e; 4. d; 5. h; 6. b; c. Check your understanding: matching 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. d

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