

社評  
雙語道

# 港鐵票價調整機制須更貼近市民負擔能力

## MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism Should Better Reflect Public Affordability

原文

下文摘錄自2022年3月29日香港《文匯報》：

港鐵宣布，按照票價調整機制，本年度的票價維持不變，是連續第三次票價不作上調。本港受疫情重創，經濟不景、百業艱難，港鐵凍結票價，與市民共渡時艱，理所當然、責之所在。港鐵每年調整票價例必引起爭議，尤其是對港鐵坐擁豐厚盈利、佔有市場壟斷優勢，卻未與市民同甘共苦的質疑揮之不去，顯示港鐵票價可加可減機制有必要全面檢討，在保障港鐵營運穩定與照顧市民負擔能力兩個方面取得更好平衡，進一步彰顯港鐵作為大型公共企業回饋社會的企業責任。

自2007年兩鐵合併後，港鐵多次基於可加可減機制對車票價格進行調整，但每次調整都引來各種爭議。有分析指出，可加可減機制最大問題，是方程式內的通脹及運輸業名義工資指數，近年隨着經濟發展而增長，而生產力因素在方程式所佔成分不大，結果變成「只加不減或加快減慢機制」。按照可加可減機制，過去10年港鐵票價已累計增加約30個百分點，只有在2021年出現首次減價，2020年及今年則凍結票價。眾所周知，這3年本港受到疫情嚴重衝擊，經濟負增長，特別是目前仍在困擾本港的第五波疫情，導致倒閉潮、失業潮此起彼落，打工仔更是手停口停。不少市民認為，本港整體經濟惡劣、

收入銳減，港鐵僅僅凍結票價並不足夠，應該帶頭減價為民紓困減負。

港鐵一直沿用「物業+鐵路」的發展模式，由此帶來穩定而豐厚的利潤，通常每年有30億至50億；去年疫情下經濟低迷，港鐵卻勁賺近96億，其中有93億來自物業發展，有業界形容港鐵物業發展進入「收成期」；兩鐵合併後，港鐵在本港專營公共交通工具的市場佔有率一直保持在四成左右，2021年首5個月的市場佔有率達到46.2%，幾乎佔據本港專營公共交通市場的半壁江山，令港鐵成為全球少數能在營運公共交通中取得盈利的公司，而且是世界唯一不需要依賴政府補貼營運的都市軌道運輸系統營運商。

兩鐵合併近14年，主宰港鐵票價調整的可加可減機制檢討過兩次，適逢今年需再檢討，不少議員、學者均要求政府將港鐵票價加幅與盈利掛鉤。例如，現時港鐵除了可加可減機制，另外按照「分享利潤機制」，港鐵去年賺取近百億的情況下，只需撥出2.25億元作為票價優惠。因此，社會上有意見認為，可加可減方程式更有需要加入「市民承擔交通費用能力」和港鐵「盈利指數」兩個參考因素，令機制調整的結果更緊貼社會近況及市民負擔能力，同時希望特區政府作為港鐵大股東，直接將港鐵的分紅投放予改善公共交通服務、回饋乘客，真正體現以民為本。



◆ 港鐵宣布本年度的票價維持不變，引起對票價可加可減機制的爭議。

資料圖片

譯文

The MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) announced that under the Fare Adjustment Mechanism, its fares will remain unchanged this year. This is the third consecutive year for MTRCL not to impose a fare increase. Hard hit by the pandemic, Hong Kong has seen an economic downturn where various sectors encountered difficulties. It is only right and proper for MTRCL to freeze its fares and share the hard times with the public, as they have the responsibility to do so. MTRCL's annual fare adjustment always sparks controversies, as there have been queries as to why the company makes huge profits and possesses a monopolistic edge in the market but fails to display its willingness to go through the rough times with the rest of the community. This shows that it is necessary for MTRCL to comprehensively review the existing fare adjustment mechanism—which provides for both upward and downward movements—to strike a better balance between maintaining the stability of its operations and ensuring passengers' affordability. As a large public corporation in Hong Kong, MTRCL should fulfill its corporate social responsibilities by contributing back to the

society.

After the MTR merged with the Kowloon Canton Railway, it has, in accordance with the Fare Adjustment Mechanism, made several fare adjustments, which always caused controversies. According to some analyses, the biggest problem with the existing mechanism is that the annual fare adjustments are calculated using the inflation rate and a nominal wage index for transportation workers—which have increased with the city's economic development in recent years—despite the fact that productivity factor is not a major element in the formula, thus causing fares to only go up or "quick to go up but slow to come down". Indeed, under the current Fare Adjustment Mechanism, MTR fares have seen a cumulative increase of about 30 per cent in the past 10 years. The company only cut fares for the first time in 2021, and announced a fare freeze in 2020 and this year. As we can all see, over the past three years, the pandemic has dealt a severe blow to the Hong Kong economy, which has recorded a negative growth, and with the ongoing fifth wave of coronavirus outbreak, the city has seen waves of business closures and job losses. People who have lost their jobs are left with no income. The

public's view is that given the economic hardship that has caused a loss of income for many citizens, it is not enough for MTRCL to simply freeze its fares. Instead, it should take the lead in reducing fares to help relieve people's burden.

MTRCL has long adopted the Rail-plus-Property model of development to generate huge and stable profits, which usually reach 3 to 5 billion dollars per year. Last year, despite the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, MTRCL earned nearly 9.6 billion dollars, of which 9.3 billion came from property development. Some members of the industry described MTR's property development projects as having entered "the harvesting phase". Following the merger of the two railway companies, MTRCL's share of the franchised public transport market in Hong Kong has remained at around 40 per cent. In fact, during the first five months of 2021, its share reached as high as 46.2 per cent, which accounts for almost half of the market, making MTRCL one of the few profitable public transport operators in the world—and indeed, the only urban rail transit operator in the world that does not need to rely on the government to subsidise its operations.

Since the merger of the two train systems took place, it has been nearly 14 years, during which the MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism—a system dictating the MTR fares—were reviewed twice. While the mechanism needs to be reviewed again this year, legislators and academics have asked that the fare increment be pegged to the profits made by the company. For instance, apart from the existing Fare Adjustment Mechanism, there is also the Profit Sharing Mechanism, under which MTRCL, having made nearly 10 billion profits last year, may set aside 225 million dollars for fare concessions. Therefore, there are views that the government should include "the public's affordability of transport fares" and "MTRCL's profitability" as factors for consideration when reviewing the current Fare Adjustment Mechanism, so that the results derived from the formula can reflect more closely the situation of the society and passengers' affordability. It is hoped that the Hong Kong SAR Government, as the major shareholder of MTRCL, would spend the dividends payable to the city on improving public transport services as a reward to passengers, in order to be truly "people-oriented" in its governance.

## 留意「意外」聲音 確保不出意外

恒 大譯站

隔星期一見報

一提及傳譯，無論是外行人還是內行人，第一時間想到的，也許就是語言。確實，語言基本功對於做好傳譯至關重要。對於專業傳譯員而言，熟練掌握兩三門語言甚至更多是非常必要的。不過，傳譯中還有很多語言之外的事，下面來具體聊聊。

在學習傳譯的過程中，同學往往忽視了麥克風的重要性。把講者的意思準確無誤地傳遞到目的語固然重要，但如何傳遞也不能忽視。換句話說，如果傳譯員的聲音含糊不清，或者不斷有噪音出現，也會影響傳譯的質量。

### 錄下噪音嚇壞人

不過在課堂教學中，即使我們已經提過，只要開了錄音按鈕，大家所講的一切都會被設備自動錄下來，在聽學生的錄音文件時，仍有不少「驚嚇」。比如有時會突然聽到很大的一個噪音、移動椅子的聲音、推移麥克風的聲音，有時還有濃厚的喘氣聲，基本蓋住了傳譯的聲音。還有同學在錄音結束時不經意地真情流露，比如訕笑聲以及「我死了」等感想。

因此，要提高傳譯的質量，我們必須學會和麥克風和諧相處。首先要熟悉你所要使用的麥克風的功能。其次，要控制好你說話時和麥克風的距離，以便清晰

地進行傳譯。當然，在進行真正的傳譯工作時，還要控制好自己的情緒，有什麼感想等事後做反思時再進行分享。

### 平板筆 嘟嘟嘟

除了麥克風之外，我們還需要留意其他噪音。有一次在學生的測驗錄音中，聽到一陣「嘟嘟嘟」的聲音。「嘟嘟嘟」之後，才聽到學生的傳譯。我一直百思不得其解。後來到課堂講解、逐個檢查筆記時，又聽到了熟悉的「嘟嘟嘟」，謎團解開了，原來是學生用平板記筆記時，平板筆的聲音。在交替傳譯的測試中，這位同學本應該在講者停頓時，立刻進行口譯，但她還是忙於記筆記，於是「嘟嘟嘟」聲就出現在錄音中。由此可見，在口譯現場，我們還要留意一些「意外」的聲音，才能確保不出意外。

### 留意麥克風是開着

歐盟委員會 European Commission 下的口譯知識中心 Knowledge Centre on Interpretation (KCI) 關於傳譯員演講技巧的視頻中，提到良好的聲音非常重要。首先要留意，傳譯時麥克風是開着的，並且直接對着麥克風講話。

其次還要注意各種「噪音」(noise)，因為這些噪音會透過麥克風傳遞出去，既影響了傳譯又影響了聽眾。因此，在傳譯培訓時，我們就要樹立學生的這一意識。

◆ 王紅華博士  
香港恒生大學翻譯及外語學院助理教授



香港恒生大學  
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY  
OF HONG KONG

## 趣談英語

逢星期一見報



LearnEnglish Teens

### Stop wasting time

Read the text about how to study better and do the exercises.

Some people I know start off studying but they always end up doing something else. Here are some ideas that might help you. First of all, you need to take away all the things that stop you working. First, turn off your music. Music doesn't help you study. And put the dog outside! Every time the dog goes into your room, you stop studying to pat it. Also, have an apple and a glass of water on your desk before you start. Because then you don't need to go to the kitchen for something to eat or drink. Next, turn off your phone. Yes. It stops you working. If you turn it off, it's easier to concentrate. You can read your messages later. You don't need to turn off the internet on your computer. You may need it to look up information but you should turn off your instant messages. Here are some more study tips that you might find useful: Always study in a quiet place and have a clear desk! Have lots of breaks. I always study for thirty minutes. Then have a break for five minutes. I move my arms and legs and drink some water. Then I study again for thirty minutes. It's important to get up and move your body. I hope these tips are helpful!



Activity 1 – Check your understanding: gap fill  
Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

need	waste	start off
end up	turn off	look up

1. When you need to study, you don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ time.
  2. It's easy to \_\_\_\_\_ working well but \_\_\_\_\_ doing something else.
  3. It's a good idea to \_\_\_\_\_ your music.
  4. You can use the internet to \_\_\_\_\_ information.
  5. Make sure you have everything you \_\_\_\_\_ before you start.
1. waste; 2. start off; 3. turn off; 4. look up; 5. need  
Answers Check your understanding: gap fill

To find more English language activities visit [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish teens](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish teens)

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