



社評 雙語道

# 打破超市寡頭壟斷 保障市民權益

## Break the oligopoly of supermarkets to protect the rights of the public

原文

下文摘錄自2023年4月18日香港《文匯報》：消委會公布超市價格調查，三大超市去年貨品總平均售價按年上升2.1%，加幅高於通脹，尤以米、油、罐頭等民生必需品的加幅最高。本港經濟仍處於疫後復甦初期，市民收入尚未恢復，超市應該承擔更多企業社會責任，與市民共渡時艱，不應利用疫後復甦及消費券派發等時機「賺到盡」。本港超市存在明顯的寡頭壟斷現象，政府應該加強市場監管，遏抑壟斷行為，引入良性競爭，保障基層市民利益。

消委會是次調查顯示，超市貨品，尤其是糧油食品加價的幅度最大，其次是雜糧/調味、罐頭食品及即沖飲品，基本上集中在生活必需品類別，必然令基層市民的生活負擔百上加斤。消委會分析引致加價的市場因素，一方面與國際大宗商品市場有關，例如俄烏衝突引致葵花籽油價格上升，從而令食品加價上升；另一方面與近年疫情令市民多了在家煮食，令相關貨品需求上升有關。有政黨更發現，每逢政府派發消費券，超市都會趁機加價。

國際大宗商品價格雖非本港能左右，但本港作為自由港，貿易便利、貨源多元化，大型超市有能力通過拓闊進口來源平抑物價。即使在經濟困難時期，大型超市應憑藉其大量入貨的優勢，減低採購成本，保持貨品價格平穩。尤其是對基層市民影響大的

生活必需品，超市更應謹慎加價。可惜現實卻是，大型超市往往利潤至上，用盡手段和機會加價。

本港超市市場長期被少數集團壟斷，難以形成有效的市場競爭。根據市場調查機構EuroMonitor估計，2020年本港兩大超市集團的市場佔有率分別為37.4%及31.4%，合共佔據了全港近七成市場份額。

更值得注意的是，本港大型超市集團，背後往往有發展商、大財團的背景。有市場人士指出，這容易出現個別財團利用自身資源進行跨界壟斷，例如利用旗下物業便利，助同系超市擴張，同時排斥其他競爭對手，有違市場公平原則。政府需要正視這種跨界壟斷擴大，損害消費者權益。

要打破超市壟斷現象，關鍵是政府的管治理念應從昔日的「積極不干涉」、「大市场小政府」，清晰而明確地向「有為政府」和「高效市場」更好結合的方向邁進。政府要加強規管超市亂加價、亂標價等行為，提供更多數據便利消費者了解超市和街市物價的差異，從而做出精明消費決策。同時，政府可利用房屋署管理公共屋邨的優勢，在公共屋邨引入更多超市經營者，增加市場參與者的數量。長遠而言，政府要完善《競爭條例》，增強競爭事務委員會的執法權力，運用法律手段限制壟斷，令市場健康發展，讓市民真正受惠。



◆消委會日前公布超市價格調查，發現貨品加幅高於通脹，尤以民生必需品的加幅最高。圖為超市一角。

譯文

According to the Consumer Council's supermarket price survey, the aggregate average prices of goods in the three major supermarkets in 2022 rose by 2.1 per cent year-on-year, higher than the inflation rate, and daily necessities such as staple food, edible oil and canned food had the biggest average price increase. As Hong Kong is still at the early stage of economic recovery from the pandemic and citizens' income has not yet bounced back, supermarkets should shoulder more corporate social responsibility and tide over the difficulties together with the public, instead of taking advantage of the post-pandemic recovery and the disbursement of consumption vouchers to reap the maximum profit. To counter the obvious oligopoly of the supermarket sector, the Government should strengthen the market regulation to curb monopolistic practices, introduce healthy competition and protect the interests of the grassroots.

The survey by the Consumer Council shows that the categories of "staple food", "non-staple food / seasoning", "canned food" and "instant

drinks", all being daily necessities, had the biggest average price increase, which surely added to the heavy burden of life of the grassroots. The watchdog analysed the market factors of the price surge: one factor is the international commodity market; for instance, the Russia-Ukraine conflict led to the price increase of sunflower oil and further resulted in the price increase of food products. Another factor is the pandemic which made citizens cook at home more often, thus leading to increase of demand for related products. Some political parties have even found that whenever the government disburses the consumption vouchers, supermarkets will take the opportunity to increase prices of their goods.

While unable to control international commodity prices, Hong Kong, as a free port, enjoys convenient trade and diversified sources of goods; therefore, the large supermarkets can afford to keep prices down by widening their sources of imports. Even in times of economic hardship, large supermarkets should take advantage of their ability to source large volumes of goods and reduce purchasing costs to keep prices stable. In particular, super-

markets should be cautious in raising prices of daily necessities that have a significant impact on the grassroots. However, the reality is that large supermarkets are often profit-conscious and use every means and opportunity to raise prices.

For a long time, the supermarket sector in Hong Kong has been monopolised by a few groups, making it difficult to create effective market competition. According to market researcher EuroMonitor, the two largest supermarket groups in Hong Kong had a market share of 37.4 per cent and 31.4 per cent respectively in 2020, together accounting for nearly 70 per cent of the territory's market share.

What is more noteworthy is that large supermarket groups in Hong Kong are often backed by developers and syndicates, which, according to some market players, makes it easy for some syndicates to use their own resources to secure cross-sector monopoly, such as using their properties to facilitate the expansion of their supermarkets while excluding their competitors. It is against the principle of fairness in the market, and the Government needs to confront the growing cross-sector monop-

oly that infringes the consumer rights.

The key to breaking the monopoly of supermarkets is for the Government to move away from the old philosophy of "positive non-intervention" and "big market, small government" to a clear and explicit direction of integrating a "proactive government" with an "efficient market". The government should strengthen the regulation of supermarkets' indiscriminate price hikes and inaccurate labelling of prices, and provide more data to facilitate consumers to learn the different prices of commodities between the supermarkets and the public markets, to make wise consumption decisions. In the meantime, the Government can make use of the Housing Department's advantage in managing public housing estates to introduce more supermarket operators to public housing estates, thereby increasing the number of market participants. In the long run, the Government should improve the Competition Ordinance, strengthen the enforcement powers of the Competition Commission and use legal means to restrict monopoly, so that the market can develop healthily and truly benefit the public.

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## 新世代戀愛術語 撒麵包屑探態度

恒 大英萃

隔星期二見報

「時光可變，世界可變，人情亦許多變遷。」網絡世代出生的Y世代（1980年代初到1990年代末出生的）和Z世代（1990年代末到2010年代初出生的）發展出前所未有的戀愛模式，一段感情的開始可源於swipe right（向右滑，即是在約會應用程式上表示「喜歡」或「接受」）；一段感情的結束亦只不過是leave on read（已讀不回）。還在消化什麼是Netflix and chill、friendzone或FWS（friends with benefits）嗎？來，追上腳步，看看#datingtok新世代的戀愛術語吧！

「沉船」的船亦先要釐清，將要沉沒的是鐵達尼號，還是遨遊汪洋的遊輪。更重要的是雙方共識一致，否則就只有你的in a relationship，我有我的in a situationship。

**相處如情侶 不正式公布**

Situationship這新興戀愛形態是由situation（情況、狀況）和relationship（戀愛關係）組合而成，形容兩人表面如情侶無異，談天說地、約會旅遊，甚至發展肉體關係。可是兩人亦沒有打算正式宣告戀愛關係，長期「徘徊在似苦又甜之間，望不穿這曖昧的眼」。

未能滿足於如此「友達以上，戀人未滿」的關係嗎？那試試進一步來個soft-launching。如此神秘的公開戀情方式，就是向世界宣告你名花或名草有

主，但又不公開此人是何方神聖。相信讀者都看過不少在社交媒體上「男友視覺」的出照，或是手持咖啡杯遮着某君臉孔的朦朧照吧。

如此的「不經意出pool」亦要選時選候，難題與cuffing有關？衍生至handcuff（手銬）的cuffing多見於秋冬，亦即是戀愛季節。為什麼戀愛亦和天氣有關？有說晚秋初冬時分，單身人士紛紛尋求異性關係，希望一起共享體溫來度過未來數個月的嚴寒長夜。可見cuffing season亦有「賞味期限」，一到新一年的3月至4月，便成了分手高峰期。因此cuffing亦可理解為兩個人的「期間限定」。

冬去春來，又是時候四出覓食。不停在對方的社交媒體給心心讚好、留言、轉發對方感興趣的信息等，這就是在撒麵包屑的試探行為，即breadcrumbing。

收到麵包屑當然暗喜，但亦要看對方能耐。否則對方來一個ghosting，突然人間蒸發，你亦無所適從。又或者你並非對方唯一撒麵包屑的對象，那就不知不覺成了某人的「餅乾」？餅乾並非主食，只是正餐之間的點心，因此cookie-jarring（餅乾罐子）在感情中就是「收兵」般儲起一罐子的餅乾，別的東西吃不到就回來吃你。你願意成為他人的生活調味品，或是如此卑微的rebound girl或rebound guy（備胎）嗎？

現代愛情故事，來如風離又如風。愛得起就要放得低，relationship也好，situationship也好，結束後快來一個cobwebbing的清蜘蛛網行動，就像清理角落蜘蛛網般，把舊愛的一切如舊毛衣、照片、手機信息等，一一扔進垃圾桶！

## 事情不如意 這就是人生

英語世界

隔星期二見報

人生難免有傷心、挫敗、不如意的時候。勤力讀書，考試成績卻不理想；努力工作，但因為疫情而失業；盡力訓練，還是要落敗；辛苦經營，一個不小心令公司倒閉；希望獲獎，每次都失望。這些不幸、不順境的事情發生了，無能為力，改變不了，總得接受現實。世事往往並不盡如人意，法國流行說c'est la vie，這就是人生。

法文c'est la vie常借用到英文，已成為英文一部分，亦出現在英文字典，譯成英文，c'est is it / that is, la vie is life, 即是 that's life, 這就是人生。這句話用來表示對生活中一些不如意事情的無奈，縱使失望，亦唯有認命，明白不可能事事順境，人生就是這樣。

Oh, I can't enjoy the cinema day offer this Saturday. I have to work. Well, c'est la vie.

我無緣享用這個星期六的電影日優惠了。我要工作，人生就是這樣吧。

不用法文，當然可以用相應的英文。英文有譯自c'est la vie的That's life.（這就是人生）。一樣抒發無可奈何的情緒，說出每個人都會經歷不順境的時候，不幸的事不能完全避免，雖然困難，也得接受。也可以說Such is life（人生就是如此），意義相同，人生不如意事十常八九。

This tiny room is not good enough for the children, but we can't afford a better place. So, we have to settle for it. That's life, isn't it?

這個小房間不夠孩子們用，可是我們無力負擔更好的住所。因此，我們唯有將就一下。這就是人生，對不對？

She has tried. Unluckily she is not able to find a

job. Such is life.

她嘗試過，但運氣不好，依然找不到工作，人生就是如此。

世事就是如此，這是人生，帶無可奈何的語氣，有點傷感，若要輕鬆一點，帶點幽默地表達相似意思，可用That's the way the cookie crumbles.（曲奇就是這樣碎掉的）。當中的cookie甜餅乾、曲奇餅，本來就香脆易碎；crumble就是破裂、碎裂的意思。曲奇餅碎了、散了，是理所當然，亦不能逆轉，就像人生有時不似預期般美好，有失望、挫敗，避免不了，只好接受。

His fans were disappointed when he had to withdraw from the game due to knee injury. But that's the way the cookie crumbles.

他因為膝傷不得不退賽，他的球迷都很失望，但事情就是如此。

Not everyone is born with a silver spoon in their mouth. It's not fair but that's the way the cookie crumbles.

不是每個人都含着金湯匙出生。雖說不公平，但人世間本就如此。

That's life. That's the way the cookie crumbles.聽起來很無奈，有時令人覺得消極和悲觀，好像很負面。不過換個角度看，樂天知命，接受現實，亦可以積極面對。最近一部電影中的主角，勤奮老實地經營小生意，樂於助人，卻因員工一時失誤令公司倒閉，不免難過、憤怒，但接受下來，重新生活，環境雖壞但仍然努力做個好人，是電影感人的地方。That's life. 逆境時用來安慰別人，鼓勵人重新面對未來，亦可以是正面的。

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