

社評

雙語道

幫打工仔要下決心出新招

Innovative measures are needed to help wage earners

原文

新冠疫情反覆令本港經濟持續受壓，部分企業和打工仔奄奄一息、掙扎求存。政府推出的第二期保就業計劃，申請僱主數量較第一期少約1萬，專家多解讀為企業有裁員意向和計劃，年底前倒閉潮、失業潮恐「殺到埋身」。面對重災行業經營困難和基層打工仔生活朝不保夕，特區政府應以創新思維再出新招，保住企業元氣，保障打工仔基本生活。即使財政赤字還會增加，但艱難時刻應使則使，政府善用財政儲備，幫助企業和市民熬過「寒冬」，急民所急，市民絕對支持。

經過兩輪保就業計劃後，6月至8月的最新失業率維持6.1%，有24.8萬人失業，較5月至7月增5,800人。政府推出的第二期保就業計劃已截止申請，統計指共接獲15.8萬個僱主申請，較第一期少約1萬個，當中第一期獲批的僱主中約7,000個放棄申請第二期。學者分析指，申請數字下跌是嚴重警號，間接說明僱主短期內有裁員打算。

例如，第一期獲批補貼逾6億元的國泰，

就表明旗下的國泰航空及國泰港龍都不會申請第二期保就業計劃，近日不斷有傳言指兩家航空公司將大規模裁員。雖然至今未有明確消息，但觀乎年初以來，本港航空業客運量按年跌超過九成，裁員恐怕在所難免。即使有參加第二期保就業計劃的僱主，相關保障也只是維持到11月，若疫情仍未完全受控，本港經濟未有根本改善，企業倒閉潮、裁員潮或接踵而至。

既然保就業計劃的效用遞減，同時經濟未有起色，政府施政必須因應形勢變化，推出創新措施救助基層市民，由「救市」轉變為「救市」與「救人」並舉。眼下受疫情衝擊的就業市場有幾個特點：一是本港九成勞動人口從事與服務相關產業，職位可以短時間內迅速流失；二是失業的原因乃因疫情而起，並非僱員個人的知識或能力不足引致；三是失業是短期的，一旦疫情受控可能迅速復職，尤其是與旅遊、零售、酒店相關的僱員。這幾方面的特點決定了提供短期失業援助金，是比較恰當有效、最簡單直接的方法，可協助受失業減薪衝擊打工仔渡過難

關。多個建制派政黨均建議政府推出臨時的失業援助金計劃，歐美多國在疫情期間亦有推出類似的措施，政府應該認真考慮，盡快落實，減輕基層市民因疫情而承受的生活壓力。

對於設立短期失業援助金，政府態度不明朗。政府早前強調，兩輪防疫抗疫基金消耗3,000多億元，已經令本年度財政赤字破歷史紀錄達到3,000億元，財政司司長陳茂波明言須審慎理財。

不可否認，量入為出、保持財政穩定是政府理財的紀律。但是，新冠疫情對本港經濟民生打擊之大、持續時間之長，前所未遇。特殊情況要着眼特事特辦，「不能一本通書睇到老。」本港現有8,000億元的財政儲備尚算穩健，增撥部分財政儲備為特定企業和困境市民應急，正是用得其所，而且失業援助金屬暫時性，不會對本港整體財政穩健造成重大影響。部分打工仔面臨朝不保夕的困境，政府豈能袖手旁觀？

（摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2020-10-07）



■國泰表明不會申請第二期保就業計劃，裁員恐怕在所難免。 資料圖片

Exercise

1. 財政儲備 2. 外匯儲備 3. 財政赤字 4. 財政盈餘 5. 倒閉

1. fiscal reserves 2. foreign exchange reserves 3. budget deficit 4. budget surplus 5. to go bankrupt

Answer

譯文

As the local economy remains pressured by the volatile Covid-19 outbreak, wage earners and some enterprises are struggling to survive. In the second phase of the government's Employment Support Scheme (ESS), however, the number of applications dropped by around 10,000 when compared to the first phase. According to experts, this may be an indication that enterprises are planning to make redundancies, and a wave of layoffs and corporate bankruptcies is going to hit Hong Kong by the end of 2020. To offer help to hard-hit sectors and wage earners who struggle with their livelihoods, the government should come up with new innovative measures. Although further relief measures from the government would increase its fiscal deficit, spending to help the needy in such times of crisis is justifiable, and the public would surely be supportive.

With two rounds of ESS, the unemployment rate between June and August

remained at 6.1 per cent, and the number of unemployed increased by 5,800 to 248,000 compared with May to July. As application for the second phase ESS drew to a close, government figures show that the number of applicants dropped by around 10,000 to 158,000. Around 7,000 employers who received subsidies from the first phase opted out of the scheme. Scholars believe the drop in the number of applications is an alarming indication of a coming wave of layoffs.

For instance, Cathay Pacific Airways, which received over HK \$600 million worth of wage subsidies from the first phase of ESS, has announced that both Cathay Pacific and Cathay Dragon will not apply for phase two ESS. Rumours have since emerged that there will be large-scale layoffs in the two commercial airlines. Although these are still only rumours for now, large-scale redundancies are very likely to happen eventually, as the passenger count of the local aviation sector dropped by over 90 per cent year

on year.

Considering that the wage subsidies provided by the second phase ESS will only last until November this year, waves of layoffs and business closures might still hit Hong Kong if the pandemic situation remains volatile.

As the effectiveness of ESS diminishes amid a still-sluggish economy, the government should come up with more innovative measures on helping the grassroots. The target of the government's relief measures should be to provide help to both the wage earners and the market, instead of focusing only on the market. There are a few points to note regarding the hard-hit labour market of Hong Kong.

First, 90 per cent of the labour are engaged in service-related sectors where jobs are lost rapidly.

Second, the loss of jobs is due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and has nothing to do with the productivity of the labours.

Third, the loss of jobs is not permanent. Lost jobs, especially those in the

tourism, retail business and hospitality sectors, will be reinstated quickly once the pandemic is brought under control.

Thus, a short-term unemployment allowance could be the most effective and direct way to aid those wage earners who either lost their jobs or have their pay cut recently.

As multiple pro-establishment political parties have already raised the issue, considering that many western countries that are hit by Covid-19 have also adopted similar measures, the government should roll out short-term unemployment allowance as soon as possible.

In reality, however, the government is quite reluctant towards providing short-term unemployment assistance to the public. The government earlier stressed that the fiscal deficit has already climbed to a record high of HK\$300 billion, as more than HK\$300 billion were allocated to the two rounds of the anti-epidemic fund. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po has made it clear that the

administration will take a prudent approach in managing the public coffers. It is undeniable that keeping expenditure within the limits of revenues and maintaining financial stability are integral elements of the government's philosophy. Yet, the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on both the economy and the people's livelihoods are also unprecedented long-standing and profound. No one approach can solve all problems, and a special situation requires special measures.

As the government's HK \$800 billion fiscal reserves should still be healthy enough, allocating more resources to help those who are in dire need of assistance can be justified.

Moreover, the proposed short-term unemployment assistance is only a temporary measure, it will not have a significant impact on the government's long-term financial stability. Some wage earners out there are now living a precarious life, how can the government just stand by and watch?

茶袋隔茶渣 染色變絲襪 秦變法圖強 終統一六國

歷史今昔

茶文化在世界各地均有其獨特的文化內涵和產品，要逐一細數着實不易，但對於港人而言，最為熟悉的，必然會提到奶茶文化，以及它的標誌產品：絲襪奶茶。筆者甚好飲食文化，經常遊走覓食，絲襪奶茶算是其一摯愛，今期將和大家說說港式奶茶的歷史。

眾所周知，英國人愛喝茶，但愛得有多深？二戰時期，英國政府對外採購排名（按重量排行），第一是子彈，第二是茶葉，第三才是炮彈。英國首相邱吉爾也曾說過：「茶比子彈更重要！」皆因茶是激勵英國士兵作戰的最好「武器」，喝茶對英國人之重要可見一斑。既然如此，英國人漂洋過海，千里迢迢來到香港這個小小的港口，自然把喝茶，特別是「下午茶」的文化帶來香港。初期英人將香港將發展成轉口港，香港既成轉口站，自然少不得英國人愛喝的茶葉，也少不了世界各地各式各樣的茶葉。

其中，錫蘭出產的紅茶價錢低廉，味道也不俗，於是成為了香港奶茶的基礎。本地人亦漸漸開始培養起「飲西茶」的文化。

英國人喝茶文化裏會加糖加奶，喝的是上好茶葉，單純沖泡便是口感醇厚清香，可惜當時社會尚未發達，這些貴價茶葉，以一般平民老百姓的經濟能力實在難以負擔。於是，為了讓一些廉價茶葉沖泡的茶



■利用茶袋除了可以去掉茶渣，還可以去掉青草味道，令茶味均衡。 資料圖片

更香更滑，便想到了絲襪奶茶這個解決方法。

中環蘭芳園估計便是絲襪奶茶的始祖，上世紀五六十年代，茶餐廳一般用一個大水壺煲茶，分量既大又容易過火，加上茶葉也並非上乘，沖出來自然有一股苦澀的味道。於是蘭芳園創辦人林先生決定轉用銅材打造的小茶壺，妻子用棉襖毛布，做成隔離茶渣的茶袋。茶壺小，不能煲太長時間，於是好不容易產生苦澀味道；而且，利用茶袋除了可以去掉茶渣，還可以去掉青草味道，令茶味均衡。

由於林先生經常高舉茶壺，將茶葉沖進茶袋以隔掉茶渣，長時間的沖泡會令白色茶袋染上茶色，遠看就像一條絲襪，於是人們便將此種沖泡方式命名為絲襪奶茶，其命名其實來自一個美麗的誤會。蘭芳園的「絲襪奶茶」在口碑和銷量兩得益的情況下，大受歡迎，不論是中環白領，還是一般打工仔，皆愛上這杯茶香順滑的提神飲品，對於愛吃早餐和下午茶的上班族來說，自然是最佳的飲品選擇。

在絲襪奶茶這個名堂打響以後，其他茶餐廳便開始模仿和改良，於是此物大行其道，更成為香港茶餐廳獨特的飲品，成為香港飲食文化的獨有標誌。其後更有奶茶王比賽、申請成為香港非物質文化遺產等等，與涼茶並列，成為香港人的集體回憶。一切皆源自當年英國人嗜茶的習慣，造就了香港在地飲食文化的誕生。

今期我們講了奶茶的故事，下期我們介紹另一個大家熟悉的飲品——咖啡。

流行歷史

人氣手機遊戲《命運／冠位指令》(Fate / Grand Order) 自從2015年登場以來，一直都是人氣高企的手機遊戲，除了日文版之外，更推出多個語言版本。而在8月中，日文版就迎來了五周年紀念，相關內容包括最新公布的法術阿爾托莉亞等等，都成為網上一時熱話。

至於FGO的主線故事，現時已進入一個全新篇章，稱為異聞帶宇宙（Cosmos in the Lostbelt），當第三章節名為《人智統合真國SIN》，其故事以中國的秦朝為主題（SIN乃日語中「秦」的發音）。為了不想劇透，內容方面就不詳細描述了，不過既然故事以秦朝為背景，亦出現大量與秦朝相關的人物，例如始皇帝（秦始皇）、項羽和虞美人等，所以希望藉此為大家介紹一下秦朝的相關知識，以及登場角色的歷史故事，而作為系列的第一篇專欄文章，就為大家簡介一下秦朝這個時代。

戰國時代末年，秦國陸續消滅其餘的諸侯國，最終統一中原，建立秦朝，雖然好景不長，皇位只傳了三代就被漢朝取代，但在歷史上卻極為重要，作為中國史上第一個中央集權政權，很多政策都為歷代沿用。

眾所周知，周朝以封建制度治國，全國上下以周天子為最高領導人，統治着王畿一帶，其餘土地則分封給宗室子弟及大臣，成立臣屬於周朝的「國」，而統治這些「國」的就是「諸侯」，「諸侯」之下再行封建，分封成卿大夫、士等各級領主。這本來是個成功的政治制度，憑着分封出去的王公大臣，周朝把版圖大幅擴張，政治穩定地過了將近三百年。

到了西周末年，因為自家內亂的關係，周天子的實



■商鞅的變法令秦國實力開始超越其餘六國。 資料圖片

力大幅削弱，諸侯逐漸失控，各國開始進行兼并戰爭，最終演變成周天子反要依附強大諸侯而生的情況。為了在戰亂中生存下去，各國紛紛變法，其中秦國經過商鞅變法後，將秦國國內的封建制度變革為中央集權制度，令秦國的國家實力開始超越六國，為日後統一六國提供了國力的基礎。

秦始皇統一六國後，認為自己「功過三皇，德高五帝」，所以從三皇與五帝中各取一字，稱自己為皇帝，而自己是第一個皇帝，所以就是「始皇帝」（在遊戲中他也使用這稱號），而自己的子子孫孫就以二世三世這樣一直傳至萬世，不過千算萬算始終算不到，自己死後秦朝內亂，結果只到二世就完結。下一集將為大家詳細介紹秦始皇這個人物。

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