

社評 雙語道

推針對性援助 保打工仔生計

Introduce targeted measures to protect wage earners' livelihoods

原文

「保就業」計劃秘書處於11月4日公布第四批領取第二期工資補貼的僱主名單，至此，第二期「保就業」計劃合共向約13.5萬名僱主批出合共近370億元補貼，承諾受薪僱員人數約156萬名，但這種「普惠」的「保就業」計劃到12月就結束，申請過補貼的僱主將可重啟裁員減薪。在新冠疫情持續的情況下，旅遊、航空、餐飲、酒店等重災區面對極大裁員壓力，政府必須及時推出針對性的措施，為深受疫情打擊的行業和打工仔提供基本保障，協助他們渡過難關。

為幫助企業在疫情影響下不大幅裁員，政府在過去半年推出兩輪「保就業」計劃，代企業支付一半員工薪金，以解燃眉之急。計劃由5月起共推出兩期，財政司司長陳茂波日前表明不會有第三期，意味著曾參與計劃的企業，可在12月起恢復裁員減薪。有調查顯示，三成半人認為自己未來半年會面臨裁員減薪，年輕人之中更有超過四成擔心被

「炒魷魚」。

「保就業」計劃為及早紓困救急，採取簡單的「普惠」原則，對所有僱主開放申請，審批也較寬鬆，兩期共花費800億元公帑。這種「普惠」措施，對避免受疫情嚴重影響企業裁員固然有一時作用，但有意見認為欠缺針對性，未能定向照顧真正有需要的行業和打工仔。超市、物業管理等受疫情影響不大的行業，同樣可得到資助，卻未將津貼按要求回饋僱員、市民，變相令企業「自肥」，引起公眾非議；有部分企業在領取津貼後，仍然要求員工減薪或放無薪假，令計劃初衷走樣。

而且，本港疫情並未受控，經濟短期內難以走出困境，就業市場亦不容樂觀。繼國泰航空早前裁減5,300名本港員工之後，怡中航空服務亦宣布裁減340名員工，更明言是因為「保就業」計劃結束而裁員。大企業尚且如此，中小企的結業裁員潮可能陸續有來。

本港7月至9月的失業率升至6.4%的16年高位，失業人數增加至25萬9,800人，其中多個高危行業都超越雙位數。與旅遊相關的零售、住宿及膳食服務業，失業率升至11.7%，是沙士後的高位；餐飲服務業的失業率及就業不足率更急升至15.2%及9.5%。餐飲聯業協會會長黃家和表示，單計過去一個月，整體生意仍比平常跌三成以上，估計未來兩三個月將有超過2,000間食肆結業。

「保就業」計劃結束，但疫情遠未結束，高危行業的打工仔隨時手停口停，政府不能袖手旁觀，仍然需要積極研究，盡快推出有針對性的紓困政策，精準幫助受疫情衝擊最嚴重的行業僱員。多個政黨早前均要求政府為失業和放無薪假人士推出短期的失業援助金，政府應虛心聆聽，採納可行的建議，順應民意，善用財政儲備，助打工仔解決「斷米」的燃眉之急。

(摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2020-11-5)



Exercise

1. 勞動力 2. 財政政策 3. 財政預算 4. 失業 5. 就業不足

1. workforce/labour force 2. fiscal policy 3. budget 4. unemployment 5. underemployment

Answer

譯文

On 4 November, the Employment Support Scheme (ESS) Secretariat published the name list of the fourth batch of employers who have received wage subsidies under the second tranche of ESS. Up to this point, a total of about 135,000 employers have received almost HK\$37 billion from the second round of the government's wage subsidy scheme, involving a total committed headcount of paid employees of about 1.56 million. However, this inclusive wage subsidy plan is going to end in December this year, and employers who have benefited from the plan will be able to make redundancies and slash wages again. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc around the world, hard-hit industries such as tourism, aviation, catering, and hotel are now under great pressure to lay off workers. The government must promptly introduce targeted measures to help these industries and their workers to survive.

To discourage enterprises from carrying out large-scale layoffs due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government launched two rounds of ESS in the past six months and paid half of the employees' salaries on behalf of the applicant companies.

With the government having rolled out two rounds of ESS since May, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po recently stated that there will be no third round. That means companies that have participated in the scheme can start cutting jobs and wages again starting from December. According to a survey, 35 per cent of respondents think they are going to lose their jobs or face pay cuts in the next six months, while over 40 per cent of young respondents are worried about their job security.

To provide assistance as soon as possible, the ESS adopted the "inclusive" principle, where applications were processed with leniency and were open to all employers, draining HK\$80 billion from the

public coffers. An "inclusive" measure such as the ESS no doubt is effective in stopping companies that are hit hard by Covid-19 from cutting jobs, but its effects are temporary only. Some also suggest that it lacks focus, and therefore cannot help those sectors and workers that are truly in need. For instance, supermarkets and property management companies still received subsidies from ESS despite being relatively unscathed in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The wage subsidies were also kept by these companies instead of going into the pockets of workers and citizens as promised. Such self-enriching behaviour has drawn criticism from society. The aims and objectives of ESS were also distorted, as some companies still cut wages and request employees to take unpaid leave after receiving subsidies.

As the Covid-19 pandemic is not under control in Hong Kong yet, the economy is not going to recover in the near future whereas the labour market outlook

is also becoming increasingly pessimistic. Following Cathay Pacific's layoff of 5,300 local employees, Jardine Aviation Services has also announced the layoff of 340 employees, clearly citing the ending of ESS as one of the reasons behind its decision. When this could happen to large enterprises, waves of layoffs in small and medium businesses will likely come soon.

As the unemployment rate in Hong Kong hits a 16-year high of 6.4 per cent in the period between July and September, the number of people that are out of jobs rose to 259,800. Multiple industries that are dealt a severe blow by the Covid-19 pandemic now have double-digit unemployment rates. Among them, the figure for tourism-related sectors including the retail, accommodation, and food services sectors rose to 11.7 per cent, which is the highest since the SARS outbreak. Meanwhile, the unemployment and the underemployment rate for the food and beverage sector also soared to 15.2 per cent and 9.5 per cent respective-

ly. According to Simon Wong Ka-wo, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades, business in the past month alone has fallen by over 30 per cent. He estimates that more than 2,000 eateries will be forced to close down in the coming two or three months.

ESS is coming to an end soon, but the Covid-19 pandemic is staying. As the livelihoods of wage earners working in hard-hit sectors are now hanging in the balance, the government must not sit idle. The government has to actively explore and roll out as soon as possible targeted measures to help those who are truly in dire need. Multiple political parties have already demanded the government to introduce short-term unemployment benefits for those who are put on unpaid leave or are jobless. The government should listen with an open mind, and be prepared to make use of its fiscal reserves to help those wage earners meet their urgent household needs.

席間常見勸酒 飲酒要有酒德

歷史今昔

前幾天收到一位商界朋友的埋怨，說他經常要出差應酬，面對上司和客戶的酒局有點吃不消，身體轉差，問我何有良策。我說不喝就是良策，他說那是工作需求，上司和客戶勸酒能不喝嗎？還反問我這個「歷史佬」，歷史上有沒有上司勸酒的故事。我想了想，其實還真有，而且手法和後果還是相當嚇人的。

張飛喝醉酒 劉備丟徐州

三國時代的張飛是十足的酒鬼，《三國志》的確記載張飛愛喝酒，也愛打人。《三國演義》將此兩個元素結合，有一段張飛喝酒失徐州的故事。劉備安排張飛守徐州，張飛待大哥劉備一走，便痛快地喝起酒來，還下令眾文武官放開大喝。其中一個下屬曹豹不喝，張飛便因為曹豹拒酒一事而下令施打杖刑。事後曹豹懷恨在心，覺得張飛無理取鬧，於是勾結城外的呂布，在呂布攻城時大開城門，張飛因而戰敗，丟失徐州。

另外還有一件出自《世說新語》，勸酒勸到殺人的歷史。西晉有一富商名叫石崇，特別喜歡邀請貴族朋友大排筵席，還要家中女僕向客人敬酒或勸酒，若客人不喝或者喝不盡，石崇便會殺了那女僕，間接強迫客人喝酒。客人縱然不勝酒力，面對性命攸關還是會一飲而盡。有一回王丞相（王導）和王將軍（王敦）參加石崇的宴會，石崇要女僕向



二人敬酒，王丞相不能喝酒，但因有此規矩也只得勉強喝了。王將軍軍人出身，堅決不喝，石崇連斬三名女僕也是不喝。王丞相責備王將軍不顧人命，但王將軍卻說：「他殺自己家的人，與你有什麼關係！」

兩個歷史故事都間接告訴我們，席間勸酒一事，自古有之，其手法和後果更令我們現代人側目。那麼中國古代是否鼓勵無節制飲酒？其實這是個天大的誤會。

早在商代，古人便有酒德的概念，所謂酒德就是指飲酒的道德規範和酒後應有的風度。古人認為酒是食物的精華，但能使人亂性，不能隨便飲用。所以《尚書》記載：「飲惟祀，無彝酒，執群飲，禁沉湎。」翻

譯成白話文便是只有祭祀時可以飲酒，平時不能胡亂飲酒，民眾不能聚集飲酒，禁止酒過度。

准酒中溝水 防醉倒失禮

那麼如果有人勸酒呢？出土文物又給了我們答案，商代出土一個青銅器叫「盞」，王國維認為「盞乃和水於酒之器，所以節酒之厚薄者也」。其作用便是若席中有人不勝酒力者，可以用水混酒，以免醉倒失禮。

中國自商代開始有正確的酒德文化，可惜不為人所重視，其實酒文化已經融入華人的飲食文化之中，但是喝酒該有的酒德，我們還是要遵守。

大軍滅楚國 水淹大梁城

流行歷史

上回提到秦始皇征服六國的序章：韓趙兩國，接下來就為大家介紹秦國征服魏楚兩國的過程。

魏國在戰國時代曾經是一個強大的國家，但是在公元前342年的馬陵之戰大敗給齊軍之後元氣大傷，在公元前340年敗於商鞅領導的秦軍，將黃河以西的國土割讓給秦國，自此魏國國力大幅衰落，一直活在強秦的壓力之下。

但是，縱使是如此小國，秦始皇也不能輕易地將她征服。公元前226年，秦始皇向魏國出兵，但真正的用意其實是征魏。當秦軍確保魏時的側翼安全後，就北上圍困魏國國都大梁。然而，大梁位於睢水、潁水、鴻溝三河的交匯之地，地形易守難攻。魏國死守在大梁城內，負責征魏的秦國名將王賁卻久久不能攻陷大梁。最後王賁引導黃河和鴻溝的河水灌入城內。大梁城被水浸近三個月，城牆崩壞，居民死亡數十萬人，魏王被迫投降，魏國亦因此而滅亡。

秦始皇征服魏國後，下一個目標就是楚國。

楚國領土廣闊，在春秋時已令中原各國聞風喪膽，步入戰國後，楚是七雄當中

實力強大的大國。然而，楚國無法成為七雄中最終的勝利者，跟它的政治體制缺憾有相當大的關係。

在戰國時代，其餘六國均主要以「客卿」的方式招攬各國出身的人才，但是楚國的令尹（即宰相）通常都是由楚國的王族擔任。在這個結構之下，楚國民族對國家的影響力實在太大，相對的楚國君主對國家的權力就比較薄弱，無法推動有力的改革，更莫說發生好像秦國商鞅改革那樣從根本性改變國家結構的變革。

雖然楚國是個外強中乾的國家，但她仍然是秦國的大敵。在秦始皇召集群臣商討伐楚時，將軍李信稱只需要二十萬士兵可平定楚國，老將軍王翦指需要六十萬士兵才足夠，秦始皇這時起用李信，並給他二十萬士兵伐楚，王翦即稱病退休。

李信率兵初期非常順利，一路深入楚國腹地，但是他過於輕敵，加上在重要關頭上有楚國出身的秦國重臣叛變，斷絕了李信的回路，結果李信軍隊大敗，被迫逃回秦國。此時秦始皇親訪頻陽，邀請稱病退休的王翦重出江湖，出任六十萬秦軍的總司令。結果王翦不負秦始皇所望，以兩年多的時間徹底征服了楚國。

下一集，我們將會談及秦始皇統一天下時其中一個膾炙人口的故事：荊軻刺秦皇。

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