

社評

雙語道

# 加強執法檢控 消除舊樓隱患

Strengthen law enforcement to eliminate hidden risks in old buildings



油麻地廣東道一幢唐樓日前發生致命火災。 資料圖片

Exercise

1. 唐樓 2. 防火門 3. 綜合用途建築物 4. 太平門/緊急出口 5. 消防喉轆

1. tenement building 2. fire rated door 3. composite building 4. emergency exit 5. fire hose reel

Answer

原文

油麻地廣東道一幢唐樓日前發生火災，造成7死11傷慘劇，令人傷痛唏噓。這場火災悲劇，再次敲響本港舊樓消防隱患的警鐘。本港舊樓充斥無牌食肆處所、違規劏房，大多不符合消防要求，由於人群密集，發生事故不堪設想。舊樓消防隱患難以清除，業主只重利益、漠視安全是基本肇因，政府除加強巡查、排除隱患之外，更應嚴厲檢控懲處疏忽安全、罔顧人命的業主和經營者，切實提升全社會對防火安全的重視，杜絕慘劇重演。

釀成此次慘劇的唐樓於1951年落成，沒有任何消防系統，涉事餐廳亦無牌照，事發時有3個少數族裔家庭正聚餐慶祝一名小朋友生日及傳統節日，單位只有一道門，多人被火焰濃煙所困無法逃生，造成嚴重傷亡。事後消防處成立專案小組，調查起火和引致多人傷亡的原因。消防處及屋宇署將展開特別巡查行動，目標在年底前完成巡查約2,500幢樓齡60年或以上的住用或商用樓宇，特別留意公用逃生途徑的情況及是否有消防隱患。

本港大約有6,000多幢樓齡50年以上舊樓，油尖

旺區約佔近半，很多無牌食肆、會所、樓上吧等在內經營，更有25,000多個單位存有約86,400個劏房，住有約21萬人。這些舊樓走火通道狹窄且雜物堆積，防火門打開，劏房的改造工程增加建築負荷，亂拉電線增加短路機會，消防隱患處處。舊樓消防隱患問題積重難返，已成為嚴重危害市民安全的定時炸彈。

根據消防條例，1987年前落成的樓宇，都必須做改善消防安全工程，例如安裝自動灑水、消防喉轆、緊急照明或火警鐘等。為支援舊樓業主進行改善工程、提升消防安全水平，特區政府2018年撥款20億元推出消防資助計劃，資助舊式商住樓宇業主履行條例的要求，計劃撥款可惠及2,000多幢目標樓宇；此後政府再撥款30億元推出樓宇更新大行動2.0，向合資格樓宇業主提供技術及財政支援。但不少舊樓業主不願意負擔改善消防的開支，更以舊樓加裝消防設備有困難為由，對改善消防的指示漠然處之，令舊樓消防隱患長期存在。此次傷亡慘重的火災，雖然無人願見，卻也有其必然性。

1996年，佐敦嘉利大廈五級大火，造成41死80

傷，全港震驚，已揭露舊式商住樓宇的防火標準過時與市民防火意識不足的問題，事後政府修訂消防條例。

按修訂後的消防條例，大廈收到屋宇署的消防安全指示後，一般要一年內完成工程，但可向屋宇署申請延期；若業主未能在合理時間內遵辦消防指示，又未能提出充分理據支持延期的申請，消防處和屋宇署在法律上有責任採取行動，一經定罪可罰款25,000元等。如今再發生火災慘劇，血的教訓反映，政府必須嚴格執法，對於漠視消防安全的業主和商舖經營者要依法檢控，確保市民生命安全。

此次火災與本港少數族裔慶祝傳統節日排燈節有關，該節日的其中一項習俗是點蠟燭放在地下，祈求好運，結果釀成慘劇。對此，政府亦要亡羊補牢，既要尊重少數族裔文化，同時對特定人群的聚集和節日活動，應加強安全巡查和消防宣傳，預防災難再次發生。

（摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2020-11-17）

譯文

A tragic fire broke out in a tenement building on Canton Road in Yau Ma Tei a few days ago, causing 7 deaths and 11 injuries. This tragedy once again sounded the alarm bell on hidden fire hazards in old buildings in Hong Kong. Old buildings in Hong Kong are flooded with unlicensed restaurants and illegally subdivided flats. As most of them do not comply with the local fire safety standard and are densely populated, fire incidents can lead to unimaginable consequences. Fundamentally speaking, hidden fire hazards in old buildings are difficult to eliminate because property owners only care about their interests and disregard safety. The government should not only strengthen inspections to eliminate hidden hazards, but also promptly prosecute owners and operators who neglect safety and blatantly disregard the lives of others. By doing so, public awareness will increase, and such tragedies will hopefully never occur again.

The tenement building where the tragedy took place was built in 1951 and has

no fire safety system. The restaurant involved was also unlicensed. At the time of the incident, three ethnic minority families were gathering to celebrate a child's birthday along with a traditional festival. When the fire broke out, they were trapped by flames and smoke as there was only one door, therefore causing serious casualties. After the incident, the Fire Services Department set up a task force to investigate both the cause of the fire and the cause of the serious casualties. The Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department will also start inspecting more than 2,500 residential and commercial buildings that are over 60 years old to check on fire escape routes and other potential fire hazards. The joint operation is expected to complete by the end of the year.

There are 6,000 buildings which are at least 50 years old in Hong Kong, and nearly half of them are located in the Yau Tsim Mong District. Many unlicensed restaurants, clubs, and upstairs bars are situated in these old buildings. Some 25,000 flats were also subdivided

into 86,400 smaller units, housing nearly 210,000 people. The fire escapes in these old buildings are narrow and often obstructed while the fire doors are usually left open. The building works associated with the subdivision of flats could cause overloading to the building structure. Poor and illegal electrical wiring may also lead to short circuit. These potential fire hazards in old buildings have spiraled out of control and became a timed bomb that poses a serious threat to public safety.

According to the Fire Services Ordinance, all buildings completed before 1987 must undergo fire safety improvement works, such as installing automatic sprinklers, fire hose reels, emergency lighting systems, fire alarms, etc. In order to help property owners of old composite buildings to carry out the improvement works and comply with fire safety requirements, the government launched the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme in 2018. The scheme's funding of HK \$2 billion could cover improvement works of more than 2,000 targeted

buildings. Another HK\$3 billion was allocated soon after to launch Operation Building Bright 2.0, a scheme that aims to provide technical and financial support to eligible property owners. However, hidden fire risks still linger on as many property owners are still reluctant to bear the costs, and chose to ignore the government's instructions on the grounds that there are difficulties in installation. The fire was tragic, but it did not happen without a reason.

The Garley Building fifth-alarm fire in 1996 shook Hong Kong as it took the lives of 41 people and left 80 injured. The government responded by amending the Fire Services Ordinance, as the tragedy revealed problems such as poor public awareness and obsolete fire safety standards for old composite buildings. According to the amended Fire Safety Ordinance, improvement works must be carried out and completed within a year after receiving the fire safety direction from the Buildings Department, but owners could apply for deadline extensions. If the owner fails to comply with the fire

safety direction within a reasonable time and fails to provide sufficient grounds to support an extension application, the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department are legally obliged to take action. Once convicted, the owner could face penalties including fines of up to HK\$25,000. Now that another tragic fire has struck Hong Kong, the "lesson of blood" from years ago dictates that the government must rigorously enforce the law and prosecute those property and business owners who ignore fire safety regulations.

The cause of the tragic fire is related to ethnic minorities celebrating the traditional festival of Diwali. Placing light candles on the floor for good luck is one of the customs of this festival, yet it is this very custom that has resulted in tragedy. On the premise of respecting minority cultures, the government should also remedy the situation and prevent future recurrence. The government should step up publicity on fire safety among ethnic minority groups and strengthen inspections, especially during their festivities.

## 古時調味甜酸鹹 清朝川菜才變辣

### 歷史今昔

前幾天和學生吃川菜，學生指着餐廳牆上的宣傳海報說他要吃那個。我看了一看，原來是麻辣小龍蝦。小龍蝦端上後，浸在滿滿的調味料之中，加上小龍蝦比較細小，學生覺得就像吃了一頓香料配飯。我笑着安慰，其實香料在古代是價值不菲的物品，價值可能比肉類還要貴，今天就來淺談中國古代香料的歷史。

中國古代早期最重要的調味料可說是鹽，早在周朝已經設「鹽人」官職，專門負責管理諸侯貢鹽的事情。去到漢代，漢武帝實行鹽、鐵、酒專賣，具體做法便是在國家各地設置鹽鐵機構，任命服從的鹽商為官吏，將鹽田收歸國家，從此王國可以「民不盜賊而天下用饒」。古代要特別設立官職管理鹽業，而當鹽業收歸國有後，國家稅務富足，間接顯示鹽的高昂價值。

可是鹽的味道單一，單靠鹹味不能滿足所有人的味覺需求，於是古人還會用梅子的酸和甜來調和。《尚書》記載：「若作和羹，爾惟鹽梅」，白話文是「如果做肉羹湯，你就是調味的鹽和梅」，這段記載原是殷高宗對賢臣傳說的一段話，原是比喻賢臣對於君主的重要性，但同時側



辣椒在明朝末期才傳入中國。 資料圖片

面烘托出鹽和梅調味的重要性。

中國歷史發展到唐代，中國又開展另一輪的味覺革命——辣。值得注意的是，唐代的辣並不指辣椒，而是辛辣。中國原產的辛辣代表是花椒，但最瘋狂的代表必定是胡椒。胡椒並不是中國原產調味料，而是從西亞、中亞等地由阿拉伯人傳入中國。雖有比唐朝更早的記載，但胡椒大規模進入中國的時間估計是唐朝，其驕人歷史估計可以寫成一本書，中外均為之瘋狂。中國唐代，宰相元載因為貪污賄賂而被抄家，抄家時有800石胡椒贓物。古代史書惜字如金，以胡椒數量彰顯食官財富之多，可見其珍貴，因

此胡椒亦被稱為「金丸使者」。

而我們熟悉的辣椒，大約要到明朝末期才傳入中國。辣椒最初傳入中國時只供觀賞之用，最初開始食用辣椒的是貴州和鄰近地區，其原因是貴州缺鹽，而人民發現辣椒可供調味，於是以此代替鹽，加上辣椒容易栽種，更成為平民之間重要的食物調味料。至於無辣不歡的四川，則要去到嘉慶年間才有辣椒的記載。

清末文人徐心余（1866-1934）的《蜀遊聞見錄》記載：「惟川人食椒，須擇其極辣者，且每飯每菜，非辣不可」，無辣不歡是川菜特色應是清代末年的事情。

### 氣象萬千

不知道大家是否體會到全球暖化帶來的影響呢？全球暖化和本地城市化的影響，都引致香港出現了暖化現象。根據天文台資料顯示，1885年至2019年之間，香港年平均氣溫的上升速度，平均為每十年上升攝氏0.13度，在二十世紀後半期，平均氣溫的升幅加劇，在1990年至2019年之間，平均每十年上升攝氏0.21度。

可以看到這三十年間，香港的酷熱天氣日數明顯增加，所以，每十年上升攝氏0.21度看似是一個小數值，但其實影響甚大，現在已經影響到香港的氣候和我們的日常生活了。

為了減緩氣候變化，我們有責任減少溫室氣體排放，實行減碳，以減慢香港甚至全球的暖化速度。

那何謂減碳呢？現在就教你由「衣、食、住、行」開始入手。

減碳之旅第一站由「衣」開始，買新衣服緊記三思而後行，想一想自己是否需要，新衣服是否可以和其他衣服搭配。現在坊間還有二手服裝點，集齊各種衣服的款式，大家不妨可以去看一看二手衣服，穿在身上一樣很好看。大家的舊衣服還可循環再造成購物袋，製作完成後記得外出時用，這樣就可以減少使用膠袋了。

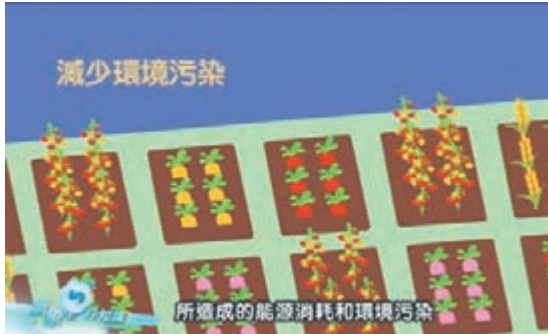
第二站是「食」，各位「大厨」記得吃多少煮多少，最重要是省錢又不浪費食物，這樣就完美啦。大家還可以購買時令和本土食材，不僅是因為食材新鮮、美味，亦因為它們使用較少的包裝材料，還

可以減少因長途運輸所造成的能源消耗和環境污染。

第三站我們由「住」開始，在家中或公司的冷氣機溫度最好設定在攝氏24度至26度的最佳水平，你會覺得是一個舒適的溫度而不是感到十分寒冷。使用冷氣機的時候，還要緊記關上門口和窗戶，另外最好購買有一級能源標籤的冷氣機和其他電器，這樣就更加省電了。

轉眼間就來到減碳之旅最後一站「行」，大家平日上班上學，盡可能都選擇步行或騎單車，對環境和身心健康都有益處。如果路途遙遠，我們可以選擇搭乘公共交通工具前往目的地，這樣就可以減少私家車的碳排放了。

最後和大家科普一下，香港約有三分之二的溫室氣體排放是來自發電和煤氣生產，所以要做到低碳生活，最重要是平時要省電，再配合「衣、食、住、行」四方面，就可以做到低碳達人啦！



購買時令和本土食材，可以減少因長途運輸所造成的能源消耗和環境污染。 影片截圖

■ 布安東（歷史系博士，興趣遊走於中西歷史文化及古典音樂。）

香港天文台（本欄以天文台的網上氣象節目《氣象冷知識》向讀者簡介有趣的天氣現象。詳情可瀏覽天文台 YouTube 專頁：<https://www.youtube.com/user/hkweather>。）

