News Buddy

美政策大轉向重返世衞《巴黎協定》

Biden's change in U.S. policy - rejoining WHO and Paris Agreement

下文摘錄自香港《文匯報》1月22日:

美國新任總統拜登 (Joe Biden) 1月20日宣誓就職 後,立即展開連串工作,在白宮(White House)簽 署合共17項行政命令、備忘錄及部門指令等,大部

分均推翻前任總統特朗普(Donald Trump)的具爭議政策,新 指令包括強制戴口罩、重返世界衞生組織(World Health Organization)等旨在控制疫情的措施,亦重新加入應對氣候變化的 《巴黎協定》(Paris Agreement),以及叫停針對部分穆斯林 (Muslim) 國家的旅遊禁令。

拜登在長約21分鐘的就職演説(inauguration speech)中隻字 未提特朗普,不過他提到政府在未來4年仍有大量修復、重建、 治癒和建設國家的工作。就職儀式結束後,拜登首次以總統身 份進入白宮,隨即在橢圓形辦公室(Oval Office)簽署多項文 件,他其間全程戴口罩,又向記者稱「沒有比今日更適合開始 工作的日子」。

新冠疫情在美國造成逾40萬人死亡,拜登上任初期的施政目 標亦以遏制疫情為重心,新簽署的行政命令中便包括「戴口罩 100日挑戰」(100 days masking challenge),要求全民戴口罩 100日抗疫,同時在聯邦政府建築物實施戴口罩令、要求保持社 交距離(social distancing)等,白宮內亦隨即在辦公桌增設透明 膠板。特朗普要求美國退出世衞的決定,原定今年7月正式生 效,拜登就職後指示停止退出世衞的程序,並派出他的首席醫 學顧問福奇 (Dr. Anthony Fauci) ,率團參與世衞會議

上屆政府的氣候政策引起極大爭議,承諾讓美國在2050年前

實現淨零碳排放 (net-zero carbon emission) 的拜登,在行政命 令中指示美國重返《巴黎協定》,相關程序需時30天,其後美 國便會再次成為協定一員。此外,拜登又叫停連接美國與加拿 大的輸油管計劃「基石 XL」(Keystone XL),並要求各部門 檢視、更改逾100項在特朗普任內實施的氣候相關政策

不過拜登的環保方針在美國社會仍面臨一定阻力,例如共和 黨籍的阿拉斯加州(Alaska)州長鄧利維(Mike Dunleavy)便 嘲諷拜登的承諾,是將整個阿拉斯加變成大型國家公園 (national park)。美國石油協會(American Petroleum Institute) 亦批評阻撓興建美加輸油管是「倒退的一步」。

新簽署的行政命令中,多達5項涉及移民政策,包括叫停興建 美墨邊境圍牆(U.S.-Mexico border wall)、撤銷針對13個穆斯 林及非洲國家的入境禁令、取消特朗普任內加強移民執法的措 施,暫緩驅逐(deportation)部分移民,並指示相關部門保留俗 稱「追夢者」(Dreamers)計劃的「童年抵美者暫緩遣返」

(Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA) 。不過改革 移民政策尚未在國會(Congress)取得跨黨派支持,未來要立法 實施更大規模的移民法案,例如讓1,100萬無證移民在8年內取 得公民身份(citizenship)等政策,仍有一定難度。

新政府官員完成就職典禮、向阿靈頓國家公墓(Arlington National Cemetery) 獻花等儀式後,當晚迎來一連串慶祝活動,因 應疫情,傳統的就職晚宴由電視特備節目取代,邀得 Iustin Timberlake 等歌星透過視像表演,最後拜登夫婦 在白宮陽台一同欣賞煙花,為全日的活動畫上句號



■拜登就職後簽署多項行政命令。

資料圖片

Q&A

- 1. 拜登為第幾任美國總統?
- 2. 拜登以幾歲高齡成為最年長的總統?

5. 拜登曾於何時擔任過美國副總統?

- 3. 拜登是繼誰後第二位信奉羅馬天主教的總統?
- 4. 誰與拜登搭檔參選成為美國首位女性副總統?

3. 且頑短 (John F. Kennedy) 2.78歳 孔 第 46 任

4. 哈里斯(Kamala Harris)

5.2009年至2017年

Answer



After the new U.S. President Joe Biden was sworn in on 20 January, he immediately commenced a series

of work to sign a total of 17 executive orders, memorandums and proclamations at the White House, overturning most of the controversial policies of his predecessor Donald Trump. The new directives included mandatory mask wearing and reengaging with the World Health Organization (WHO) in a bid to contain the COV-ID-19 pandemic, as well as rejoining the Paris Agreement to cope with climate change and ending the travel ban on several Muslim-majority coun-

Biden did not mention Trump in his 21-minute inauguration speech, but

much to repair, restore, heal and build in the next four years. The masked Biden entered the White House for the first time as president after the inauguration ceremony and signed a number of documents in the Oval Oftelling reporters "there's no time to start like today."

The U.S. had recorded 400,000 total deaths caused by COVID-19 so far, such that the target of Biden's policy would mainly focus on curbing the pandemic. The newly signed executive orders included the "100 days masking challenge", requiring all people to wear masks for 100 days to reduce the spread of the virus, and masks would be required in all federal properties as well as to maintain social distancing. Plexiglass barriers would also be erected on office desks in the White House. said that the government would have With regard to Trump's decision to cies of the previous Trump's administ the "Deferred Action for Childhood

withdraw from WHO which was originally scheduled to come into effect in July this year, Biden called for suspension of the procedures and had picked his chief medical adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci to lead a delegation at WHO's annual meetings.

The climate policy of the previous administration had aroused great controversy. Biden, who set the goal of net-zero carbon emissions for the U. S. no later than 2050, instructed rejoining the Paris Agreement in an executive order. The procedures would take around 30 days and then the U.S. would resume its role as a member. In addition, he also cancelled the project of "Keystone XL" with oil pipelines connecting Canada and requested the relevant departments to review and amend over 100 climate-related poli-

However, Biden's environmental policy still faced certain resistance in the American society. For instance, Alaska's Republican Governor Mike Dunleavy mocked Biden for turning Alaska into a large national park, while the American Petroleum Institute also criticized him for taking a "step backward" to block the U.S.-Canada pipeline.

Among the newly signed executive orders, 5 of which were related to immigration policy, including pausing construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, lifting travel and immigration restrictions for citizens of 13 primarily Muslim and African countries, canceling measures to strengthen immigration law enforcement during Trump's tenure, suspending deportations for certain immigrants, as well as retaining

Arrivals" programme commonly known as the "Dreamers". However, the reform of immigration policy had yet to gain cross-party support in Congress, making it difficult to pass a large-scale immigration bill such as offering citizenship to 11 million undocumented immigrants within 8 years.

After completion of the inauguration ceremony and wreath-laying at the Arlington National Cemetery by the new government officials, a series of celebrations were held that night. Because of the pandemic, a television special was produced in lieu of the traditional inauguration ball, with singers such as Justin Timberlake being invited to perform in the virtual event. The Bidens finally enjoyed the fireworks and watched the end of the day's events from the White House

留意文化習慣 誤用易得罪人

直大譯站

拜劣譯或「講啲唔講啲」的講解所賜,有幾個英文 字眼中國人經常用錯。

Of course

「當然」有「順理成章,理應如此」的含意,重點 在一個「理」字,只要是合乎情理、自然合理的事, 就可以用「當然」來表示;「理所當然」,此之謂 也。那麼「當然」怎樣用英文表達呢?大概小學生也 會答你:「of course」。

問題是,「當然」真的在任何情況下都適宜用「of course」來對譯嗎?當然不是!「Of course」往往帶 有「顯而易見」的意味,所以很容易會無意中透出不 耐煩的語氣,尤其在回答對方的問題時,可能會令對 方覺得你在暗示:「這還用問?」

為免誤用,請仔細留意英美人士平日如何以「of course」回答問題。筆者實在想不出簡單的規律供讀者 遵從,只能奉勸一句:沒把握就簡簡單單答「yes」算 了。

Always

筆者讀大學時,老師特別提醒,中國人非常喜歡用 「always」,但幾乎逢用必錯,所以他叫我們盡量不要 用這個字眼。

平心而論,這個主張近乎因噎廢食。其實我們只要 知道問題所在,就不怕用錯了。問題本來很簡單,就 是大家以為「always」意指「經常」,但其實是「總 是」的意思。於是,本來想表達「你常常遲到」,卻 説成「You're always late」。

除非對方真的逢約必遲,否則給你這樣一説,自然 心有不甘——「你屈我!」請記住:要表達「經常」 之意,應該用「often」。(「Always」其實可以指 「經常」,但必須用於進行式,例如「The naughty boy is always making that noise」這句,就指「經常製

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「please」這個字。 資料圖片

造某種噪音」。不過請留意,這種用法並非客觀事實 的陳述,而是主觀情緒的表露,通常用來表達不

Please

這個字有可能是我們最早學習的英文字之一,因為 「請」這個意思實在極為常用,而且關乎禮貌,自然 列入最講禮儀的中國人優先學習的英文詞彙了。所謂 「禮多人不怪」,用「please」這個字又怎麼會得罪人 呢?其實這與文化習慣有關,也是筆者的大學老師特

在公開場合,主持人或司儀往往需要敦請某位講者 或嘉賓上台或出場,這時自然會以「某某先生/女士/ 教授……,請」作結,於是要用英文表達時自然會説 「XXX, please」,這就失禮了。

大家從今天起留意一下,英美人士有沒有在這種情 況説「please」的。筆者觀察多年,一次也沒見過,每 次都只聽到主持人或司儀以鄭重的語氣説完講者或嘉 賓的名字後便停下來,靜待對方自行現身。據筆者估 計,這除了是習慣做法外,也可能因為這時用 「please」有點硬請對方出來之意。是否如此,還望各 方高明指教。

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留意風向 勝出比賽

氣象萬千

大家踏單車也要注意風勢,如果風由車尾吹來, 就是順風,我們便可省卻不少氣力。不過,下斜坡 時就要小心控制速度,要慢駛,道路安全才是最重 要。另外,若遇上逆風,可以稍為向前彎身,減少 身體向風的面積,風阻減但就可省力。

單車選手參加比賽時,無時無刻都會留意風這個 元素,包括在比賽前查看各區風向和風速資料,如 果去到某一路段的風特別大,又是逆風,就會保留 實力,待順風時候才加速,就有更大機會勝出比 賽。

不知道大家看單車比賽時有否留意,車手及隊友

有時會成一直線,輪流帶頭,其實是前方的車手為 後方的隊友擋風,讓他們省一點力,這種情況又叫 「食氣流」。

在秋冬時節若踏長途單車,更要注意保暖,即便 在戶外風勢輕微,踏得比較快的時候也好像在大風 之中,會覺得頗冷,如果大風又穿得太單薄,身體 的熱量更會很容易被帶走,感覺的溫度會較實際的 氣溫低,所以如果在一些較涼又大風的日子,踏單 車便要注意保暖了。

除了剛才提及的風向和風速之外,最重要是留意 天文台的天氣預測,包括溫度變化,還有天文台提 供的實時天氣狀況,哪裏會下雨,以及你身處位置 附近會否有雷暴。

技術的高低不重要,最重要還是安全。

●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。詳請可瀏覽天文台 YouTube 專頁:https://www. youtube.com/user/hkweather ·)







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