

社評
雙語道

出手紓緩失業 企業有承擔遠見

Businesses show foresight and commitment by helping to alleviate unemployment

原文

政府在2月18日公布本港最新失業率升至7%，為17年來新高，失業人數升至25萬多人。新世界同日宣布將於3月中舉辦疫情期間首個私人企業大型招聘會，增聘近千個職位。疫情持續逾年，本港經濟陷入低谷，失業人數不斷飆升，情況令人擔憂。在這個需要政府和全社會同舟共濟的艱難時刻，大企業逆市增聘人手，增加就業崗位，既展現了企業的社會承擔，樹立與香港和市民共度時艱的良好示範，亦顯示企業為疫後發展儲備人才的遠見。希望有能力的企業有承擔、有遠見，為本港復甦經濟、改善就業、促進社會和諧多出一分力。

本港失業率急升至17年新高，與政府推出的「保就業」計劃去年11月底完結，不少企業裁員結業致就業市場進一步惡化有關。勞工及福利局局長羅致光承認，雖然第四波疫情近期現緩和跡象，但由於經濟活動需時回復正常，勞工市場在短期內仍會受壓。

協助失業者渡過難關，政府當然是最大的責任者，必須加大支援力度；同時，本港作為高度商業化經濟體，企業是人力市場的最大主體，增加就業機會、紓緩失業問題，也負有不可推卸的社會責任。商界由於有完全自主決策權力，運作效率更高

更快，由大企業出手增加就業機會，更顯迫切、及時與重要。

大企業的抗風險能力較大，本港不少大企業如超市、金融服務業等，受疫情影響不大，相反在全球央行「放水」救市的情況下，不少大企業因為資產價格上升而獲得不俗盈利。在本港中小企、服務性行業因疫情衝擊而面臨倒閉潮、裁員潮時，本港大企業站出來增聘職位，協助失業者重投戰場，減少失業人士的生活壓力和政府公共福利的負擔，這是大企業應盡之責，也是社會對大企業的合理期望。

此次新世界招聘職位，當中很多是因應疫後新常態而增設的工種，以及面向年輕人的職位，如數碼媒體推廣、口罩研發、企業社會責任策略師、卓越服務大使等，反映企業為疫後發展先行部署。現時市場可供招聘的人才較多，企業更易找到適合自己的人才，為疫後快速發展未雨綢繆。多個專家預計，隨着疫情緩和，本港經濟有望走出低谷，企業此時廣招人，儲備更多優秀人才，可在經濟好景時領先一步加快發展。期待本港有更多大企業有超前的眼光，疫市增聘人手，達至政府、企業、打工仔多贏局面。

(摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-2-9)



●本港中小企、服務性行業因疫情衝擊而面臨倒閉潮。資料圖片

Exercise

- 1. 新常態 2. 中央銀行(央行) 3. 研發 4. 策略師 5. 資產價格

Answer
1. new normal 2. central bank 3. research and development (R&D) 4. strategist 5. asset price

譯文

The government announced on 18 February that the latest unemployment rate in Hong Kong has risen to 7 per cent, a 17-year high, and the number of unemployed has risen to more than 250,000. On the same day, the local conglomerate New World Development announced that it will hold a large-scale job fair in mid-March, hiring nearly a thousand positions. This is the first time that the private sector holds such events since the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic has hit Hong Kong for more than a year, the situation is now worrying. The local economy has fallen into a trough, and the number of unemployed has been soaring. In these difficult times when the government and the whole society need to weather the storm together, big enterprises have really demonstrated their exemplary corporate social

responsibility by going against the tides of the market and creating extra employment opportunities. By recruiting extra staff, they have also shown that they possess the vision to nurture talents for post-pandemic development. It is hoped that more enterprises will have the same commitment and foresight to help Hong Kong with its socio-economic recovery.

As the government's Employment Support Scheme officially ended in November 2020, it left a mark on the employment market and partially contributed to the record-high unemployment rate as more businesses either had to lay-off workers or close down for good. According to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare Law Chi-kyong, although the fourth wave of the epidemic is showing signs of easing recently, the labor market will still be under pressure in the short term as economic activities

take time to return to normal.

There is no doubt that the government has the biggest responsibility to help those who are unemployed, and the authorities must step up their efforts in this regard. But at the same time, the private sector is also the biggest employer in a highly commercialised economy such as Hong Kong.

Enterprises have an ineluctable social responsibility to create job opportunities and alleviate unemployment. As businesses are all about quick decision-making and efficiency, it would be far better for the private sector to step-in at this critical moment than to rely solely on the government.

As large enterprises are more resilient in difficult business environments, many of the big companies in Hong Kong such as supermarkets and financial services firms are not really affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. On the contrary,

many of them benefited from the surge of asset prices as central banks around the world inject liquidity into the markets. As Hong Kong's small and medium-sized enterprises and service industries are facing a wave of closures and layoffs due to the pandemic, it is time for those big enterprises to meet the society's expectations and shoulder their fair share of responsibilities. By creating more jobs and helping the unemployed to return to the labour market, big businesses can both relieve the daily life stress of the unemployed and reduce the government's burden on public welfare expenses.

Among the jobs that New World Development is recruiting, many of them are either positions for young people, or jobs created in response to the "new normal" after the Covid-19 pandemic. These include roles in digital and social media marketing, face masks research

and development, corporate social responsibility strategy, and customer service. It is apparent that the local conglomerate is already preparing for post-pandemic development. As there are more talents available for recruitment in the labour market now, it is much easier for businesses to find suitable ones to make early preparations for the rapid recovery that is set to come when the pandemic blows over. Many experts predict that Hong Kong's economy should get back on its feet as the pandemic eases. Enterprises that have the foresight to hire more talents at this stage will likely find themselves one step ahead of their peers when the economy recovers. It is hoped that more enterprises will share this foresight and hire more people in these difficult times, so that an all-win situation could be achieved for the government, the private sector, and wage earners.

神父辦學傳道 延至高等教育

歷史今昔

筆者最近重溫張藝謀導演的《金陵十三釵》，故事講述一位美國入殮師假裝神父來到戰爭中的南京，陰差陽錯下假裝成天主教神父，最後和一群青樓女子拯救一群女學生的故事。故事如此曲折離奇，自然有創作之成分，但某些歷史背景卻真實存在，譬如故事裏西方傳教士在華辦學，便是影響深遠的歷史史實。此文章藉此略談這個話題。

西方傳教士在華的辦學經歷大約可分成四個階段。首先是起步階段，時間線在鴉片戰爭前後到十九世紀六十年代。1830年，美國傳教士在廣州創辦第一所教會學校，名為貝滿學校(Bridgman School)，但此所學校僅僅留了幾年窮苦學生，且不久便關閉了。同期港人較為熟悉的有英華書院，1818年創校於馬六甲，後於1843年遷至香港，直至今日仍在辦學。此階段的中國教會學校特點是以傳遞教義為己任，且實行免學費、免住宿費和免膳食費等優惠政策，但學生仍然有限，教育程度亦比較顯淺。

第二階段是初步發展階段， ●《金陵十三釵》劇照



資料圖片

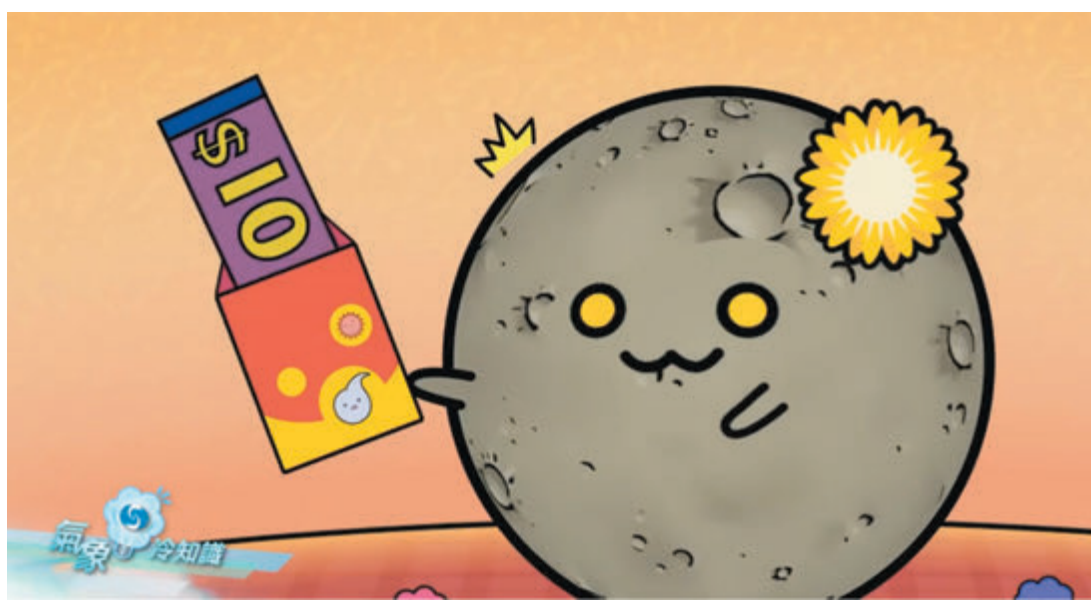
約十九世紀六七十年代。此階段之中國，見識過西方之船堅炮利後，不得不陸續開發更多通商口岸和賦予更多傳教士的權限，基督教辦學團體和傳教士在空間和政策上均可以獲得彈性和便利，順利發展。此階段開辦的有名學府，應計上海的聖約翰書院(聖約翰大學前身)，聖約翰書院於1879年成立，除了接待窮困學生之外，亦開始展開專業教育，亦即西方推崇的科學。有意思的是，聖約翰大學於1952年解散後，院校教授聯合其他13間內地基督教大學創立崇基學院，後來崇基學院又於1963年併入香港中文大學。

第三階段是十九世紀的八九十年代，此階段乃西方傳教士在中國快

速發展之階段。到了九十年代，教會學校已經達到2,000所左右，在校學生高達4萬人。港人對此時期最熟悉的大學應屬1889年在廣州成立的格致書院，後來遷至香港成為嶺南大學。此階段的教會學校開始建立正規的西方教育體制，招生對象亦不再是貧苦學生，而開始轉向富家子弟，專業及高等教育已扎根於中國之上。

第四階段是成熟階段，亦即二十世紀初。此全國教會學校發展已達成熟，到1914年，全國教會學校已逾12,000所，學生達25萬人。此階段的教會學校已不再是普通小學或中學，而是開始建立起公認的名牌大學，例如南京的金陵大學、燕京大學等。

如果說《金陵十三釵》的故事沒有事實根基，這其實也不全然正確。金陵女子文理學院是中國近代一所由西方傳教士在1915年創立的學院，二十世紀三十年代，由美國傳教士明妮·魏特琳(Minnie Vautrin)擔任院長，她的日記曾記錄抗日戰爭期間，南京淪陷，日本軍官要求她挑選青樓女子以換取金陵學院女學生的安全，這估計便是《金陵十三釵》的故事原型。



●元宵節其中一個傳統就是拆利是。

影片截圖

Double 情人節

氣象萬千

農曆正月十五是元宵節，元是指元月，即是農曆正月，而宵就是指夜晚，元宵節就是農曆一年之中第一個月圓之夜，象徵春天的到來，以及農曆新年的結束，所以正月十五的其中一個傳統就是拆利是。

在香港，元宵節比較多人熟悉的習俗有賞花燈、猜燈謎、吃湯圓和賞月。月上柳梢頭，人約黃昏後，古時的年輕男女會在元宵節這一晚出

門，賞燈、賞月、找情人，所以一直有人把元宵節稱為中國情人節。

每隔大約十九年，中西方的情人節就會重疊，在1938年、1957年、1976年、1995年和2014年的2月14日情人節，都是農曆正月十五的元宵節，而下一次重疊，就要到2033年。

不過，這個十九年一遇的Double情人節，並非必然，因為有時會相差一天，就像2052年的元宵節就會是2月15日，但2071年又會回到2月14日，甚為特別。

●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>。)

