



EDITORIAL

大公社評

中文基本功

Beijing supports CE to do a good job in his remaining term

President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao respectively met in Zhongnanhai Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR on duty visit to Beijing, and listened to his briefs on the current situation in Hong Kong and his administration's work plan for the coming year.

During their meetings, both President Hu and Premier Wen said they "fully affirm" Donald Tsang and his administration's performance and achievement over the past year. They hoped that Donald Tsang and the HKSAR government would continue wholeheartedly fulfilling their duties in the remaining term, acting with the consciousness of being highly responsible to Hong Kong and the nation; would continue doing a good job and proactively working out plans with an eye to the future to consolidate and elevate Hong Kong's status as an international financial hub and to lay a solid foundation for the long-term stability and prosperity of the SAR.

The Central Government's support to the CE and SAR government is long-standing and consistent, from a starting point of giving priority to Hong Kong's interests and Hong Kong people's benefits and with an eye to the long-term prosperity, stability and development of Hong Kong's economy, society and people's livelihood. As for the works of the CE and SAR government, Beijing always gives encouragement and appreciation. Therefore, the CE's annual duty visits to Beijing are always helpful for Hong Kong people to increase their understanding of the principles of "one country two systems", "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" and high-degree autonomy, and to strengthen their courage to overcome difficulties and their confidence in building a more beautiful future.

The current duty visit to Beijing is the last by Donald Tsang, who will complete his term on June 30, 2012. It may be believed that during his last duty visit the CE personally has mixed feelings as well as more profound understanding. Compared with his first duty visit to Beijing seven years ago, the CE in his last duty visit must have made great improvement in his understanding of the nation and the principle of "one country two systems", have widened his vision and boosted his pride for being the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR of China, and have had a better comprehension about how to integrate Hong Kong into the great current of national development.

Hearing Donald Tsang's work reports, both President Hu and Premier Wen also expressed their concerns with his work during the remaining six months of his term. In view of his briefing to the media after these meetings, Donald Tsang does not appear to be slacking off a bit on his job at this moment. Instead he has more clearly and emphatically prioritised four major tasks in next six months. The first is to strengthen Hong Kong's capability to resist against economic recession; the second to implement all unveiled measures to improve people's livelihood; the third to do a good job with the election of the CE and the formation of the Legislative Council (Legco); and the fourth to ensure a smooth succession of government.

As a matter of fact, if these four tasks are to be well fulfilled, then it can surely be said that Donald Tsang will really have done four big, practical and good things for citizens in the remaining six months of his term, and he will have nothing to be ashamed of when leaving his office. Moreover, such an accomplishment would be greatly favourable and helpful to the SAR's long-term economic

development and social stability in future, and to a good start of the next CE's job.

Among other things, for the second task, Donald Tsang must, in the next six months, finalise the number of Housing Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats to be built, the selection of sites, their pricing and marketing timetable. How to qualify the subsidy recipients and how to ascertain the possible impact of the scheme on the overall property market must also be thoroughly considered. Moreover, the dispatch of Old Age Allowance (OAA) to eligible recipients living across the border and the dispatch of transport subsidies to aged people may have some domino effects, which must be taken into consideration before implementation.

Likewise, the election of the CE and the formation of the Legco next year will mark a key step in further democratisation of the SAR's political system. All preparatory works must be completed in the first half of next year or before Donald Tsang leaves his office. Everything must be done in accordance with the law to ensure that the election and formation proceed fairly, openly and justly. This concerns the safeguarding of the authority of the Basic Law and the reputation of the rule of law in Hong Kong. No slight carelessness and negligence is tolerated in this regard.

It may be believed that Chief Executive Donald Tsang, after his current duty visit to Beijing, will become more confident and determined to fulfill the four major tasks and to do a good job in his remaining term so as to create good conditions for the works of next CE and next SAR Government to further promote Hong Kong's development.

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WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 Do a good job (Idiom) - Do something well. (幹好(工作))
Examples: 1. I want a person to be reliable and do a good job. 2. The dry cleaner did a good job of removing that oil stain from my shirt.
2 With an eye to (doing) sth (idiom) - For the purpose of (doing) something. (着眼於, 考慮到)
Examples: 1. All college applications that we receive are read with an eye to finding the most promising students. 2. With an eye to the upcoming election the President has hired a new speechwriter.
3 Integrate sb/sth into sth (phrasal verb) - To combine someone or something into something. (融入)
Examples: 1. The teachers are trying to integrate all the children into society. 2. We sought to integrate the new family into the ways of the community.
4 In view of (idiom) - Taking into account; in consideration of. (鑒於, 考慮到)
Examples: 1. In view of our long-standing relationship, we agree to allow you a discount. 2. He will presumably resign in view of the complete failure of his policy.
5 Slack off (phrasal verb) - (For someone) to become lazy or inefficient. (鬆懈, 懈怠)
Examples: 1. It's natural for one to slack off towards the end of a hard day's work. 2. Near the end of the school year, Sally began to slack off, and her grades showed it.

發行的行粵語一向讀杭 懷政治投機改音者必敗

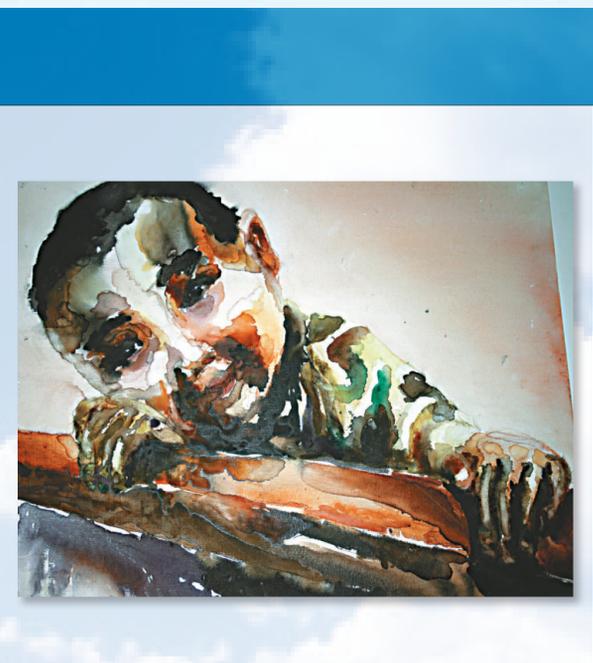
十一月廿三日,有人打電話來告知:歐洲發行債券,香港的電台、電視報告新聞,多數把行字讀成衡,少數仍讀杭,但也有官員仍讀杭的,問我何故有此分別?這個問題,記憶中已答過,且從漢字源流分析,但可能未涉及本質,今次補談這方面。行字三音,讀杭最古,讀過《詩經》便知;稍後才有讀衡讀平。發行一詞,宋代已有,指發出一系列的東西,讀杭理所當然。粵語一直保存這個古音。二十世紀七十年代,港英當局多渠道營造「本土意識」,在粵音方面,製造另一種讀法,以示「香港話」有別於「廣府話」,採取了黃錫凌《粵音韻彙》那種「復古音兼跟國語」的做法。可是,杭字最古的音讀杭,豈非不能改?但「正音」者懂得「因時制宜」,認為只須「跟國語」(當時已改稱普通話)就可以。有人更從政治投機方面着眼,看到內地有「消滅方言」的呼聲,以為粵語遲早

消滅,「跟國語」是「識時務者為俊傑」,於是,發行一詞,就由發杭改讀發衡。由於這些「正音」人士逐步控制了香港新聞出版教育等部門,電台、電視報道新聞的人把發行讀成發衡乃是自然的事。至於官員(其實也有金融、貿易、商業各行人士)之不改本音者,可能未受「正音」影響而已。

其實,曾奉港英命「正音」而亂改粵音的人,既無「關懷祖國」,也無「放眼世界」。內地「消滅方言」之論早已式微,前時廣東省的首長(汪洋、黃華華)都強調保存粵語。兩個國際人權公約都有條款規定尊重和保护方言。歐美各國都尊重方言。所以,曾經懷着政治投機之目的亂改粵音的人,現在已為廣大港人所詬病。雖則目前可以控制傳媒等方面亂改粵音,想憑港英「遺訓」製造另一種粵語的陰謀終於會失敗!

容若

觸景立畫



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SOHO DIARY



Marking Compositions (II)

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Now, if some of my students ask me how they can get higher marks for their compositions, I would tell them to answer such a question first: "do you mean getting high marks in public exams (公開考試), or high marks from me?"

If the students are smart enough, they might ask: "what is the difference?"

The difference is that I am a writer; I know how difficult it is to write something really good. Sometimes I sit in front of the computer for hours and do not know what to write. If the students can write something within 45 minutes, I think it is already an achievement.

So, I would not give my students a bad grade. If they cannot finish their compositions within a lesson, I would give them more time after the lesson and see if they could finish their work.

There is a saying: "if you start

something, finish it." It is something very useful in life and often the key to success. Read the biographies (傳記) of some successful people, one can easily find cases of starting something, then meeting a lot of obstacles, but ultimately finishing the jobs or missions. It is a mentality that leads to a successful life.

That means, if the students finish their compositions, even they take a longer time, I would let them pass. Very often, when I see other teachers not giving a pass to the students' compositions, I would wonder in my mind: "if you are asked to finish a composition in such a short time, can you do that?"

Have I ever asked the teachers that question? The answer is "no". The reason is that they don't write. If they have any idea of how difficult it is to write, they would have never given their students a "fail".

中央支持特首做好餘下任期工作

國家主席胡錦濤和國務院總理溫家寶,昨天在中南海分別會見了到京述職的特區行政長官曾蔭權,聽取了關於香港當前形勢和特區政府一年來工作情況的匯報。

在匯報中,胡主席和溫總理對曾蔭權和特區政府一年來的施政及取得的成績給予了充分的肯定,並寄語曾特首及其管治團隊要本着對香港、對國家高度負責的精神,在還有半任的任期內恪盡職守,着眼長遠、積極謀劃,鞏固和發展香港國際金融中心的地位,繼續做好各項工作,為香港的長期穩定繁榮打下良好基礎。

中央對香港、對特首、對特區政府的支持是長期的、也是一貫的,出發點從來都是以香港的利益、市民的福祉為優先,着眼點在於經濟、社會、民生的長期繁榮穩定和發展,而對特首個人及特區政府的工作則總是鼓勵為主、勸勉有加。因此,每年一次的特首北京述職,都有助港人增加對「一國兩制」、「港人治港」、高度自治方針的體會和認識,有助港人提高克服困難的勇氣和建設美好前景的信心。

明年六月三十日任期屆滿的曾蔭權,這是他任內最後一次的述職。相信對曾特首個人來說,這次述職的心情是比較複雜的,感受也會更深刻。而完全可以肯定,「最後一次述職」的曾蔭權,對比起七年前的第一次述職,無論是對國家和「一國兩制」方針的認識、對作為中國香港特別行政區行政長官身份的體會和自豪感、以至對香港如何進一步融入國家發展大潮流的看法,都已經有了長足的進展和提高。

述職匯報中,胡主席和溫總理都表達了對曾蔭權餘下半年任期工作的關注。而從匯報後對傳媒的講話看來,此時此刻的曾蔭權,



▲ 國家主席胡錦濤在中南海會見赴北京述職的香港特區行政長官曾蔭權

不但沒有絲毫的放鬆和懈怠,反而比過去更清晰、更著緊地提出了未來半年必須完成的四項重點工作:一是增強香港抵禦經濟衰退的能力,二是落實已經提出的各項改善民生措施,三是做好特首和立法會的選舉工作,四是做好與下屆政府的交接工作。

事實是,不僅曾蔭權在餘下的半年任內內確實實地為市民辦了四件好事、大事、實事,完全可以問心無愧地卸下重責,而且,對特區未來的長遠經濟發展和社會穩定、對下屆新任特首的順利開展工作,都將是大大有利和提供極大助力的。

其中,如第二項落實已公布的改善民生措施,曾蔭權必須在未來半年以至更短時間內敲定復建居屋的數量、選址、定價和推出的時間表,這裡面對受資助者能力的界定和對整個樓市的衝擊都必須充分考慮;還有老人生果金的跨境發放,以及長者的交通津貼,都是「牽一髮動全身」,必須周全部署。

同樣,明年特區的兩大選舉:特首和立法會,都是特區政制發展進一步民主化的關鍵一步,明年上半年即曾蔭權任內就必須進行和做好一切準備工作,這裡面,一切依法辦事,確保選舉公平、公正、公開進行,以維護基本法權威和本港法治聲譽,是容不得有半點疏忽大意的。

可以相信,赴京述職後返港的特首曾蔭權,面對四項重點工作,必將會有信心和決心,在中央的支持、信任下做好未來半年的餘下任期,為下屆特首和特區政府創造良好條件,進一步推動特區向前發展。

2011/12/27 大公報社評

通識記憶體

從「任重道遠」到「恪盡職守」

根據《基本法》,特區行政長官(俗稱特首)由選舉委員會選出,並由中央人民政府任命。特首職責之一是執行中央人民政府就基本法規定的有關事務所發的指令。每年向中央述職,匯報特區施政、政經民生等重大事宜也是其工作之一。

曾蔭權自2005年接任特首迄今,先後7次到北京述職。對其工作評點、提示最多的,是溫家寶總理。溫總理在頒發特首任命狀予曾蔭權時,當面寄語「任重道遠」,到這次會任內最後一次述職時,則告誡他須在餘下半年任期「恪盡職守」、「統籌規劃做好全部工作」,國家主席胡錦濤同樣要求曾蔭權「本着對香港、對國家負責的精神,恪盡職守」。

恪盡職守意味著盡心盡力做好既有工作,不能由於卸任在即而

鬆懈,得過且過。

中央政府一直重視香港的經濟、民生。溫總理先後三次,叮囑曾蔭權關注和處理香港社會的深層次矛盾和問題,敦促對方要有憂患意識,為香港規劃未來。

三次提點深層次矛盾》》》》

溫總理甚至在2011年3月的人大、政協「兩會」記者會公開點明香港經濟上的5個深層次矛盾,即發揮已有優勢,繼續保持和發展香港的金融中心、航運中心和貿易中心地位;結合香港的特點發展優勢產業,特別是服務業;利用香港毗鄰內地的優勢,進一步加強與珠三角的聯繫;凝聚共識、團結一致,保持香港的繁榮穩定;注重改善民生,發展教育。