



中英社評



一架來自上海的國泰貨機於昨晨8點27分在香港國際機場第三跑道著陸，成為首架在新跑道上熟悉運作的商業航班，這是歷史性的時刻。「三跑」投入運作，大大提升香港國際機場的競爭力，鞏固香港作為國際及區域航空樞紐的地位。發展是解決一切深層次問題和矛盾的金鑰匙，「三跑」的啟用，為香港經濟發展帶來新動力，香港機場除傳統優勢外，已能通往至少44個「一帶一路」的航點，疫情過後，這個被譽為「機場城市」的航空樞紐，將成為融入粵港澳大灣區的交通點。

過去20年間，香港國際機場客運量由最初的每年2860萬人次，一路攀升至2019年的7470萬人次，貨運量同樣增幅驚人，原有的兩條跑道十分繁忙，超過負荷，建設第三條跑道事在必行。但由於眾所周知的原因，「三跑」同其他基建計劃一樣阻力重重，好事多磨。因當時的立法會拉布不斷，無法通過有關財政預算，特區政府和機管局不得不另闢蹊徑籌款，「三跑」工程終於在六年前動工，今年投入運作，但一些配套工程仍在建設中，完成整個工程需等兩年之後，的確有「來遲了」的遺憾。

更不幸的是，「三跑」建設撞上新冠疫情。過去兩年多來，機場客運量只有高峰期的零頭，貨運量也大減，有人擔心「三跑」成為「大白象」工程。其實，這樣的擔心是短視的，疫情總有一天會過去，航空市場總有一天會恢復生機。特別是粵港澳大灣區建設一日千里，帶來巨大商機，「三跑」將大派用場，屆時香港機場每小時最多可起降102架次飛機，即一分鐘內差不多有兩架飛機同時起降，香港作為國際及區域航空樞紐的地位將得到進一步加強。

當然，大灣區內不止一個機場，深圳、廣州等地機場都在擴建，對香港機場構成一定的競爭。有競爭才有進步，香港機場不能坐等運到，需要進一步改善服務質素，提升吸引力，同時也要與灣區其他機場解決好空域分配等問題。

國家全力支持香港發展國際航運中心，包括支持「三跑」建設。「三跑」填海工程一度面對沙粒短缺問題，但在中央、廣東和廣西政府的支持下，填海得以如期完成。

香港進入「愛國者治港」新時代，未來五年是開創新局面、實現新發展的關鍵時期。中共中央總書記、國家主席、中央軍委主席習近平在香港回歸25周年慶典大會上發表重要講話，勉勵香港在中央全力支持下，抓住國家發展帶來的歷史機遇，主動對接「十四五」規劃、粵港澳大灣區建設和「一帶一路」高質量建設等國家戰略，同世界各地展開更廣泛、更緊密的交流合作，充分釋放香港社會蘊藏的巨大創造力和發展活力。習主席重要講話為香港未來發展指明了方向，注入了動能，也為航運業帶來千載難逢的發展機遇。

中央對香港寄予厚望，七百多萬市民希望新一屆政府實現良政善治，切實排解民生憂難，不斷提升管治水平。民有所呼，我有所應，剛剛履新的李家超政府連日來展現雷厲風行的施政作風，新班子每一位成員都腳足幹勁，給人留下深刻印象。

發展是永恒的主題，發展是香港立身之本，香港的美好明天需要大家踏踏實實努力奮鬥才能實現。重新出發，建設香港，全面提升競爭力，我們定能譜寫新篇章。

2022-07-09

發展才是硬道理「三跑」帶來新動力

Developing is an unyielding principle and the airport's third runway brings new driving force

A Cathay Pacific cargo flight flying in from Shanghai **touched down** on the third runway at Hong Kong International Airport at 8:27 a.m. yesterday, becoming the first commercial airplane to be familiarised with the operation of the new runway. This was a historic moment. The third runway opening for operation greatly sharpens Hong Kong International Airport's competitive edge and consolidates Hong Kong's status as an international and regional air transport hub. Development is the golden key to solving all deeply rooted problems and contradictions. Opening of the third runway brings new driving force for Hong Kong's economic development. Apart from its traditional advantages, the Hong Kong airport now is also linked to at least 44 waypoints along the Belt and Road (the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road). When the Covid-19 epidemic is over, this air transport hub praised as an "Airport City" will become the converging point in the integration of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area).

In the past two decades, Hong Kong International Airport's annual passenger carrying capacity has jumped to 74.7 million passengers in 2019 from 28.6 million originally. Likewise the increase of its cargo carrying capacity is also quite shocking. Its two runways had been very busy and overloaded, so that construction of a third runway became imperative under such circumstances. But for reason known to everyone, construction of the third runway, just like all other infrastructure projects, was beset with resistance. It seems good things do take time. For, the Legislative Council (Legco) at that time had kept **filibustering** to block the passage of the budget needed, and the SAR Government and Hong Kong Airport Authority (HKAA) had to look for some other ways to raise fund. At last, construction of the third runway kicked off six years ago, and it opens for operation this year. But some auxiliary projects are still under construction, so construction of the whole project won't be completed until two years later. One cannot help but feel sorry for the delay.

Unfortunately, construction of the third runway coincided with the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic. During the past two years or so, the airport's passenger carrying capacity reduces to just a fraction of that in the peak period and cargo carrying capacity also drops significantly, so much so that there are worries that the third runway might become a "big white elephant" project. As a matter of fact, such worries are short sighted. The epidemic surely will come to an end one day, and the air transport market surely will come back to life and resume growth. In particular, construction of the Greater Bay Area leaps forward with **seven-league boots**, which brings enormous business opportunities. Then the third runway will **come in handy** allowing the Hong Kong airport to handle at the maximum the taking-off and landing of 102 flights in an hour, almost two flights simultaneously in a minute. Hong Kong's status as an international and regional air transport hub will be further enhanced.

Surely there are more than one airport in the Greater Bay Area. Shenzhen, Guangzhou and other cities are also expanding their airports, posing certain competition to Hong Kong. Competition leads to progress. Hong Kong airport should not sit back and wait for good luck but must improve its service quality to enhance its attractiveness and, at the same time, solve problems such as allocation of airspace with other airports in the area.

Our country fully supports Hong Kong's development as an international air transport hub, including supporting the construction of the third runway. Reclamation works for the third runway once faced the problem of sand shortage, but could eventually be completed as scheduled with supports from the Central, Guangdong and Guangxi Provincial Governments.

Hong Kong has entered the new era of "patriots governing Hong Kong". The upcoming five years are a crucial period for **breaking new ground** to achieve new development. President Xi Jinping, who is also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), delivered an important speech at the meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland. He encouraged Hong Kong to seize the historical opportunity of national development with the full support of the Central Government, to proactively align with

national development strategies such as the 14th Five-Year Plan, the development of the Greater Bay Area and the high-quality construction under the Belt and Road Initiative, to engage in wider and closer exchange and cooperation with various places in the world, and to fully release the enormous creativity and development vitality contained in Hong Kong society. President Xi's important speech clearly points the way for Hong Kong's future development and injects energy, and also brings a once-in-a-blue-moon development opportunity for the air transport industry.

The Central Government places high hopes on Hong Kong. The seven million plus citizens hope the new-term government to achieve good governance, practically resolve problems concerning people's livelihood and keep improving its governance quality. "Calls of the people must be responded." The just sworn-in government led by John Lee Ka-chiu demonstrates a vigorous and effective style of administration these days, with every member of the new team going all out. The public is deeply impressed.

Development is the eternal theme, development is the foundation of Hong Kong, and the city's beautiful future can be realised only if all of us work hard and in a down-to-earth way. We are bound to write a new chapter by recommencing to construct Hong Kong and comprehensively improve our competitiveness.

09 July 2022

WORDS AND USAGE

• **Touch down** (phrasal verb) –

When an aircraft touches down, it lands on the ground. ((飛機) 著陸)

Examples:

1. When we touched down at Chek Lap Kok, we were all relieved just to get home.
2. The plane touched down in Sydney at midday.

• **Filibuster** (verb) –

To make a long speech in order to delay or prevent a new law being made. (拉布 – 即 (為拖延或阻止法案通過而) 發表冗長的演說，普通話可音譯為「費力把事拖」。)

Examples:

1. Conceivably, supporters of the law could filibuster to prevent it from being revised.
2. They simply threatened to filibuster until the Senate adjourns.

• **Seven-league boots** (proverb) –

Magical boots featured in European folklore that grant the wearer the ability to travel seven leagues in a single stride. ((歐洲童話中的) 七里靴，穿著者一步可走七里)

Examples:

1. The new technology allows electric cars to drive with seven-league boots, as opposed to the concrete shoes that hampered earlier models.
2. We still want his speedy seven-league boots, his global reach and dazzling factual knowledge.

• **Come in handy** (idiom) –

To be especially useful, often in a particular setting or situation. (派上用場)

Examples:

1. It was a lot colder out than I thought it would be, so your jacket really came in handy!
2. That flashlight comes in handy when I'm trying to find something in my car at night.

• **Break new ground** (idiom) –

To do something completely different from what has been done before. (開闢新天地)

Examples:

1. This recovery technique breaks new ground.
2. The company has been breaking new ground in researching a cure for the deadly disease.



Accent Softening

數位已經移居到海外的學生紛紛擔心自己的英語口音不純正或是不夠大體；由於帶着港式口音，導致在本地社區學習或工作，甚至生活上會有困難。

他們使我想起大約八年前，一位已經擁有兩個碩士學位的工程師在我任教的語文中心找我。要求學習當年英國首相卡梅倫(David Cameron)的口音，皆因他個人認為卡梅倫這一種英式口音在演講的時候非常有權威及說服力(authoritative and convincing)，跟他自己在客戶面前的演講相差太遠。

跟這位工程師作評估之後，認為沒有大問題，基本尚算流暢、溝通上沒有障礙、咬字亦清晰。我微笑着回答他，「對不起，我自己的英語也不是英式口音；恕我未能教導。」

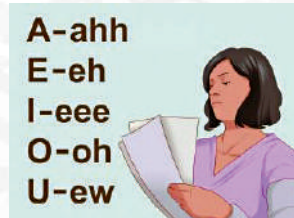
演講技巧是可以訓練出來的，我們港式口音也沒有什麼問題，為什麼要失去自己、模仿他人？溝通最重要是咬字清晰、文法準確。希望這位工程師會為自己擁有清晰口音而驕傲。

記得讀書時候感情最好的一位同學，由於本身是

印度籍，英語發音一直受到母語影響。從第一天認識她，我的名字發音就變成「Garol」。「Garol」了好幾年，有一天這同學跟我說，她會參加一個 Accent Neutralisation 「地獄式訓練」課程，主要練習怎樣調校自己的口音。最後我為她終於能講得一口純正的英語而高興。

Consonants	p pot	b bat	t tip	d dog	tʃ chin	dʒ jog	k gat	g gap
	f fly	v vid	θ think	ð this	s sit	z zoo	ʃ shot	ʒ vision
	m man	n next	ŋ sing	h hat	l let	r run	w wet	j yes

當然，最理想是能夠與以英語為母語的老師作面對面的練習。但在網絡上也可以找到相關的練習及測試。安坐在家中也可以調校自己的口音。一般包括元音及輔音(vowels and consonants)、語調及發音(intonation and pronunciation)的正確訓練。



A-ahh
E-eh
I-eee
O-oh
U-ew

另外就是有關說英語時需要強調的字眼(emphasis)、流暢度(flow)、步伐(pace)及嘴巴的移動。練習時候把自己的聲音錄下、聆聽自己的聲音是最重要的。這樣才可以不斷更正、不斷進步。很多網上老師也會提供這樣的課堂。

「好玩一點」的練習可以是唱押韻的英文歌及繞口令。大家有興趣挑戰以下這個繞口令嗎？

If you must cross a course cross cow across a crowded cow crossing, cross the cross course cow across the crowded cow crossing carefully.

希望移居到海外的學生不需要模仿別人的口音。學習英語的目標是以最簡單、最清晰、文法最正確的英語表達自己的所思所想。做好自己，做一個驕傲的中國人。