

十大新聞選舉活動得獎名單

新聞評述比賽—初中組

獎項	得獎學生	學校	題目
冠軍	葉沛瑩	浸信會呂明才中學	香港應否繼續購買東江水？
亞軍	鄭柏希	浸信會呂明才中學	論全民檢測不足及改善方法
季軍	嚴俊陞	浸信會呂明才中學	香港政府推行健康碼是否利多於弊？
殿軍	徐小雅	浸信會呂明才中學	論電子教學的利與弊
入圍	江晴心	荃灣官立中學	疫下超市生意旺 賣剩食物棄後巷真大嘍
入圍	劉詩敏	筲箕灣官立中學	新型肺炎仍舊肆虐，網上教學應成常態
入圍	鄭嘉鈺	保良局羅傑承(一九八三)中學	論應否擱置明日大嶼計劃
入圍	管樂晴	迦密主恩中學	無良寵物場令數千隻動物枉死
入圍	蕭北俊	迦密主恩中學	現代版塞翁失馬 - 新冠肺炎為教育帶來的前進動力
入圍	王皓雅	天主教崇德英文書院	因檢疫錯失亡父最後一面 衛生署承認本可安排 女兒哭訴：你哋令我後悔一世

新聞評述比賽—高中組

獎項	得獎學生	學校	題目
冠軍	陳思穎	迦密主恩中學	「全民檢測」是得是失？
亞軍	陳杏雯	可風中學（舊色園主辦）	建立和諧香港，從關注家暴開始
季軍	卓詩敏	迦密主恩中學	談母乳餵哺
殿軍	余映彤	迦密主恩中學	談安樂死在全球合法化的影響
入圍	黃俊寧	可風中學（舊色園主辦）	悲劇上演數十載 政府態度冷如冰
入圍	陳穎妍	天主教崇德英文書院	論現金津貼舒緩房屋問題的實際成效
入圍	黃嘉妍	天主教崇德英文書院	共存
入圍	劉啟思	保良局羅傑承(一九八三)中學	談「學生記者」的社會角色及其對社會的影響
入圍	李曉峰	迦密主恩中學	論「中學一校兩社工」之成效
入圍	王曉晴	迦密主恩中學	從清拆一級歷史建築「永和號」看保育
入圍	郭樹標	迦密主恩中學	從TikTok交易看社交媒體演算法對公眾的影響
入圍	陳雅雯	迦密主恩中學	性別只能與生俱來？

候選新聞初選獎項

獎項	得獎學生	學校
最具新聞觸角獎	徐志欣 駱凱琳 張佳怡 林芳羽 馮咏琪 劉曉偉	路德會呂明才中學
最佳新聞標題獎	凌穎瑤 李信希 吳易燴 黃佩宜 陳泳恩 陳上弘	伊利沙伯中學舊生會中學
最佳新聞簡介獎	陳傲妍 陳俊豪 駱煒霖 馬浚詠 伍羨柔 潘凱珮 何信謙 顏明瑤 余獻恩 陳子朗 林子殷 吳昕橋 黃靖希 陳栢維 洪朗翹 楊環峰	聖瑪加利男女英文中小學
最佳反思學習獎	凌穎瑤 李信希 吳易燴 黃佩宜 陳泳恩 陳上弘	伊利沙伯中學舊生會中學

News Commentary Competition: Junior Form

Champion	Name	School	Topic
Champion	Lau Yin Tung	Heep Yunn School	Keys to Success in Preventing COVID-19
1st runner-up	Hui Hay Yu Hailie	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College	Hong Kong's Employment Support Scheme: Good or Bad?
2nd runner-up	To Yee Man	Heep Yunn School	Getting the balance right
3rd runner-up	Ng Yuk Kin Justin	Munsang College	Trade War: Be Trading or Betraying?
Final Round Entrants	REHMAN Haris	Hong Kong Management Association David Li Kwok Po College	Another famine coming? China struggles to meet basic food demands
Final Round Entrants	Chan Hoi Chi	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College	The Situation in the Taiwan Straits and the Sino-U.S. Rivalry
Final Round Entrants	Tam Tze Him	Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College	TikTok - Its Uncertain Future
Final Round Entrants	Yiu Hei Lam Hailey	Heep Yunn School	Hong Kong national security law revealed- is it actually productive?

News Commentary Competition: Senior Form

Champion	Name	School	Topic
Champion	Chu Sui Lam	Heep Yunn School	The Aftermath of Sexual Assault
1st runner-up	Laurence Lai	HKUGA College	Hong Kong's Innovation Technology Development
2nd runner-up	Janita Farooq	HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute No.3 Secondary School	War and Peace: a revelation of Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan
3rd runner-up	Kwai Hoi Yan Hayley	Munsang College	Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme-a perfect way to avoid living in a garbage-surrounded city?
Final Round Entrants	Fong Ching, Sara	Shatin Pui Ying College	Climate Change is a Human Issue
Final Round Entrants	Cheung Yui Sum, Sam	St. Mary's Canossian College	Be positive, let's focus on the silver linings from the coronavirus
Final Round Entrants	Vicky Suen	Carmel Secondary School	Stronger if Truly Together
Final Round Entrants	Sabrina Chan	Heep Yunn School	Stress facing Hong Kong students – a collective and public health danger
Final Round Entrants	Ainod Chan	HKUGA College	Evaluate on various measures for controlling the spread of Covid-19
Final Round Entrants	Wyn Kon	HKUGA College	Racism is normalized in Hong Kong
Final Round Entrants	Nispaaroge Bibi	HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute No.3 Secondary School	Islamophobia: a revelation of religious stereotypes across the world
Final Round Entrants	Hui Lap San	Munsang College	All lives matter!!

最踴躍參與獎

- 紙本投票率最高的首十間學校

世界龍岡學校劉皇發中學
培道中學
佛教大雄中學
聖伯多祿中學
觀塘官立中學
創知中學
聖瑪加利男女英文中小學

潔心林炳炎中學
筲箕灣東官立中學
天主教崇德英文書院

最踴躍參與獎

- 網上投票率達80%的學校

德雅中學
沙田蘇浙公學
聖羅撒書院
中華基金中學
廖寶珊紀念書院
中華基督教會銘基書院
萬鈞匯知中學

全程投入金獎

保良局羅傑承(一九八三)中學
伊利沙伯中學舊生會中學
迦密主恩中學
聖瑪加利男女英文中小學



冠軍

初中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 **葉沛瑩** 浸信會呂明才中學

評判語錄

林靜潔高級講師

行文顯示對此議題有十分清晰的理解和看法，文章結構佳，層層分析，由淺至深慢慢推進，大大加強了其說服力。外國的參考例子亦運用得很好，最後分述如何開源、節流，文意十分完整。

香港應否繼續購買東江水？

香港從2006年起每年都會購買8.2億平方米東江水。單在2019年，本港就用了48億元購買東江水。儘管東江水價昂貴，水務署去年發表的《全面水資源管理策略2019》建議繼續購買東江水至2040年，預料未來20年購買東江水的費用高達數千億。我們應該繼續購買東江水嗎？

我認為港府不應繼續購買東江水。

在質素而言，東江水被嚴重污染。早在2013年，東江水已被發現重金屬鐵含量超標六成，2018年，大腸桿菌超標二十九倍，更出現過被棄置的動物屍體，可見東江水被污染得十分嚴重。東江水的混濁度一度超出世衛飲用水標準，實在難以令人安心飲用。從此可見，東江水實在不值得我們用天價去購用。

在經濟效益上，購買東江水就等同倒錢落海。根據協議，香港政府採用「統包總額」方式支付，每年定額收費，每年供水8億平方米，但香港只需6億平方米，多達四分之一的金錢都是白白浪費。東江水供過於求，香港政府認為要先用東江水，後用本地淡水，造成港人要依賴東江水的錯覺。事實上，港府的做法促成過往水塘多次出現滿瀉的情況，造成浪費。

另外，香港購買東江水的價格相比新加坡向馬來西亞購水的價格貴二百五十倍，相比起國內城市，亦貴了至少六、七倍。同樣是水，為何香港要以天價巨款購買這些被嚴重污染的水呢？

在環保方面，東江水源緊張，不勝負荷。東江一直為河源、惠州、廣州等沿江城市的主要水源。廣東省政府水利廳水資源公報顯示，東江水量在短短十年間已減少近三成。東江水源越來越少，萬一水源分配減，中國不再供水，香港食水問題應如何解決？



我認為港府可以開源節流，取代東江水。

開源方面，港府應利用購買東江水的金錢去興建海水淡化廠、發展供水系統技術、製造循環再用水等系統。海水淡化工程看似昂貴，再加上本港土地問題嚴重，難以撥出土地，一直被認為不可行。其實，海水淡化並不是不可行。新加坡同樣地少，但經過數年努力，就能成功研發出完備的獨立供水系統，成本比購買東江水便宜。新加坡現時的獨立水源供水佔全國大半用水量，不再依賴馬來西亞供水。科技日新月異，只要港府願意投資，成本必定會大大降低，達到長遠穩定供水的果效，減少每年昂貴的支出。

節流方面，港人應減少用水。香港水費便宜，導致港人沒有水資源短缺的危機意識，每日用水量多達3,350百萬，冠絕全球。港府應加強教育及宣傳，教導港人節約用水。

總括來說，東江水只會愈來愈少，質素愈來愈差，價錢愈來愈貴。購買東江水治標不治本，所以，政府應該檢視多年前簽下的條約，逐漸減少向內地購買東江水，最終停購東江水。香港應發展長遠的獨立供水系統，加強教育及宣傳為環保節約用水，為港人提供自家、便宜、潔淨的食水，徹底解決食水供應問題。



亞軍

初中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 **鄭柏希** 浸信會呂明才中學

評判語錄

陳智傑博士

文章主張從嚴抗疫，提出實質政策建議，具參考價值。然而在香港實行全民禁足令等嚴厲措施，前所未有，難以操作，目前只有內地曾經施行全民禁足令。文章宜切實地回應相關疑慮。

論全民檢測不足及改善方法

香港七月初爆發第三波疫情，造成過千宗確診個案，為杜絕病毒源頭，政府推出「普及社會檢測計劃」（簡稱全民檢測），預計檢測500萬人，找出1500名隱形患者；惟最終只有178萬人參加，發現32名確診者，成效明顯比預期低。究竟全民檢測有何不足影響成效？又能如何改善？

首先，全民檢測實行時機有誤。計劃由九月一日開始，於九月十四日結束。但疫情高峰期為七月初至七月尾。港府在一個多月後始落實措施，找到的隱形病人自然少。要提高防疫效果，政府應趁疫情盛行時推行不同防疫措施。

其次，全民檢測的參與人數低。由於其中一間檢測機構-華大基因曾被指在新疆收集市民生物樣本，助中央監控人民，因此有不少聲音擔心中央會趁機建立科技監控系統，例如「港版健康碼」。還有，部分港人不滿港府過去政策，例如硬推「港版國安法」，因而杯葛全民檢測。若政府沒有不軌意圖，就應多聆聽和解除反對聲音的憂慮，以吸引更多人士參與。譬如，政府可聘請非中資檢測機構，並多聽取民意，改善施政，贏得民心。

另外，全民檢測欠缺配套措施，因檢測速度問題，即使為全港市民做檢測，也不能保證市民不會互相感染，而且輸入個案亦會使疫情蔓延，因此單靠全民檢測將個案清零是不可能的。雖然如此，港府仍然忽略同期輸入個案，豁免不少人士檢疫。更諷刺的是，政府在全民檢測前數天才剛放寬防疫措施，為配合全民檢測，政府推行禁足令、居家令等措施，減少人群流動。政府亦須實行更嚴謹的入境管制，例如減少豁免檢疫人士等，以減低病毒流入社區的風險。

有人會反對封關、禁足令等措施，認為落實後香港將百業蕭條。但事實上，相比要冒着零星個案反彈的風

險復工復課，持續保零確診個案才能恢復繁榮。以台灣為例，由於台灣政府的政策一針見血，例如在一月尾已及時封關，所以累計確診個案只是大約500宗，經濟、民生一如以往。反觀香港，雖然民眾防疫意識高，可是港府政策猶如隔靴搔癢，使疫情持續，失業率更創新高。

值得一提的是，全民檢測開支龐大，去除中央資助金額後，港府總共花費5.3億公帑。另一方面，政府防疫專家顧問袁國勇表示平均對一萬名香港醫生做病毒檢測，就找出數十名確診者。明顯地，針對性檢測比全民檢測更符合成本效益。因此，政府應削減計劃的開支，例如以深喉唾液樣本代替鼻腔和咽喉合併拭子樣本，減少人手需求。港府應同時增撥資源去實行針對性措施，例如恒常化對醫護和老人家的檢測工作。

雖然全民檢測有一定作用，但綜合以上觀點，我認為港府處理手法降低了計劃的防疫效果。面對第四波疫情爆發的可能，港府應研究如何改進防疫措施，舉例來說，政府應盡可能提高市民衛生意識，否則所有防疫措施都只會治標不治本。政府更可化危為機，視這次疫情為培育本地醫護的機會，發展香港醫療領域，提升香港競爭力。



季軍

初中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 **嚴焯陞** 浸信會呂明才中學

評判語錄

林靜潔高級講師

論述頗有見地，分析到位，能深入淺出地將各種利弊關係清楚陳述，再將與自己相反的意見逐一擊破，很有說服力。美中不足是在中後段有少許重覆，如文筆再簡潔些會更佳。

香港政府推行健康碼是否利多於弊？

鑑於二零一九冠狀病毒疫情已見緩和，香港政府計劃透過「健康碼」互認有效病毒檢測結果，以豁免強制檢疫措施來往粵、港、澳三地。

「香港健康碼」是港府開發的二維碼，是一個與粵港澳政府商討的互認制度。市民需申請出入境配額，批出申請後再接受認可的醫療機構進行病毒測試，若檢測結果為陰性，便可取得「港康碼」，再申請為「粵康碼」或「澳康碼」。持有健康碼的人士在來往三地時，可獲豁免十四天的強制隔離檢疫。

粵港澳三地市民一向來往頻繁，而行政長官林鄭月娥表示「健康碼」能恢復與其他地方的人員往來，尤其是往返內地，這有助本港的經濟復甦。有些港人亦認為本港推出健康碼能促進人流及物流。但是，我認為政府這樣推出「健康碼」會帶來負面影響，更有可能令疫情反彈，結果得不償失，弊多於利。

首先，在防控疫情方面，根據互認機制，持有由指定醫療機構於七天內發出的「核酸檢測陰性結果證明」的健康碼人士，他們便可於粵港澳四處流動，無需強制檢疫。但有不少例子顯示，即使當天的檢測結果是陰性，也不能確保往後的日子沒有受感染。

其次，病毒測試總有其不準確性，以一次陰性病毒檢測結果來代表沒有染上冠狀病毒，繼而發放健康碼。接着放寬社交距離限制和防疫措施，甚至重啟某些高危活動，我認為對於防疫是一種魯莽的做法。從早前一些較活躍及嚴重的感染群組案例得知，不少確診者需要連續檢測多次後才能確診。倘若取得健康碼人士受感染後仍在社區四處走動，只會造成社區傳播鏈及另一波爆發。

再者，從經濟效益來看，市民於取得健康碼後，每七天便要再自費測試，這除了勞民傷財外，更讓部分隱形患者誤以為安全，令市民疏於防範，增加感染的風險。此外，市民要取得「健康碼」，必須要使用能取得二維碼的電子產品。這對於有經濟困難及科技能力稍遜的人士來說，無疑是一項不便的政策。

有市民認為，透過早前政府推行的「全民檢測計劃」，已可找出隱形患者，盡早截斷病毒在社區的傳播鏈，遏抑疫情，現在應盡快推行健康碼，為香港重啟經濟。然而，香港雖已進行較早前的「全民檢測計劃」，但實際上接受測試的市民只佔全港的六分之一，未達全港市民的一半。再加上，現時香港仍有不少源頭不明的本地個案，這反映出社區上仍有一定數量的隱形患者，貿然推行健康碼，則有可能令疫情再次反彈，結果得不償失。

總括而言，「健康碼」雖能為跨境工作人士及家庭帶來方便，並恢復部分經濟活動。但在有效防疫的大前提下，「健康碼」真的能奏效嗎？反之，港府應維持所有關口的防疫措施，對所有到港人士實行強制檢疫，避免豁免任何人士的檢測限制，確保病毒不再流入社區。市民亦應繼續做好防疫措施、配帶口罩及遵守社交距離。盼望於百廢待興之際，各項措施均能助香港走出陰霾，讓市民早日回復正常生活。



殿軍

初中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 **徐小雅** 浸信會呂明才中學

評判語錄

陳智傑博士

文章持平地分析了電子教學的利弊，再帶出學生自律是發揮電子教學優勢的關鍵，行文簡明流暢，點到即止。

論電子教學的利與弊

現時社會科技迅速發展，使用電子設備已經日漸普及化，而智能手機更幾乎每人一部。據調查，約62%的人擁有一部或以上智能手機。今年學生碰上疫情，被逼無奈由年初開始停課在家，利用直播上課數月。而現時推行的電子教育方案瞬間引起熱議：這種教學方式對學生到底是否利多於弊？

首先，如今香港科技發達，但我並不支持長久使用現時的網上授課。大多數學生都曾反映自己在家上網課時遇到困難。手機中種類繁多的遊戲，應用程式對他們來說無疑是一個極大的誘惑。而在家上課時沒有老師、家長的監督，將手機放在身旁常讓他們無法專心聽課，甚至在上課期間玩遊戲，和同學聊天，從而錯過課堂重點。有研究表示禁用手機可以提升學業成績。倫敦政經學院的研究發現禁用手機的學生比未禁的學生高。提升的成績相當於每周多上一小時課程的效果。網上授課同時增加了學生接觸手機的時間，長期使用手機更有可能引起手機癮。如在2020年9月30日，一名中三男生因沉迷手機導致成績一落千丈。而他在上課玩手机被老師發現後被暫時沒收手機並記缺點，但該男生當晚因不堪打擊在住所天台跳樓身亡。

其次，雖然香港經濟發達，但仍有部分貧困家庭無法提供子女上網課所需的電子設備。若全部重新購置對他們的家庭來說無疑是個頗大的負擔。但若沒有設備，學生又無法跟上老師上網課時所教的進度，容易拉開學生成績差距。而長期間對電子屏幕上課亦會對學生的身體健康造成嚴重影響，極易引發近視等健康問題。

但是，電子學習會對學生帶來的好處也無可否認。用電子設備進行學習可以更方便學生在有需要時查找資料，或者在上網課時可以將來不及抄的筆記事先截圖，下課後再補抄。而電子設備可以提供多元化的教



學方式，如搶答、比賽等，讓課堂更生動有趣。而這種形式可增加課堂互動，有助提高學生對學習的興趣。老師亦可將預習拍成短片，讓學生先在家中觀看。回到課堂時因學生已經大概掌握當日要教授的內容，老師上課的效率便會大大提升，從而提升學生學習成效及主動性。

總括而言，我認為適當利用電子教學將會帶來好處，但我並不支持長期依賴電子教學。相對而言，長期使用電子學習是弊多於利。電子學習為學生帶來的好處都是建立在學生足夠自律的條件下。使用電子學習有助學生查找資料，但老師無法確保學生可以百分百自律。若學生不自律在課堂上玩手机會嚴重影響課堂成效，長久甚至會破壞學習風氣。家長應事先和學生約定好使用手機的條件，在使用電子學習時鎖起其他應用程式，並限制每日自由使用手機的時限。老師則應左課堂上提及沉迷手機的壞處，從小教導學生正確使用手機的方法。總而言之，學生必需有一定的自律性才能享受電子學習為他們帶來的好處。



冠軍

高中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 陳思穎 迦密主恩中學

評判語錄

馮應謙教授

多重觀點考慮，而且比較詳細。

「全民檢測」是得是失？

新型冠狀病毒疫情於本年年初於中國內地爆發，迅速蔓延到世界各地。本港疫情反覆，繼3月尾達致確診高峰後，7月再次踏入新一波疫情，香港多日錄得過百宗新型冠狀病毒肺炎新增個案，更有約四成患者的感染源頭未明，死亡個案亦有上升趨勢。為控制疫情，政府推出一系列的抗疫措施，包括全民檢測「普及社區檢測計劃」（下稱「計劃」），旨在社區識別隱形病人，掌握社區感染情況，以切斷隱形傳播鏈。然而，我認為政府推行此「計劃」的弊多於利，並非明智之舉。

「計劃」弊多於利

首先，「計劃」不合乎成本效益。全民免費檢測計劃規模龐大，在醫護檢測人手、篩查工具、場地及各種資源上需花費逾億元巨額公帑，但逾178萬的參與人數中只發現30多個陽性個案，比例不足0.002%，可見發現陽性比率非常低。再者，「計劃」的精準度存疑，港府聘用的中資檢測機構，早前被瑞典政府發現測試劑出現超過3,700宗假確診個案，加上有研究指潛伏期做病毒檢測出現假陰性的結果機率甚高。可見，「計劃」未必能達致其目的且浪費資源。

其次，「計劃」的時效性不高，或會帶來反效果。全民檢測的原因是找出隱形患者，但在市民的認知上卻存在謬誤，認為「計劃」是一個沒有感染證明。事實上，檢測結果只能測出市民當刻是否帶菌者，無法保障其檢測過後的日子不會染病，但陰性結果或會給市民「假安全感」，讓其覺得自己沒有病，便能繼續進行社交活動，甚或是高興與親朋好

友相約慶祝，四處流動增加社交接觸，有如8月引致70多人確診的「貨櫃碼頭群組」。這令檢測陰性結果的市民忽略本來應有的衛生意識，反而增加了感染風險及社區傳播的危機。

第三，就「計劃」的根本性而言，檢測實屬指標不治本的措施。預防傳染病的最佳方法是減少社交接觸，保持個人及公共環境衛生，以減少病毒滋生及傳播。「計劃」旨在找出社區隱形病人，先不論其於第三波疫情高峰期過後才開始的成效，儘管能找出極少數的隱形患者，亦無助中斷病毒透過人與人接觸傳播的根本。相反，增加了市民前往監測中心與人交往的機會。更高危的是全民檢測期間市民在採樣過程中必需除下口罩，期間鼻咽或咽喉拭子採樣時或會引致咳嗽及噴嚏，當中產生的飛沫可污染數米內的空間，病毒更可依附四周表面長達數天，令檢測中心隨時變爆疫中心。可見，「計劃」無法針對疫情的成因從根切斷病源。

第四，「計劃」缺乏針對性，是次新冠病毒的高危群組為年長人士及長期病患者，而一些行業的人如從事司機、餐飲業、酒店業、海關及醫護等的染病風險亦較一般人高。全民檢測的對象雖然是廣泛市民，但屬自願性質，或令一些高危人士因時間、地點、心理原因如認為自己既然無症狀就不必檢測，一但結果呈陽性後續處理麻煩等，種種阻滯而卻步，更有一些人士如獨居長者，因不了解「計劃」或不懂得申請而無法參與檢測。可見，此「計劃」無法針對高危感染人士，以提升找出隱形病人的機率，反而把資源花費在一般市民身上，使成效欠佳。

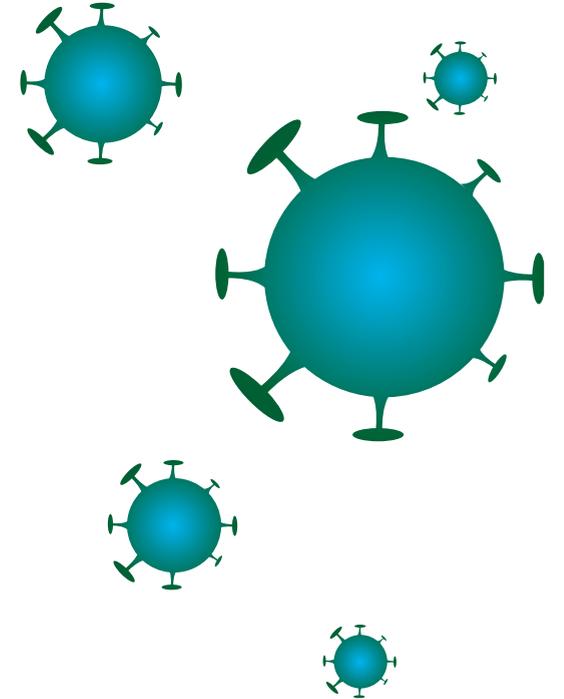


由此看來，「計劃」的做法看似合理，望能識別社區傳播鏈，減低傳播風險，但事實上存在很多的漏洞，亦非改善疫情的唯一方法。

疫情應對建議

為減低轉播風險，政府應從根本著手，收緊社區內的疫情應對措施。同時，不少本港的確診個案屬外地輸入個案，因此亦應加強出入口限制，以減低異地人士把病菌帶入社區，引致社區爆發的機會。除減少社區流動外，政府需提升市民的衛生意識，提供有關預防新冠病毒、保持個人及環境衛生的健康指引。相比起推行全民檢測，為市民派發免費抗疫用品如口罩、酒精搓手液、消毒水等或許更為實際及廣泛性高，喚起全城防疫意識的同時，讓廣大市民都能受惠，保障其抗疫的必需品。

若要推行檢測計劃，政府應進行高風險群組篩查。在資源緊張的防疫時期，與其把資源分散在全港市民中卻又未能獲得顯著的成效，不如集中推行定期的高風險群組篩查，以提升計劃的成本效益。政府的基本責任就是慎用公帑，讓本港納稅人的錢得以善用在最有利大眾的地方。故此，政策的成本效益是慎重的衡量因素，有助提升計劃的認受性，從而改善政府的公信力。





亞軍

高中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 陳杏雯 可風中學

評判語錄

陳景祥先生

分析詳細、申明論點有條有理。

建立和諧香港 從關注家暴開始

家庭暴力是長期被忽視的問題。家暴是指在非公開的情況下重複地施加武力或作出言語上的侵犯，對象通常是配偶或子女。香港婦女中心協會指出，2020年首三月的家暴求助個案為34宗，比去年同時期的16宗個案增加超過一倍，其中超過七成涉及肢體暴力，有四成七的求助者曾被精神虐待，而有七成求助者表示不止一次遭受家暴。可是，我確信這個數字只是冰山一角。

現時政府針對家暴問題的措施的不足

在法例方面，香港沒有完善而針對家暴的法律。首先，香港並沒有家暴這項罪行，只有《家庭及同居關係暴力條例》，這項條例屬民事而非刑事法例，即是家暴施暴者並非依照家暴這項罪名被裁決，而是根據其他條例來裁決，例如《侵害人身罪條例》，導致警方不能馬上拘捕施暴者，只有受害者證明自己遭受到身體傷害，警方才能拘捕施暴者。而且，《家庭及同居關係暴力條例》提到：「區域法院如信納申請人的配偶或前配偶曾經騷擾申請人，可根據條例批出強判令。」當中「騷擾」二字定義模糊，法例上沒有解釋，使區域法院難以判定申請人是否符合條例，從而決定是否需要批出強判令，這對受害者極為不利，如果沒有強判令限制施暴者不得接近受害者，受害者有可能再次遭受家暴。

在支援方面，政府對家暴受害者的支援嚴重不足。首先，警方不善於處理家暴個案。根據警務署的文件，警員處理家暴個案時要向疑犯發出「家庭暴力事件通知書」和向受害者提供「家庭援助服務資料卡」，而

事實上許多個案都反映，警員沒有依照指引處理家暴個案。有受害者指，警察到場只會勸止，甚至會說因為受害者有以手抵擋而要同時檢控受害者。這使受害者不再信任警方，因此放棄尋求協助。其次，政府提供給家暴受害者的庇護中心只有5間，合共260個宿位，不能容納所有家暴受害者。而政府未又有對受害者提供住屋支援津貼，需知許多受害者選擇長期忍受家暴多因為她們沒有獨立經濟能力。因此有許多家暴受害者雖然在尋求協助後能逃離施暴者，但他們接下來卻要面對更多經濟問題。

改善風氣，伸出援手

第一，加強對於家暴的宣傳教育。政府未有將有關家暴的宣傳教育做到最好，導致香港人對家暴問題的關注度不足。在中國傳統中，父權和夫權過大，導致男女不公，女性不敢發聲，加上人們總有「家醜不外傳」的觀念，這種社會風氣導致家暴頻頻發生，亦令遭受家暴的女子不敢尋求協助，選擇默默忍受。因此，政府應在每間學校舉辦家暴講座，以教育下一代男女平等的觀念以及正確的婚姻觀，以防止他們長大後成為施暴者或是不敢發聲的受害者，讓傳統男權觀念在未來的社會中被淡化，甚至消失。

第二，政府應修訂定義模糊的法例。政府應制定有關家暴的刑事條例，讓警方在前往家暴現場時能即時拘捕施暴者，避免因缺乏相關條例而無法馬上將施暴者帶離受害者。另外，政府亦要修訂《家庭及同居關係暴力條例》，解釋何謂「騷擾」，讓區域法院能更容易地判斷是否需要批出強判令。

第三，政府應要求警方根據指示處理家暴問題。家暴受害者大多精神緊張，比一般人敏感，因此警方在接觸受害者時要注意用詞，避免讓受害者認為警方無心幫助自己。同時，政府亦可考慮規定至少一名社工跟隨警方前往處理家暴問題，以安撫受害者的情緒。

第四，政府應給予受害者更多支援，如增撥資源予庇護中心及婦女團體，資助受害人及其子女住宿及生活費，以保證受害者能夠在尋求協助後馬上搬到底護中心，保障他們的安全。亦能夠給予受害者更多信心，讓他們相信只要他們尋求協助，社會會盡全力幫助他們。

總結

我們常鼓勵家暴受害者勇敢地踏出第一步尋求協助，但對於弱小又無助的受害者而言，勇氣是需要原因和條件的，在家暴條例不夠完善甚至模糊、警方無心協助、甚至需要擔心逃離施暴者後會無容身之所的社會中，沒有安全環境讓受害者勇敢地踏出第一步。只有政府和非政府機構以及市民都關注和重視家暴問題，受害者才能相信自己有能力逃離施暴者，從而尋求協助。古人云：「修身齊家治國平天下。」家是整個社會的基本，只有建立一戶戶幸福美滿的家庭，進而推廣至和諧的社會關係，才能讓每家每戶的燈火匯聚成我們繁榮的香港。





季軍

新聞評述比賽 卓詩敏 迦密主恩中學

高中組 | 中文

談母乳餵哺

母乳餵哺今年逐漸進入大眾的討論中，母乳能夠為嬰兒提供合適的天然營養，直接餵哺亦有助建立母嬰之間的關係。母乳餵哺本為婦女和嬰兒的基本權利，但鑑於香港的社會文化，職場女性忙碌，以及各社會因素如社區配套不足，大眾接受程度低等因素影響哺乳率。

有關香港母乳餵哺現狀的相關事件

於香港，香港政府須在2025年或之前實現的九項本地目標，亦將推廣和支持母乳餵哺列入其中。政府鼓勵本地僱主實施「母乳餵哺友善空間」，帶頭75個政府決策局及部門實施相關措施，希望設法讓本地僱主響應，減輕本地打工母親的壓力。而香港的母乳餵哺率持續上升，2016時出院時的母乳餵哺率已比1997年時高出兩倍；而持續以全母乳餵哺至4個月大嬰兒的比率亦由1997年的6%提高至2016年的31%，可見母乳餵哺逐漸普及。

過往香港社會曾發生對進行母乳餵哺母親的不友善事件，例如曾有的士司機發現母親在車上餵哺嬰兒時，涉嫌拍下該女乘客餵哺母乳的照片，並把照片上傳互聯網，照片被廣泛流傳，可見哺乳母親沒有合適餵哺嬰兒的場所，大眾對母乳餵哺仍存在不尊重的行為，因此餵哺母乳的母親未能完全受到保障，因而影響母乳餵哺率。

影響母乳餵哺率的因素

於社會方面，現時針對母乳餵哺的社區配套不足，公眾育嬰室或哺乳室嚴重不足，家長的輪候時間長。加上，公共哺乳室被人濫用如更衣，進食等，使母親不能在內



使用。因此，不少母親冒著被偷拍的風險，於公眾地方餵奶，從而導致較少家長選擇餵哺母乳於嬰兒。

其次，港人普遍對母乳餵哺的接受程度較低，過半數港人對女性於公眾地方餵哺母乳的接納程度屬「低」甚至「非常低」。部分市民在進行母乳餵哺時，旁人寄以奇異甚至歧視目光，令不少母親感到壓力大及尷尬。因此，有些母親為免被羞辱，會選用配方奶粉，導致母乳餵哺率下降。

此外，從嬰兒健康角度出發，母乳有助嬰兒腦部，實力和腸臟的健康發展，令到嬰兒患病機率較低，從而受到世界衛生組織，聯合國基金會等權威組織認可的好處，如提供配方奶粉所沒有的天然活體酵素，減輕對嬰兒腸道的刺激以及有利於嬰兒吸收等，使母親大大提升了餵哺母乳的意欲。

提升大眾對母乳餵哺接受程度的建議

現今社會哺乳母親仍不時受到外人投以奇異目光，導致婦女和嬰兒的權利受到限制。因此，提高市民對於母乳餵哺的接受程度是鼓勵母親餵哺母乳的不二方法。

首先，政府應從公民教育入手。現時大眾對哺乳者的尊重不足，導致哺乳者有放棄餵哺母乳的念頭。因此，政府可將「母乳育嬰」納入公民教育的一環，可在電視廣告，學校教育，公眾宣傳及中讓大眾認識到母乳餵哺的重要性及益處，改變人們對母乳餵哺的不理解。在政府的推廣下，整個社會能夠建立起對「母乳育嬰」文化的重視，社會大眾亦會給予支持和理解，舒緩哺乳母親的心理負擔。



其次，政府應立法規定商場增添協助母乳餵哺的硬件配套，如育嬰室和母乳餵哺友善空間等。不少在職或普通哺乳母親反映，阻礙她們繼續母乳餵哺的因素是時間以及空間限制。因此政府應該投放資源於商場，商廈之間增添足夠的母乳餵哺友善空間，定期清潔和維修，保障哺乳媽媽的私隱和衛生環境，從而提高母乳餵哺的意欲。

再者，政府應推動僱主與僱員的坦誠溝通，推動實行針對婦女權益的「家庭友善政策」的可能性。實施家庭友善政策有三項優點，第一，僱傭措施可在競爭激烈的就業市場上協助吸引及挽留人才。第二，政策容許僱員享有更平衡及壓力較輕的生活，因而提升他們的生產力。第三，實施政策亦可顯示公司願意承擔及履行社會責任，增加女性員工對公司的歸屬感。

總括而言，雖然母乳餵哺率持續上升，礙於香港大眾對其接受程度不高，配套不足等問題導致香港母親對進行母乳餵哺的意欲較低。因此，政府應加強公民教育，強化現有公共育嬰室配套以及鼓勵僱主實施家庭友善政策，使女性僱員感受到理解和尊重，從而建立一個對哺乳母親友善的和諧社會。



殿軍

高中組 | 中文

新聞評述比賽 余映彤 迦密主恩中學

評判語錄

馮應謙教授

論證合理，而且有數據及法理基礎支持。

談安樂死在全球合法化的影響

明報新聞網：煞停絕症漢死亡直播 法國男子患退化疾病
盼喚起安樂死關注
日期：2020年9月7日星期一

報導中法國男子因患有疾病而行動不便，須長期臥床，令尋死念頭萌生，而因居住國家並沒有安樂死程序。因此，他只能透過使用社交平台直播絕食及停止服用藥物，引起各界關於落實安樂死這議題。安樂死在全球並沒有普遍實行，在全球197個國家中，只有荷蘭等6個國家安樂死合法化，並在澳洲和美國部分地區合法。較多地方因宗教、道德因素等而不會考慮落實安樂死，但亦因社會主流價值而忽視了不治之症患者或已決心要尋死人士的需要及感受。全球安樂死合法化有何利弊呢？

首先，在人權方面，安樂死合法化可為人權提供更佳保障。《世界人權宣言》提及：「人人生而自由，在尊嚴和權利上一律平等」，可見人權包括對尊嚴的尊重。安樂死合法化可於病人健康狀況不佳，令生活水平降低，需靠別人照顧起居時便會感到尊嚴被剝削的時候，為他們感受提供支持及尊重，讓他們重拾尊嚴，保障人權。

第二，安樂死合法化能減少公共醫療開支。以香港為例，根據政府統計處1986-2016香港人口趨勢紀錄中，指出1991年至2016年間，本港65或以上老年人口由425394人增加至1166519人，上升約174%，患癌人數由8064人增加至16066人，上升約99.2%。本港醫療開支亦於1991/92年度至2015/16年度以平均約15.7%年率上升，增幅大於每年平均生產總值的6.26%。可見1991至2016年醫療開支隨老年和患癌人口增長上升。而同時癌症及其他不治之症亦在全球開始變得普及，安樂死合法化能讓患者選擇安樂死，以致命藥物結束生命，節省長期病患者須使用的醫療資源如藥物、診症服務及病床位等，為公共醫療開支減少負擔，把社會資源分配給有求生意欲的病人。

同時，安樂死合法化能減輕病人家屬壓力。病人家屬須長期為不治之症病人支付醫療費用如住院、藥物及手術費用，直至病人離世。同時，家屬要時常照顧病人起居及時刻關注病人健康狀況，令工作量和憂慮增加。安樂死合法化能讓病人以較少痛苦方式死亡，令家屬不用因病人痛苦逝去而感到傷痛，亦不用繼續負擔經濟壓力、工作量及負面情緒導致精神健康受損，回復正常生活。

有人認為安樂死合法化會造成不良風氣。青少年抗逆力低下，容易因人際關係、學業問題等壓力導致情緒低落，出現輕生念頭。安樂死合法化會被多人視作非傳統自殺方法，比常見自殺方法如跳樓、燒炭自殺造成更少痛苦、避免自殺未遂發生。若安樂死合法化通過會容易造成濫用安樂死服務，增加自殺率，形成不良風氣。但是，各國政府可設立監察程序。例如瑞士安樂死組織「尊嚴」會先審核申請者的資料評估，例如是否受情緒病影響等，才決定應否為他們提供安樂死服務，並在之後設「臨時綠燈」，讓申請者有時間考慮應否接受安樂死。而根據「尊嚴」的數據，有七成申請者會在中途放棄安樂死念頭，可見設有「臨時綠燈」是能讓申請者回心轉意，及篩查濫用安樂死人士，並不會增加自殺率。

基於我認為全球安樂死合法化的利多於弊，我支持安樂死在全球合法化。





Champion

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition
Lau Yin Tung Champion Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment

Mr. POON Kam Chuen Felix

A thoughtful review and elaboration on New Zealand's anti-COVID-19 measures, it would be more appealing if the ending of the commentary can provide a more powerful recommendation, a kind of call-for-action appeal that will turn the article more convincing.

Junior | English Section

Keys to Success in Preventing COVID-19

2020 was a very busy time for many of us, and a lot of global events happened during this peculiar year: Hong Kong protests based on the Extradition Law Amendment Bill, the American president election, Shinzo Abe's sudden resignation after ten years of political career, and most importantly, the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a humongous shock to every person. Here I would like to comment on an issue regarding COVID-19 - why some countries are more successful than others when it comes to anti-epidemic work and effectively slowing down the spread of coronavirus.

In the near 5-million citizens of New Zealand, the total number of cases is only a surprisingly small amount of approximately 1,880 people; while in other countries the number of confirmed cases greatly towers over this rate. Why is New Zealand so successful compared to other countries? We can start by looking at their actions when COVID-19 first started raging over the globe.

Only a few days after WHO declared the coronavirus as a public health emergency, New Zealand introduced a series of anti-epidemic strategies and actions, including social distancing, mask-wearing measures, and the closure of all non-essential businesses. One month after New Zealand's first COVID case in late February, the borders were closed and the country started a strict two-month long lockdown. In June, New Zealand became "COVID free" after no more active cases in the country. While the coronavirus still prevails in different regions around the world, including Hong Kong, how

did New Zealand achieve this seemingly impossible goal?

First, the New Zealand government went fast and hard on developing anti-epidemic measures. They were described as "overreacting" by other people, but in the eyes of the government, there was no time to waste to stop and slow the deadly spread of COVID-19. This allowed the government to quickly shut down all possible channels for COVID to spread, and therefore the number of cases encountered an decrease after a short amount of time.

In the fear of this disease entering the community, the New Zealand government decided that prevention of this disease would be a priority compared to economic issues. They went as far as shutting down shops, closing all borders, and the entire country going into lockdown; all three in which took a great economic price. In most countries, they did not dare taking too strict anti-epidemic measures as it would ruin their economic state and growth - and due to this reason, some regions with a large economy faced massively spreading coronavirus, and in the end were forced to stricthen their preventive measures, but only by a slight rate. When the number of cases gradually decreased, the countries would quickly lift their anti-epidemic precautions "faster than they could afford", and in a matter of time there would be a new outbreak again in the country. It is a vicious cycle, and sadly not many countries manage to take their lesson from previous failed attempts.



However, New Zealand did not lift their preventive measures until a streak of no confirmed COVID cases for a consecutive 24 days. Even after that, they proceeded to open economic businesses only under strict border control, and the limitations of the lockdown were just adjusted, instead of disappearing completely. These slowly occurring minor adjustments in the strictness of the measures allowed the government to observe the changes and decide suitable procedures in the future.

Thirdly, the communication between government and citizen is an important element in anti-epidemic work. In order to make the preventive measures more effective, the most important people in this matter - the citizens - must have a clear view, explanation and understanding of what the government is trying to do. Without communication channels between them to explain the government's actions, they would not be able to know what they are expected to do and how they can help. Sometimes it is not the citizens who do not want to help prevent COVID - they don't even understand the emergency of this disease, how it could affect their lives, and the crisis if COVID spread through the community. There should be healthy and encouraging communication between the government and the citizens, so that they are clear of what they can or should do to help.

Last but not least, the most important thing is that there is enough collaboration among everyone in the community. Otherwise, even if you have demonstrated all the steps above, you will still be unsuccessful preventing COVID-19 in the country. Unity is stronger than being alone. If New Zealanders did not cope with the preventive measures their government had produced, there would still be chaos: as if in the lockdown rule, if everyone ignored it and continued with their normal life, then it would be equal to sitting with your arms crossed and doing nothing at all. Teamwork is the key to success at all times: "Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." If everyone works together as New Zealanders have demonstrated, even COVID will be no match for us!

Here ends my commentary on this issue concerning what we can learn from successful countries based on how to fight COVID-19. I hope we can all learn from New Zealand's successful anti-epidemic experience and slow the spread of COVID as a team. We should all unite against this unprecedented disease, and together, in these times of the pandemic, put aside our personal insistence and walk together. Without collaboration, COVID will become an impossible task to fight. But according to New Zealand's example, there is a way to hope as long as we work together as one!



Junior | English Section

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition
Hui Hay Yu Hailie Hong Kong Chinese Women Club College

Judge's Comment

Mr. POON Kam Chuen Felix

Timely and attractive topic for readers. The structure and presentation of the argument is good and compact.

Hong Kong's Employment Support Scheme: Good or Bad?



The Hong Kong government implemented the Employment Support Scheme to support both employers and employees during the pandemic earlier this year. Financial support was provided for employers to pay the salaries of employees on their behalf so that they could retain employees who would otherwise have been laid off. The scheme is believed to have both advantages and disadvantages.

First of all, the scheme benefited employers, employees and itself at the same time. It could help different industries and reduce the unemployment rate in Hong Kong. Offering funds to businesses, ranging from restaurants to massage shops, the Employment Support Scheme helped to relieve their pressure and

prevented them from running into deficit during the COVID-19 pandemic, when businesses earned much less and so would desire reducing their expenditure. In accordance with the scheme, employers could use the funds given by the government to pay not only employees' salaries but also the rent and other expenses to maintain operation of their business. From employees' perspective, not being laid off, they would be willing to consume groceries and spend money on entertainment, which would in turn boost the economy. An improvement of Hong Kong's economy will enable every citizen to enjoy a more stable and joyful life; a win-win situation would therefore result.

Unfortunately, the scheme has bugs and has been misused by some employers. They did not make use of the government's assisted funds to pay employees' salaries, but they consumed the money for their personal use instead. It is exactly how we do not wish to see since the original intention of the scheme is to benefit both employers and employees. It was a pity that some people were selfish by wrongly using the funds.

What are the loopholes then? Three of them can be identified: no clear contract terms to protect employees, absence of a real-name system, and the government over-trust in employers. Firstly, no clear contract terms mean that employees were not protected and did not have a proper channel to voice out problems and concerns. Employers always try to avoid employees' complaint to the government. Secondly, a real-name system was not used in Employment Support Scheme, which created a challenge for the government to find the employers. Thirdly, the government over-trusted employers and thinks that they would comply with the policy, but unfortunately some did not.

The government undoubtedly has to improve the scheme. There are some suggestions for consideration. At first, the government can strictly review and screen the information submitted by employers to minimize or even avoid cheating. To achieve this, regular interviews via phone calls can be arranged to verify legitimacy of submitted information. Occasional on-site visit is also required to ensure that employers comply with the policy. Dialogues between employers and employees are necessary as they can reduce unnecessary complaints about cheating or breaching of the terms. Familiarizing itself with the background and personal information of the applying employers, the government can contact them more easily later. Second, the government should encourage employees to report instead of concealing employers' misbehavior. Employees might sometimes be afraid of reporting their employers' misbehavior, such as use the fund for personal purposes, cheating, or laying off staff, to the government as some of them might have

been threatened by employers and be afraid of losing their jobs. This ties back to not having an employer-employee contract in-place. How to solve the problem then? The government should encourage employees to report any of the aforementioned problems to the government immediately. It is suggested that the government provide employees with incentives. For instance, if employees report misconduct of employers proven to be illegal in the end, employees will not be penalized but get some rewards in return. Third, the government should protect employees' rights by contract. They may standardize contract templates so that reasonable rights and protection can be provided for both parties. Any violation should result in severe penalty.

It is extremely vital that the Hong Kong government can further improve the Employment Support Scheme, the original intention of which is virtuous, in order to benefit citizens and the society on the whole.





2nd
Runner-up

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

To Yee Man Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment

Mr. POON Kam Chuen Felix

An insightful review and argument on gender equality. The commentary presents a fair and balanced argument, with a valid suggestions for further action.

Junior | English Section

Getting the balance right



Our society is like a puzzle with different pieces (i.e. people) put together. Yet, in this puzzle, there are some bigger and some smaller pieces, symbolising the inequalities and differences between us. This is how inequalities are formed, including gender inequality, the situation that men and women are not equal, and that gender affects an individual's living experience.

Speaking of gender inequality, have you ever wondered what glues all of us together in this puzzle and what decides how neatly each piece is placed? One important factor is, no doubt, social media. In 2020, about 3.6

billion people are using social media worldwide and users spend at least two and a half hours on social media every day. Spending a lot of time on social media daily, mass users create an overwhelming amount of information on these sites. However, most of the information spread and disseminated are usually biased and stereotypical. As a result, gender inequality has surfaced, revealing many assumptions, misconceptions and stereotypes. Spread like wildfire, these messages, with the power of social media, alter our mindsets on how we react, respond and understand gender inequality. As a matter of fact, social media are

acting like long-term poisons, continuously feeding us with common misconceptions and slowly changing our minds while leaving behind many gender stereotypes.

And if there's one thing people fall for, it is one side of a story. As if we don't know, we all tell and listen to the story that makes us look good and the same logic could be applied to the public's attitude towards gender inequality. In 2020's gender pay gap, women earn 81 cents for every dollar earned by men despite the fact that women are more educated than men on average as they attain more and higher degrees than their male counterparts. Besides, during #MeToo movement in late 2017, a survey conducted by a non-profit organisation called Stop Street Harassment found that 81 percent of women had experienced some forms of sexual harassment during their lifetime.

We cannot deny the truth that females are unfairly treated, but this is only one side of the story - the female side to look at gender inequality. What about the other side?

As a matter of fact, men are not equally treated too. In terms of sexual harassment, men also have the equal chances of being harassed. Statistics show that one in six men in the U.S. experienced sexual abuse or assault before. Worse still, there are only two specific domestic abuse shelters for men among the 2000 shelters available. Besides, in the criminal justice system, men receive 63% more prison time compared to women committing the same crime. Another case in point is that when the documentary 'The Red Pill', the first movie exploring male rights movements, was released, feminists protested outside theatres, demanding the documentary to be taken down as it was said that the film damaged female rights although they had never watched the film before.

While the world could never be fair, the brutal reality is that people of different genders keep attacking each other, criticising that the rights of a particular gender are not well-respected. It is important to understand that the problem of gender inequality, despite being

challenging, is not unconquerable.

The first way to tackle gender inequality is to listen. For so long, people have borne prejudices and stereotypes in their minds. What they have to pay attention to is that the more they harm others with words/ physically, the more they dehumanise the other gender, which would ultimately intensify the problem. Why don't we just sit down and listen to each other's needs and feelings instead? This does not necessarily mean that you are showing your weaknesses but this is to ensure that your voices could be heard. This means that even if you support female empowerment, you should also listen to the males' side and should not be in the anti-males campaigns. In this way, true gender equality can be achieved when both genders respect one another and get equal opportunities.

Furthermore, to ensure a gender equal future, we should start from the place where we learn all our core values - the education system. Research shows that the concept of gender in children forms between the ages of three and seven. During this phase, children develop an understanding of genders, identities and stereotypes. In this period of time, they also acquire gender biases, such as which jobs men and women should do. Therefore, our society should make good use of this period to give children a correct understanding of gender equality. Students should be taught how to react to typical gender stereotypes and to critically analyse information they have acquired on social media.

Gender inequality is a potential obstacle to a better world economy, population control and more. This issue has been neglected for so long that it should be brought up again. Most importantly, true gender equality is, in fact, a mentality to understand both genders with equal opportunities offered. Though it probably takes time to equally resize every piece of the puzzle to better form our society, we should all start with the first step - listening.



3rd
Runner-up

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Ng Yuk Kin Justin Munsang College

Judge's Comment

Mr. POON Kam Chuen Felix

An insightful review and elaboration on the trade war, provides different perspectives for readers to revisit the topic.

Junior | English Section

Trade War: Be Trading or Betraying?

Dated back to April 2018, Trade War between China and America began, US President, Donald Trump claimed that China and US had unfair trades, he agreed to impose a 25% tariff on 1333 categories of imports from China, including daily necessities and high-technology products. To respond, the Chinese government had listed 128 American imports for tariffs, mainly covering agricultural and industrial products. Conflicts between the two countries were intensified, and both sides kept on imposing more tariffs on the other's imports. Until now, trade surplus of China to America is still expanding. Though conferences between the two countries gain effective results, the Trade War is not likely to stop in recent months. Moreover, according to World Trade Organization's (WTO) latest adjudication, Trump's tariffs on China's imports violated global trade rules. Are tariffs actually good for Americans and the world economy?

According to Peter Navarro, the assistant of US President, China's '2025 vision' will create competition with US, which threatens US national safety if China is in the lead. Trump's idea of setting up tariffs was to protect US local industry and create more job opportunities, to better the social and economic aspect of Americans. How can a policy for internal economy boost develop into a worldwide Trade War? With reference to a previous research of International Monetary Fund (IMF), the expected economic growth of 2019 slows down to 3.2% due to the Trade War (without concerning the breakout of COVID-19). Why, and how is the war being so influential and cracked the global supply chain?

The Trade War affected many economic bodies in Asia and America region. In our city, the trading sector in

Hong Kong is seriously worsened due to the China-America conflicts. Originally, HK's Trading and Logistics industry contributed 21.2% to the total GDP, China-US trades often uses Hong Kong as an entrepot. Under high tariffs, American companies may transfer their production line back to US, instead of manufacturing in China. There will be less goods being exported and imported through Hong Kong. Trading and logistics as one of the four pillars of Hong Kong economy, Hong Kong may face economic recession under the influence of Trump's tariffs.

In another hand, US government enforce every product made in Hong Kong to be labelled as "Made in China". This action couldn't benefit the US local market, but only weakening the acceptability and reliability of Hong Kong based companies and products. Hong Kong companies may transfer their production line to mainland China to keep the cost low as Hong Kong lost her advantages on industrial and trading. The economy of Hong Kong may be further worsened, leading to deeper social issues, and creating instability in the city.

US companies may also face challenges. China has the largest population in the world, having 1.4 billion people keeps China's working population rate high. Global companies are keen to set up factories in China due to low production cost. Now, tariffs increased the cost of products, even that of American companies. According to IMF's report in 2019, US exports to China enters a decreasing trend since China also imposed tariffs on American products. In the trend of globalization, the world is more interdependent, the world supply chain strongly relies on industrial power on China. When Trump's government intends to reduce Chinese imports to US, the increase in production

cost may be unaffordable for American companies. The tariffs were originally for boosting US industrial power; however, it is impossible for US to be isolated from the globalized supply chain. We cannot make structural changes to the chain by a single country's economic policy. American companies and individuals may even be paying more under the Trump's tariffs. For Americans, are the tariffs really protecting US in terms of trading? Or is it betraying the needs of Americans?

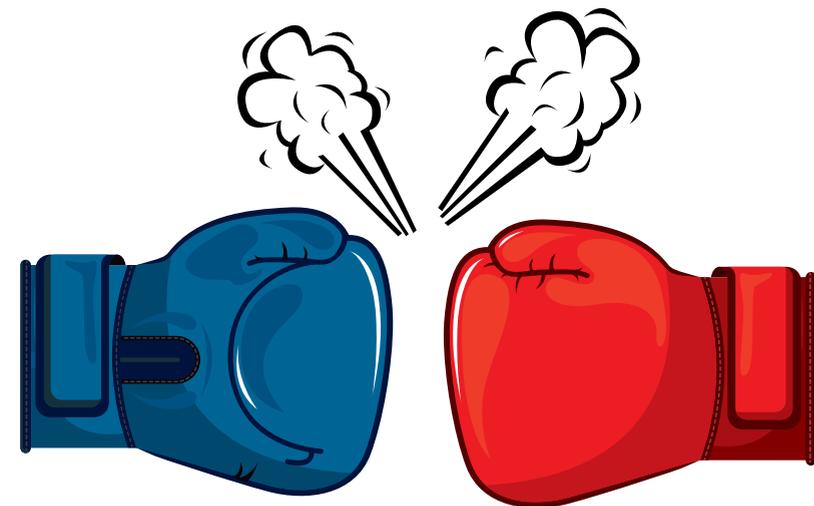
The Trade War also affect industries other than trading and logistics; it is affecting all aspects of life. Industrial and high-technology processing sector of China and America were both weakened due to trading regulations. Without providing concrete evidence, US President Trump claimed that China telecom giant Huawei's products, and social media TikTok, will harm US's national security by exposing American users' data to China government. Huawei is prohibited to use US patents; and TikTok was forced to sell out their business in US region. We can see the Trade War's impact spread to other sectors.

China is developing "One Belt One Road" project by linking up most Asian, African and European countries, including many less developed countries; where US joined the "Five Eyes" and "North Atlantic Treaty Organization", including countries with high development and advance technology, to contend with China. The world is polarized into two parties, pro-

China or America. Trade War between China and US also affect the allies of them. The war developed into a general economic "cold war" affecting technology, manufacture, agriculture, etc. Stopping the war may be the best solution for the world's whole development, but due to national concerns, is the war just simply about economy?

With reference to recent polls of US President Election, Biden of the Democratic Party is ahead of Republican Party's Trump by approximately 7-8%. Biden is more likely to become the 59th president of US. Generally, people predict Biden will continue the firm stance against China. However, Trump's concern is economic development; where Biden concerns more about social issues, with Biden leading the government may bring cool down to the Trade War. In contrast, if Trump continues his presidency, the Trade War will probably continue for another 4 years. Politically, China's rapid rise in recent decades threatens US's world leading position. This explains why US and China always stands on the different sides of political stances.

To end the war, and preventing serious incidents, an independent and unbiased organization and rules are essential for world trading development and calming down the war, e.g. the WTO. In point of view of the whole general public and companies in the world, stopping the tariffs may be the right choice.





Champion

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Chu Sui Lam Heep Yunn School

Senior | English Section

Judge's Comment

Dr FAIRBROTHER, Gregory Paul

This essay provides a thorough and well-organized discussion of a sensitive topic. Each of the points about the problem and the consequences is very well-developed, showing a strong knowledge of the relevant issues. The essay does a good job of stressing the importance of the topic despite its sensitivity, conveyed through excellent writing skills.



The Aftermath of Sexual Assault

While the topic of sexual assault remains much of a taboo in many local households, its silence does not eliminate the traces of terror, stigma and shame in our 'civilised' society. On the contrary, suppression of speech, like a fuse, with a softly spoken accusation igniting it, would lead to a mass upheaval of voices speaking up. This trend is most notably seen in the Harvey Weinstein scandal and the case of Reynhard Sinaga, who is named 'UK's most prolific rapist'. Although in both cases of sexual misconduct, the aggressor had been arrested and tried guilty in January 2020, such outcomes are deemed a rarity, and the weight of the emotional trauma on the victim is never truly lifted.

According to a statistical report made by the United Nations, more than 250 000 cases of sexual assault or attempted rape are reported annually in 65 countries alone. However, this is only a fraction of all cases of sexual assault as studies have shown for every 1000 cases of sexual assault, only 230 of them are reported to the authorities concerned. This means 77% of all cases of rape go unreported. To make matters worse, perpetrators often walk free from prosecution due to a 'lack of evidence', as if it is expected for the victims to salvage the traces of their trauma in order to make an accusation. With this flaw in the court system, only 0.7% of sex offenders end up facing a felony conviction. As one can see, before the aftermath of sexual assault could settle in, justice may never prevail in the victim's favour. For them to endure a traumatic incident of barbaric behaviour, to spend hours in the courtroom facing the very person who struck fear into their hearts,

and to shoulder an incredulous sum of fees, which include attorney fees for one or both parties depending on results of the trial, court filing and service fees, just to see their perpetrators welcomed back into society with a clean record, is disheartening, to say the least.

Leaving the courtroom with a heavy heart and taking the responsibility of paying the court fees is only the beginning of a dark tunnel the victims will traverse. One of the immediate effects from society is victim blaming. Oftentimes, victims are reprimanded for making a fuss out of their mistakes. 'Who told you to dress so provocatively?' 'Why didn't you reject their advances?' 'You shouldn't have trusted them as a Good Samaritan.' The act of victim blaming is commonly seen from parent to child, friend to friend. But the most horrifying of them all derives from the internet, where anonymous individuals freely type their harsh comments, with the same method of gaslighting victims to reconsider the validity of their actions, on others' recollections of the terrible events that fell on them, without any consequences or repercussions. While people question the appropriacy of the victim's attire and naivety of trusting a human, they do not realise how these statements are debunked by previous survivors of sexual assault or problematic in the first place. Firstly, surveys on social media have proven that

victims simply dress for the occasion planned instead of dressing themselves to be raped. Jeans and t-shirts, sundresses and even military uniforms were shown in an exhibit of clothing items worn by victims of sexual assault in America. To even let an outfit, literal pieces of cloth covering a body, determine the atrocities deserved to be performed on the wearer is problematic in itself. Secondly, in both cases of Harvey Weinstein and Reynhard Sinaga, the aggressors have specifically targeted their victims for their vulnerability. Harvey Weinstein coerced actresses into providing sexual pleasures by threatening to undermine their career opportunities, while Reynhard Sinaga pretended to be the 'Good Samaritan' by offering drunk young men an overnight stay in his apartment and a spiked drink. Like poachers, these perpetrators have already mapped out their clever tactics of catching their prey. It is therefore illogical to think that the victims could simply reject the advances of a powerful figure or refuse a 'helping hand' aimed at their time of need. This unnecessary scrutiny to people already suffering from financial and emotional burden is only contributing to the intolerable weight on their shoulders and indirectly sheltering aggressors from taking accountability for their behaviour. Such a practice, regrettably, is still deeply imprinted in the aftermath of sexual assault.

From the perspective of the victims, the most prominent downturn in life is the prevalence of mental disorders and suicidal thoughts. After the arrest of Reynhard Sinaga, his victims are said to have developed trust issues and become suicidal. According to their therapists, it is said that the stress and trauma caused will haunt them for the entirety of their lives. Vast numbers of poor unfortunate souls having their dignity and privacy impeded on by people with authority, pretentious strangers and even their own relatives in some cases, it is no wonder why they would stay overly cautious with people around them, or even shudder at a pat on the shoulder. In addition, the immediate victim blaming they receive from the web or once-beloved family and friends is another salt rub directly into the slowly recovering wound. This constant state of anxiousness, or otherwise known as post-traumatic stress disorder, consumes them because of that one haunting memory shaming them for their hope and trust in humanity. The fear of encountering the familiar face of terror, the frustration of no one understanding their pain, the stigma they face from people they thought they could

confide in, could be proven too much of an entrapment for them to cope with in a lifetime through mental health conditions like depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, suicidality or in extreme cases, a final act of taking their own lives. An analysis made by Clinical Psychology Review suggests that sexual assault leaves survivors with higher risks of developing mental disorders, substance abuse and obsessive compulsive conditions by at least 60%. Such psychological damage could last for a lifetime and be irreversible. For the victims, this is the most excruciating part of the aftermath, living with a wound unwilling to heal in the back of their heads.

Despite that we ourselves are not responsible for assaulting anyone, we could have indirectly heightened the trauma of victims by turning a blind eye to their suffering or subconsciously reverting to the mindset of victim blaming. This bystander effect alienates rape survivors from the so-called 'normal people' in our lives and gives them the unwanted sense of solitude when they are in need an understanding, trustworthy confider to assist them in distributing the burden on a journey to self acceptance and self forgiveness. To lessen the extent of their aftermath, we can reach out to companions we know of that are stuck in the processes of anger or shame after such distressing incidents. Simply listening to their stories and believing in them is already a small step made to let victims know they are not alone in a seemingly isolating position. Apart from that, empowering them with other stories of survivors successfully having their perpetrators prosecuted and tried can give them a more optimistic outlook on their situation and the possibilities of justice prevailing. Taking it to a further level, we can anonymously leave assuring comments under posts about survivors' stories or privately message them to show support for these distraught individuals.

While the rest of the world is preoccupied with striking headlines of the COVID-19 pandemic or the Black Lives Matter movement, let us not forget the abused individuals sitting in the shadows, who, like anyone involved in other social issues, are just as important and deserve positive acknowledgement from the public. The deed may be done, but the aftermath can be reduced through our actions of assistance and inclusivity.



Senior | English Section

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

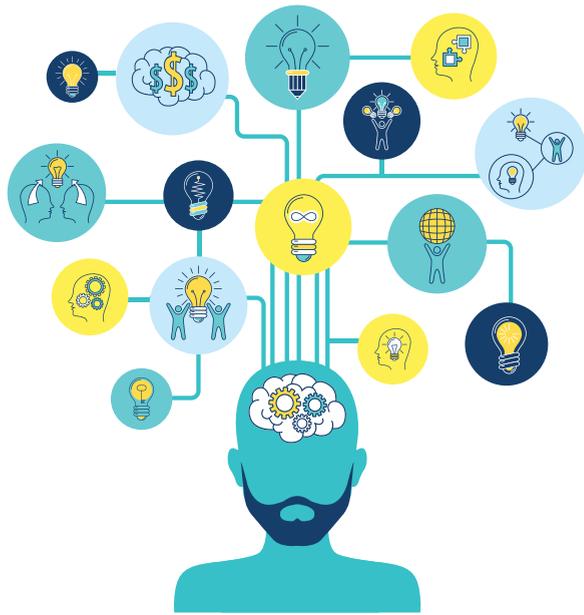
Laurence Lai HKUGA College

Judge's Comment

Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet

Able to present in a systematic way and to identify clearly the problems of the issue with supporting figures. The content closely echoes with the topic chosen.

Hong Kong's Innovation Technology Development



Technology innovations bring convenience to us every day. For instance, people could use Amazon Alexa, a virtual AI assistance at home to access day-to-day information, like the weather and news, and also calendar to mark down important events for the users. There is no doubt that those new technologies can improve our quality of life.

In Hong Kong, there are some innovation technologies that are widely used in the city. For example, the Transport Department installed a real-time adaptive traffic signal system in 2020. It uses radar to detect the real-time traffic flow and adjust the duration of green lights accordingly. Also, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority sets up the Faster Payment Service (FPS)

which allows users to conduct an instant money transfer that could speed up the transaction process compared to the conventional bank deposits. As of today, Hong Kong has contributed a certain amount of resources for innovation technology. The total expenses for innovation technologies are about HKD 21.28 billion, which is 0.80% of the total GDP in 2017. However, in reality, Hong Kong lacks behind in innovation technology. The average of total expenses for innovating technologies around the globe is about 2% of the GDP in 2017, Hong Kong fell behind by about 1.2%. When compared to other developed regions such as the UK, their IT sector in the UK accounts 7.7 per cent among their economy in 2017. From the evidence above, we could observe Hong Kong is far

left behind on innovation technologies. Some say that if Hong Kong does not speed up its development on innovation technology, fewer potential businesspersons would invest in Hong Kong as the world is turning its economic structure to the IT industry.

To help brainstorming the possibilities for Hong Kong to further develop innovation technology, below are the summary of the factors that hinder its development nowadays.

First of all, Hong Kong's economic structure over-rely on the tertiary industry that may potentially marginalise the development of innovation technology. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the service sector occupied 93.1% of the total of the GDP in 2018. Also, the import-export sector was the most popular in the service sector (21.3% of the total of the service sector in 2018). The IT-related industry only shared the workforce about 2.41% in 2018. The provision of IT-related curriculum also correlates with the career prospect of the labour market which leans on the tertiary industry. For instance, the DSE curriculum does not have many subjects, except Information and Technology (ICT) that have a concrete IT curriculum or syllabus. Students in turn may opt to other subjects related to tertiary industry (e.g. Business and Accounting, Tourism and Hospitality Studies) rather than technology subjects.

Secondly, the general public in Hong Kong may not have a sound knowledge on innovation technology. According to a survey conducted by YOUTH I.D.E.A.S in 2018, out of the 520 interviewees aged 15-34, 61.2% and 18.8% of them heard about it or have no idea what is it about digital identity technology respectively. Also, there are 37.1% and 53.7% of them heard about or have no idea what is it about the multi-functional smart lampposts respectively. Furthermore, 72.9% of the respondents have not heard of the Smart City Blueprint launched by the government.

Thirdly, some worry that innovation technologies bring about privacy concerns. As the growth of innovation technologies is not mature enough, there could be some hiccups and technical issues and these may cause information leakage. In recent years, the

government has chosen Kowloon East as a pilot area to implement smart city measures. They set up a smart lamppost with panoramic cameras to record traffic data and avoid illegal landfilling or fly-tipping activities. But there is a concern that the camera is able to capture and identify human-face at the same time, which may intrude citizen's privacy. Kwun Tong District Councillor member, Ms Jannelle Rosalynne Leung suggested that there are worries that their information would be sold to big companies or government agencies, so this creates a push factor for citizens to oppose innovation technology.

Fourthly, innovation technology would increase the financial burden of the government and arouses controversy on the government's way of resource allocation. Since innovating new technologies requires capital at first, which is vital for the success of innovation. Unfortunately, the success rate of innovation typically is low and so there is no guarantee that there could be a foreseeable monetary return. Some stakeholders worry that the input towards innovation technology would cause an exceedingly high financial burden on the government. According to the statistics from the government, they have approved projects for HKD 21,165.3 million already, which can be built for about 24,610 public housing flats. This led to discouragements on investing in innovation technology, since the public believes that the government should reallocate their resources to solve some other problems that really exist in Hong Kong, like the housing problem, the problem of the health system...etc.

To further promote innovation technology in Hong Kong, there are some suggestions as outlined below.

Firstly, innovation technology education could be incorporated into the current curriculum. In Hong Kong, students usually lack creativity, which stops Hong Kong from innovating new technologies. In my opinion, cultivating students' creativity should start at a younger age. In the United States, the College Board decided to launch STEM as a subject in AP (Advanced Placement), which allows students to be enlightened and inspire their creativity, and start-up their innovations. I believe implementing STEM as a topic under the General Studies subject, would be likely an excellent plan.

Since General Studies aimed for integrating knowledge from the different key learning areas, STEM is a brilliant topic, which suits the aim of the subject. Students will be asked to use their creativity and knowledge to create some small experiments or showcase. For instance, in my own experience, I participated in a STEM program in Primary 6, and our group planned to use glass bottles to create a song, which we have to test different water levels, to find the certain key. Additionally, implementing STEM as a new elective to choose, under the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) subject in DSE (Diploma of Secondary Education) syllabus. Students would be asked to create new products, which would be the grading criteria for the electives. This will increase the incentives for students to innovate new products. Not only in primary and secondary school education, but universities also play a vital role. Creating more IT-related bachelor's degrees will attract more students to study innovation technology-related subjects in DSE, and train up more potentially-talented students.

Secondly, the government should collaborate not only with mainland China but also collaborate internationally to further increase its competitiveness and understanding on innovation technology. Hong Kong has an intrinsic characteristic of the combination of east and western culture, which makes Hong Kong special apart from other competitive regions and countries. Hong Kong universities can collaborate with other overseas universities, like signing contracts to invent more new innovative technologies. Recently, Hong Kong University collaborated with mainland China's university to invent a nasal-spray Covid-19 vaccine, which would be conducting clinical tests next month. The Government can increase the incentives, by introducing an easier visa application and subsidy on living accommodation for foreign IT-related experts. Additionally, the Government can consider exempting new-grown technological companies from paying profits tax, which allows them to focus on innovating new technologies in Hong Kong, instead of worrying about any other non-related problems.

Last but not least, better resources should be allocated on companies undertaking innovation technologies. Currently, the Innovation and Technology Bureau,

currently the target group is for companies with a strong financial ability, but it is not targeted to startup companies. Even though there are Incubation Programmes which are for the startup companies, they are only reserved for companies in the Science Park. As a result, the Innovation and Technology Bureau should expand those Incubation Programmes to all eligible companies in Hong Kong, regardless if they are setting up their company in Science Park or not.

Technology innovation is the future, no matter which country you are in, regions with the most advanced technology will be the most competitive and sustainable in future. We have to agree that technology is inevitable, it will be the future. Not only in the economic aspect, but the quality of life of citizens would be increased dramatically. Even though there are a lot of hurdles that need to be addressed and examined thoroughly in Hong Kong, there could be some ways to further cultivate our city to be the next technological hub.



Senior | English Section

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Janita Farooq

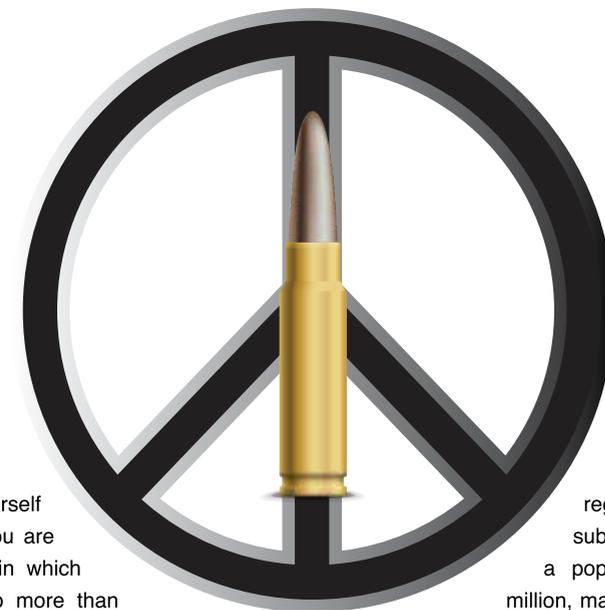
Hong Kong Taoist Association The Yuen Yuen Institute
No. 3 Secondary School

Judge's Comment

Dr FAIRBROTHER, Gregory Paul

This is a very well-researched essay that shows good use of information to support an argument on an important, but not commonplace, topic. The essay demonstrates strong knowledge of historical background and current international relations. The argument is strong and nuanced.

War and Peace: a revelation of Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan



Imagine finding yourself in a situation where you are forcefully living a life in which you are treated as no more than just a slave who is living by the fear of death with every single breath. There is no doubt that it would be unbearable for everyone. However, your imagination is the reality of the people living in India-occupied Kashmir where millions of them are hoping for a better life and peace and are desperate to seek freedom. How would you feel if you were to be betrayed by your own nation? Here's the story of Kashmiris who have been overlooked and left apathetic.

Kashmir is located in the northernmost geographical

region of the Indian subcontinent, which has a population of around 13.6 million, making it one of the world's most densely populated areas. Almost entirely mountainous, the region Kashmir is a majority-Muslim region. Due to the partition of Kashmir in 1947, both India and Pakistan claim the territories of it. While Pakistan has the northern and western portion of Kashmir under control, the rest is in control of India. Not many years ago, China has also occupied part of Kashmir which belonged to them. Since the partition of Kashmir, a lot of problems have aroused causing a major ongoing dispute between India and Pakistan for decades. The Kashmir conflict is also known as a

territorial conflict over Kashmir region. The roots of the conflict lie in the countries shared colonial past. And ever since then it has become a source of tensions and violence between the two countries. Although the people living in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir have found freedom long ago and declared themselves as "Azad Kashmir" which means freed Kashmir, the India ones are yet to be independent and have been fighting for their rights for years. The struggle the India Kashmiri population has been facing takes tremendous amount of patience.

In light of the continuing conflicts between India and Pakistan, Kashmir is one of the largest militarized zones in the world. For instance, people in India Kashmir have gone to various types of demonstrations demanding for their rights to be fulfilled as the government has fallen short in upholding their rights. Lamentably, each and every time the Kashmir citizens tried to fight, the government shut them by placing the areas under curfews. People of Kashmir have been neglected for jobs or other necessities such as the rights to infrastructure, education, to name a few.

Worse still, human right abuses are omnipresent in the region. According to the report released by The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2019, it has also been discovered that Indian forces have committed many human right abuses and acts of terror against Kashmiri civilian population. The acts include extrajudicial executions, targeting and killing Kashmiri civilians (predominantly men for unproven offenses, rape, arbitrary arrest and detention, and enforced disappearance and the list goes on and on. Such brutal acts have been documented by the international organizations, namely Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch etc. over the years. It is apparent that the people living in Kashmir are refused to any basic human right. And often the Indian military exceeds its legal powers and are described as behaving brutally towards the citizens. For example, in August 2019, the soldiers reportedly forced 12 civilian men to remove their clothes and line up standing naked on the main road in Pulwama, a place in India Kashmir.

They then proceeded to beat them severely and also electrocuted their genitals. The victims of this incident were reportedly forced to lie atop of each other. These things often leave both victims and family members of the victim's in severe devastation and state of shock. This incident is perhaps just a glimpse of how people of Kashmir are being treated by their nation and its government.

The everlasting dispute between the heavy weights, Pakistan and India since the partition of Kashmir in 1947 has inevitably brought about the aforementioned issue. The conflict is more than a regional dispute but escalating to military and troops.

Now the question comes to why is Kashmir so important to both of the countries. After all it is a tiny region and sounds ridiculous to be fighting for. The answer actually lies in Kashmir itself. Its natural resources could be one of sources of the ongoing conflict. According to the Diplomat, the international online news magazine, it is analyzed that Kashmir is able to provide glaciers and fresh water which allows hydro-electric power generated to billions of homes in India. Meanwhile, the water resources could also benefit thousands of Pakistan in which agriculture is practiced as the main source of income. Not only is water seen as a crucial resource for economic development, it could also be manipulated as a weapon by India to go against through the means of diverting it for irrigation. Pakistan could then be vulnerable to national security due to this threat.

To resolve this conflict in a short term, India and Pakistan actually signed an agreement called the Indus Water Treaty in which India has control over Beas, Ravi and Sutlej rivers whereas Pakistan has control over Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. Given that the rivers flow through India, she was granted special provisions for hydroelectric development.

Aside from the human right violation reportedly found in Kashmir, the government of India has also done no good but harm to democracy to the Kashmiri citizens. It

had set up the 370 article and abrogated all associated constitutional provisions which stole Kashmiris identity and their trust in Indian state and its institutions which were already built on weak foundations. Then a lot of harsh measure was forced onto the people of Kashmir. Some measures include the denial of the participation in any democratic process.

People in India Kashmir no longer have any expectations from the Indian Government and are hopeless in terms of their future so that's why a majority of them in Kashmir successfully and solely want to be a part of Pakistan as they want acceptance and fair treatment from their country which India couldn't provide them with. All they are asking for is to live a normal life in which they can receive education, get a good job and have a better living standard and not be overlooked by their nation and the government or fear for living their lives how they want. And they believe that they can achieve that if they are with Pakistan as already Azad Kashmir has been practicing this lifestyle for decades now.

One of the possible ways to resolve the conflict can be executing a referendum defined as a general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision. I believe that a referendum perfectly suits the ongoing situation and is able to have a fair outcome. This way people of Kashmir are actually able to decide the future.

The way out is to actually have self-determination of people of Kashmir. It implies that all the citizens should have the right to freely choose their sovereignty and international political status with no interference. In this case it means to be either with Pakistan or India.

In my opinion, it is terribly wrong in fact inhuman to treat someone the way people in Kashmir are being treated. I believe that a referendum should be held for peace and fairness between both the countries and the people, and in such case I believe the result will be good news for Pakistan because after all Kashmir belonged to India but India never ever belonged to Kashmir. Although we as individuals cannot change the entire world, the least we can do is to be aware about crises like this and educate people on such issues and urge them to voice their opinions. You might become a small part of a big change. Also international media is very powerful and should be used more often in crises like this. This will help by educating people so that they can force the government to take necessary actions.

In conclusion, the territorial disputes for instance the Kashmir issue may seem far-reaching but it is important for us, as global citizens, to be aware of what is happening around the globe and take action against injustice. All of us are humans and should have compassion for each other. This could make our world a better place.





3rd
Runner-up

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Kwai Hoi Yan Hayley Munsang College

Judge's Comment

Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet

The topic is well-defined. Strong arguments with clear and logical presentation that answer the question in the headline well. Suggest that the writer can elaborate more about his suggested solutions.

Senior | English Section

Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme-a perfect way to avoid living in a garbage-surrounded city?

In June, 2020, the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme failed to pass in Legislative Council. This ongoing debate has lasted for more than 15 years. During these 15 years, while many environmentalists stated that this scheme can reduce the amount of rubbish produced by discouraging people from producing garbage via providing economic incentives, several parts of the society maintained that its disadvantages outweighs its benefits. From my point of view, there are certain concerns risen from this scheme.

Firstly, some people may dispose their rubbish on the street instead of using the required garbage bags to avoid paying. As some citizens lack moral and civic education and awareness on the importance of keeping the environment clean, no one can tell whether they will not do misconducts like disposing their garbage in public areas or not. As no one can trace where the garbage goes after the polluter produces it, as long as people dispose their waste on the street without being spotted, they will not be fined. Therefore, people who take their garbage to the roadside or even pour them into the sea. If this phenomenon becomes common, not only does this 'polluter pays' tactic fails to reduce the garbage produced, but pollutes the streets as well. As garbage attracts pests and produces an unpleasant smell, it deteriorates the living condition of nearby residents.

Secondly, the fee charged will increase the economic burden of grassroots but does not have an impact on wealthier families. Although the government stated that the municipal waste charging scheme only costs a family with three members for around thirty-three to fifty-one dollars each month, grassroots families can already have several meals with this fee. This scheme will worsen their economic quality of life. Besides, this fee is tiny in the eyes of middle class and wealthy families and they may neglect this charging scheme as paying additional fifty-one dollars per month will not affect their lives at all. As a result, they will not produce less waste.

Thirdly, this scheme cannot reduce the amount of garbage transported to the landfill sites effectively. After this waste charging scheme is implemented, most citizens who wish not to spend too much on buying the specified garbage bags may choose to recycle more often. But the problem is that the recycling facilities is Hong Kong are not advanced enough to process all recycle materials, causing a large portion of the waste to be sent to landfill eventually. Moreover, some recycle bins are directly transported to landfills. On June 14, 2020, HK01 reported that 9 out of 14 housing estates were sending plastic bottles in recycle bins to landfills. With this kind of ongoing behaviour, the amount of waste sent to the landfill can hardly reduce.



Indeed, it is a must to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills. But the government need to implement other measures before carrying out the municipal solid waste charging scheme to ensure that it can reduce garbage more effectively. For example, the government can invest more in the recycling technology and building recycling facilities in order to increase the recycling rate of recycled materials. They can also cooperate with environmentalists to promote the importance of producing less waste to increase citizens' awareness and desire to produce less waste as reduction at source is always the most effective and long-lasting solution. Also, the government should provide a 40 dollars assistance instead of a 10 dollars assistance to each grassroots when the waste charging scheme is implemented to reduce their burden.

In conclusion, Hong Kong still have a long way to go before eliminating the risk of being surrounded by garbage. In my opinion, I think the government need to launch other supporting facilities and policies if the government implements this.

