Necessity of Learning Note-Taking

Note-taking is a basic skill that is of utmost importance to aspirant interpreters and deserves our foremost attention. We know that it is easy for an interpreter to speak from his/her memory when the speaker pauses after every one or two sentences. But if the speaker, in his/her attempt to make his/her ideas complete and coherent, keeps speaking for several minutes without any pause, which frequently happens on many occasions, the interpreter can hardly expect to remember all the things that are mentioned. This is particularly true in cases where the speaker abruptly refers to a long series of figures or a long list of names and places. It is obvious that, without the help of notes, one can hardly avoid misinterpreting or leaving out important information. To supplement short-term memory and reduce the burden of the brain, it is necessary to resort to notes. Nothing but notes can help an interpreter overcome the limitation of human memory.

However, taking notes is by no means an easy job. The fact that taking notes diverts attention and interferes with listening poses the first obstacle. The second problem is that untrained interpreters are often at a loss what notes to take and how. Thus, to learn note-taking, we must, first of all, know some special features governing the acquisition of this basic skill.

Distinct Features of Note-Taking in Interpreting

Note-taking is essentially different from stenography or shorthand (速记) in that the latter employs a completely different system of symbols which need to be deciphered themselves. In interpretation, however, an interpreter can hardly afford the time to make the transference between the symbols taken and the actual words or meaning they represent. Thus it is obvious that shorthand is impractical for interpreters. Note-taking, on the other hand, provides the best solution to the problem of speed and accuracy. In note-taking, interpreters try to jot down the key words and the logic of a speech with simple characters, words or symbols at the fastest speed possible. The purpose of taking notes is to enhance the short-term memory of an interpreter and to remind him/her of the relevant content at the sight of the notes.

The notes taken are meant to be used immediately and exclusively by the interpreter himself/herself. In other words, they are not intended for others to read or for the interpreter himself/herself to use when the interpreting is over. So it is absolutely unnecessary as well as impossible to write down every word. In fact, if an interpreter spends too much time taking notes, he/she won't be able to have sufficient time to ponder over the actual interpreting. In this sense, the importance of note-taking should not be overemphasized. At any time and under any circumstances, an interpreter should focus his/her attention on listening and comprehension, trying to grasp the central ideas, sometimes from illogical or ill-organized speeches. He/She must then reorganize the thoughts on the basis of correct understanding.

Interpreters differ in their ability to take notes. Some interpreters may have exceptionally good memory, some may be particularly familiar with the subject matter in a particular field, and some others may have better skills or habits in note-taking. Needless to say, the content and symbols jotted down vary with individual interpreters. It is, therefore, not advisable for a beginner to copy mechanically a system of notes used by other interpreters. Only through practice can he/she expect to develop a system of notes of his/her own.

Suggested Language to Be Used in Note-Taking

There is no absolute rule on whether the notes should be taken in the target language or the source language. It depends on the preference of individual interpreters. While some interpreters prefer to take notes in the target language, others may find it much more convenient to use the source language. In reality, however, interpreters tend to use both languages interchangeably. Whatever an interpreter's preference is, the only rule is "quick, clear and accurate". For instance, on hearing the Chinese character "我", we find it much quicker to write "I" than its Chinese equivalent "我", which involves many strokes. The same is true of "中国人民解放军" and "中华人民共和国", which can be much more easily represented by their English acronyms "PLA" and "PRC" respectively. But when it comes to the English phrase "between our two countries", it is doubtlessly more convenient and timesaving to use Chinese. Thus the phrase can be written as " $\rightarrow 2$ $\square \leftarrow$ ", for example.

Suggested Ways to Take Notes

An interpreter should not take notes indiscriminately. He/She should, first of all, make a logical analysis of the original speech so as to follow the speaker's flow of thoughts. Then he/she should try to catch the key words which contain the message of the speech. He/She should write words or symbols sparingly and take notes in a way that each word or symbol represents an entire idea. Very often, one or two letters of a key English word, or one character of a sense group in Chinese is enough to help the interpreter remember the idea. As a rule, he/she should omit certain sentences or phrases which are not essential to the main ideas, and concentrate on the important sentences or phrases which give most information. Special attention should be given to causality, consequence, links, and relationships of the ideas to one another in time, as well as proper names, numbers, time, technical terms, lists of words, and striking usage. For example, "中国的对外政策是一贯的,有三句话,第一句话是反对霸权主义,第二句话是维护世界和平,第三句话是加强同第三世界的团结和合作,或者叫联合和合作。" In note form, the whole sentence can be put into:

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中fp一貫 /
3 句:
1) 反 h
2) 维 p
3) ↑ 团 ② 合 ( 联 ) → 3rd W. //
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As long as the original speech can be recalled through the notes, the number of words should be reduced to the minimum.

It is also necessary to point out that an interpreter should try his/her best to remember the beginning and the end of a speech. It is quite likely that when a long speech comes to an end, the interpreter fails to recall how the speaker began or ended his/her speech. Transitional words or phrases such as "but", "so", "if" and "as long as" are of special importance in indicating the logical relationship between different sense groups and helping interpreters remember what has been said. Therefore, they should be jotted down carefully. In order to facilitate note-taking, we might as well use some simple words to stand for various groups of transitional expressions. For

example, we may write *if* to stand for all conditional expressions such as "so long as", "on condition that", "provided/providing that" and "in case"; *tho* for all concessive expressions such as "although", "though", "even though", "while", "in spite of" and "despite"; "to" for all expressions of purpose such as "so as to", "in order to/ that" and "so that"; *due* for all expressions of cause such as "because", "as", "since", "for", "for this reason", "now that", "owing to" and "thanks to"; *so* for all expressions of result such as "thus", "therefore", "hence", "as a result of" and "consequently"; and *but* for all transitional expressions like "nevertheless", "still", "however", "yet", "even so", "on the contrary" and "on the other hand".

Suggested Formats for Note-Taking

It is advisable for an interpreter to take notes in columns so that each sense group represented by a key word or symbol in the notes occupies half a line or even one line, and that the next sense group is noted in another line. An interpreter can also divide the paper into two halves by drawing a vertical line in the middle. Write on the left half first. When it is finished, move on to the right half. In whichever case, he/she must make sure to draw two short slanting lines to mark the end of a sentence, a long paragraph or a large chunk of speech. The following are the two most common formats for note-taking.

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	//
	//
	//

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Format 2

Suggested Symbols and Abbreviations to Be Used in Note-Taking

Symbols are often used by interpreters because of their convenience and easy association, both in sound and shape, with the words spoken or the meaning expressed. Therefore, they are recommended to aspirant interpreters here. But they should not be excessively used or created on the spot, because they may cause confusion or fail to help one remember the meaning expressed.

1. The Arrow "→"

This is probably the most useful of all symbols. It can represent quite a lot of meanings.

An arrow pointing to the right (→) may stand for "出口", "输出", "打人", "出国", "到达", "前往", "派遣", "交给", "屈服于", "运往" or "导致"("export to", "enter", "arrive in", "lead to", "present to", "give to", "submit to", "result in", "send to" or "cause").

When the arrow points to the left (←), it may indicate "来自", "来源于", "进口", "收到" or "回归/到" ("come from", "originate in", "import from", "receive from" or "come back to").

An upward arrow (↑) can mean "增长", "扩大", "提高", "发展", "升起", "加强", "上涨", "发射", "起飞", "升空", "提拔" or "晋升" ("grow", "expand", "develop", "rise", "go up", "strengthen", "increase", "improve", "launch", "ascend", "skyrocket" or "promote").

A downward arrow (↓) may carry the meaning of "向下", "轰炸", "跳水", "下跌", "下降", "减少", "恶化", "降职" or "削/裁减" ("drop to", "bomb", "jump", "decrease", "descend", "go down", "deteriorate", "demote" or "reduce").

Use " " after changing lines to indicate the logical relationship between the upper and lower units of meanings.

2. Mathematical Symbols

Mathematical symbols such as "+", "-",

- "+" may stand for "加上", "另外" or "除此之外"("plus", "and", "in addition to" or "furthermore").
- " " may stand for "减去" or "缺乏 / 少" ("minus" or "lack").
- "x" may stand for "不对的", "错的", "坏的", "不好的" or "臭名昭著的"("incorrect", "wrong", "bad" or "notorious").
- ">" may stand for "大于", "好于", "超过", "优于" or "越来越" ("greater, larger or more than", "better than", "surpass", "superior to" or "more and more").
- "<" may stand for "小/少于", "不如", "次于" or "逊色" ("smaller/fewer/less than", "worse than" or "inferior to").
 - "≥" may stand for "多/大于或等于" ("more than or equal to").
 - " ≤ " may stand for "少 / 小于或等于" ("less than or equal to").
- "=" may stand for "等于", "相当于" or "是……的对手" ("equal to", "equal", "the same as" or "a match/rival/competitor for sb.").
 - "≠" may stand for "不等于" or "不是……的对手" ("not equal to" or "no match for").
 - "≈" may stand for "大约" or "左右" ("approximately", "around" or "or so").
 - ":" may stand for "由于" or "因为" ("as", "because", "owing to", "due to" or "thanks to").
- "∴" may stand for "所以", "因此", "因而" or "结果" ("consequently", "so", "therefore" or "as a result").

3. Punctuation Marks

The colon ":" may be used to indicate"说/讲","告诉","认为","宣称","声明","抗议","譬如"or"像"("say", "speak", "tell", "declare", "protest", "such as" or "like").

The question mark "?" may be used to stand for "问题", "疑问" or "问" ("question", "doubt" or "ask").

A dot "." may be used to indicate "观点", "意见", "论点" or "难点" ("viewpoint", "opinion" or "difficult point"). For example, "我想说几点意见" can be put into "I:几 ·". This symbol can also express different time concepts. When placed before or after a particular time word, it may indicate "last" or "next". For example, "去年" can be written as ".y", "前年" as ".y", "明年" as "y." and "后年" as "y.". This rule can also be applied to "month" and "day" (e.g. "上个月" can be represented by ".m", "下个月" by "m.", "昨天" by ".d", "前天" by ".d", "明天" by "d.").

The exclamation mark "!" can be used to draw attention.

The elevated bar "—", the comma "," and the apostrophe " '" can be used to replace figures. A single bar ("—") above or a single comma (",") after a relevant figure may stand for a group of three zeros ("000") and two elevated bars (" —") or two commas (",") for a group of six zeros ("000,000"). For instance, "85,000" can be written as " $\overline{85}$ " or "85,". When writing down years, we can omit the first two digits by using " '" in front of the last two digits. For example, "1992" can be shortened to "92".

- "()" may stand for "包括", "在……中", "带着……", "闭关自守" or "禁闭" ("including", "within", "among", "with" or "seclusion").
- "[]" may stand for "在……期间", "在……之内", "在……框架内", "根据/依照……", "通过……", "以……的方式" or "在……之中" ("during", "among", "within the framework of", "in accordance with", "through", "in… way" or "in which…"). For example, "在联合国" can be written as "[UN]".

"…" may indicate "许多", "长期以来", "遥远的", "历来", "继续", "永远", "持久的", "可持续的" or "世世代代"("many/numerous/a lot of", "over the years", "always", "continue", "for ever", "lasting", "sustainable", "for thousands of years" or "for generations to come").

4. Other Symbols

- "√" may stand for "正确", "对", "好", "肯定", "有名", "著名", "同意" or "支持" ("correct", "good", "affirmative", "certain", "well known", "famous", "agree" or "support").
- "。" may be associated with "人" ("person" or "people") because the symbol somewhat resembles a person's head. It can be put at the upper right-hand corner of a word, letter or symbol to indicate a particular category of people or a particular sort of person. For example, "中国人" can be written as "中","美国人" as "US","经济学家" as "经"。" and "艾滋病病毒携带者" as "HIV"。".
 - " /2" may be used to represent "代表" ("on behalf of").
- "☆" may indicate "最佳的", "杰出的", "优秀的", "重要的" or "榜样" ("best", "outstanding", "excellent", "important" or "model").
- " ∧" may represent "领导" or "管理" ("lead" or "manage"). Thus, "领导人" or "管理者" can be written as°.
- "⊙" or "⊙" may refer to "会议", "研讨会", "开会", "讨论" or "谈判" ("meeting", "seminar", "meet", "conference", "discussion" or "negotiation"), because it looks like a round table at which meetings are held.
- "Q" may stand for "聊天", "说话", "对话" ("chat", "talk", "say", "dialogue", "state", "assert" or "declare"). For example, "人权对话" can be represented by "HR Q".
 - "P" can be used to indicate "保证", "发誓" or "宣誓" ("promise" or "swear").
 - "OK" may be used to refer to "同意", "批准" or "好的" ("agree" or "approve").
 - "[?]" may be associated with "听", "听到" or "听说" ("listen" or "hear").
- "U" may represent "协议", "协定", "条约" or "合同" ("agreement", "accord", "treaty" or "contract") because it resembles a goblet or glass which is invariably used for celebration whenever an agreement is reached. Hence, "双边协议", "三边协议" or "多边协议" can be written as 😉, 😉, or 🗑.
 - "□" may take the meaning of "国家" ("country", "state" or "nation").
- " ∇ " may stand for "农村", "乡村" or "城郊" ("countryside", "rural areas", "village" or "outskirts/suburb")
 - "△" may represent "城市" or "都市" ("city", "metropolis", "urban areas" or "municipal")
 - "ψ" may represent "农业" ("agriculture"). Therefore, "农民" can be noted as "ψ°".
 - "looks like a chimney which can be associated with "工业" ("industry").
- "___]" may stand for "过去" or "曾"("in the past" or "once"). For example, "过去十年" can be represented by "10灯".
- " \sqsubseteq " may stand for "将", "未来" or "将来" ("will/shall", "is/are going to" or "in the future"). For example, "未来 50 年" can be represented by "|50y|".
 - "上," may be used to represent "自从" or "自……以来" ("since" or "from the time ...").
 - "Loo," may indicate "期待着" ("look forward to").
 - " → " may represent "继续" ("continue").
 - "一" may be used to refer to " 直到" ("until").
 - "&" may refer to "和", "与……—起" or "陪同" ("and", "together with" or "accompany").

- "#" may stand for the end or conclusion of a certain activity. For example, when you hear "我的讲话完了", you may write "#" to indicate that the speech has come to an end.
- "~" may stand for "交流", "交换", "替代" or "相互" ("exchange", "replace", "mutual" or "each other").
 - "∞" or "⇒" may be used to represent "关系" ("relations", "relationship" or "ties").
 - "Σ" may stand for "总和" or "总数" ("total", "the total sum" or "totally").
 - " // " may refer to " 停顿 / 止 " or " 终止 " ("stop" or "halt").
 - "[©]" may stand for "高兴" or "欣喜" ("happy", "glad", "pleased", "delighted" or "overjoyed").
- "◎" may stand for "不高兴", "恼怒", "无动于衷" or "伤心" ("unhappy", "annoyed", "unimpressed" or "sad").
- "⊕" may represent "医院", "医疗机构" or "看病" ("hospital", "medical institution" or "seeing the doctor").
 - "♀" may stand for "女性" or "妇女" ("female", "woman" or "girl").
 - " & " may refer to "男性" or "男人" ("male", "man" or "boy").
- " ② " may stand for "学校", "大学" or "教育机构" ("school", "university/college" or "educational institutions").
- " ↔ " or " 🗗" may stand for "世界", "全球" or "国际" ("world", "global" or "international"). For example, "国际法" can be noted as " 🖞 law".
- "〇" may stand for "全面", "全方位", "共同", "无所不包的", "团圆" or "统一" ("comprehensive", "all-round", "common/together", "in all aspects", "reunion" or "reunification").
 - " * or "
- " / " may indicate " 删除 ", " 解决 ", " 处理 " or " 放弃 " ("delete", "resolve/solve", "handle" or "abandon/discard").
 - " < " may refer to " 开放 " or " 打开 " ("opening" or "open").
- "¥" or "\$" may be used to represent "金钱", "利润", "利益", "好处", "财政", "金融" or "投资" ("money", "profit", "interest", "fiscal", "financial" or "investment", etc.).
- "⑤" may be used to indicate "银行", "信贷", "银行业", "金融机构" or "金融市场" ("bank", "banking", "banking industry", "financial institution", "financial market").
 - "%" may be used to represent "比率", "百分点", "比例" ("rate", "percentage" or "proportion" etc.).
 - "·」" may refer to "以前" ("before").
 - " I·" may stand for "以后" ("after").
 - " / " may represent "一方面" ("on the one hand").
 - "/·" may represent "另一方面" ("on the other hand").

 - "一" may stand for "保持", "稳定", "平稳" ("maintain", "stability" or "steady").

5. Symbols for Emphasis

Emphasis can be achieved by using underlines. Two lines stand for the superlative. For example, "to exert great pressure" can be rendered as "pressure" and "取得了最佳的成绩" as "成绩".

6. Symbols for Negation

Negation is frequently encountered by interpreters, so it is advisable to find a symbol to express it. We may

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use "×" to stand for negation. For example, "不出售" can be expressed as "× sell".

7. Symbols for Marking Different Sense Groups

Interpreters should have a reliable set of symbols to mark the beginning and the end of sense groups, and their relationship. In this connection, we can use the Roman numerals (e.g. I, II, V, X), the Arabic numerals (e.g. 1, 2, 3) or the Latin letters (e.g. A, B, C or a, b, c).

8. Spare Symbols for Frequently Used Phrases

It is advisable for interpreters to prepare a list of spare symbols for some special noun phrases that contain complex ideas but are frequently used. For example, the phrase "maintaining peace and stability" can be replaced by a symbol such as "M". Symbols of this sort do not carry fixed meanings. They can represent different meanings on different occasions.

9. Abbreviations

There are large numbers of abbreviations both in Chinese and English. They can be used in note-taking, e.g.

UN — 联合国 EU — 欧盟

UNICEF — 联合国儿童基金会 UNESCO — 联合国教科文组织

APEC — 亚太经合组织 ASEAN — 东盟 NPC — 人大 CPPCC — 政协

Abbreviations can also be created with a good reason, e.g.

社会保障体系 — 社保 野生动物保护区 — 野区

 物质文明和精神文明 — 物精
 改革开放 — 改开

 社会主义制度 — 社 's
 资本主义 — 资 '

 优越性 — 优 *
 代表性 — 代 *

 创造性 — 创 ×
 科学性 — 科 ×

 现代化 — 现 h
 四个现代化 — 4M

 国际化 — 国 h
 合理化 — 合 h

 政治家一政^j
 企业家一企^j

 北京一BJ
 上海一SH

 初始
 NY

responsibility — resp Five-Year Plan (五年计划) — 5yP

information industry (信息产业)—IT indy

Foreign Direct Investment (外国直接投资) — FDI

Foreign Invested Enterprises (外资企业) — FIE

Telecommunications constitute a third major source of abbreviations. There are a number of special rules to follow in forming abbreviations used in telecommunications.

(1) Leave out all the vowel letters of a word and retain only its consonant letters:

HTL = hotel 饭店; 宾馆 BCS = because 因为

RGDS = regards 问候 BLV = believe 相信 (2) Retain the first few letters of a word: ATT = attention 注意 ACK = acknowledge 承认 (3) Retain the first and last letters of a word: YR = your 你的;你们的 FM = from 从 CN = can 能够 RM = room 房间 (4) Retain the first syllable of words of Germanic origin: answer = ANS 回答 service = SERV 服务 (5) Abbreviate words according to their pronunciation: U = you 你;你们 R = are 是 THRU = through 经过 THO = though 虽然 (6) Simplify the ending of certain words: a. able/ible/ble → BL possible = PSBL 可能的 available = AVLBL 可得到的 cable = CBL 电报 double = DBL 加倍的 b. ing \rightarrow G shipping = SHPG 运输 building = BLDG 建筑 $c. ed \rightarrow D$ accepted = ACPTD 已接受 agreed = AGRD 已同意 d. tion \rightarrow N/TN option = OPTN 方案 condition = CNDTN 条件 e. ment \rightarrow T/MT shipment = SHPT 装船 agreement = AGRMT 协议 f. ize \rightarrow Z recognize = RCGNZ 承认 organize = OGNZ 组织 g. tive \rightarrow TV effective = EFCTV 有效的 competitive = CMTV 有竞争力的 h. ful \rightarrow FL spoonful = SPNFL 一茶匙的 meaningful = MNGFL 有意义的 i. less \rightarrow LS worthless = WTHLS 无价值的 regardless = RGDLS 不论 i. est/ist \rightarrow ST soonest = SNST 尽快 latest = LATST 最近的 $k. ent/ant \rightarrow NT/T$ agent = AGT 代理人 resistant = RSTNT 有抵抗力的 payment = PAYT 付款 urgent = URGT 紧急的 1. $er/or \rightarrow R$ debtor = DR 债务人 better = BTR 更好 $m. al/ial \rightarrow L$

commercial = CML 商业的

national = NTNL 全国的

arrival = ARVL 到达

equal = EQL 等于

(7) Use the initials of certain set phrases:

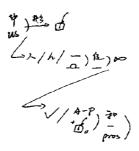
ASAP = as soon as possible 尽快 FYI = for your information 供参考 AF = as follows 如下 ICO = in case of 假如

Note-Taking Examples

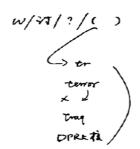
1. 首先,请允许我代表中华人民共和国国防部和我所有的中国同行,并以我个人的名义,对约翰逊将军以及美国国防部的朋友们,表示衷心的感谢。//

1st
$$\ddot{\mathcal{K}}/Dp$$
 Gol $②$ \longrightarrow $Gen.Johnson$ $US 发 \mathcal{K} $\mathcal{K}$$

2. 中美两国在世界上具有很大的影响力,两国人民都希望保持和发展健康、稳定的关系。这种关系有利于亚太地区,乃至世界其他地区的和平、稳定和繁荣。//



3. 我们讨论的问题包括经贸问题、恐怖问题、反恐怖主义、伊拉克问题和朝鲜核问题。//



4. 过去的一年里,中国在国际上赢得了更多的理解、信任、尊重和支持,国际地位和影响力进一步提高。//

5. 人民币的汇率问题一直是国际上很关心的一个问题,中国很多重要的贸易伙伴都敦促中国要采取更为灵活的人民币汇率机制。//

6. 如果你要求我把它说得具体一点的话,那我可以概括一下,本届政府现在面临着要干的几件事情可以概括为:"一个确保,三个到位,五项改革"。//

7. 女士们, 先生们:

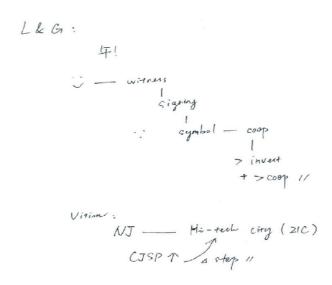
下午好!非常高兴能在整个旅程中陪伴各位。首先,我简单介绍一下我们这次旅行的日程安排。第一天上午我们参观南京市湖南路商业区并举行座谈,下午参观南京启迪科技园,然后举行商务洽谈。第二天上午邀请南京市有关领导介绍南京市招商引资和投资环境等方面的情况;下午是专业考察,我们将参观南京河西新区,包括近年来不断举办各项赛事的南京奥林匹克体育中心。第三天全部是游览活动,来到南京一定要到中山陵、玄武湖和夫子庙一游。第四天,我们利用一天的时间进行本次城市规划座谈会,最后是淮扬风味的晚宴。如果大家现在或在旅行过程中有什么问题,请随时向我提出来,我非常乐意为大家效劳。谢谢! //

8. As I understand, there is a big deficit between the United States and China and between the United States and Japan. Would you explain whether there is difference between the two kinds of trade deficits, and what the US policies towards the two different kinds of trade deficits are? We think you adopt kind of double standard to these deficits. //

9. Two-way trade has risen sharply in a few short years. The United States is now China's third largest trading partner. Our bilateral trade and economic cooperation show great promise for the future. //

10. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon! I am extraordinarily happy to have witnessed this signing ceremony today because it symbolizes, for me, exactly the type of cooperation that we need and that is a cooperative endeavor which will bring in more investment and lead to more cooperation. Our vision is to make Nanjing a leading high-tech city in the globally connected world in the 21st century. The establishment of CJSP will be an important step towards achieving that.



For more examples or systematic training in notetaking, please refer to the following books:

- Rozanm Jean-Francoism Andrew Gillies and Bartosz Waliczek. Note-taking in Consecutive Interpreting. Terium, 2004.
- 2. 韩刚:《口译实战训练法》(辅导讲义+训练教材),北京,北京大学音像出版社,2010。
- 3. 韩刚:《口译人门学习法》(辅导讲义+训练教材),北京,北京大学音像出版社,2011。
- 4. 林超伦:《实战口译》(学生用书+教学参考),北京,外语教学与研究出版社,2004。
- 5. 刘敏华:《逐步口译与笔记》,台湾,辅仁大学出版社,1993。
- 6. 吴钟明:《英语口译笔记法实战指导》,武汉,武汉大学出版社,2005。

Note-Taking Exercises

国务院总理李克强在十二届全国人大二次会议记者会上答中外记者问

2014年3月13日

李克强:媒体的朋友们,感谢你们对中国两会给予的关注和作出的报道,大家辛苦了。下面就请提问。//

Li Keqiang: Friends from the press, I want to thank you for your interest in and coverage of the NPC and CPPCC Sessions. My appreciation goes to all of you for your hard work. Now I would be happy to take your questions. //

CNN: Premier Li, my question pertains to the missing airplane of Malaysia Airlines. First of all, our

sympathy goes to the families of the passengers and crew members of MH370. It's day 6 now and there is confusion and frustration. What's your reaction to the current situation? What is China doing to harness all your resources, civilian, military, satellite imaging to assist in the search and rescue? And down the road, how will this incident impact China's attitude and policies on opening-up including inbound and outbound tourism? What measures will you take to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens in and outside China? Will you tighten up the already tight security? Thank you. //

美国有线电视新闻网记者: 我的问题和失联的马航飞机有关。首先借此机会对于机上的乘客、机组人员以及他们的家属表示同情。大家都在急切地等待飞机的有关消息。请问,中国政府在民用、军事以及卫星获取图像等方面,采取了什么措施来全力参与失联飞机的搜救行动?这起事件会否对中国的对外开放政策和海内外的旅游业产生影响?中国将采取什么措施确保国内以及海外中国公民的安全?比如中国政府是否会考虑进一步加强业已十分严格的安保措施? //

李克强:马航失联飞机上有 239 名乘客,其中 154 名是中国同胞,他们的亲人心急如焚,他们的生命安危牵挂着中国政府和亿万中国人的心,现在我们也在急切地盼有消息,哪怕是一丁点好消息。//

Li Keqiang: There are 239 people on board the missing plane of Malaysia Airlines, including the 154 Chinese passengers. Those people's families and friends are burning with anxiety. The Chinese Government and Chinese people are deeply concerned about their safety. We are all eagerly awaiting news about the plane, even the slightest piece of good news. //

中国政府已经启动了全面应急和搜救机制,现在到达相关海域的有8艘中国舰船,还有一艘正在驶向相关海域;我们还动用了10颗卫星进行信息技术支持,有任何疑点都不能放过。昨天我还和在前方的中国一艘搜救船船长通话,请他们尽力、再尽力。我们对卫星图像上发现的一些疑点,也在尽力地进行辨认。这是一场国际大搜救,有诸多国家参与了搜救。我们也要求有关方面加强协调,并且一定要找到马航的失联客机,查明原因,妥善处理相关各方面的事宜。//

The Chinese Government has activated a comprehensive contingency response and search operation. Currently there are eight Chinese vessels in the related waters and the other Chinese vessel is on its way. Ten satellites are being used to provide information and technical support. We will not give up on any suspected clue. I had a telephone conversation yesterday with a captain of one of the Chinese vessels in the search operation, and asked him to do his utmost. We are looking very closely at all suspected clues shown on the satellite images. This is a large international search operation involving many countries. The Chinese Government has asked relevant parties to enhance coordination, investigate the cause, locate the missing plane and properly handle all related matters. //

只要有一丝希望,我们绝不放弃搜救!至于问到中国的开放政策会不会变?不会!会继续开放,会有更多的中国公民走出国门。这会增加政府的责任,政府要尽职履责,尽自己最大的可能,通过加强国际合作,来确保在海外中国公民的生命安全。对于中国的航班安全工作,我们一直不敢放松,人命关天啊!//

As long as there is a glimmer of hope, we will not stop searching for the plane. With respect to China's opening-up policy, there will be no change with the policy and China will continue to open itself to the outside world. In this course, a growing number of Chinese people will make overseas trips. That will place greater responsibility on the Chinese Government. The Chinese Government will fully perform its duties and enhance cooperation with other countries and regions to ensure safety of overseas Chinese nationals. As for flight safety, we have never let up our effort in ensuring flight safety as there is nothing more important than human life. Thank you. //

英国《金融时报》记者:国际市场高度关注中国金融和债务问题,认为这是全球经济最大的风险之

一。请问中国政府将如何应对这些问题?是否愿意看到出现金融产品违约的情况?//

Financial Times: The international community is following very closely China's financial and debt risks, regarding this as one of the highest risks for the global economy. What will the Chinese Government do to tackle such risks? Is the government willing to see default of financial products? //

李克强:你的中文说得很流利,也很标准,我听懂了。但是因为这是中外记者招待会,还得请翻译做一次翻译。//关于对中国经济有风险,甚至还有些不看好的报道,我也看到了,类似的报道可以说似曾相识。去年就有对中国经济下行的担心,但是我们就是在这样的背景下,顶住压力,完成了全年经济主要预期目标。//

Li Keqiang: I've got your question very clear as you speak very good Chinese, but this is a press conference for both Chinese and foreign journalists, so we still need the translation. // There is such a view that the Chinese economy is confronted with risks, and I have read such reports which are not optimistic about the Chinese economy. They bear resemblance to the past bearish talk about the Chinese economy. For example, there was this concern last year about China's economic downturn. Yet in spite of the pressure, we achieved our goal set for economic growth. //

对金融和债务风险我们一直高度关注,去年在经济下行压力加大的情况下,我们果断决定全面审计政府性债务,这本身就表明我们勇于面对。审计结果已如实对外公布,表明债务风险是总体可控的,政府的债务率在国际公认的警戒线以下,大多数债务还是投资性的。但我们不能忽视其中存在的风险,正在加强规范性措施,包括采取逐步纳入预算管理,开正门、堵偏门,规范融资平台等措施。//

We pay very high attention to the financial and debt risks. Faced with increased downward pressure on the economy last year, we conducted a comprehensive audit on government debt. That shows that the Chinese Government has faced up to this challenge. We have released to the public the audit result as it is. And it shows that the risks are on the whole under control. Moreover, our debt to GDP ratio is below the internationally recognized warning line, and most of the debt takes the form of investment. But the government will not overlook potential risks. We are going to intensify regulatory steps, put those debts under budgetary management over time and enhance the oversight of financing vehicles. In a word, we are going to keep the front gate open and block side doors. //

对于"影子银行"等金融风险,我们也正在加强监管,已经排出时间表,推进实施巴赛尔协议 III 规定的监管措施。我在两会期间参加一个代表团的审议,有来自银行界的代表问我,是不是资本充足率的要求偏高了一些?我们还是发展中国家。但是我想我们只能这样做,我们不能把今天的"垫脚石"变成明天的"绊脚石"。至于你问我是不是愿意看到一些金融产品违约的情况,我怎么能够愿意看到呢?但是个别情况确实难以避免,我们必须加强监测,及时处置,确保不发生区域性、系统性金融风险。//

As for financial risks such as shadow banking, we have tightened regulatory measures, set a timetable and started to apply the Basel III requirements. When I participated in the panel discussion during the two Sessions, a deputy from the banking sector said to me: Isn't the capital adequacy ratio in China a bit too high? After all, we are still a developing country. But this is a must for us, as we don't want to let today's stepping stone become tomorrow's stumbling block. As for default of financial products, how could I want to see such defaults happen? Yet I'm afraid certain individual cases of such defaults are hardly avoidable. What we should do is to step up monitoring, promptly handle relevant situation and ensure that there will be no regional and systemic financial risks. //

《**人民日报》记者**:现在社会上有不少人担心中国的反腐败会不会是一阵风?去年我们也查出了不少贪官,这是否说明中国在制度方面还存在着某些缺陷?此外,政府下一步在反腐败上还会有什么新的行动? //

People's Daily: There is a widely shared concern in the society as to whether this recent anti-corruption campaign will be a short-lived one. Last year, many corrupt officials were dealt with, but does this show there exist some institutional flaws in China? What new steps will the government take to combat corruption? //

李克强:中国党和政府反对腐败的意志和决心是一贯的。党的十八大以来,以习近平同志为总书记的党中央坚持有贪必反、有腐必惩,取得新成效,我们会坚持不懈地做下去。//

Li Keqiang: The Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government have a firm will and resolve to fight corruption. This is our consistent position. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary has been steadfast in combating corruption and holding corrupt officials accountable. Visible progress has been made in this regard and we will carry forward this campaign with perseverance. //

对于腐败分子和腐败行为,我们实行的是"零容忍"。中国是法治国家,不论是谁,不论职位高低, 法律面前人人平等,只要是触犯了党纪国法,就要依法依纪严肃查处、惩治。//

For corrupt behaviors and corrupt officials, we will show zero tolerance. China is a country under the rule of law. No matter who he is and how senior his position is, if he violates Party discipline and law of the country, he will be seriously dealt with and punished to the full extent of the law, because everybody is equal before the law. //

腐败是人民政府的天敌。我们要用法治的思维,用制度来管权、管钱。今年要继续推进简政放权,而且要加快推进"权力清单"公布,界定权力的边界,防止滥用权力。对于社会公众高度关注的一些领域,比如像土地出让金收支、矿产权转让等,我们要全面审计,要通过一系列的制度性措施,让权力寻租行为、腐败现象无藏身之地。//

Corruption is the natural enemy of a people's government. We must apply the rule of law in both thinking and action in fighting corruption. And we must put the exercise of power and use of public money under institutional check. This year, we will continue to streamline administration and delegate government powers. We are going to release to the public a list of powers as quickly as possible and set down a clear boundary for the exercise of power to prevent power abuse. We will also carry out comprehensive audits in those areas which are of high concern to the public, including the revenue on the transfer of land use rights and transfer of mining rights. We will take institutional steps to ensure that rent-seeking behaviors and corruption have nowhere to hide. //

新加坡《联合早报》记者:去年中国领导人频繁访问周边国家,提出了新的周边外交理念与合作倡议,但周边地区仍然存在一些分歧和矛盾。请问您怎么看待中国与周边关系的前景? //

Lianhe Zaobao: Last year, Chinese leaders visited many neighboring countries and put forward new vision on China's neighborhood diplomacy and cooperation initiatives. But still there exist some disputes and differences in China's neighborhood. I would like to ask how do you see China's future relations with its neighbors? //

李克强:你的中文就更标准了,但是还是需要再翻译一次。//

Li Keqiang: You speak Mandarin even better. But still we need the translation. I hope to have your understanding. $/\!/$

中国是个发展中国家,实现现代化是 13 亿人民的共同意志,这需要有和平稳定的周边和国际环境。 我记得去年记者会快结束的时候,我说过,中国走和平发展道路的决心是坚定不移的,维护国家主权和 领土完整的意志是不可动摇的。两者归结起来就是要维护稳定,为发展创造良好环境。//

China is still a developing country. To achieve modernization of the country represents the common aspiration of the 1.3 billion Chinese people. This requires a peaceful and stable neighboring and international

environment. I recall that approaching the end of last year's press conference, I once said that China has an abiding commitment to pursuing peaceful development. We also have an unshakable will in safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. These two points are both for the sake of upholding stability and creating a favorable environment for China's development. //

早在 60 年前,中国和一些周边国家就共同倡导和平共处五项原则。四邻周边有时候难免有磕磕碰碰的情况,但是只要我们相互尊重、管控分歧、互利互惠,碰出的应该是和谐的声音,而不是刺耳的噪音。//

As early as 60 years ago, China and some of its neighbors jointly initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. When neighbors interact with each other, it's only natural that sometimes they will run into problems of one kind or another. But as long as they respect each other, properly manage differences and pursue mutual benefit, there will be harmonious sounds instead of jarring noises. //

你的问题让我回想起去年曾访问东盟国家。我当时到了越南,和越南领导人达成海上共同开发、陆上合作、金融合作三头并进的原则共识以后,也想听听民间的反应。我就在晚上趁工作之余,到了一家小店,那个女店主当时就认出了我,她说欢迎中国客人来。我想这也会给她带来生意吧。我就问她你怎么看邻国的关系?她说还是和平友好吧。和平友好、和平共处,是四邻百姓的共同愿望。我们需要一起努力,扩大利益交汇点,缩小矛盾点,这样就可以和睦相处,造福民众。//

Your question reminds me of my visit to some ASEAN countries last year. During my visit in Vietnam, I reached principled consensus with the Vietnamese leaders about China-Vietnam cooperation in maritime joint development, on the land and in the financial sector. I was curious about how the ordinary people would think about this, too. So later in the evening, I took some time out of the schedule and visited a small local shop. The shopowner instantly recognized me and she said that she would like to have more Chinese customers. They would bring more businesses to her shop. I asked her how she thought about China's relationship with its neighbors. She said there should be peace and friendship. Peace, friendship and peaceful co-existence, I believe, represent the common aspirations of all people in China and its neighbors. As long as we all work together to expand common interests and narrow differences, we can live with each other in harmony, bringing greater benefits to our people. //

路透社记者:中国经济去年增长 7.7%。请问总理,您上任一年最大的挑战、最大的困难是什么? 您觉得亟待解决的问题还有哪些? //

Reuters: China's economy grew at 7.7% last year. In the past year since you became Chinese premier, what do you think is the biggest challenge and difficulty and what are the pressing issues that need to be resolved? //

李克强:我确实很佩服你们这些驻华记者,能这么流利地说中文。//

Li Keqiang: I truly admire all these resident journalists of foreign media in China for speaking Chinese so well. //

要说去年最大的挑战,那还是经济下行压力加大的挑战。中国的中央财政收入一度出现负增长,金融领域 6 月份还有所谓"钱荒",银行间隔夜拆借利率一度超过了 13%,而且用电量、货运量的增幅也大幅回落。国际上出现了一些舆论,说中国经济可能要硬着陆,还给出了指标,说增长可能只有 3% 到 4%。而对我们来说,财政和货币政策运用空间又很有限,宏观调控确实面临多难选择。//

The biggest challenge last year was the increased downward pressure on our economy. Central government revenue registered negative growth at one point. There was the so-called "money squeeze" in the financial sector last June. Inter-bank lending rate exceeded 13%. And there was a slump in the growth of electricity consumption and cargo transport volume. There was this view in the international community that the Chinese

economy would suffer a hard landing and China's growth would drop to 3–4%. Moreover, we had only very limited room for manoeuvre in carrying out our fiscal and monetary policies, and we were faced with multiple tough choices in exercising macro-control. //

怎么办?遇万难还须放胆,破困局要用智慧。我们保持定力,创新宏观调控的思路和方式,明确了经济运行的合理区间,就是增长和就业不能越出下限,通胀不能突破上限,而且着力促改革、调结构,让市场发力。正是在以习近平同志为总书记的党中央领导下,经过全国人民的共同奋斗,我们顶住压力,实现了经济社会发展的主要预期目标。//

Under such conditions, what should we do? When confronted with mounting challenges, one needs to show guts. To tackle a difficult situation, one needs to have wisdom. We held our ground. We pursued creative thinking and ways in exercising macro-control and set a proper range for China's economic operation. That is to say, we worked to ensure that GDP growth and employment would not slide below the lower limit and inflation would not exceed the upper limit. We focused our efforts on boosting reform and making structural adjustment to ensure that the market will play a strong role. Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary and thanks to the concerted efforts of the entire Chinese people, we faced the pressure down and met our targets. //

现在我们看的更多的是困难和问题。今年挑战依然严峻,而且可能会更加复杂。我们既要稳增长、保就业,又要防通胀、控风险,还要提质增效,治理污染,多重目标的实现需要找一个合理的平衡点,这可以说是高难度的动作。但凡事不患难而患无备。所谓磨好了斧子才能劈开柴。我想只要我们正视困难、直面挑战、趋利避害,就是遇事克难的成功之道。我们有去年应对经济下行的经历,中国经济又有着巨大的潜能和韧性,我们有能力也有条件使今年经济运行保持在合理区间。//

Now what is on top of our mind is the existing difficulties and problems. We will confront serious challenges this year, and some may be even more complex. We need to keep steady growth, ensure employment, avert inflation and defuse risks. We also need to raise the quality and efficiency of China's economic development and tackle pollution. So we need to strike a proper balance amidst all these goals and objectives. This is not going to be easy. But the thing we have to fear is not the difficulty itself, but lack of preparedness, just as only a sharpened axe can cut through firewood. We will face up to the difficulties and challenges and make the most of the favorable conditions while averting unfavorable ones. This holds the secret to our success. Moreover, we gained good experience from handling the economic downturn last year, and the Chinese economy has tremendous potential and resilience. So I believe we have the ability and conditions to keep the economic operation within a proper range this year. //

中央电视台记者:推进简政放权是您在去年记者会和今年报告中特别强调的一点,在采访的时候我听到大家对这项改革有很多好评,也听到不少抱怨,比如说有的部门依然存在办事难现象,有的部门可能把次要的权放出去了,重要的权还留着。请问总理,关于简政放权的措施您认为怎样才能真正落到实处,要减到什么样的程度这项改革任务才算是基本完成了? //

CCTV: In last year's press conference and this year's government work report, you laid special stress on streamlining administration and delegating powers. In our reporting activities we have heard much praise from the society about this reform initiative. Yet at the same time we have also heard complaints among the people that it is still difficult to get things done in some governmental departments. And some governmental departments may have released some less important powers, but still hold on to those more important ones. How to ensure that this reform initiative will be fully implemented. And to what extent can we say this reform task has been completed? //

李克强:去年,中央政府把简政放权作为改革的"先手棋",我们确实下了不小力气,到现在一年

的时间,仅中央政府下放取消的审批事项就有 416 项。更重要的是它释放了一个强烈的信号,给企业松绑、让市场发力。结果企业找政府的少了,地方跑北京的少了。有个统计数字可以表明这激发了市场的活力。去年新注册企业增长 27.6%,其中私营企业新增 30%,这是十多年来最高的。简政放权是激发市场活力、调动社会创造力的利器,是减少权力寻租、铲除腐败的釜底抽薪之策。党的十八届三中全会提出,要让市场在资源配置中发挥决定性作用和更好发挥政府作用,我想简政放权是重要的突破口、切入点。//

Li Keqiang: Last year, the Chinese Government took streamlining administration and delegating powers as the top priority on its reform agenda. With tremendous efforts, the central government has abolished or delegated to lower-level governments 416 items subject to State Council review and approval. This has sent out a very strong signal that we will loosen the straitjacket over enterprises and let the market play a strong role. As a result, fewer enterprises find it necessary to turn to the government and fewer local governments find it necessary to turn to the central government. This reform initiative has tremendously boosted market dynamism as shown in the following statistics: The number of newly registered businesses last year increased by 27.6%, among which the number of newly registered private businesses increased by 30%, the highest in over ten years. This shows that streamlining administration and delegating powers is a powerful tool in energizing the market and stimulating social creativity. It is also the fundamental solution for cutting rent-seeking behavior and uprooting corruption. It was decided at the Third Plenum of the 18th CPC Central Committee that the market will play a decisive role in allocating resources and the government should better play its role. Streamlining administration and delegating powers is an important starting point in this direction. //

当然,放,并不是说政府就不管了,我们讲的是放管结合。要让政府有更多的精力来完善和创新宏观调控,尤其是加强事中事后的监管。对一些搞坑蒙拐骗、假冒伪劣、侵犯知识产权、蓄意污染环境、违背市场公平竞争原则的行为,要严加监管、严厉惩处。//

Delegation of power does not mean that the government will stay out of everything. What we need is both power delegation and tightened oversight. This way, the government can have extra energy to focus on pursuing creative and better macro-control. In particular, supervision over these delegated matters should be tightened when these matters are being handled and after they have been handled. Such behaviors as cheating and swindling of marketplace, making and selling of fake or substandard goods, violation of intellectual property rights, polluting activities and those activities that obstruct fair market competition will be put under rigorous oversight and severely punished. //

放管结合,要体现公平原则。当然,我们在推进简政放权中,也确实遇到了像避重就轻、中间梗阻、"最后一公里"不通畅等问题。开了弓哪还有回头箭?我们只能是一抓到底、一往无前。//

The principle of equity should be reflected in both power delegation and tightened oversight. I am aware that in the course of power delegation there have been such problems as a perfunctory attitude, midway obstruction or power delegation getting stuck in the last mile. But how can an arrow shot be turned back? We are determined to see this reform through. //

我们还要继续啃"硬骨头"。至于说到什么程度满意,那就是要正确地处理好政府和市场的关系。市场经济也是法治经济,我们要努力做到让市场主体"法无禁止即可为",让政府部门"法无授权不可为",调动千千万万人的积极性,为中国经济的发展不断地注入新的动力。//

We are prepared to take on tough challenges in pursuing this reform initiative. As to to what extent will we feel satisfied, we will keep up this reform until there is a proper relationship between the government and the market. The market economy is one based on the rule of law. We need to ensure that market entities can do anything which is not prohibited by the law, and governmental departments must not do anything unless it is

mandated by the law, so as to mobilize the initiative of all sides and add new impetus to the growth of the Chinese economy. //

CNBC: Many investors believe that China's growth rate this year could be slower and lower than the official rate of 7.5%. What is the slowest rate of growth you would find acceptable without stimulating the economy? //

美国消费者新闻与商业频道记者:许多投资者认为,今年中国经济的增长会继续放缓,会低于确定的 7.5% 的增长目标。在不采取更多刺激政策的前提下,您所能接受的最低增速是多少? //

李克强:我刚才讲了,一些关于中国经济偏悲观的报道我看到了,也注意了。去年我们在并没有采取短期刺激政策的情况下能够实现经济预期目标,为什么今年不可以呢? //

Li Keqiang: As I said before, I am aware of those pessimistic reports about the Chinese economy. Last year, without taking additional short-term stimulus measures, we succeeded in meeting the economic target. Why can't we do it this year? //

当然,我不否认今年可能会有更复杂的因素,我们之所以把经济增长率定在 7.5% 左右,考虑的还是保就业、惠民生、增加城乡居民收入。我们更注重的是数字背后的民生、增长背后的就业。//

There is no denying that we may encounter a more complex situation this year. We have set this year's GDP growth target at around 7.5%. What we have on our mind is to ensure employment, improve people's lives and increase urban and rural incomes. What we care more about is the livelihood of our people behind a GDP figure and employment behind GDP growth. //

这使我想到上个月 23 号, 20 国集团财长和央行行长会议发布了一个公报,提出要在现有政策可达到的水平上,把 GDP 在 5 年内再提高 2 个百分点,以增加就业。在我的印象当中,G20 这么说可能还是第一次,这表明主要经济体更加看重增长和就业的关系。//

On 23 February, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting issued a communiqué. It said that the G20 will work to raise its collective GDP by 2% within five years based on the current trajectory in order to add jobs. As far as I recall, this is the first time the G20 set such a target. That shows all major economies value the role of growth in generating jobs. //

没有就业就没有收入,也难以增加社会财富。我在基层曾经访问过一些"零就业"家庭,一个家庭没有一个人就业,真是毫无生气,没有希望。现在我们全国每年要新增城镇劳动力就业 1000 万人以上,还要给 600 万 — 700 万新增的农村劳动力进城务工留有一定的空间,所以要有合理的 GDP 增速。//

Without a job, there is no source of income and it will be difficult to increase social wealth. I once visited some zero-employment families. When none of the family members has a job, the entire family is listless and hopeless. Each year we need to add over 10 million urban jobs and leave room for about six to seven million rural migrant workers to come to get employed in cities. Therefore we need appropriate GDP growth. //

我们说 GDP 增长的预期目标是 7.5% 左右,左右嘛,就是有弹性的,高一点,低一点,我们是有容忍度的。至于你说可以接受的下限是什么,那就是这个 GDP 增速必须保证比较充分的就业,使居民收入合理增长。我们不片面追求 GDP,但我们还是需要贴近老百姓的 GDP,提高质量效益、节能环保的 GDP。//

We set the GDP growth target for this year at about 7.5%. This "about" means that there is a level of flexibility here. You asked me what is the lowest GDP growth that we can live with. This GDP growth needs to ensure fairly full employment and realize reasonable increase of people's income. We are not preoccupied with GDP growth. The GDP growth we want is one that brings real benefits to our people, helps raise the quality and efficiency of economic development and contributes to energy conservation and environmental protection. //

《香港商报》记者:很多香港民众认为,面对周边国家和地区快速发展,香港竞争优势遭到了很大

的弱化,请问总理怎么看香港的发展前景? //

Hong Kong Commercial Daily: As neighboring countries and regions grow fast, many people in Hong Kong feel that Hong Kong's competitive edge is declining. How do you see the future prospects of Hong Kong's development? //

李克强:这几年,世界经济可以说是跌宕起伏,在这种严峻复杂的环境下,香港能够站住脚跟,保持繁荣,本身就表明香港经济有竞争力。//

Li Keqiang: There has been much volatility in the global economy in recent years. Under such grave and complex conditions, Hong Kong has stood firm and maintained prosperity. I believe this shows Hong Kong has kept its competitive edge. //

香港在祖国内地改革开放和现代化建设中,作出了重要贡献。我们现在全面深化改革,促进经济升级,也会给香港发展带来更大的空间。中央对港澳的政策是一贯的、明确的,中央政府会继续支持香港保持并且提升国际金融、贸易、航运中心的地位。内地正进一步扩大服务业开放,香港在这方面有专业优势,近水楼台可以先得月!我相信,香港同胞历来有着敢拼能赢的精神,会在未来全球竞争中保持竞争优势,保持繁荣。//

Hong Kong has made important contributions to the reform, opening up and modernization drive on the mainland. The comprehensive deepening of reform and economic upgrading of China will also open up broad space for Hong Kong's development. The central government's policy towards Hong Kong and Macao is consistent and clear-cut. The central government will continue to support Hong Kong in maintaining and elevating its status as an international financial, trading and shipping centre. The mainland is opening up its service sector, and Hong Kong has a leading edge in this field. "A pavilion close to the pond will get the moonlight first." With Hong Kong people's enterprising spirit, I have confidence that Hong Kong will keep its competitive edge and maintain prosperity amidst future global competition. //

美联社记者:您如何评价中美关系的现状,要进一步提升双边关系水平,两国面临哪些障碍?中方希望美方做出哪些改变? //

Associated Press: Mr Premier, how do you comment on the current state of China-US relationship? In order to further raise the level of China-US ties, what do you think are the obstacles in the way and what change does China wish to see on the part of the United States? //

李克强:中美关系实质上是世界上最大的发展中国家和最大的发达国家之间的关系。去年习近平主席和奥巴马总统在加州庄园会晤达成构建新型大国关系的重要共识,那就是不冲突不对抗、相互尊重、合作共赢。//

Li Keqiang: The China-US relationship, in essence, is a relationship between the largest developing country and largest developed country in the world. Last year, President Xi Jinping and President Obama had a meeting in California and reached the important consensus of building a new model of major-country relationship between China and the United States. This relationship has the defining feature of non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. //

当然,中美因为历史文化背景不同,发展阶段不同,在一些问题上有分歧,这是客观存在,在合作当中有摩擦也是事实,但这是合作中的"烦恼"。只要双方相互尊重,尊重对方的核心利益和重大关切,管控好分歧,平等磋商,尤其是注意扩大共同利益,我们就可以提升中美关系的水平。//

China and the United States are different in history, culture and stage of development. So it's only natural that these two countries have some differences and there are also some frictions in their cooperation. But these are pains amidst growing cooperation. As long as the two sides respect each other's core interests and major concerns, properly manage differences and engage in equal consultations, in particular, continue to expand their

converging interests, they can further raise the level of this relationship. //

中美的共同利益远远大于分歧,去年我们双边贸易额达到 5200 多亿美元,粗略算的话,每一个工作小时,中美之间可能有 1 亿美元的生意已经做成了,何况我们现在还正在进行中美投资协定的谈判。中美合作潜力巨大,要在增强互补性上多做文章。所谓智者求同,愚者求异,"变"是向有利于中美双方、有利于两国关系健康稳定的方向去走,还是要择宽处行,谋长久之利。//

The common interests between China and the United States far outweigh their differences. The volume of bilateral trade reached over 520 billion US dollars last year. Roughly calculated, about every one hour, China and the United States will have cut deals worth 100 million dollars. Moreover, the two sides are now in negotiation of a bilateral investment treaty. So there is much more that we can do to further unleash the potential of Sino-US cooperation, and we need to make the most of our complementarities. As a Chinese saying goes, wise people seek common interests while the unwise focus on their differences. Whatever the change may be, it should be conducive to both countries and to the sound and steady growth of China-US ties. So in a word, China and the United States need to focus more on common ground in pursuit of long-term benefits. //

《中国日报》记者:您在报告里讲改革要有壮士断腕的决心、背水一战的气概,还要抓住牵一发动全身的举措,那么您觉得今年最应该从哪些领域突破? //

China Daily: In your government work report, you said that the government will pursue reform with utmost determination and focus on those reform steps that will have an overall impact. I would like to ask: what is the top priority on the government reform agenda this year? //

李克强:党的十八届三中全会提出要全面深化改革,也就是要把改革贯穿到经济社会发展的各个领域、各个环节。我回想了一下,去年以来国务院开了40次常务会议,其中有30次是研究改革相关的议题,即使是其他议题我们也是在用改革的精神研究和推进的,其基本取向就是让市场发力、激活社会的创造力,政府尽应尽的责任,让人民受惠。//

Li Keqiang: It was decided at the third Plenum of the 18th CPC Central Committee that we will pursue a comprehensive deepening of reform in China. This means that reform will be carried out in all areas of China's economic and social development. Since last year, the State Council has altogether convened 40 executive meetings. Thirty of them are directly related to reform topics. And the rest of the topics are also studied and pursued with the spirit of reform. The ultimate goal of reform is to energize the market and stimulate creativity of the society. The government needs to perform its duties well to bring benefits to the people. //

这也使我回想起 30 多年前,我在农村当村干部,那时候起早贪黑,恨不得把每个劳动力当天干什么都给定下来,结果呢?到头来就是吃不饱肚子。后来搞承包制,放开搞活,农民自己决定干什么、怎么种,几年时间温饱问题就解决了。当然,我们现在推进全面深化改革,实现目标有个过程,但古人说"吾道一以贯之",只要我们锲而不舍,假以时日,必有成效。//

Your question reminds me of those days I spent in a rural village as a cadre more than 30 years ago. During that time, I worked very hard around the clock. I was anxious to plan out the share of work for each and every villager for the day. But still, with all the hard work, we still didn't have enough to eat. But later, land was contracted to local villagers, past restrictions were lifted, and peasants were able to decide for themselves what they wanted to grow on the contracted land and what they wanted to do. In just a few years' time, food and clothing was no longer a problem. To comprehensively deepen reform in China will take time. But our ancestors believe that one needs to be persistent in one's pursuit of the objective. With persistent efforts over time, I believe we will be able to achieve our goal. //

我们要全面深化改革,也要抓牵"牛鼻子"的改革,在重点领域有所突破。今年我们还要继续推进简政放权,让市场发力,有效规范地发挥作用;还要把财税金融改革作为重头戏,包括给小微企业

减免税费方面有新的举措,给市场助力;以结构改革推进结构调整,深化国企改革,发展混合所有制经济,放宽市场准人,尤其是在服务业领域,像医疗、养老、金融等,让市场增强竞争力。诸多的改革我在政府工作报告中都说了,这里就不再赘述了,关键还在于推进落实。//

In the course of comprehensively deepening reform, we certainly need to stay focused on key reform initiatives, and seek breakthroughs in key areas. This year, we will continue to streamline administration and delegate power to let the market fully play its role in an effective and well-regulated manner. We will take fiscal, tax and financial reforms as priorities. For example, new steps will be taken to ease the tax burden on micro and small businesses to boost market vitality. We will pursue structural reform to boost structural adjustment. In this area, we will deepen reform of state-owned enterprises, vigorously develop a mixed-ownership economy and ease market access, especially in the service sector, such as health care, old-age support and financial services to boost market competition. I have set out in detail the reform initiatives we are going to take this year in my government work report. I will not elaborate on it here. The crucial thing is to ensure that all reform measures will be fully implemented. //

当然,改革会触动利益、会动"奶酪",你放权,有些部门的权就少了;放宽市场准入,增强市场竞争力,一些企业就可能会感到压力。但是为了释放改革红利,尤其是让广大人民受惠,我们义无反顾。//

In the course of reform, the vested interests will be shaken up and some people's cheese will be moved, so to speak. For example, in the course of power delegation, some governmental departments will find fewer powers in their hands. In boosting market competition and easing market access, some existing companies will feel greater pressure. But in order to further release the dividends of reform and bring greater benefits to our people, we will carry through the reform without hesitation. //

台湾东森电视台记者:我们都知道两岸现在迎来了一个好的机遇,在今年过完年之后,两岸事务主管部门负责人见了面,习近平总书记也与中国国民党荣誉主席连战见面,并且发表了重要谈话。两岸现在的交流以及互动非常密切,大家也非常希望两岸关系有新的突破。请问您对新的一年两岸关系发展有什么样的期待?//

ETTV of Taiwan, China: We now see a great opportunity for further growth of cross-Strait relations. Shortly after the Chinese New Year, the competent departments of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits held a meeting. General Secretary Xi Jinping met with KMT Honorary Chairman Lien Chan, and made important remarks on cross-Strait relations. There has been very close exchange and cooperation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. People on both sides hope to see new breakthrough in cross-Strait ties. What is your expectation for cross-Strait ties this year? //

李克强:两岸是手足同胞,一家人,此话可以说常讲常新。你刚才列举了两岸关系进展的一些事实,我也想讲一件很有趣的事。去年两岸的媒体共同把"进"字作为两岸年度汉字,这个字可以说反映了两岸关系和平发展的趋势,也反映了两岸民众的期待。我也期待着在新的一年两岸关系有新的进展,再"进"一步。//

Li Keqiang: People on both sides of the Taiwan Straits are compatriots and members of one family. This is always true and highly relevant. Just now, you mentioned a few important events in the recent development of cross-Strait ties. Let me also share one interesting anecdote. Last year, media of the two sides of the Taiwan Straits jointly selected the Chinese character "进" or "progress" in English, as "Chinese Character of the Year". I believe this shows the trend of peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and represents the common wish of people on both sides. I hope to see even greater and new progress in cross-Strait ties this year. //

我认为,两岸关系中的重要内容是人员往来和经贸合作。去年两岸人员往来已经突破 800 万人次,创历史新高,希望继续保持这样一个好势头。两岸还在就 ECFA 后续协议进行商谈,希望早出成果,造福两岸的民众和企业。借此机会也请你转达我对台湾同胞新一年的祝福。//

I believe people-to-people exchange and business cooperation are important components of cross-Strait relations. Last year, over 8 million visits were exchanged between people of the two sides, reaching a new high. We hope such good momentum will be kept. Moreover, the two sides are also in consultation of a follow-up to the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA). We hope to see early results out of the consultations so that greater benefits can be delivered to people and businesses of both sides. Please also convey my New Year greetings to our Taiwan compatriots.

新华社记者:房地产一直是社会持续关注的问题,今年两会上也有代表委员提了很多建议和意见。请问总理,政府在这方面有什么新的思路和举措? //

Xinhua News Agency: The housing issue has always been a hot topic among the Chinese society. During this year's two Sessions, many deputies and members put forward their suggestions and views on this topic. I would like to ask what will be the new ideas and measures of the government on this issue? //

李克强:房地产问题是个大问题,直接关系到居民住房。让人民群众住有所居,这是政府的奋斗目标。我们需要根据不同人群的需求、不同城市的情况,分类施策,分城施策。//

Li Keqiang: The real estate issue is a big issue, as it directly concerns home of the people. The goal of the government is to ensure adequate housing for the people. We need to take differential measures in response to diverse needs and in light of different situations in different cities. //

政府还是要用更多的精力、更大的力度来解决好群众的基本住房问题。现在我们国家城镇集中连片的棚户区还居住着上亿人,可以说不具备基本的生存条件。几百个人一个旱厕,特别是北方,到了冬天有些居民人睡要戴着棉帽、穿着棉衣,这是政府心头之痛。所以今年我们要继续加大棚户区改造力度,至少要再改造 470 万套以上。我们还要推进公租房等保障房建设,并且实行公平分配,让新就业的年轻人和长期进城务工人员缓解住房困难。在这方面,我认为干一寸胜过说一尺。//

I believe the government needs to focus on and do more to meet the people's basic housing needs. Now, up to 100 million people still live in those contiguous poor urban rundown areas, and these people lack their basic living conditions. For example, several hundred people have to share one toilet, and in places in Northern China, people have to wear cotton-padded coats and hats when they go to sleep on a winter night. This is deeply distressing for the government. We will rebuild more rundown areas this year, and the goal is to rebuild at least over 4.7 million rundown houses. At the same time, we will also build more government-subsidized housing, such as public rental housing to ease the housing difficulty of those young people who have just entered workforce and rural migrant workers, and ensure that these housing units will be distributed equitably. In this regard, even a small action is a lot more important than a thousand words. //

对于合理的自住需求,也要有相应的政策支持,包括增加普通商品房供应。对房地产市场则要因城 因地分类进行调控,抑制投机投资性需求,重在建立长效机制,促进房地产市场平稳健康发展。//

There will be policy support for reasonable housing needs for self-living. The government will increase the supply of ordinary commercial housing. We will take a differential approach in regulating the housing market for different places. We will curb the housing needs for speculation and investment purposes, and establish a long-term mechanism to promote steady and sound growth of the housing market. //

中央人民广播电台记者:现在老百姓对雾霾的抱怨越来越多。我们也注意到,您在政府工作报告中对污染用了"宣战"这个词。请问总理,"宣战"到底意味着什么? //

China National Radio: There has been growing public complaint about smog. In your government work

report, you said the government will declare war against pollution. I wish to ask you what do you mean by that? $/\!/$

李克强:我说要向雾霾等污染宣战,因为这是社会关注的焦点问题。许多人早晨一起来,就打开手机查看 PM2.5 的数值,这已经成为重大的民生问题。//

Li Keqiang: I said the government will declare war against smog and pollution as a whole, because this has become a serious issue on the top of the minds of our people. For many people, the first thing they do after getting up in the morning is to check the PM2.5 figure for the day. This has become a major issue that concerns our people's lives. //

我们说要向雾霾等污染宣战,不是说向老天爷宣战,而是要向我们自身粗放的发展方式和生活方式宣战。去年国务院出台了治理大气污染的十条措施,在 161 个城市进行 PM2.5 数值的监测,这在发展中国家是最多的。这不仅是要让人民群众提高自身防护意识,更是给政府增加责任。今年我们主动加压,加大降耗力度,确定能源消耗强度要下降 3.9%,而去年实际下降 3.7%,这意味着要减少 2.2 亿吨煤炭消耗。//

To declare war against smog and other pollution doesn't mean that we are declaring war against Nature. Rather, what we mean is that we are going to declare war against our own inefficient and unsustainable model of growth and way of life. Last year, the State Council issued a ten-point plan of action on the prevention and control of air pollution. We now conduct PM2.5 monitoring in 161 cities across the country, which is the most extensive scope among all developing countries. This is not just a reminder for our people to take precautionary measures, but also placing additional responsibility on the shoulder of the government. This year we will take further measures. For example, we have set the target of cutting energy intensity by 3.9% on top of the 3.7% reduction we achieved last year. This is equivalent to cutting coal burning by 220 million tons. //

向包括雾霾在内的污染宣战,就要"铁腕"治污加"铁规"治污,对那些违法偷排、伤天害人的行为,政府绝不手软,要坚决予以惩处。对那些熟视无睹、监管不到位的监管者要严肃追查责任。//

In fighting pollution, we need both tough measures and tough regulations. The government will severely punish those illegal emitting activities which harm both nature and human health. And those overseeing agencies which turn a blind eye to polluting activities and fail to perform their overseeing duties will be held accountable. //

当然,雾霾的形成有复杂原因,治理也是一个长期过程。但是我们不能等风盼雨,还是要主动出击,希望全社会,政府、企业、社会成员,大家一起努力,持续不懈地奋斗,来打这场攻坚战。//

There are complex causes for smog and to tackle this problem will take a long time. But we cannot sit here and wait for wind or rain to drive smog away. We have to take action ourselves. I hope that the government, the businesses and each and every individual of the society will act together and make persistent efforts to win this tough battle against smog.

快到吃饭时间了, 但是主持人希望再问两个问题, 大家愿意吗? 那好吧, 我服从公众。//

It's almost time for lunch, but the moderator hopes that I take two more questions. Would you like that? fine, I'm happy to oblige. //

RTL 4: Premier Li, you went to Europe last year to solve the solar panel dispute and also to promote Chinese nuclear power equipments and Chinese high-speed rail. I'd like to know your thoughts on what kind of obstacles you think should be removed for Chinese companies who want to do business in Europe. And in return, how will you address the European concerns about market access to China? //

荷兰国际新闻电视台记者:去年您访问多个欧洲国家,亲自介入解决中欧光伏产品贸易纠纷,访问期间,您还推介中国的核电以及高铁装备。请问您希望如何解决中国企业进入欧洲市场存在的障碍?中

国政府将采取什么措施来解决欧方对欧洲公司进入中国市场的关切? //

李克强:推介中国产品,维护中国企业在海外的正当权益,这是作为中国总理份内的事。我去年访问中东欧的时候,曾经跟多国领导人说,如果你要建高铁、核电,在同等质量下,用中国的装备可能是建设最快、成本最低的,我有这个底气。//

Li Keqiang: To promote Chinese products and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies overseas is part of my job as Chinese Premier. During my visit to central and eastern Europe last year, I once said to leaders of these countries that of all the high-speed railways and nuclear power plants of the same quality, the Chinese companies can deliver in the fastest way and at the lowest cost. I have such confidence. //

中国经济要升级,出口产品也要升级,我们不能总是卖鞋袜、衣帽、玩具,当然这也需要,但中国装备走出去可以在世界市场上接受竞争的检验,提质升级。这样做也有利于各方,因为我们装备的很多零部件从全球采购,一些技术也是购买来的,中欧与相关方面,就装备走出去进行合作可以实现互利共赢。//

In upgrading the Chinese economy, we also need to upgrade Chinese exports. We cannot just export toys, apparel or shoes, although they are also necessary. We also need to export Chinese equipment to help Chinese equipment raise its competitiveness as they are tested on the international market. This is also a win-win situation, as among exports of Chinese equipment, many components and parts are sourced globally and some technologies are introduced from overseas. So this brings benefits to all. //

不过我还想通过各位向中国企业转达一句话:你们可是要尽力啊!我们对中国装备质量做了承诺,可不要让这个承诺落空啊。请中外记者给予监督。至于你说到去年的光伏案,中欧作为最大的贸易伙伴,贸易规模很大,摩擦难免,只要我们相互尊重,妥善协商,是可以解决问题的。光伏案的解决可以说是一个成功的案例。我可不希望因为个案,而且占双方贸易总额比例很小,来丢掉"最大贸易伙伴"的帽子。//

Here through you, I wish to convey a message to the Chinese companies. That is: you need to do your best. We have given our word for the quality of Chinese equipment. I hope you will not prove us wrong, and the Chinese and foreign journalists can supervise. You mentioned the trade dispute over photovoltaic products last year. China and the EU are each other's largest trading partners. It is only natural that there will be some trade frictions between them given the large size of their trade. But as long as the two sides respect each other and engage in proper consultations, problems can be solved. And settlement of last year's photovoltaic products case is a success story. I don't want to see that one loses the status of "biggest trading partner" because of those individual cases which account for only a very small percentage of the two-way trade. //

说到中欧关系,我还要说,中欧都主张世界多极化,也主张投资便利化。中欧企业相互进入、相互投资,这是大趋势。我们正在进行中欧投资协定谈判,相信只要我们本着对等、公平、便利的原则推进,为企业创造条件,中欧相互投资额会不断攀升,经济融合度也会不断加深。//

Talking about China-EU relations, I want to say that both China and the EU are strong advocates of a multipolar world and investment facilitation. I believe it is an irresistible trend for Chinese and European companies to enter into each other's markets and make mutual investment. The two sides are now negotiating an investment agreement. I believe that as long as the two sides conduct the negotiation in a fair, reciprocal and facilitating way and create conditions for companies of both sides, there will be even greater mutual investment and deeper economic integration between China and Europe. //

中国国际广播电台记者:最近网上民调显示,社会保障是网民关注的热点之一。去年您就提出打造 民生保障安全网。请问总理,在这方面有哪些进展和新的打算? // China Radio International and its Website: A recent opinion poll shows that social security is one of the hot topics among Chinese netizens. Last year, you said that the government will build a social safety net to improve people's livelihood. How has this been progressing and is there any new plan in this regard? //

李克强:社会关注的热点问题尤其是民生问题,是政府工作的重点。今年要着重继续做三件事,就是保基本、兜底线、促公平。//

Li Keqiang: Topics of high concern to the people, in particular those related to people's livelihood, represent priorities on the government's work agenda. This year, we have three major tasks. Namely, we need to meet people's basic living needs. We need to provide a last resort for people to fall back on in case of special difficulty. And we need to promote social fairness. //

第一是保基本。也就是说要在义务教育、基本医疗、基本养老、基本住房等诸多方面来构建一个完整的社会保障安全网。我们现在基本医保已经总体覆盖全民了,基本养老的参与人数也超过8亿人。但是群众还有反映,比如接续难、转移难这些问题。我们要继续巩固和扩大这些基本的社会保障。今年适当时候要提高基本养老金标准,而且要解决或者说逐步解决碎片化的问题,整合城乡医保,推进养老保险并轨,构建统筹城乡的社会保障网。//

First, we need to ensure people's basic living needs. We will build a comprehensive social safety net covering, among others, compulsory education, medical care, old-age support and housing. Our basic medical insurance schemes have achieved full coverage. Now basic old-age insurance schemes cover more than 800 million people. We need to make them truly portable and transferable, and further expand their coverage. We will raise the basic pension benefits at an appropriate time this year, and tackle the problem of fragmentation in due course. That is to say, we need to further integrate old-age and medical insurance schemes in urban and rural areas to put in place an integrated social safety net for the entire population. //

第二是兜底线。因为国力所限,我们基本保障的标准还是低水平的,总会有一部分人因病、因灾等特殊情况而陷入生活的窘境,基本保障兜不住,还要进行社会救助。我们绝不能让无家可归、因贫弃医等现象频发。将心比心啊,政府工作人员应该以百姓之心为心。所以前不久我们出台了新的社会救助管理办法,就是要让这些特殊困难群众求助有门。//

Second, we need to provide a last resort for people to fall back on in time of special difficulty. As China is still a developing country, our basic welfare benefits are still quite low. But there are these people in the society who run into special difficulty because of serious illnesses or sudden disasters. In such circumstances, basic welfare benefits are no longer enough. They are in need of social assistance. The government must prevent frequent occurrence of such instances in which people become homeless or have to give up seeking medical treatment because they cannot afford it. Just imagine what if such situation happens to ourselves. All government employees must always put such special needs of the people on top of their mind. Therefore, not long ago, we introduced new methods on providing social aid to ensure that people who run into special difficulty will have somewhere to turn to. //

第三是促公平。我们保基本、兜底线,是为了解除人民群众就业、创业的后顾之忧,同时还要采取措施,尤其在一些领域要有更有效的办法,让就业、求职机会公平,让创业有公平竞争的环境,特别要注重起点公平、教育公平。我们要继续增加农村贫困地区学生上重点高校的人数,今年要增加10%以上,并且要加大农村贫困地区薄弱学校改造的力度。//

Third, we need to promote social fairness. The above-mentioned two major tasks are designed to ensure that our people won't have any worries in seeking employment and starting one's own business. The government needs to take more effective steps to ensure equal opportunities in finding jobs and level the playing field for people to start their own businesses. The government needs to pay particular attention to ensuring fairness at the

starting point, namely, fairness in education. This year we will raise the proportion of rural students from poor areas enrolled in key colleges and universities by over 10%. We will also further improve those poorly-built and low-performing schools in poor rural areas. //

政府就是应该创造条件,让每个人都能通过自己的奋斗有公平发展的机会,我们要把公正贯彻到社会最基层。//

In a word, the government needs to create conditions to ensure that each and every individual will have an equal shot at a better life through hard work and that fairness and justice are truly realized even at the most primary level of the society. Thank you. //

主持人说到吃午饭的时间了。中国人说民以食为天。所谓民是众的意思,你们加起来远远超过我一个人,还是要让大家不能挨饿。谢谢你们参与、关注今天的记者会,也谢谢一些记者的提问,谢谢大家。//

The moderator indicates to me that it's already lunch time. The Chinese people see food as an overriding priority. With so many people at the press conference, I hate to stand between you and your lunch. Thank you for coming to today's press conference, and thank you for your questions. Thank you all. //