

A City of Masked Residents

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When everyone was enjoying spectacular moments of prosperity, the day came unexpectedly and with a strong impact. It was the day when the first case of coronavirus was confirmed in Macau. That very afternoon, Mr. Ho Iat Seng, the Macau SAR Chief Executive, appealed to the public to stay at home to minimise the impact of the virus outbreak. When everyone was concerned about how and where to buy the facemasks needed to avoid getting infected, there came a big surprise! Mr Ho promised to have 20 million facemasks provided for all the Macau citizens. A list of strategies aimed at easing the financial problems were also announced! The citizens hailed the government officers as the stars in the dark! How can we not be thankful to these compassionate and responsible city leaders?

What followed was the entire change of the city ambience. There was no one in the streets and no emission from vehicles. Everyone stayed at home. When someone tried to sneak out, there was always a voice on the loudspeaker saying, 'Stay at home!' Students had E-learning while the adults worked in their home office. All the shops were closed, except the supermarkets and pharmacies. No more 'Kaching' sound was heard in

the casino. In the middle of the night, the neon lights had faded. The city had quietened down.

In these hard times, people from all walks of life were confronted with challenges. For instance, the teachers had to adopt an alternative way to teach and various platforms to communicate with their students. To enhance students' interest in learning and maintain their study habits at home, they spent extra time and made greater efforts to provide them with a variety of learning materials. Additionally, some schools were constantly providing IT assistance for students who had no electronic devices at home or had difficulties in using IT for learning and doing assignments.

In spite of class resumption in early May, the combat against the coronavirus has not come to an end. I would like to convey my appreciation for the respectable doctors and nurses all over the world. They have tried their very best to battle the killer coronavirus. Some of them have even sacrificed their lives. They are the best models we can ever look up to. May this killer coronavirus be brought under control and may everything get back to normal as soon as possible!