

# Theme 1 Quality of Life

## 1 Definition of the quality of life

To be used with Theme 1 of Hong Kong Today (Book 1)

Topic 1: Definition of the quality of life (pp.5 – 14)

### Related Concepts/Glossary

#### Quality of life (生活素質)

The term 'quality of life' refers to individuals' level of satisfaction in relation to the different aspects of their lives. It touches upon both individual and group levels, as well as subjective and objective aspects.

With respect to a group, the quality of life implies the enhancement of the objective conditions of various levels of people's lives; with respect to an individual, the quality of life represents an individual's subjective satisfaction with the objective conditions of various levels of his/her life.

#### Material quality of life (物質生活素質)

Material quality of life generally refers to the satisfaction that can be exchanged with money. Since wealth and resources directly influence the material quality of life, it can be measured relatively easily. The material quality of life not only affects the overall quality of one's life, but it can also jeopardize the continuity of life. Hence, people usually seek satisfaction in the material level first so as to maintain their lives.

#### Non-material quality of life (非物質生活素質)

Non-material quality of life generally refers to the satisfaction of the soul that cannot be exchanged with money. It reflects a spiritual sense of satisfaction, which is intangible and usually affects the level of quality of life only without affecting the maintenance of life. Therefore, people usually begin to seek satisfaction in the non-material level only after the material level has been satisfied.

#### Human development (人類發展)

It refers to the process of expanding human options. The possession of a healthy and long life, acquisition of knowledge, and the possession of necessary resources for a decent standard of living are the three major necessary options.

#### Social quality (社會品質)

The extent to which citizens are able to participate in the social and economic life of their communities under conditions which enhance their well-being and individual potential.



Source 1 The quality of life in Hong Kong is the concern of all social strata in the city

## Level of social inclusion (社會融合度)

It means the level of people's participation in society and their willingness to accept new members into society.

According to the *Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (2003)*, the European Union (EU) suggested that the concept of social inclusion emphasizes that social policies are needed to improve people's abilities, to protect legal human rights, and to ensure everyone has the opportunity and ability to be included.

Different scholars have different understandings of social inclusion. Some of them claim that the concept should be interpreted at at least two levels: first, people are respected and cared for fairly in the social, political, economic and cultural levels, and second, people have trustful, appreciative and respectful relationships with their families, friends and in the communities.

## Level of social exclusion (社會排斥度)

It means the level of exclusion among communities. When the level of exclusion is high, social cohesion cannot be achieved. There are different definitions of social exclusion in different regions and countries. The concept can be briefly categorized into economic exclusion, political exclusion, social exclusion, cultural exclusion and social-welfare exclusion.

**Economic exclusion:** It means individuals, families and communities are unable to participate in economic activities like production, exchange and consumption effectively.

**Political exclusion:** It means individuals and social groups are excluded from political decision-making. They are powerless, and there is no one in society representing their interests.

**Social exclusion:** It refers to the situation that individuals are expelled from families and social-relationships. They meet fewer people and gather less frequent, social networks are then divided. The reduction of social support makes them feel being isolated.

**Cultural exclusion:** It involves two concepts, first, the losing of behaviour and life orientations that are approved by society and occupied the leading role; second, the failure of the minority to enjoy their cultural rights, including the conservation of their own traditions, rituals, religious beliefs and languages.

**Social-welfare exclusion:** It means individuals and social groups without citizenship are deprived of their social rights, or individuals and groups with citizenship are excluded from some of the state's welfare systems such as social insurance system.

(Source: *Xinhua Wenzhai*, issue 18, 2004.)

## Social capital (社會資本)

The concept of 'social capital' first appeared in 1980, after French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu wrote an article related to the concept for a French magazine. He defined 'social capital' as 'the sum total of actual or potential resources

that accrue to an individual or a group because of the possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition’.

According to renowned American social-philosopher Robert Putnam, ‘social capital’ refers to features of social organization, such as trust, norms, and networks, that can improve the efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated actions. Social capital enhances the benefits of investment in physical and human capital.’ This definition is more widely recognized, and is used as the key factor to explain phenomena like economic growth and political stability.

Kenneth Newton, a British scholar, understood social capital in three ways: (1) social capital is formed by civilians’ attitudes and values like trust, reciprocity and cooperation; (2) the major manifestation of social capital is the network formed by linking friends, families, communities, occupation, working and private lives together; (3) social capital is important for the establishment of social structures and social relationships.

Nowadays, people tend to see social capital as a non-physical pattern of resources, as compared with physical capital and human capital. It includes the characteristics of organizational structures like the systems and norms of social relationships, and also civilians’ characteristics of personality like trust, prestige and social reputation. Social capital contributes to the coordination of interpersonal relationships, the development of the abilities of interaction and cooperation, the enhancement of social efficiency, and increasing the benefits of physical and human capitals.

## Subject Knowledge

### **(A) Meaning of the quality of life**

The concept of ‘quality of life’ is a multi-faceted and complex one. Different social environments, cultural backgrounds or even individual ideals may affect the understanding of the quality of life. Hence, different scholars and organizations have provided different definitions for the concept.

#### **(1) Interpretations of the quality of life in different countries**

##### **(a) Denmark**

According to *IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2006*, Denmark was ranked the second in Europe on the quality of life. According to the website of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, high quality of life includes a safe social environment, free public health and educational services, a clean natural environment, low crime rate and diverse cultural activities.

##### **(b) The Netherlands, France and Germany**

These countries adopt the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) to measure the real economic welfare in a country or region. GPI has

#### Related Topic

Topic 1: What is the quality of life?, Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today* (Book 1)

expanded the counting framework of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and was first applied in countries such as the US, Canada and Britain. The merit of GPI is that it assesses more than 20 economic factors that are neglected by GDP. Values of all market or non-market activities are included in a simple and integrated framework.

(c) Bhutan

‘Gross National Happiness’ is the index created by Bhutan to measure the quality of life. Bhutan is a Buddhist country, and so she pays special attention to the mental health of her people. The index emphasizes people’s psychological and physiology health, education, good governance, living standards, social vitality and ecological diversity.

**(2) Definitions given by international organizations**

(a) United States Environmental Protection Agency

The quality of life refers to the overall well-being of people, including groups and individuals, as well as people’s living environment.

(b) World Health Organization

The quality of life is defined as individual’s perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals. It is a broad-ranging concept, incorporating a person’s physical health, psychological state, level of independence, social relationships, personal beliefs and their relationship to salient features of their environment.

(c) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

This organization does not give an official definition for the quality of life, but suggests using ‘social well-being’ as a measurement of the overall sense of well-being of a group, and ‘societal well-being’ for evaluating the structure of a social system.

(d) United Nations Human Development Index

United Nations Human Development Index makes use of literacy rate, average life expectancy, and educational level to assess social development and people’s quality of life.

In 1990, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established Human Development Index using three general indexes including ‘life expectancy’, ‘education’ and ‘quality of life’. It was issued in the *Human Development Report* the same year based on certain counting methods so as to measure the development standard of each country.

From then on, the department issues Human Development Index of countries worldwide annually, which has considerable impact on many countries and regions.



Source 2 The website of the United States Environmental Protection Agency



Source 3 The website of the World Health Organization



Source 4 The website of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

### **(3) An illustration of different points of view on the quality of life**

#### **(a) Philosophy**

The quality of life is determined by the style and state of living. The style of living is decided by the material structure of life, whereas the state of living is decided by the non-material structure of life. The quality of life is the sum of both the style and state of living, that is, an integration of mental and material qualities.

#### **(b) Sociology**

According to functionalism, various systems of a society (e.g., educational system, economic system, political system) each have their specific functions. When each system exerts its strength, the operation of the entire social system tends to stabilize. If a certain system's function expands or shrinks, the operation of society will lose its balance, and social problems will arise. Therefore, the advancement of the quality of life depends on the harmonious and balanced development of various systems.

#### **(c) Economics**

Economics is concerned about humans' material desires; it defines the quality of life as the level of satisfaction for material needs. Recent economic studies focus on the effective utilization of limited resources, raising human living conditions, and the ways to promote the healthy mental development of an individual, as well as social harmony and balance upon the satisfaction of basic material needs.

#### **(d) Psychology**

The exploration of the quality of life for psychologists usually involves both the individual level and the social level. With respect to the individual level, when a person's basic needs are satisfied properly, he/she will feel that his/her quality of life is good; with respect to a social group, apart from satisfying the needs of the members of a society, there is also an objective social indicator which analyzes from a macro perspective whether the overall needs of society are fulfilled.

#### **Teaching Suggestion**

Teachers may ask students to refer to different definitions and points of view, and then write down their own definition for the quality of life.

## **(B) Different levels of the quality of life**

### **(1) Differences between material and non-material quality of life**

The material level of the quality of life can be interpreted as the factors which guarantee the basic conditions for survival, including the affluence and fairness of the economic structure, and the safety and stability of the environmental structure. It should be noted that this does not mean that economic and environmental qualities belong to the material quality of life. Rather, each of these

#### **Related Topic**

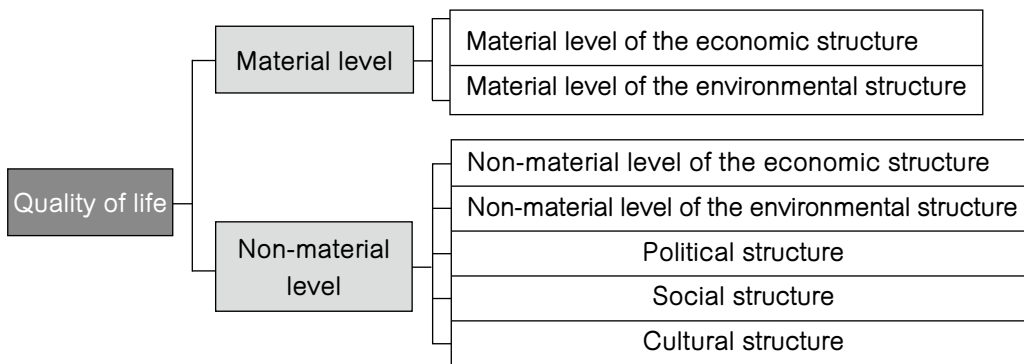
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two qualities can be examined from both material and non-material levels. For instance, the extent of wealth belongs to the material level, whereas the level of economic freedom belongs to the non-material level; the safety level of the living environment belongs to the material level, whereas the beautification of the environment belongs to the non-material level.

Non-material quality of life can be divided into political structure, social structure and cultural structure. Political structure involves the mode of distribution, heritage and exercise of power. It can be assessed through political activities such as the provision and implementation of laws and systems. Social structure involves the relationships among groups and between groups and individuals. Cultural structure can be regarded as the mode of activities such as the choice of values, exploration of knowledge, promotion of education, conformity of ethics, academic studies and art creation, as well as the objectives of these activities. What is worth noting is that the advancement of the political, social and cultural structures has a positive influence on non-material economic and environmental qualities. For instance, the government can formulate sounder policies to expand economic freedom. The promotion of education can also advocate the awareness of environmental conservation, so as to enhance the protection and improvement of the environment.

**For Learning Differences** High

Teachers may ask students to think which level of the quality of life is higher in Hong Kong as a whole, the material or the non-material ones.



Source 5 Quality of life includes both material and non-material levels

**(2) The transformation of the concept of the quality of life**

The quality of life is the sum of material and non-material quality of life. On a basic material foundation, the quality of life is determined more by non-material structures than material ones. This also explains the transformation of the concept of the quality of life.

The concept of the quality of life initially focused on the amount of wealth. Later, it was extended to other personal levels such as health condition, mentality, and the living environment. It was further extended to the overall performance of society. This is because when a place has poor living conditions, wealth can bring a sense of satisfaction and greatly improve the quality of life. However,

when the material basis of a society has reached a certain level, the growth of wealth does not have much effect on improving the quality of life. Wealth, then, does not correctly reflect a person's satisfaction towards his/her life. That is why the concept of the quality of life has been expanded to cover more aspects.

### (3) *The relationship between the quality of life and wealth*

By comparing the ranking of the quality of life and per capita GDP of various places in 2005, we can see that wealth is not necessarily in direct proportion to the quality of life.

	Quality of life in ranks	Per capita GDP in ranks	Difference in ranks
Ireland	1	4	3
Switzerland	2	7	5
Norway	3	3	0
Luxembourg	4	1	-3
Sweden	5	19	14
Singapore	11	9	-2
Hong Kong	18	11	-7
Taiwan	21	22	1
The mainland	60	74	14
United Arab Emirates	69	33	-36

(Source: 'The Economist Intelligence Unit's quality-of-life index', downloaded from [http://www.economist.com/media/pdf/quality\\_of\\_life.pdf](http://www.economist.com/media/pdf/quality_of_life.pdf).)

## **Cross-topic Knowledge**

### **(A) In what ways does globalization affect the livability of Hong Kong?**

Livability refers to the degree of environmental comfort and fitness for living. This concept can be measured by indicators that include economic growth, population density, educational level, natural environment, safety, sanitation standard and level of integrity. Because globalization brings opportunities and threats to safety, the environment and the economy, it affects the livability of places worldwide. For example, a number of surveys show that, due to serious air pollution, despite satisfactory performance in other levels, such as the economy and public order, Hong Kong still falls behind other Asian regions in the ranking of the most livable cities.

### **(B) Does happiness level reflect the quality of life?**

World Values Survey, sponsored by National Science Foundation, a US government agency, issued a report in July 2008. The report shows that generally the world was getting happier. Among all, Denmark was the happiest

Related Module

*Globalization*

Extended Information 1

Related Module

*Globalization*

country in the world because of her social equality and harmony; Zimbabwe was the least happy country due to political and social turmoil, followed by Moldova in Eastern Europe and Armenia in Central Asia. The three countries were the poorest in the world and were regarded as political autocracies by the western world. The mainland and Taiwan ranked 54th and 48th respectively. Hong Kong ranked 63th, the lowest among the East Asian countries.



Source 5 People around the world are paying more attention to whether they live happily

This survey was launched in 1981. The team tracked over 350,000 people in 98 countries and regions. The surveyor directly asked interviewees the following two questions:

1. Considering all factors, do you think you are very happy, quite happy, not quite happy or not happy at all?
2. Considering all factors, generally speaking, during these years, are you satisfied with your life?

Researchers analyzed the survey with other social standards and found that the happiness index of most of the countries was going up. In the 52 countries under survey for an average of 17 years, the happiness level of 40 countries has risen, and that of only 12 countries has decreased. People who considered themselves ‘very happy’ increased by near 7%.

Researchers said that the main reasons for a general increase in the happiness index of countries were economic growth, democracy and an increase in social tolerance. They also pointed out that Denmark’s average happiness level was 4.24, which was the highest in the world. The result was closely related to her development in democracy, equality and harmony. On the other hand, even though the US is the richest country in the world, it was not the happiest country in the survey. However, its rankings in sexual equality, racial tolerance, social diversity and political liberty were comparatively high.

The survey’s overall planner Ronald Inglehart, a political scientist at the University of Michigan, US, stated that happiness was connected with peace and democracy. He also pointed out that whether a country was happy had no absolute link with economic situation. The democratization of countries, increased in social tolerance towards minor races and women were more important. And the most crucial factor of determining happiness is how much freedom people possess to choose their own ways of life.

Extended Information 2, 3

### Ranking in World Values Survey

1st	Denmark	6th	Ireland
2nd	Puerto Rico	7th	Switzerland
3rd	Colombia	8th	Netherlands
4th	Iceland	9th	Canada
5th	Northern Ireland	10th	Austria

(Sources: adapted from several local newspapers dated 2nd July, 2008; World Values Survey, <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org>.)



## 2

# Measuring Hong Kong's quality of life from different perspectives

To be used with Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today (Book 1)*

Topic 2: Measuring Hong Kong's quality of life from different perspectives (pp.15 – 90)

### Related Concepts/Glossary

#### **Gross Domestic Product (GDP, 本地生產總值)**

It refers to the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country or region in a given period of time (usually one year). It is an indicator of economic conditions.

#### **Consumer Price Index (CPI, 消費物價指數)**

It measures the changes over time in the price level of consumer goods and services bought by the general households. It is an indicator of inflation.

#### **Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA, 內地與香港關於建立更緊密經貿關係的安排)**

CEPA is the first free trade agreement ever concluded by the mainland and Hong Kong. The main text of CEPA was signed on 29 June 2003. CEPA is a win-win trade agreement, which enhances the already close economic co-operation and integration between the mainland and Hong Kong, opens up large markets for Hong Kong products and services, and accelerates the mainland's full integration with the global economy.

#### **Individual Visit Scheme (「個人遊」計劃)**

It is one of the schemes under CEPA. It came into operation on 28 July 2003. Under this scheme, mainland residents are allowed to visit Hong Kong on their individual capacities.

#### **Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor (QDII) Scheme (「合資格境內機構投資者」制度)**

It is a transitional arrangement made under the circumstances that the totally free exchange of currency and opening up of capital markets are not available. It allows domestic investors to invest in stock markets outside their home country subject to limitations. With approval from the state authorities, mainland residents can engage in the securities investment funds of marketable securities businesses such as shares and bonds in overseas stock markets (including Hong Kong).



Source 6 The signing of CEPA has promoted the development of finance in the mainland and Hong Kong. The picture shows the situation of the representatives of the mainland and Hong Kong signing CEPA in 2003.

Extended Information 4, 5

Extended Information 6, 7

## Real wage (實質工資)

It refers to the wage obtained after discounting the inflation factor. It is an important index to reflect people's actual living standards.

Extended Information 8

## Nominal wage (名義工資)

It refers to the wage amount which people earn. The value of labour force is the basis of the nominal wage. Factors causing changes in the value of labour force change the nominal wage. But the changes are usually different, it hence affects people's living standards. For example,

Nominal wage is lower than the value of labour force when the supply of labour force is larger than the demand.

In times of inflation and currency depreciation, nominal wage may increase when the value of labour force remains unchanged. However, the increment may not be able to catch up with the rate of price increase. People's purchasing power is then lowered. When the value of labour force decreases, nominal wage will also be reduced.

Hence, nominal wage cannot reflect people's actual living standards accurately. In order to understand people's living standards, the change of the values of their labour forces and their nominal wages should be known clearly.

Extended Information 9

## Social enterprise (社會企業)

It is an enterprise that has both the characteristics of an enterprise and a social service provider. It aims at pursuing profits and contributing to society at the same time through, for example, providing services needed by society, creating jobs and training opportunities, helping the disadvantaged to be self-reliant, or subsidizing other social services.

## Population density (人口密度)

Population density refers to the average population on a unit of land (usually per km<sup>2</sup> or m<sup>2</sup>) in a given period of time. It is used to reflect the density of population distribution.



Source 7 The population density of Hong Kong is one of the highest in the world

## Urbanization (都市化)

Urbanization refers to the phenomenon in which the population continuously gathers and settles in the city, and the number of cities and their scale expand constantly.

## Heat island effect (熱島效應)

It refers to the phenomenon of higher temperatures in the urban areas as compared with the rural areas. This phenomenon is more obvious at nights and in winters. It is because the tall and densely built urban buildings block the release of heat radiance. In addition, the buildings are built with



Source 8 High-rise buildings give rise to the wall effect, resulting in higher temperatures

materials such as concrete and asphalt which absorb heat during the daytime and release energy at night. Yet there are not enough plants to absorb the released energy so that urban temperatures keep rising, leading to the heat island effect.

### **Wall effect (屏風效應)**

It refers to the phenomenon in which light is kept out and air ventilation is blocked due to groups of buildings built side by side with little distance between them.

### **Public space (公共空間)**

Public space refers to places where the public has the right of access without having to pay fees.

### **Politics (政治)**

The process in which the central authority of a country or region achieves its aims of setting the norms for social life and personal behaviour through the enactment and implementation of laws.

### **Human rights (人權)**

According to the United Nations, human rights refer to the inherent rights of all mankind, irrespective of nationality, place of residence, sex, ancestry, colour of skin, religious belief, language and identity of any kind.

### **Rule of law (法治)**

The rule of law can be interpreted as the basic principle of the law that protects people's rights, maintains social order and prevents the abuse of power by the government.

### **Freedom of the press (新聞自由)**

According to the International Press Institute, freedom of the press includes free access to news, free transmission of news, free publication and free expression of views. The press has the freedom to cover and transmit news, while the general public can exercise their freedom of publication and expression of views via the news media.

### **The Fourth Estate (第四權)**

The fourth estate was first introduced by Potter Stewart, Justice of the US Supreme Court, in 1974. It refers to the fourth political power other than executive power, legislative power and judicial power. As the fourth estate, freedom of the press functions to check and balance executive power, legislative power and judicial power, and prevent the abuse of power and errors.

#### Extended Information 10, 11

#### Teaching Suggestion

Teachers may browse the website of Development Bureau (<http://www.devb.gov.hk/>), Lands Department (<http://www.landsd.gov.hk/>) and Buildings Department (<http://www.bd.gov.hk/>) with students, to check the list of the public open spaces in Hong Kong.

#### Extended Information 12



Source 9 The media act as a bridge between the government and residents so as to let the public know about social issues

## Culture (文化)

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), culture is the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or a social group.

### Subject Knowledge

#### (A) Heat island effect

The heat island effect refers to the phenomenon in which urban areas have higher temperatures than rural areas.

##### (1) Causes

###### (a) Concentration of human activities

Concentration of population is the main cause of the heat island effect.

Most human activities consume energy. During energy conversion, heat will usually be generated. Air-conditioning, transport vehicles and industrial machinery all generate a large amount of heat energy. These machines are used more in urban areas than in rural areas. Therefore, urban temperatures are higher than rural temperatures. The bigger the population in a metropolitan area, the more prominent the heat island effect.

###### (b) Differences between urban and rural structures

One of the reasons for heat island effect is held-up heat energy.

Most buildings in urban areas are made of cement. Since cement has a higher coefficient of heat transfer, it becomes hot and cold very easily. Under the radiation of the sun, the temperature of cement buildings rises rapidly. At night, these buildings emit heat at a fast rate. In addition, plants and soil contain water, which effectively absorbs heat energy when it evaporates, thus lowering the temperature. However, as urban areas are covered by man-made constructions and the ground is covered by cement or asphalt, grassland or trees are scarce. Therefore, it is hard to lower the temperature of the ground through evaporation. Densely populated high-rise buildings also block air flow, reducing the wind speed in urban areas. Thus, the accumulated heat cannot easily be dispersed, aggravating the heat island effect.

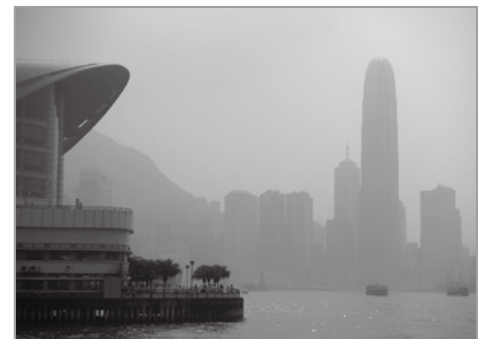
###### (c) The increase of air pollutants

Air pollution is another major factor. It increases the amount of suspended particulates in the air. These particulates are water-absorbents, and high concentration gives rise to smog. Since water vapour is a good greenhouse gas, it impedes the dispersion of heat

#### Extended Information 13

##### Related Topic

Topic 2: How do we measure the environmental quality of Hong Kong?, Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today* (Book 1)



Source 10 Hong Kong's air pollution is a 'hot' issue

during the heat releasing process. As the heat releasing process usually takes place in the evening, the heat island effect is more obvious during the nighttime.

## **(2) Effects**

The major influences of the heat island effect include abnormal weather and unobvious seasonal differences.

Temperatures in the winter time is rising, meaning winters are becoming warmer. Not only does it increase global temperatures, but it also alters the frequency and coverage of snowing, which has also changed the growth cycles and the quality of plants and crops.

Although warm winters can reduce the use of heating, the heat island effect can also raise the temperature in the summer. The energy needed for air-conditioning in the hot summer is often more than that saved in winter. Energy consumption also causes environmental pollution.

## **(B) Sustainable development**

At the end of the 1960s, people have already been concerned about environmental problems. In 1972, the United Nations held the Conference on Human Environment and introduced the concept of 'Human Environment'. In the conference it passed the *Declaration of United Nations Conference on Human Environment* and established the United Nations Environment Programme.

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development issued a report named *Our Common Future* in which the concept of 'sustainable development' was first mentioned and the definition gained wide consensus in the international society.

Sustainable development refers to development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means the harmonious mutual development of the economy, society, resources and environmental conservation meets the objective of economic development; at the same time, it protects natural and environmental resources on which human beings rely.

## **(C) Multi-cultural society**

### **(1) Definition**

A multi-cultural society is a society that recognizes, respects and tolerates the traditions, customs, understanding and identities of different races. A multi-cultural society objects to mono-cultural values. It does not tolerate limitations, bias and discrimination brought by sex, religion, age, appearance, class, language, disability, sexual orientation, culture of profession and race. It persists in protecting and nurturing cultural diversity.

## **(2) How can cultural diversity be promoted within the international community?**

Organizations worldwide have been promoting the development of cultural diversity, and made different regulations to protect the basic rights of weak social groups and eliminate discriminations. For example, the United Nations passed the *Convention Against Genocide* in 1965 and the *Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* in 1967. Later, it established the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to supervise the implement of the convention.

## **(3) How can cultural diversity be promoted in Hong Kong?**

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is a statutory organization responsible for anti-discrimination work in Hong Kong. It was established in 1996 and enforces the *Sex Discrimination Ordinance*, *Disability Discrimination Ordinance*, *Family Status Discrimination Ordinance* and *Race Discrimination Bill*. Its main duties are:

- (a) To eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, disability, family status and race (*The Race Discrimination Bill* will be implemented in 2009 in different phases);
- (b) To eliminate sexual harassment and vilification on the grounds of disability and race, and promote equal opportunities between men and women, between persons with or without a disability and irrespective of family status and race;
- (c) To promote cultural diversity and equality and motivate a compatible society so that everyone can have dignity and mutual respect. The mission of EOC is to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities;
- (d) To help the public understand the rights and duties that anti-discrimination act grants Hong Kong residents. It also provides channels for complaints against discrimination.

### **Cross-topic Knowledge**

#### **(A) Effects of the Asian financial crisis on Hong Kong**

The Asian financial crisis broke out in 1997, affecting the whole of Asia. This economic crisis resulted from international speculation on the Thai baht, leading to the depreciation of many Southeast Asian currencies and economic setback. At that time, the retail and tourism industries in Hong Kong suffered a huge blow. The stock market was even more heavily affected. In 1998, there was an economic downturn that had not been seen for many years.

 Related Module

*Globalization*

### **(1) Causes**

In 1997, the economy of Thailand was weak. Many East Asian countries, including Thailand, Malaysia and Korea had been relying on short to mid-term foreign loans for a long time to maintain their balance of payment. That their exchange rates were relatively high and mostly fixed or linked with the US dollar or currency basket provided international speculators with a good opportunity for attack with their capital.

The Quantum Fund led by George Soros, a famous American speculator, took the chance to move into the Thai market, beginning with selling short a lot of Thai baht, forcing Thailand to give up its fixed exchange rate to the US dollar and freely float the currency. Hence, an unprecedented crisis took place in the Thai financial market. The crisis soon spread to all other Southeast Asian countries that allowed their currencies to become freely convertible. The Hong Kong dollars then became the most expensive currency in Asia.



Source **11** During Asian financial turmoil, Hang Sang Index suffered from a drastic devaluation from 16,000 to 6,000 points. The picture shows the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited.

### **(2) Impact on Hong Kong**

The impact of the financial crisis on Hong Kong began to emerge three months after its outbreak.

The Hong Kong stock market suffered a heavy blow. The Hang Seng Index (HSI) had begun to drop since the end of October, with a drop of over 10% in just one day on 23 October. From August 1997 to August 1998, the HSI dropped from the highest level of 16,820 points to the lowest level of 6,545 points, a decrease of almost 61%. In 1998, there was negative economic growth, which had not been seen for many years.

### **(3) Relief measures**

The HKSAR government adopted a series of measures to stop further economic downturn:

- (a) Employing over HK\$110 billion of the Exchange Fund to buy some of the local stocks to safeguard the Hong Kong stock market and the Linked Exchange Rate System;
- (b) Expanding investment in public construction so as to promote economic growth. For instance, it spent a large amount of money on the construction of the Disneyland theme park, and constructing and expanding infrastructure such as the MTR and highways;

- (c) Returning tax revenue of approximating HK\$8.5 billion and freezing fares to relieve people's hardship;
- (d) Implementing financial reforms – on the one hand, it raised efficiency, stimulated investment and reinforced the appeal of Hong Kong as a financial centre. On the other hand, it plugged loopholes, tightened monitoring and prevented over-speculation;
- (e) Launching the HK\$14 billion Cyberport project to actively raise the ratio of innovative technology and high value-added industries in the economy.

By the second quarter of 1999, negative economic growth, which had existed for 5 consecutive quarters, had finally ceased, and the Hong Kong economy recorded a growth of 1.1%. In 2000, the Hong Kong economy experienced a growth of 10.5%, which was the highest percentage growth rate in the past 13 years, as well as the greatest rate of increase in Asia and even the world. The total value of goods and services produced in Hong Kong in 2000 already exceeded those before the financial crisis in 1997.



Source **12** With the efforts of all, Hong Kong went out of economic depression. The good reputation of Pearl of the Orient can thus be maintained.

## **(B) The relationship between the World Trade Organization and Hong Kong**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international organization that promotes trade. It is responsible for monitoring all kinds of trade agreements between its member states. Established on 1 January 1995, the WTO was formerly the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an agreement implemented since 1948. Hong Kong has been a WTO member since the organization's establishment. Hong Kong held the World Trade Organization 6th Ministerial Conference in 2005. It reflected Hong Kong's ability to organize large-scale international activities. By the end of July 2008, the WTO had 153 members.

## **(C) The Gini coefficient reflects the serious disparity between the rich and the poor in Hong Kong**

According to the United Nations, the Gini coefficient is an indicator which measures the difference between the actual distribution of wealth and the distribution of wealth under the assumption that people have an equal share of wealth in a society. Simply put, it measures the inequality of income

 Related Module

*Globalization*

 Related Module

*Globalization*



distribution in a society. In the past two decades, the Gini coefficients of Hong Kong were over 0.4, which is the 'warning line' taken by the global community, showing a serious disparity between the rich and the poor. According to *World's Cities 2008/2009 — Harmonious Cities*, the Gini coefficient of Hong Kong has reached 0.53. The city became the region with the greatest disparity between the rich and the poor in Asia.

### **(D) Hong Kong's efforts to promote sustainable development**

In Hong Kong, the government puts sustainable development into practice. In 2001, for example, the Sustainable Development Division was established (previously under the Sustainable Development Unit of Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office) and it mainly promotes the concept of sustainable development to government departments and Hong Kong residents. Some of its key missions are to supervise the assessment systems of sustainable development implemented by government departments and to put the principles of sustainable development into their decision-making. All policy bureaus and departments have to do a sustainable development assessment on important policies and projects, and then hand in documents explaining the influence of the policies and projects on sustainable development to Policy Committee and Executive Council.

The government established the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2003. The committee came from different sectors, including environmental conservation, social services and business, as well as senior officers of the government. They were appointed by the Chief Executive and responsible for the sustainable development of Hong Kong. Their duties include:

- (a) providing opinions to the government on the priorities of promoting sustainable development;
- (b) providing opinions on planning sustainable development strategies that integrate economic, social and environmental factors;
- (c) encouraging districts to participate through different channels, including the appropriation of sustainable development fund, so as to promote sustainable development in Hong Kong;
- (d) increasing the knowledge and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.

Apart from establishing the committee, the Hong Kong government has also established a sustainable development fund to sponsor activities to deepen citizens' understanding of the concept of sustainable development, and encourage them to put the principles of sustainable development into practice.

#### Related Module

*Energy Technology and  
the Environment*

### (E) Environmental conservation policies in Hong Kong

The new nature conservation policy released by the Hong Kong government on November 2004 is to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the conservation of biodiversity in Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account social and economic considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of both the present and future generations.

 Related Module

*Energy Technology and the Environment*

### (F) One Country, Two Systems

'One Country, Two Systems' is one of the political principles of Hong Kong. It means that within the People's Republic of China (PRC), the mainland practises a socialist system, whereas the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region practises a capitalist system. This governance approach was invented by former PRC leader Deng Xiaoping (鄧小平) for the reunification of China.

 Related Module

*Modern China*

**Extended Information 14**

### (G) Continuation of Chinese culture In Hong Kong

Heritage refers to the continuation and further development of a culture. Its significance lies in promoting to the next generation knowledge of history and traditions, strengthening their sense of belonging to and recognition of a country, and thinking about the meaning of traditional culture and its impact on the world today. Since China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, Hong Kong people has been placing more and more importance on traditional Chinese culture, which favours the continuation of Chinese culture in Hong Kong.

 Related Module

*Modern China*

# 3

## Considerations in and hurdles to maintaining and improving the quality of life

To be used with Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today (Book 1)*

Topic 3: Considerations in and hurdles to maintaining and improving the quality of life (pp.91 – 115)

### Related Concepts/Glossary



#### Need-hierarchy Theory (需求層次論)

It is a theory in psychology, proposed by humanistic psychologist Abraham Maslow, in which human needs are divided into five levels.

#### Social cohesion (社會凝聚力)

Social cohesion refers to the consistency and harmony shown in the mentality and action of the members of a society. It is a mental process of the public tending towards consistency, as well as a basic function of a society in mobilizing and integrating its members.

#### Export-oriented economy (外向型經濟)

An export-oriented economy is an economy which gives priority to the development of the manufacture of export goods to promote the development of other economic sectors. In order to encourage the development of the export industry, more privileges and support are often given to the export industry in terms of exchange rate, taxation and credit. It drives the local economy to develop by increasing foreign exchange income through the expansion of exports and importing needed technology and equipment.

For Learning Differences Low

Teachers may first briefly introduce to students the model of economic development in Hong Kong since the 1980s.

### Subject Knowledge



#### (A) Need-hierarchy theory

##### (1) Physiological needs

Physiological needs are the most primitive and fundamental needs of humans. They include eating, wearing clothes, living in a house, and curing diseases. It can be life-threatening if these needs are not satisfied, as the needs of this level are vital to human survival. When a person has many needs, physiological ones are usually fulfilled first.

Related Topic

Topic 3: Must priorities be set in maintaining and improving the quality of life?, Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today (Book 1)*

## (2) Safety needs

Safety needs can be divided into:

- (a) Material safety: e.g., operational safety, labour protection, healthcare benefits.
- (b) Economic safety: e.g., occupation, unemployment insurance, old-age pensions.
- (c) Psychological safety: e.g., wishing to get rid of the threats of scrutiny and to avoid unjust treatment, the ability and confidence to cope with work.

Safety needs are a level above physiological needs. These are needs to be secured after one's physiological needs are satisfied. Everyone living in reality has the desire for a sense of security, freedom and the ability to protect him/herself.

## (3) Social needs

Social needs are needs for a sense of belonging and love. They refer to an individual's desire for care, love and the understanding of family, social groups, friends and colleagues. These are needs for friendship, trust, warmth and love. Social needs include:

- (a) Desire for social contact: wishing to maintain a friendly and loyal partnership with other people, wishing to love and to be loved.
- (b) Sense of belonging: wishing to belong to a group and become a group member so as to give help and receive help in times of difficulty, wishing to have someone as a target for the expression of opinions and releasing emotions.

Love does not only refer to that between the two sexes. It refers to love in a broad sense, realized in mutual trust, profound understanding and mutual giving, including the giving and acceptance of love. Social needs are related to personalities, experiences, places of living, ethnicities, living habits and religious beliefs.

## (4) Esteem needs

Esteem needs can be divided into three types: self-esteem (e.g., wishing to be full of confidence on different occasions, to be independent), respect from others (e.g., wishing to have status, authority, be respected, trusted and highly praised by others), and desire for power.

Esteem needs can also be divided into:

- (a) Wishing for the strength, achievement, adaptability and confidence to face the world; wishing for independence and freedom.
- (b) Wishing for fame and reputation; reputation comes from others' respect, recognition, attention or appreciation.



Source 13 Harmonic social life helps enhance sense of belonging

The satisfaction of the need for self-respect results in self-confidence, sense of worth and ability, as well as an increase in strength and adaptability. Hindering this need will generate a sense of inferiority, weakness and inability. Because of this need, people are willing to do a better job in the hope of gaining other people's attention as a way of showing off, hoping to have a chance for growth and a possibility of standing out. The need for esteem can rarely be fully satisfied, but its basic satisfaction can generate a driving force. Once esteem becomes a motivator, people will have enduring motivation.

### **(5) Self-actualization**

Self-actualization is the need in the highest level of the Need Hierarchy. To satisfy such a need requires one to accomplish work he/she is capable of doing, realizing one's potential to the fullest and becoming the person one expects of himself/herself. Self-actualization implies experiencing life sufficiently, actively, selflessly and wholeheartedly.

Everyone has these five levels of needs, but the urgencies of these needs are different in different periods of time. The most pressing need is the main reason for and motivator of people's behaviour.

Before people start to have needs at the higher levels, needs at the lower levels have to be properly fulfilled first. The motivating effect of needs at the lower levels will be smaller once they are fulfilled. They will no longer be prioritized. Needs at the higher levels will replace them as the main force motivating behaviour. Some needs can no longer motivate people's behaviour once they are satisfied. They will then be substituted by other needs.

These five kinds of needs cannot be fully fulfilled. The higher the level, the less likely it is that the needs are fully satisfied.

None of the needs disappears as the next higher level develops. All levels of needs are interdependent and overlapping. After needs at the higher levels develop, needs at the lower levels continue to exist. They only exert a lighter influence on people's behaviour.

## **(B) Genetic engineering**

Genetic engineering is a technology that alters the hereditary substances of the cells of a living organism, so that some of the traits of the next generation will be different from those of their former generation.

### **(1) Major applications of genetic engineering**

#### **(a) Medicines:**

Scientists make use of the technology of genetic engineering to conduct research on the human genome in order to understand

#### **Teaching Suggestion**

Teachers may ask students to analyze which levels belong to the material level and which levels belong to the non-material level.



Source **14** Different forms of communication can provide people with personal social ability and also satisfaction

#### **Extended Information 15**

#### **Related Topic**

Topic 3: Is it not easy to maintain and improve the quality of life?, Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today* (Book 1)

the sources of diseases and appropriate treatments, and to cure cancers and other diseases with genetic treatments.

**(b) Agriculture:**

Modifying the genes of plants may strengthen their abilities to resist coldness and pests, thus increasing the yield of agricultural products. Cloning technology is also used to increase the yield of livestock.

**(c) Commerce:**

By using the technology of genetic engineering, new drugs can be developed, thus bringing business opportunities to manufacturers. By mid-2005, the patents issued to various enterprises, universities, government organizations and non-profit organizations by the United States Patent and Trademark Office covered 20% of the human genome.

## **(2) Controversies arising from genetic engineering**

**(a) Cloning of life:**

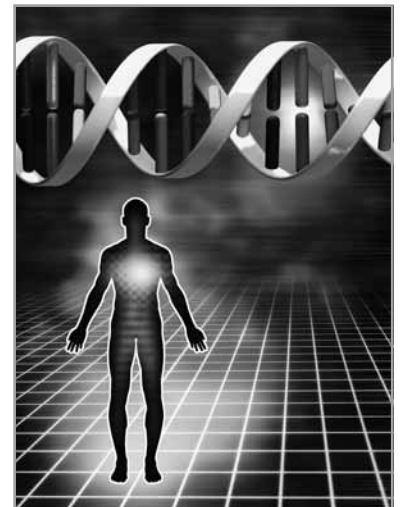
One of the greatest worries over the technology of genetic engineering is the possibility of human cloning. Cloning of man has given rise to many scientific, social, ethical, moral and religious controversies. For instance, are cloned men exact identical copies of the subjects of cloning? Can we ensure that every process of cloning will be successful? What is the ethical relationship between the cloned persons and the subjects of cloning? Do human have the right and ability to create humans?

Although human cloning is not generally approved by society, cloning techniques themselves have rather great scientific meaning and value of application. For instance, in medicine, scientists may mass-produce biochemical drugs by means of 'drug cloning'. In addition, cloning technology can be used to copy nearly extinct living organisms to maintain biodiversity.

**(b) Genetically modified food:**

Up till now, there is no sufficient evidence that shows that genetically modified food (GM food) is harmful to human health, but there is proof that genetic engineering techniques can increase crop yields. GM food helps to solve the problem of global hunger. It also reduces the need for reclaiming farmland, and thus indirectly protects the ecological environment. Moreover, genetic engineering techniques help to improve the nutrition of crops, or even help to produce food beneficial to patients with chronic diseases, such as food that contains human insulin.

However, those who are against GM food are worried that the food may not have gone through long-term safety assessment before entering the market. It remains unknown whether long-term



Source **15** Genetic engineering can be used in many ways. It has also given rise to many controversies.

consumption will be safe or not. Moreover, some scientists and medical practitioners are worried that eating GM food may lead to the failure of certain antibiotics, resulting in a loss of cure for some diseases.

**(c) Gene patents:**

Corporations that make profits on biotechnology and universities that conduct research both support the granting of patents. The reason is that patents can promote the development of drugs, environmental conservation, and the development of new energy. Those who oppose the idea condemn it because this kind of patents ‘commercializes’ life. And they believe that this act will bring disaster to the environment. Some people even think that the genes of living organisms were not ‘invented’ by human beings; so human beings are not qualified to claim that they possess the property right of genes.

Extended Information 16, 17

**(C) Export-oriented economy**

**(1) Characteristics of an export-oriented economy**

- (a) Active participation in international division of labour, emphasis laid on the development and manufacture of export goods.
- (b) Aiming at the international market, the focus is the development of a country’s comparative advantage.
- (c) Greater dependence on the international market also means greater risks.

**Related Topic**

Topic 3: Is it not easy to maintain and improve the quality of life?, Theme 1 of *Hong Kong Today* (Book 1)

**(2) Differences between an export-oriented economy and import-oriented economy**

Export-oriented economy	Import-oriented economy
Based on comparative benefits	Based on protectionism
Export-oriented	Established on the local economic environment
Closely related to the international market	The local market is not linked with the international market
Must adjust industrial structure according to the changes in the demands in the international market, so as to adapt to the frequent changes and developments in the industrial structure of the international market	Product transformation completely led by the local market
Government functions and corporate behaviour must comply with international practices and actively participate in international division of labour and competition	Government functions and corporate behaviour are mainly based on specific domestic political system, economic system and level of economic development

**Extended Activities**

Teachers may provide a brief introduction of the economic models of several countries to the students, then ask them to analyze what type of economy each belongs to.

## (D) Comparative advantage

### (1) Meaning of comparative advantage

According to comparative advantage, each country should focus on the production and export of goods that they have comparative advantages (instead of goods that have absolute difference), and import goods over which they have comparative disadvantages.

'Comparative advantage' is related to two other concepts – 'absolute advantage' and 'opportunity cost'.

'Absolute advantage' refers to the advantage of a place in producing more of a product than another place using the same amount of resources. If all places actively develop the production of products in which they have absolute advantages, through international trade, they can satisfy more consumer demand than when they are self-sufficient.

However, due to scarce resources, some places cannot develop any absolute advantages. But they may still possess 'comparative advantages', that is, the 'opportunity cost' (the highest-valued option) of producing a certain product is lower than the opportunity cost of producing the same product in other places. The example below explains these three concepts.

The table below shows the number of cars and the number of computers that Place A and Place B can produce respectively by using one unit of resources.

	Cars	Computers
Place A	50	25
Place B	10	2

As seen from the table, by inputting the same unit of resources, Place A can produce more cars and computers than Place B can. Therefore, Place A has an absolute advantage in the production of both products.

However, if all resources are put into the production of cars, no computers will be produced, and vice versa. So, computers are the opportunity cost of producing cars. When Place A produces 1 car, 0.5 computer ( $25/50 = 0.5$ ) will be sacrificed, and when Place B produces 1 car, 0.2 computer ( $2/10 = 0.2$ ) will be sacrificed. The opportunity cost of the production of cars is smaller (the number of computers sacrificed is smaller) in Place B. Therefore, it has a comparative advantage in producing cars.

Place A can focus on producing computers, whereas Place B can focus on producing cars. Then, through trade, they can import the products produced by the other party, thus resulting in a win-win situation.



**(2) Benefits of comparative advantage**

Increase in gross output	By focusing on the production of products in which a place has comparative advantages and importing products that it has comparative disadvantages, the output will be higher than when the place is self-sufficient.
Rise in economic quality	Trade may make export expand. This may create more job opportunities, and increase the income obtained from trade, thus stimulating economic growth.
Economy of scale	Trade allows factory owners to expand their production scale. The benefits from economies of scale may lower the average production cost.
Rise in living standard	Trade allows consumers to enjoy more low-priced commodities, thus raising their living standards.
Rise in product quality	Trade makes local manufacturers face competition with foreign exporters. It helps to avoid monopolies, which in turn helps to stabilize the prices of products and encourages local manufacturers to raise their product quality.
Promotion of technological exchange	Trade allows countries to exchange technology and knowledge through economic transactions of products.
Improvement in partnership	Trade helps countries better understand each other and maintain a good relationship, which helps to improve the relationships among the trading partners.


**Cross-topic Knowledge**
**(A) Genetically modified food is not yet popular in Hong Kong**

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, genetic modification refers to the modification on phenotype (that is, the traits commonly shared by a kind of living organism) by altering the genotype using the technique of transgenesis. At present, genetically modified food is not very popular in Hong Kong. Some people are worried about the safety of genetically modified food.

**(B) Economic globalization has led to economic restructuring in Hong Kong**

Economic globalization refers to the integration of different economies the world into a single global economy. Under globalization, all countries abide

 Related Module

Public Health

Extended Information 18

 Related Module

Globalization

by the free economy principle. Economic activities are no longer restrained by national boundaries. Industrial division of labour is no longer confined to one nation. Different countries are responsible for different parts of the work process. They cooperate in the manufacture and trade of goods. Under economic globalization, capital, goods and labour may flow freely, forming a borderless market of a free economy. Under the influence of economic globalization, Hong Kong has changed to develop tertiary industry since the 1980s. Secondary industries thus moved to the mainland and other developing countries where the cost was lower.

### **(C) The blow of financial tsunami towards Hong Kong**

Breaking out in 2008, the financial tsunami originated from the Subprime Mortgage Crisis in the US. Financial markets and stock markets around the globe were affected. As it was anticipated that the crisis would affect the global financial system wave after wave, it is called a 'financial tsunami'. Since the Hong Kong economy is interdependent to the European and American economies, it was inevitably affected by the financial tsunami. In 2008, layoffs, pay freezes and pay cuts by enterprises took place one after another, some of the enterprises even closed down. According to the statistics from the Census and Statistics Department, the unemployment rate of January – March 2009 rose to 5.2%, which was the highest in 38 months. The numbers were especially high in sectors like construction, transportation, hotels and finance.

Under the financial tsunami, white-collar workers in Hong Kong were worried about being laid off, and hence experienced greater mental pressures. They might get the 'Financial Tsunami Syndrome' easily. Reports claim that there were more and more citizens who suffered from physical and psychological illnesses like anxiety, cervical vertebra displacement and a lack of appetite.

### **(D) Conclusion has not yet been drawn on whether to carry out a health care financing project in Hong Kong**

In the light of an aging population, the Hong Kong government proposed a project suggesting that citizens save money by making regular contributions or buying insurance to pay for their own medical fees in the future. The government addressed the plan in the *2007 – 08 Policy Address*, but by the end of 2008, various sectors of society still had not reached a consensus on the project. At the beginning of 2009, York Chow (周一嶽), the Secretary for Food and Health Bureau, said the deterioration of economy would not affect the advisory work of health care financing, but he would not rule out the possibility of postponing the implementation of healthcare reforms and healthcare financing.

#### Related Module

*Globalization*

#### Let's Think

Hong Kong has been attacked by the Asian financial turmoil and the financial tsunami. How are these related to its model of economic development?

#### Related Module

*Public Health*

# Guideline for Teachers

## Extended Information

### Extended Information 1

#### Top 50 cities: Quality of living Base City: New York, US (=100)

Rank 2009	Rank 2008	City	Country	Index 2009	Index 2008
1	2	Vienna	Austria	108.6	107.9
2	1	Zurich	Switzerland	108	108
3	2	Geneva	Switzerland	107.9	107.9
4	4	Vancouver	Canada	107.4	107.6
4	5	Auckland	New Zealand	107.4	107.3
6	6	Dusseldorf	Germany	107.2	107.2
7	7	Munich	Germany	107	107
8	7	Frankfurt	Germany	106.8	107
9	9	Bern	Switzerland	106.5	106.5
10	10	Sydney	Australia	106.3	106.3
11	11	Copenhagen	Denmark	106.2	106.2
12	12	Wellington	New Zealand	105.9	105.8
13	13	Amsterdam	Netherlands	105.7	105.7
14	14	Brussels	Belgium	105.4	105.4
15	15	Toronto	Canada	105.3	105.3
16	19	Ottawa	Canada	105	104.7
16	16	Berlin	Germany	105	105
18	17	Melbourne	Australia	104.8	104.8
19	17	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	104.6	104.8
20	20	Stockholm	Sweden	104.5	104.5
21	21	Perth	Australia	104.3	104.3
22	22	Montreal	Canada	104.2	104.2
23	23	Nurnberg	Germany	104.1	104.1
24	24	Oslo	Norway	103.7	103.7
25	25	Dublin	Ireland	103.6	103.5
26	32	Singapore	Singapore	103.5	102.9
26	25	Calgary	Canada	103.5	103.5
28	27	Hamburg	Germany	103.4	103.4

Rank 2009	Rank 2008	City	Country	Index 2009	Index 2008
29	28	Honolulu, HI	United states	103.1	103.1
30	29	San francisco, CA	United states	103	103
30	29	Helsinki	Finland	103	103
30	29	Adelaide	Australia	103	103
33	32	Paris	France	102.9	102.9
34	34	Brisbane	Australia	102.4	102.4
35	35	Tokyo	Japan	102.2	102.2
35	37	Boston, MA	United states	102.2	101.8
37	36	Lyon	France	101.9	101.9
38	38	Yokohama	Japan	101.6	101.6
38	38	London	United kingdom	101.6	101.6
40	40	Kobe	Japan	100.9	100.9
41	41	Milan	Italy	100.8	100.8
42	48	Portland, OR	United states	100.6	100.2
42	42	Barcelona	Spain	100.6	100.6
44	44	Washington, DC	United states	100.3	100.3
44	44	Osaka	Japan	100.3	100.3
44	44	Lisbon	Portugal	100.3	100.3
44	44	Chicago, IL	United states	100.3	100.3
48	43	Madrid	Spain	100.2	100.5
49	49	New York city, NY	United states	100	100
50	50	Seattle, WA	United states	99.8	99.8

(Source: Mercer Human Resourcing Consulting, <http://www.mercer.com/>)

### China's Most Livable Cities (2008)

1	Hangzhou	6	Guiyang
2	Hong Kong	7	Weihai
3	Shenzhen	8	Nanning
4	Zhuhai	9	Jinhua
5	Dalian	10	Qujing

(Source: Research Centre for Urban Competitiveness, <http://www.china-citynet.com/>.)

## Extended Information 2

### Hong Kong Happiness Index

The Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences and Public Policy Research Center in Lingnan University has started an annual survey about 'Hong Kong Happiness Index' since 2005.

**(1) The purpose of the survey**

The purpose is to let society understand the happiness level of Hong Kong people under economic, political, social and cultural atmospheres. It also provides a quantifiable index to analyze factors of 'happiness', which lays the foundation of the design of public policies. In the survey conducted in 2008, Professor Ho Lok-Sang (何樂生) has proposed the theory of 'Three forms of Happiness' and 'Happiness Formula'

**(2) The theory of 'Three forms of Happiness'**

'Three forms of Happiness' means dividing happiness into 'retrospective happiness', 'happiness in process' as well as 'prospective happiness':

**(a) Measuring retrospect happiness**

Evaluate the following three statements from 0 – 10 points:

- I will deal with my own stuff properly.
- I can be considered lucky in my life.
- I have learnt a lot from mistakes. Wisdom grows.

**(b) Measuring happiness in process**

Evaluate the following two statements from 0 – 10 points:

- I enjoy my work (including housework).
- I enjoy the time with my family.

**(c) Prospective happiness**

Evaluate the following three statements from 0 – 10 points:

- I enjoy every single day with excitement.
- I do not feel worry about the future.
- I expect to be learning all the time.

**(3) Happiness Formula**

The 'Happiness Formula' divides factors of happiness into four types: 'Love', 'Insight', 'Fortitude' and 'Engagement' (LIFE):

**(a) Love**

Evaluate the following three statements from 0–10 points:

- I care about my family.
- I am concerned about if social justice demonstrates itself.
- My family cares about me.

**(b) Insight**

Evaluate the following five statements from 0 – 10 points:

- I do not care if others are better than me.
- I do not care how others treat me.
- I do not care how others think I am.
- I accept myself. I do not feel troubled because of my shortcomings.
- I do not like comparison with others. Happy is he who is content.

**(c) Fortitude**

Evaluate the following two statements from 0 – 10 points:

- Frustration makes me stronger.
- I have a clear and firm belief or religion.

**(d) Engagement**

Evaluate the following two statements from 0 – 10 points:

- I have got enough opportunities and I play to my strength.
- I have clear targets in my life.

Through regression analysis, the above variables show effective and positive relationships. Among all, people who can have clear targets to work (engagement) as well as those who can experience love (love) are the happiest. In these ‘Three forms of Happiness’, ‘retrospect happiness’ and ‘happiness in progress’ are more influential than ‘prospect happiness’.

**Extended Information 3****2008 Hong Kong Happiness Index of Lingnan University**

The Public Policy Research Centre of Lingnan University has conducted the fourth ‘Hong Kong Happiness Index’ survey during 20 – 24 October 2008. The survey was conducted by picking telephone numbers randomly and 823 residents of age 21 or above were interviewed. The survey used 0 – 100 as indicator. People who obtained 50 or above belonged to the ‘Happy’ group and those who obtained 50 or below belonged to the ‘Unhappy’ group. The closer to 100, the higher the happiness index will be and the happier the people are.

According to the report, Hong Kong Happiness Index in 2008 has increased generally, from 67.2 in 2007 to 69.3 in 2008. The main reason of an obvious increase was that low-income families were happier. For example, the happiness index of interviewees whose family income was less than HKD 9,000 has increased by 4.8%. The proportion of people with lower family income has increased from 13.3% in 2007 to 18.8% in 2008. the happiness index of interviewees with monthly income HKD 30,000 – 39,999 have been recorded obvious decrease by 3.1%.

**Extended Information 4****Dates of the signing and implementation of the first 5 phases of CEPA**

	Date of signing	Date of implementation
CEPA Main Text	29 June 2003	1 January 2004
CEPA Six Annexes	29 September 2003	1 January 2004
Supplement to CEPA (CEPA II)	27 October 2004	1 January 2005
Supplement II to CEPA (CEPA III)	18 October 2005	1 January 2006
Supplement III to CEPA (CEPA IV)	27 June 2006	1 January 2007
Supplement IV to CEPA (CEPA V)	29 June 2007	1 January 2008
Supplement V to CEPA (CEPA VI)	29 July 2008	1 January 2009

(Source: Trade and Industry Department, Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement. Downloaded from [http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa\\_legaltext.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa_legaltext.html).)

## Extended Information 5

### Hong Kong services sector benefited from CEPA I

Accounting	Freight forwarding services	Printing services
Advertising	Information technology services	Qualification examinations for professionals
Airport services	Individually owned stores	Public utility services
Audiovisual	Insurance	Securities
Banking	Job referral agencies	Services related to management consulting and project management
Building-cleaning services	Job intermediaries	Sporting services
Computers and related services	Legal	Storage and warehouse services
Construction, real estate and services related professional services	Logistics	Telecommunications value-added services
Conventions and exhibitions	Management consulting	Tourism
Cultural and recreational services	Market research services	Trademark agencies
Distribution	Medical and dental	Transport
Elderly services	Patent agencies	Translation and interpretation services
Environmental services	Photographic services	

(Source: Trade and Industry Department, Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement. Downloaded from [http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa\\_legaltext.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa_legaltext.html).)

## Extended Information 6

### Cities implementing the 'Individual Visit Scheme'

21 cities in Guangdong Province	Beijing	Shanghai	Tianjin
Chongqing	Nanjing, Suzhou, Wuxi (Jiangsu Province)	Hangzhou, Ningbo, Taizhou (Zhejiang Province)	Fuzhou (municipal district), Xiamen, Quanzhou (Fujian Province)
Chengdu (Sichuan Province)	Jinan (Shandong Province)	Dalian, Shenyang (Liaoning Province)	Nanzhang (Jiangxi Province)
Changshang (Hunan Province)	Nanning (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region)	Haikou (Hainan Province)	Guiyang (Guizhou Province)
Kunming (Yunan Province)	Shijiazhuang (Hebei Province)	Zhengzhou (Henan Province)	Zhangchun (Jilin Province)
Hefei (Anhui Province)	Wuhan (Hubei Province)		

(Source: Tourism Commission. Downloaded from [http://www.tourism.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/visitors/visitors\\_ind.html](http://www.tourism.gov.hk/tc_chi/visitors/visitors_ind.html).)

## Extended Information 7

### Visitor arrival figures in Hong Kong (2002 – 08)

	Visitor arrivals (ten thousand)		Percentage increase in visitor arrivals		Percentage of visitor arrivals from the mainland
	All	The mainland	All	The mainland	
2002	1,656.6	682.5	—	—	41.2%
2003	1,553.7	846.7	-6.2%	24.1%	54.5%
2004	2,181.1	1,224.6	40.4%	44.6%	56.1%
2005	2,335.9	1,254.1	7.1%	2.4%	53.7%
2006	2,525.1	1,359.1	8.1%	8.4%	53.8%
2007	2,816.9	1,548.6	11.6%	13.9%	55.0%
2008	2,950.6	1,686.2	4.7%	8.9%	57.1%

(Source: Hong Kong Tourism Board website, downloaded from <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/>.)

## Extended Information 8

### Hong Kong's real wage in the fourth quarter of 2008 dropped

According to the statistics from the Census and Statistics Department, in 2008, deducing the effect of the increased Composite Consumer Price Index, the year-on-year rate of change of the average real wage of all sectors decreased by 4.3% in the fourth quarter of 2008. The average real wage in December alone decreased by 1%. The decrement in transportation and service sectors was the greatest, which reached 5.4%. Manufacturing came next with 1.5%.

Finance, insurance, real estate and business were seen as the 'major disaster area' under the financial tsunami. Compared with the statistics in December 2007, the real wage of these sectors in December 2008 did not change significantly, but the rate of decrement in the fourth quarter was the highest among all sectors, reaching 5.2%.

(Source: Adapted from various local newspapers dated 26 – 27 March 2009)

## Extended Information 9

### Hong Kong's nominal wage in the fourth quarter of 2008 increased slightly

According to the statistics from the Census and Statistics Department, the year-on-year rate of change of the average nominal wage in December 2008 increased slightly by 0.3%. Among the interviewed companies, 57% said the nominal wage of their employees increased, but the rate of increment reduced sharply as compared with September in that year. The nominal wage



in 36% of the interviewed companies decreased, and the other 7% had no significant change. Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels were the only sectors that recorded an increase in their nominal wage, with the year-on-year rate of change at 1.2%. Many of the sectors recorded a decrease in nominal wage, the rate of reduction of transportation was the greatest among them, which was 4.2%, and that of manufacturing was also recorded as 0.2%.

(Source: Adapted from various local newspapers dated 26 – 27 March 2009)

## **Extended Information 10**

### **Is the heat island effect serious in Hong Kong?**

A local university assessed the seriousness of the heat island effect in Hong Kong in 2007. Researchers of the university first analyzed NASA's satellite images. Infrared was used to measure the surface temperature (such as the surface temperature of concrete), then researchers went to over 20 places in Hong Kong to measure the actual temperature at dawn and in the evenings.

It turned out that in winter, difference between the surface temperatures in urban and rural areas reached 7-8°C in Hong Kong. The biggest difference occurred between Kamdo Mall (金都商場) on Nathan Road, Mongkok, and rural areas of Tak Ku Ling (打鼓嶺) or Bride's Pool (新娘潭), which was as high as 12°C, higher than that of Tokyo, which was 10°C.

Researchers warned that the heat island effect will accelerate the spread of diseases such as dengue fever and dysentery. It also threatens people with heart diseases. When construction companies construct buildings, they choose to build upwards but not horizontally. This will only create the wall effect and intensify the heat island effect. There are many 'walled buildings' around East Kowloon Reclamation Area, making it difficult for sea winds to reach key places such as Mongkok. They suggest the government to build fountains along Nathan Road. More trees should also be planted on the rooftop of buildings in order to lower the temperature.

(Source: Adapted from various local newspaper dated 21 May 2008)

## **Extended Information 11**

### **Greening rooftop helps ease heat island effect?**

Greening work is one of the main projects of sustainable development in Hong Kong. Starting from 2004, the government started making urban greening master plan so as to organize effectively the planning, design and implementation of the greening actions. Early in 2001, the government has carried out a greening rooftop plan. Plants were grown in more than 60 government buildings and some garden designs of rooftops and platforms were included. These buildings include schools, offices, hospitals, social facilities and government hostels. Greening rooftop does not only provide extra green space and public open spaces, improve city appearance, enhance the effectiveness of heat insulation, but also ease urban heat island effect.

## Extended Information 12

### Hong Kong's human right situation

In Hong Kong, basic human rights of the residents are protected by the Basic Law and human right laws. All types of right such as equality before the law, freedom of speech and association, and freedom of strike and religion are all included in the Basic Law. The *Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *International Labour Conventions* take effect in Hong Kong to protect the rights of Hong Kong residents.

#### (a) The government and civil groups

Apart from laws, some independent organizations in Hong Kong are responsible for the supervision and protection of Hong Kong human rights. For example, Hong Kong Human Right Monitor (HKHRM) aims to promote better human rights protection in Hong Kong, both in terms of law and of practical daily life. Civil Human Right Front is another famous human rights protection organization in Hong Kong. From 2003, this organization has been organizing July 1 marches.

#### (b) Report on Hong Kong's human rights situation 07/08

Civil Human Right Front developed 'Reports on Hong Kong's human rights situation' in April 2008, listing nine main problems of human rights situation in Hong Kong last year. They include:

1. Restructuring of Policy Bureau: Human rights matters were directed to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
2. The government refused to establish a human rights Committee
3. A bad year for democratic development
4. The government acquiesced racial discrimination
5. The abuse of power by the police was getting worse
6. The homosexuals have no human rights
7. The Equal Opportunities Commission did not play its role well
8. The holding of the Human Rights Forum was unsatisfactory
9. The Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education cancelled human rights education group

The spokesman of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau responded to the report and said that Hong Kong's human rights were protected fully by the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights as well as other related ordinances; human rights were under guidance of independent judiciaries and systems which fit the rule of law. At the same time, under the current institutional framework, many organizations of the authority promote and protect people's rights. These organizations include the Legal Aid Services Council, Equal Opportunities Committee, Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and Office of the Ombudsman. The spokesperson also pointed out that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been planning the human rights policies since 2007. It strives to protect human rights and actively promote related work.

**(c) The statement of Civil Human Rights Front: ‘Donald Tsang re-elected for two years “You still haven’t done your best!” Human rights index “hit rock bottom!”’**

In May 2009, Civil Human Rights Front issued a statement named *Donald Tsang re-elected for two years ‘You still haven’t done your best!’ Human rights index ‘hit rock bottom!’*, pointing out that the Hong Kong human rights index reached the lowest point and required the government to face the opinions of the organization, to pay attention to local human rights work and to protect fully the individual rights of Hong Kong residents. The following are the ten human rights problems raised by the organization:

1. Abuse of power by the police; suppression of human rights
2. Exploitation of sex workers’ human rights
3. The excuse of the financial tsunami procrastinated the Constitutional Reform Advisory
4. The government took the lead in racial discrimination
5. Evasion of responsibility in international conventions, delay in enacting legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation
6. Minimum wage, standard working hours: basic rights that domestic helpers should enjoy
7. Raymond Tang Yee-bong (鄧爾邦) took charge of EOC for five years without any significant achievements
8. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ignored human rights
9. Medical blunders one after another
10. Security performance was unsatisfactory

## **Extended Information 13**

### **Cultural capital**

Cultural capital and economic capital have been considered as the main factors causing social stratification. Economic capital, such as money, land or factories owned by individuals or families, may affect these people’s social statuses. Cultural capital can have the same effect.

Early at the beginning of the 20th century, Max Weber, a renowned German sociologist, pointed out that economic capital should not be regarded as the only factor affecting social stratification. Instead, three conditions should be included, which are wealth, power and prestige. Prestige required a certain cultural foundation.

After that, French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu made a deeper investigation into the influence of cultural factors on social stratification and proposed the concept of cultural capital. He thought that cultural capital existed in three forms, including an embodied state, an objectified state and an institutionalized state.

- Embodied state: It means that an individual obtains cultural capital such as personality, manners and hobbies through family, school or social education.

- Objectified state: It refers to things that are granted with cultural meanings, for examples, paintings, sculptures and musical instruments. Appreciators should have a certain level of cultural background and aesthetic sense to understand the cultural values of these things. These things will turn into goods and exchange for economic capital through the trading process.
- Institutionalized state: It refers to the recognition of the possessed cultural capital within the institutions. In Hong Kong, the recognitions include certificates or professional qualifications issued by professional cultural organizations such as schools, museums and the Academy for Performing Arts. The amount of cultural capital influences the economy and social status of an individual.

Cultural capital plays an important role in social stratification. The lifestyle of different classes varies. The cultural preferences, professions, consumption patterns or even dressing of people represent different cultural capital. In obtaining cultural capital, different groups may encounter obstacles such as family environments, races, sexes and religions. All these can bring out social injustice.

## Extended Information 14

### **Hong Kong possesses a high degree of autonomy**

Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy comes from the foundation of 'One Country, Two Systems'. In 1982, China and Britain negotiated over Hong Kong problems. Deng Xiaoping, the former president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) proposed 'One Country, Two Systems'. In 1984, China and Britain signed the *Sino-British Joint Declaration* which clearly stated the guiding principles of 'One Country, Two Systems', 'high degree of autonomy' and 'Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong' after China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong.

As a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong does not belong to any province or municipality but is placed directly under the PRC. Except for laws on national defense and diplomacy stated in Appendix 3 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong can retain and carry out the current legal systems after China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over the city, which means Hong Kong people enjoy the rights of administration management, legislation, jurisdiction and independence of the Court of Final Appeal. While China is running socialist systems and policies, Hong Kong can retain capitalist systems and policies, enjoying a high degree of autonomy.

## Extended Information 15

### **Needs**

Needs can be material objects or abstract feelings. Both of them are human desires. In the 19th century, the western world referred to 'needs' as royal orders. In the 20th century, there were more biological and psychological

desires. Different schools provided their own interpretations of 'needs'. The following table shows the interpretations of 'needs' from the perspectives of biology, psychology, economics, sociology, anthropology and cultural studies, together with explanations of Hong Kong's situations.

Schools	Interpretations of needs	Hong Kong's situation
Biology	They think that human needs come from biological instinct. Needs are the most basic desires of people, for examples, food for hunger, and reproduction for self-sustaining.	The birth rate of Hong Kong is one of the lowest in the world. In recent years, the birth rate of Hong Kong has an increasing tendency. According to the data of the Census and Statistics Department, there are only 11.3 new born babies per 1,000 people in Hong Kong. The total fertility rate is 1,056 (including babies that given birth to in Hong Kong by mainland females whose husbands are Hong Kong residents).
Psychology	Human needs come from natural psychological desires. The pursuit of needs is divided into phases, which means that people will have desires at the higher levels like spiritual and cultural needs after satisfying their basic needs.	According to the statistics of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, during 2006 – 07, the number of attendance of museums has reached 4,018,000. Hong Kong has been named a 'Desert of Culture', but these data, to a certain extent, reflected that some Hong Kong people value the enjoyment of culture.
Economics	Based on the assumptions done by biology and psychology, people have natural material needs and the needs for psychological satisfaction.	Hong Kong people emphasize enjoyment, paying equal attention to material and non-material pursuit. Apart from basic needs for clothing, food, housing and transportation, they also stress environmental and cultural qualities. For example, in recent years, citizens participated actively in a lot of activities concerning air pollution in Hong Kong. The number of visitors to the annual Hong Kong Book Fair has reached new heights.
Sociology	Human needs are affected by social norms and systems, such as laws and media information.	Hong Kong is a liberal society which stresses the rule of law. No one can do anything that goes against laws or the personal freedom of others unless there is legal reason. This allows Hong Kong people to seek for personal desires under the limitations of laws. Information can flow freely in Hong Kong. People can enjoy the freedom of transmission of information, and at the same time, they are influenced by media information. For example, advertisements advocated a consumption culture which affects the consumption patterns of Hong Kong people.
Anthropology	People do not have unlimited desires by nature. People have needs because they are placed in different societies and cultures where they are told to pursue certain needs.	A local organization conducted a survey on Hong Kong's consumption culture in 2007 and found out that 91.8% of people thought that Hong Kong was a place that advocates consumption. On the other hand, when interviewees knew about 'No Consumption Day', 90% of them were willing to not engage in any unnecessary consumption that day. This proves that people in different environments and cultures have different needs.

Schools	Interpretations of needs	Hong Kong's situation
Cultural Studies	They think that there are close relations between needs and language, symbols and meanings. Needs are produced in the process of presence and flow of meanings. For example, advertisements portray special images and give meanings to products.	British research suggests that people's decisions are affected by signals they receive unconsciously. In Hong Kong, advertisements of different forms are everywhere. People are influenced by the images and messages of the advertisements without their knowing. For example, in recent years, slimming is very common in Hong Kong. Many related companies invited slim models for advertisements, which gives an impression of 'slim is beautiful' and popularizes the fashion of slimming.

## Extended Information 16

### Mandatory labelling system for genetically modified food is not implemented in Hong Kong

According to the Center for Food Safety of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, in Hong Kong, the labelling system for genetically modified food has not been carried out. The labelling of genetically modified food is voluntary. According to *Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance*, industries must not provide false explanations; *Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations* also state that all prepackaged food should be labelled according to the regulations.

Also, to facilitate the process of providing true and useful information for consumers, the Centre for Food Safety made *Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified (GM) Food*, but the guidelines are just some suggestions for the public to read as reference. They are not legally binding.

(Source: Centre for Food Safety, <http://www.cfs.gov.hk/>.)

## Extended Information 17

### Countries that have carried out a labelling system for genetically modified food

<b>Africa</b>	South Africa, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritius
<b>Asia</b>	China, Japan, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Saudi Arabia
<b>Europe</b>	27 EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Russia
<b>North America</b>	Mexico, Costa Rica
<b>Pacific</b>	Australia, New Zealand
<b>South America</b>	Brazil, Chile, Ecuador

\*Until June 2006, there were 54 countries which have carried out a labelling system for genetically modified food.

(Source: Green Peace, <http://www.greenpeace.org/>.)

## Extended Information 18

### Important developments in genetic engineering

Year	Development
1902	German biologist Hans Spemann split two blastomeres of a salamander with hair. As a result, the two blastomeres developed into two complete embryos. His experiment and concept have become the pioneer of cloning technology in modern times.
1973	Stanley Cohen and Herbert Boyer invented the Recombinant DNA Technology. This is a technology in which genes are transferred from one living organism to another. By this technology, scientists can isolate certain genes of specific functions and transplant them onto the DNA of another living organism, thus altering that organism's features. The Recombinant DNA Technology enables scientists to 'control' DNA, so it can be regarded as the basis of genetic engineering.
1978	The world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born on 25 July 1978.
1983	Kary Mullis invented the use of 'Polymerase Chain Reaction' (PCR), to perform gene amplification, copying a specific sequence of a DNA strand over a million times. This technology has been widely applied. For instance, it is applied to determine the existence of bacteria, to mass-produce the needed DNA, and to diagnose hereditary diseases.
1996	Dolly, a cloned sheep, was born on 5 July 1996. Her birth has proved that the cloning of adult differentiated cells is possible.
2003	The sequence of the human genome is complete. The Human Genome Project (HGP) is an international research project responsible for determining the complete sequence of the human genome, including its genetic distance and actual physical distance. The goals of the HGP are to determine the sequence of all the human chemical base pairs, to identify all functional genomes, and to conduct similar genetic analyses of other living organisms.

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