

Sir David on Some Hot Issues

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It was great for me to have the chance to interview Sir David Akers-Jones again, and to ask about his views on some hot issues in Hong Kong.

Sir David started by chatting about his trip to Australia. He told us what he did, and said that the weather there was terrible, with low daily temperatures. After that, he asked us, 'What's been happening in Hong Kong?'

Talking about Mr. CY Leung's policy address, I asked Sir David, 'Do you think the policy address made people angry?' 'It may not make people angry, but it doesn't make them happy,' replied Sir David. While talking about Mr. Leung's speech, he compared it with the speeches delivered by Zhu Rongji and Barack Obama. He showed us a book which recorded Zhu Rongji's answers to some pointed questions asked by journalists.

He said that Mr. Leung should learn how to answer questions as well as Mr. Zhu. He also referred to the speech given by Obama at the presidential inauguration on 21st January 2013. He was impressed by Obama's rhetoric and ability to lift the American spirit. Perhaps Mr. Leung needs Obama's charisma to fire up people too. He thought Mr. Leung had a good, detailed plan, but unfortunately he didn't fill people with hope.

Next we discussed a controversial issue – gay rights. When I asked whether homosexuals should have the right of marriage, Sir David said he didn't like the word "marriage". He believed that the word "marriage" should refer to a relationship between a male and a female, therefore the word has a narrow meaning. He told us that in America, however, terms such as "civil union" and "domestic partnership" have been created to recognize the close, on-going relationship between people of the same gender. This helps deal with the legal matters such law of property.

Sir David ended the session by encouraging us to read more and to learn more vocabulary. "No matter newspapers or Shakespeare, just read more," he said.