



The 2019 Annual Letter by Bill and Melinda Gates 蓋茲夫婦的 2019 年度公開信



Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft, and his wife Melinda Gates are not only the richest people in the world but also one of the top philanthropists in the US. According to CBS News, through the Gates Foundation that Bill and Melinda Gates founded in 2000, more than \$45 billion in grants have been

devoted to supporting over 130 countries in the efforts of vaccine delivery, family planning, emergency response and alleviating extreme poverty. On February 12, 2019, Bill and Melinda Gates published their Annual Letter for 2019 in which they put forward several “surprises” they had observed looking back at the year 2018.

微軟共同創辦人比爾·蓋茲與夫人梅琳達·蓋茲，不僅是世界上最富裕的人，也是美國數一數二的慈善家。根據美國哥倫比亞廣播公司新聞指出，蓋茲夫婦在 2000 年共同創立的蓋茲基金會，至今已提供超過 450 億美元資助 130 個國家，主要用於疫苗接種、生育計畫、急難救助與減輕貧窮。2 月 12 日，蓋茲夫婦發佈了 2019 年度的公開信。信中，他們回顧 2018 年以來在全球觀察到的一些「令人意外」的現象。



Word Bank (字彙表)

1. philanthropist (n.) 慈善家
2. vaccine (n.) 疫苗
3. alleviate (v.) 減輕
4. outdated (adj.) 過時的
5. advent (n.) 出現、到來
6. preview (v.) 預習、預覽
7. demographic (adj.) 人口的、人口統計的。
8. urbanization (n.) 都市化
9. continent (n.) 大陸
10. pace (n.) 步調
11. exacerbate (v.) 使惡化
12. sexist (adj.) 帶有性別歧視的
13. undervalue (v.) 低估
14. prompt (v.) 引起
15. transformation (n.) 轉變



In the area of education, Bill Gates observed that textbooks are becoming outdated due to the advent of many learning software tools. He believes that these tools are “a complement to what teachers do, not a replacement.” For example, some digital tools can provide a report on what students have previewed, which questions they got right or wrong and in what areas they need help. These data can help teachers better monitor students’ learning progress and meet their needs accordingly. Melinda Gates suggested that digital tools also “facilitate a new approach of teaching and learning that adapts to who these students are.”

在教育領域，比爾·蓋茲觀察到，現今有許多教學軟體與工具興起，使得教科書逐漸過時。他認為，這些數位教學工具「並不會取代教師，而是能夠作為教學輔助。」例如，有些數位工具會提供報告給教師，報告中顯示學生的預習情況、答題的對錯範圍與學習上的疑問。這些資料能協助老師更清楚掌握學習進度，並提供學生所需的幫助。梅琳達·蓋茲指出，這些數位教學工具將「催生新的教學法，實踐因材施教。」

驚喜#2

在家**DNA**測試可以找到連環殺手-也可以幫助預防早產。



科學家們發現了早產與某些基因之間的潛在聯繫。

Other surprises that the Gateses mentioned in the letter cover a wide range of areas, such as developments in demographic structure, advances in science, and urbanization. For example, they found that while the rest of the world is aging, the number

of young people in Africa has been on the rise, making Africa the youngest continent in the world in terms of the medium age. In science, they mentioned that scientists have discovered a potential link between preterm labor and six genes. In the coming future, DNA tests might not only be used in identifying serial killers but might also help prevent premature birth.

蓋茲夫婦在信中提到的其他趨勢涵蓋許多領域，像是人口結構變化、科技發展與都市化現象。例如他們發現，全球邁向人口結構老化的同時，非洲的年輕人比例逐年增加。以年齡中位數來計算，非洲是目前全球最年輕的大陸。另外，科學家發現早產與六種基因有關連。未來，基因檢測不只能用來指認連續殺人犯，也能預防早產。



The Gateses also pointed out some worrying trends. For example, a city with the size of New York will be born every month for the next 40 years. The rapid pace of urbanization might exacerbate the effects of climate change. Another problem is that although

technology has made data collection easier, data can be sexist. Important data about women’s economic condition in the developing countries, such as their income or property ownership is missing. Consequently, women’s economic activities could be undervalued.

蓋茲夫婦也觀察到一些令人憂心的趨勢。首先，從現在開始連續 40 年，每個月都會有一座相當於紐約市規模的城市誕生。如此快速的都市化發展，可能會惡化氣候變遷的影響。此外，現今在科技的協助下，收集資料輕而易舉，但數據可能隱含性別歧視。我們目前缺乏發展中國家女性經濟情況的重要資訊，如薪資收入與不動產等數據。因此，女性的經濟活動可能被低估。

The Gateses suggested that these surprising trends have made a great impact and they will prompt further action. Some trends help us see what areas should be improved and some tell us that “transformation is happening already.”

蓋茲夫婦指出，這些出乎意料的趨勢影響甚巨，也會促使大眾採取相關行動。有些趨勢能夠幫助我們找出必須加以改善的地方，有些現象則告訴我們「轉變正在發生。」



◎資料來源

<https://www.gatesnotes.com/2019-Annual-Letter>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkYWJqDjfRA>

◎圖片來源 <https://www.gatesnotes.com/2019-Annual-Letter>

◎應用外語系 丘羽先老師 編譯

