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From: Mr Thomas Tong

Learning English through Social Issues

Dear Editor,

In this day and age, the development of the global movie industry is becoming more prosperous. In the United States alone, there are already 400 movies being released annually. Doubtlessly, a good casting, a fascinating story plot and famous hooting scenes can always contribute to the success of a movie. Recently people have different opinions on whether filming movies in the city centre should be allowed. Considering the merits and drawbacks, I think it should be permitted to film movies in the city centres.

To commence with, setting movie scenes in the city centres is an effective way to enhance the international image of the city. Not being well-known internationally, a downtown can gain fame by becoming a classic scene in a movie. By introducing the city to the audience worldwide, the movie can definitely attract public attention to the city. People from different countries who watched the movie may search for more information about the impressive scenes inside. This helps a city establish or enhance its positive and flourishing image globally, particularly in such a tiny city like Hong Kong. A Hollywood movie filming in the streets in Central or Causeway Bay must be in spotlight as soon as people figure those scenes out. The reputation of 'the Pearl of the Orient' can be promoted internationally.

Furthermore, it promotes the development of tourism in the city. As everyone knows tourism is one the major industries which brings a huge sum of revenue to the Hong Kong's economy. If we let movies be filmed in the city centre, the lively background with daily life and behavior of Hong Kong people can be shown on the big screen to the audience worldwide. For instance, some classical scenes in the Hollywood masterpiece 'Batman – The Dark Knight' were filmed near the IFC in Central. As soon as the movie was released in 2008, many foreigners came and travelled in Hong Kong in order to get closer to the shooting scenes in the movie. The tourists also shopped in Hong Kong, promoting the development of the retail business. As more tourists come to Hong Kong, the tourism in Hong Kong will blossom.

Besides, filming movies in the city centre can popularize the culture of the city. Different countries have their unique cultures that appeal to people worldwide. For example, Hong Kong is famous for its mixed food culture. In city centre like Central, there are many Char Chan Teng and Dai Pai Dong which are accumulated with local delights like dim sum, pineapple bun, egg tarts and sting tofu. If these scenes which are full of Hong Kong's characteristics are shot, foreigners will be attracted to the special culture. Therefore, the symbolic cultural elements in a downtown can be popularized internationally.

To sum up, filming movies in the city centre should be allowed as it brings many benefits to the city. Although it may cause inconvenience to passes by and businesses in that area when filming, the affected period is short compared to the long-term benefits brought about. In order to succeed, we must pay the price. Therefore, the drawback should not be an excuse for not allowing filming in the city centre.