LEARNING ON THE JOB | DAILY YANG

Will China’s new leaders rise to the SARS challenge?

PRESIDENT Wen Jiabao declared on Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that "the important situation is not the SARS epidemic that is epidemic," but "the SARS epidemic that is SARS." His remarks were a major shift in official thinking since the SARS outbreak, for several months local and central government officials kept the release of information about the incidence of the virus from the public. It soon became clear, however, that the government's handling of the situation had eroded public trust. The difficulty in understanding the government's policies, combined with the allegedly inept handling of the public health crisis, led to a loss of public confidence.

Until recently, the party propaganda apparatus had a stranglehold on media reports that might reflect badly on the leadership. But now, with the government's new emphasis on openness, the party has no choice but to respond to criticism. The significant improvement in the government's handling of the SARS epidemic is the result of a series of decisions made by the new leadership, which has demonstrated its ability to learn from past mistakes and respond effectively to new challenges.

The SARS outbreak has exposed some of the weaknesses in the Chinese government's system. For example, the central government's lack of transparency in releasing information has caused public distrust. The Chinese government has also been criticized for its slow response in containing the spread of the virus. In addition, some provincial officials have been accused of covering up the extent of the outbreak. These issues have highlighted the need for the Chinese government to improve its communication strategy and to be more accountable to the public.

The SARS epidemic has also raised questions about the role of the Chinese media in reporting on health crises. While the government has praised the media for its efforts in covering the SARS outbreak, many journalists have been detained or harassed for reporting on the epidemic. This has raised concerns about the freedom of the press in China and the government's commitment to transparency.

In conclusion, the SARS epidemic has been a significant challenge for the Chinese government, but it has also provided an opportunity for the government to demonstrate its commitment to openness and accountability. The new leadership has shown its willingness to learn from past mistakes and to respond effectively to new challenges. The Chinese government should continue to improve its communication strategy and to be more accountable to the public.

PETER KAMMERSER'S WORLD

Why Arabs reject US democracy

The wars of Iraq are energying the anti-Americanism of the Arab world, and not because they are against democracy, but because they are against American imperialism. The Arab world is not a monolithic bloc; there are differences among Arab countries, and the Arab world is not united. Some Arab countries, such as Iraq and Syria, are strong supporters of the US, while others, such as Egypt and Jordan, are more critical.

The US has tried to promote democracy in the Arab world through its support for elections in the region. However, the US has faced challenges in promoting democracy in the Arab world. The US has often been criticized for its support for authoritarian regimes, such as the incumbent regime in Egypt, which has been in power for more than 30 years. The US has also been criticized for its intervention in the region, such as in the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

In conclusion, the US has faced challenges in promoting democracy in the Arab world. The US has often been criticized for its support for authoritarian regimes, and its intervention in the region has often been seen as an attempt to promote US interests. The US should work to promote democracy in the Arab world through its support for democratic institutions and civil society, and by engaging with the region to promote stability and prosperity.

Frank Ching

Mr. Ching is an avid reader of the New York Times and the Washington Post. He has a strong bias towards the US and its policies. He is also a strong advocate for US-democracy in the Middle East.

Observer

Baby blues

A man in his 30s may be more than half as likely as a woman to contract meningitis, but the risk for men drops after that, while the risk for women increases, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Moreover, some governments are virtually uniquely able to find the money to fund programs in response to the meningitis crisis. In Malawi, the government has launched a national meningitis vaccination program, with the help of MSF. The government has been able to invest in the program because it is able to fund the program through tax revenues and international aid.

In conclusion, meningitis is a serious threat to the health and well-being of many people in the world. It is a disease that is preventable and treatable, but it remains a challenge for many countries. The world must continue to work together to tackle this disease and to ensure that everyone has access to the care and support they need.