

Filming movie in the city centre

Dear Editor,

The recent topic whether filming movie in the city centre should be allowed has aroused mounting concern among citizens. I am writing to express my opinion on it. The topic is controversial because it can harm our city economically and culturally. After considering all factors, I am certain that the filming movies in the city centre should be banned.

First and foremost, filming in the city centre is a disruption to the citizens. In Hong Kong, there are various entertaining facilities for citizens to enjoy their leisure time so that the amount fulfils the requirement of citizens. If the movie producer books some of these facilities for filming, citizens will find it unavailable which perturbs their holiday schedule. It can ruin the mood of the day. After that, some bad news will pop up on the Internet even the film has not come out yet, resulting in bad movie image. In order to ensure that Hong Kong citizens are feasible to access the facilities at any time, filming in the city centre should be prohibited.

Not only is filming in the city centre a disturbance to people's lives, but also a stumbling stone to local economics. Hong Kong's economics is spiralling every second. Filming in the city centre occupies roads and blocks traffic. Therefore, the normal operation of our city will be affected. People may spend more time going to work due to traffic diversions. Moreover, when a whole street is occupied for filming, all shops along the street cannot work as normal. The economic loss of the shops is tremendous that cannot be ignored. This loss can be exemplified by the production of *Tenet*, a famous film across the world in 2020. During the production of *Tenet*, they have occupied a road in Norway for 3 days. In the 3 days, no vehicle can travel on the road and the shops nearby are forced to be closed. Consequently, the filming project brought huge inconvenience to the society and resulted in economic loss. By examining this example, I acknowledge that filming in the city centre can have enormous negative impact on our city's economics. Filming movies in the city centre should not be at liberty so that our society can run fluently.

Some people may argue that filming in city centre can promote city's culture and include aesthetic scenery in the movie which attracts tourism. However, this argument is not completely true. In fact, unprofessional production can lead to culture distortion to the city. When the production team of the movie does not do enough research on the historical background and cultural of the city, the resulting movie may include misleading information so the general public will have misunderstanding of the city. The movie '*Godzilla vs Kong*' was a striking example to illustrate cultural distortion caused by unprofessional film production. Some scenes were shot in Hong Kong, and it looked fabulous. However, there were simplified Chinese words on a falling neon sign which was computer-generated. How careless were they to put simplified Chinese words in the scene shot in Hong Kong where the people use traditional Chinese characters. Foreigners probably will think Hong Kong citizens are generally using simplified Chinese words to write. Obviously, the above example shows that allowing filming movies in the city can lead to culture distortion.

In retrospect, filming movies in the city centre has brought us inconvenience, affect our economics and even distort our precious culture. In order to maintain our city productivity and avoid any culture

distortion. I have no doubt that filming movie in the city centre should be prohibited.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong