

## Tuesday English News Report

*John Tsang's food-truck idea may be hard to swallow for some*

Broadcast Date: 3rd March

After coffee and French movies, John Tsang Chun-wah has now moved on to his next **bourgeois** preference: food trucks.

If the financial secretary has his way, food vans - like those featured in last year's Hollywood foodie movie *Chef* - may be cruising the streets of Hong Kong.

In the movie, the main character rediscovers his love for food while selling Cuban sandwiches and yucca fries from the open window of a food van travelling across the US. In Hong Kong, vans would more likely be **touting** fish balls and chow mein.

In Tsang's 2011 budget speech, he identified himself as being "middle class" - despite earning HK\$301,000 a month back then - because he drank coffee and watched French movies. He was, perhaps understandably, **ridiculed** for this.

Now, in his **budget** speech, he has drawn from his time in the US for his latest idea.

"I have asked relevant departments ... to facilitate **alfresco dining** operations, and to consider introducing food trucks, which are popular abroad, to the mix of Hong Kong's existing food scene," he said.

But it may be a tough sell for **hawkers**, who already struggle to make ends meet.

"Does he know how much it costs to outfit a van into a **functional** kitchen and then run it? It's expensive. Does he think we have that kind of money?" said itinerant hawker Chan Kai-tai.

The government has refused to issue **itinerant** hawkers with licenses since 1973. Tsang's comments also appear to contradict current government policy.

In Sham Shui Po during Lunar New Year last week, dozens of street hawkers were forbidden by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to do business, despite having sold in the area for decades.

And agreement between government bodies on what exactly can be sold has been **elusive**.

A government source said food trucks would sell more "**gourmet**" products, not "merely fish balls and egg waffles".

Tsang, however, seems to be OK with the more common snacks.

"Food trucks can sell fish balls. Food trucks can also sell beef offal. It's not a big problem," said Tsang. "Most important is ... trucks selling specialty foods will be regulated and have a **hygiene** guarantee and licensing."



Taiwanese fare (food) sold from a food truck in Boston, Massachusetts

# 1. What do you think?

## 2. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.

bourgeois	ridiculed	hawkers	elusive
chef	budget	functional	gourmet
touting	alfresco dining	itinerant	hygiene

1. When preparing food, \_\_\_\_\_ is an important factor to prevent illness.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is better trained than a cook and usually prepares high class food.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ means eating outside, something that is very common in Italy where the word comes from.
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_. People laughed at him and said what he had done was a joke and very stupid.
5. People who sell goods and food in the streets and move around are called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Something or someone that is difficult to find or catch is called \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Something that is useful and works. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ bathroom in his camper van.
8. Very high quality food that is much better than normal street food is known as \_\_\_\_\_ food.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is a French word and describes someone who is middle-classed and interested in material things and conservative values.
10. When people come up to you and try to sell you something this is known as \_\_\_\_\_. It usually happens when people try to sell you tickets for sporting events and music concerts.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ means moving from place to place. Workers often have to do this in times of economic hardship.
12. When Mr. Tsang talks about his \_\_\_\_\_, he is telling us how the government will spend its money.

☺ **FREE COFFEE WITH MR. LANE!**

Every **Tuesday lunchtime** from **1-1:30pm** come to **The English Corner (Room B001B by the basketball court)** to have a coffee and chat about the **News Report**.