Remembering history and passing on the spirit of War of Resistance: Thematic seminars on the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression

Civil Service College
Civil Service Bureau



"The biggest challenge faced by historical memories is being cast into oblivion."

Mr Zhou Feng,
Curator of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders

To enable civil servants to develop a correct understanding of the history of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and its significance, the Civil Service College organised two thematic seminars, delivered by Dr Yau Yat, the Executive Director of the Academy of Chinese Studies, to guide colleagues through the historical episodes of the 14-year period of war.

The seminars adopted the tone of "solemnity rather than heavy-heartedness; tragic grandeur rather than sorrow; and unity rather than divisiveness". With the use of moving clips of songs, films and stage plays, as well as the stirring deeds of anti-Japanese war heroes, the seminars recounted some bloody and tearful imprints left upon the Chinese nation during the 14 years of tribulations, bringing history to life vividly. In the seminars, the account of how Hong Kong fought courageously against the enemy alongside our country in the face of national crisis particularly touched the hearts of our colleagues. Participants felt as if they had teleported back in time to witness the indomitable spirit of our predecessors and gained a profound appreciation of the hard-won peace.



Dr Yau Yat gave a thorough analysis on the reasons for the final victory of our country in the War of Resistance and the underlying historical significance.

An awakening in the Chinese nation's history

Through the seminars, we have not only established a correct view of history, but have also deeply grasped that "every inch of land costs every drop of blood" as martyrs paid a heavy price during the war. With strong and unwavering determination, our heroes successfully defended our homeland, brought about a national awakening and set the course for national rejuvenation today. The seminars also urged us to pass on the lessons and memories of history, from generation to generation.

During the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong, both Britain and Japan had their own strategic calculations. The former's real intent was revealed in the memoirs of Winston Churchill. This highlighted a crucial lesson: we can only rely on ourselves to protect our country; only a strong country can guard against the invasion by other countries. Therefore, remembering history is not about the form of commemoration, but about the national responsibility of every generation to safeguard hard-won peace and stability through concrete actions. As concluded by Mr Oscar Kwok Yam-shu, Head of the Civil Service College, we should draw lessons on national security, and pass on the lessons learnt, making it an awakening that belongs to our generation.

Passing on the spirit and responsibilities

Although history belongs in the past, it must not be forgotten. As civil servants, we shoulder the responsibility of learning from history, passing on the lessons learnt from historical events to the next generation. We should remain steadfast in safeguarding peace and strive to foster the spirit of self-enhancement of our predecessors.



Mr Oscar Kwok Yam-shu, Head of the Civil Service College, shared his views on the importance of understanding and passing on the lessons of history.

Learning insights from participants

The seminar served as an excellent opportunity for me to revisit history and my own responsibilities. Living in peacetime, we should proactively pass on the lessons of history and safeguard the hard-won peace. It is crucial for us to continue what we learn from history through our reflection and choices made in everyday life, turning the lessons learnt into our own "awakening".

Our country and nation have come through a difficult time, transforming from a state of disunity and humiliation to a new chapter of national awakening and unity in pursuit of self-enhancement. This is so heart-touching that I feel even more respectful towards our great country and the Chinese nation.



The participants have gained an insight into the significance of history and have become determined to shoulder the mission of passing on the national spirit of self-enhancement from generation to generation.