

# 鏗而不捨

qie4 er2 bu4 she3

Chief executive Leung Chun-ying seems to have an obsession – swimming in Victoria Harbour.

He was laughed at when he earlier suggested building swimming facilities off the Central waterfront for office workers to take a dip during lunch hours. People pointed out that Victoria Harbour is so filthy and the sea so choppy that no one would enjoy swimming in it, and might even get sick doing so.

Undaunted, Leung brought up the idea again, and asked in his blog: “What about swimming, going down water slides – in Wan Chai north and North Point harborfront?”

“Seriously?” people asked back. “How is pollution and sea traffic different off Wan Chai or North Point?”

But just to be fair, everyone should really hold their guns and look first at the details of the plans. Perhaps the “floating swimming pool,” suggested by his development minister subse-

## Idiom by Lon Yan

quently, is a kind of fresh water infinity pool that is separated from the sea.

Whatever we may think of the plan, we have to concede that the man is “鏗而不捨” (*qie4 er2 bu4 she3*).

“鏗” (*qie4*) is “to carve,” “to engrave,” “而” (*er2*) “and,” “but,” “不” (*bu4*) is “no,” “not” and “捨” (*she3*) “to give up,” “to abandon.” Literally, “鏗而不捨” (*qie4 er2 bu4 she3*) is “carve and not give up,” “to keep on carving unflaggingly.”

It means “to work with perseverance,” “to make steady efforts,” “to stick to something with persistence,” “to chip away at a task and not abandon it.”

**Terms containing the character “捨” (*she3*) include:**

捨棄 (*she3 qi4*) – to give up; to abandon

捨不得 (*she3 bu4 de2*) – reluctant to give up

捨身 (*she3 shen1*) – to sacrifice oneself

捨本逐末 (*she3 ben3 zhu2 mo4*) – to dwell on side issues