

Idiom by Lon Yan

巨細無遺

ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2

The Daya Bay power plant has unveiled an UFO alert system. The nuclear facility is not guarding against things as exotic as flying saucers or aliens. It targets radio-controlled small drones. So “unidentified” refers not to the nature of the flying objects, but their origin and controller.

Such sensitive surveillance equipment is necessary to ensure safety as it is highly undesirable to allow just anyone to fly a drone over the plant, even if it is just to take pictures.

The system can detect flying objects the size of an A3 paper within 10 km, and the size of an iPhone within 4 km, and also figure out whether it is just a bird. The way the system operates can be described as “巨

細無遺” (*ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2*).

“巨” (*ju4*) “huge,” “big,” “細” (*xi4*) “small,” “fine,” “無” (*wu2*) “without,” “nil,” “nothing,” and “遺” (*yi2*) “to lose,” “to leave behind.” “巨細無遺” (*ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2*), literally, is “not leaving behind big or small,” “missing neither big nor small,” “not missing anything, be it big or small.”

The expression means, figuratively, “being very careful in doing a job,” “being meticulous in doing something.”

Other versions of “巨細無遺” (*ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2*) are “鉅細無遺” (*ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2*) and “巨細靡遺” (*ju4 xi4 mi2 yi2*). The effect of being “巨細無遺” (*ju4 xi4 wu2 yi2*) is to ensure that all uninvited visitors from the air will “無所遁形” (*wu2 suo3 dun4 xing2*) – not able to hide.

Terms containing the character “遺” (*yi2*) include:

遺憾 (*yi2 han4*) – regret

遺失 (*yi2 shi1*) – to lose

遺棄 (*yi2 qi4*) – to desert (one’s family); to abandon

遺言 (*yi2 yan2*) – last words of the dying