

皆大歡喜

jie1 da4 huan1 xi3

The fifth issue of the government's retail bonds - iBond 5 - closed its first day of trading at HK\$105.50, up 5.5 percent from its issuance price of HK\$100.

That represented a paper gain of HK\$550 per board lot of the inflation-linked bonds (通脹掛勾債券) and small investors should be happy.

The government, as issuer, should also be satisfied as - at 597,895 - the number of applicants for the bonds was a record high, so was the first-day turnover of the bond.

Clearly, everybody involved was happy, and that qualifies as “皆大歡喜” (*jie1 da4 huan1 xi3*).

“皆” is “everybody,” “all,” “大” means “big,” “歡” (*huan1*) is “joyous” and “喜” (*xi3*) means happy, delighted. Literally, “皆大歡喜” (*jie1 da4 huan1 xi3*) is “all big joyous happy.”

“歡喜” (*huan1 xi3*), as a term, means “joyful,” “happy,” “delighted” or “gleeful,” and “皆大歡喜” (*jie1 da4 huan1 xi3*) means “satisfaction of everybody concerned,”

Idiom by Lon Yan

“everybody is happy,” “everybody is satisfied,” “to the satisfaction of all” or “universal satisfaction.”

The idiom is most appropriately used to describe a development that makes more than one person happy. If the happy event only concerns one person, it would just be “歡喜” (*huan1 xi3*).

If business is good for a company, its shareholders get a handsome dividend, and its staff gets an extra bonus. That is a case of “皆大歡喜” (*jie1 da4 huan1 xi3*).

Everyone likes the character “喜” as it is always associated with happy events. “有喜” (*you3 xi3*) means expecting a child. “恭喜” (*gong1 xi3*) means to congratulate, congratulations. If you find out that a friend is “有喜” (*you3 xi3*), you must “恭喜” (*gong1 xi3*) her.

Terms containing the character “喜” (*xi3*) include:

喜事 (*xi3 shi4*) - a happy event (wedding, celebration)

報喜 (*bao4 xi3*) - announce happy news

喜愛 (*xi3 ai4*) - to like, to love

喜劇 (*xi3 ju4*) - comedy