
Part A Compulsory Translation 必译题

SINGAPORE —

For more than a **decade**, archaeologists and historians have been studying the contents of a ninth-century Arab dhow that was discovered in 1998 off Indonesia's Belitung Island. The sea-cucumber divers who found the wreck had no idea it **eventually** would be considered one of the most important maritime discoveries of the late 20th century.

The dhow was carrying a rich **cargo** —

60,000 **ceramic** pieces and an **array** of gold and silverworks —

and its discovery has **confirmed** how significant trade was along a maritime silk road between Tang Dynasty China and Abbasid Iraq. It also has revealed how China was **mass-**producing trade goods even then and customizing them to suit the tastes of clients in West Asia.

"Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds," at the new, lotus-shaped Art Science Museum designed by Moshe Safdie, presents items from the Belitung wreck. Curated by the Asian Civilisations Museum here and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Smithsonian Institution in Washington, the show is expected to travel to museums around the world over the next five to six years.

"This **exhibition** tells us a story about an **extraordinary** moment in globalization," said Julian Raby, **director** of the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

"It brings to life the tale of Sinbad sailing to China to make his **fortune**. It shows us that the world in the ninth century was not as fragmented as we **assumed**. There were two great export powers: the Tang in the east and the Abbasid based in Baghdad."

Until the Belitung find, historians had thought that Tang China traded primarily through the land routes of Central Asia, mainly on the Silk Road. Ancient records told of Persian fleets sailing the Southeast Asian seas but no wrecks had been found, until the Belitung dhow. Its **cargo confirmed** that a huge volume of trade was taking place along a maritime **route**, said Heidi Tan, a **curator** at the Asian Civilisations Museum and a co-**curator** of the **exhibition**.

Mr. Raby said:

"The size of the find gives us a sense of two things: a sense of China as a country already producing things on an industrialized **scale** and also a China that is no longer producing ceramics to bury." He was referring to the production of **burial pottery** like camels and horses, which was banned in the late eighth century.

"Instead, kilns looked for other markets and they started producing tableware and they built an export market."

Part B Optional Translation 二选一题

Topic 1 选题一

BRUSSELS —

Madeira is more than 500 kilometers from the African coast and is officially one of the "outermost regions" of the European Union. Despite that far-flung **status**, Madeira catapulted into the center of the Union's agricultural and environmental affairs last year when Portugal asked the European Commission for **permission** to **impose** an **unprecedented** ban on growing biotech crops there.

Last week, the **commission** quietly let the deadline pass for **opposing** Portugal's **request**, allowing Madeira, which is one of Portugal's autonomous regions, to become the first E.U. **territory** to get formal **permission** from Brussels to remain entirely free of **genetically** modified organisms.

Madeira now will probably go ahead and **implement** the ban, a spokeswoman for the Portuguese government said Friday.

Individual European countries and regions have banned **certain genetically** modified crops before. Many consumers and farmers in countries like Austria, France and Italy regard the crops as **potentially** dangerous and likely to **contaminate** organically produced food.

But the case of Madeira represents a significant **landmark**, because it is the first time the **commission**, which runs the day-to-day affairs of the European Union, has **permitted** a country to **impose** such a sweeping and **definitive rejection** of the technology.

The Madeirans' main concerns focused on preserving the archipelago's biodiversity and its forest of subtropical laurel trees.

Such forests, known as laurisilva, were once **widespread** on the European mainland but were wiped out thousands of years ago during an earlier period of climate change.

That has left Madeira with “much the largest **extent** of laurel forest surviving in the world, with **unique** suite of plants and animals,” according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which named the Madeiran laurisilva a World Heritage Site in 1999.

The forest also is a growing attraction for tourists, who make up a significant **portion** of Madeira’s earnings.

In seeking to ban biotechnology on Madeira, the Portuguese government told the **commission** that it would be **impossible** to **separate** crops containing **genetically** engineered material from other plant life.

The “risk to nature presented by the **deliberate release** of GMOs is so dangerous and poses such a **threat** to the environmental and **ecological** health of Madeira, that it is not **worthwhile** risking their use, either directly in the agricultural sector or even on an **experimental** basis,” the Portuguese told the **commission**, using the acronym for **genetically** modified organisms