《上海市拟移除英语路标 外籍人士表要迷路了》

导读:上海市政府目前正在考虑是否要移除交通路标上的英文字符，以便于腾出空间书写更大字号的汉字，公众对此分歧颇大、意见不一。

Many of the city’s signs feature either English or pinyin, a writing system that turns Chinese characters into words using the Roman alphabet. But Shanghai’s Road Administration Bureau has started a public consultation on whether that should change. In a lengthy survey on the city’s highways, one question asks if signs should use only Chinese characters in future. The survey itself is also written entirely in Chinese.

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driver’s licence in Shanghai doesn’t require knowledge of Chinese characters. An Australian expat tells the paper that "with Chinese characters, most foreigners are helpless".

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Social media users are divided on the issue - some on microblogging site Weibo don’t see why English or pinyin should feature on the signs anyway. "When in Rome, do as the Romans do, why do people who cannot speak a word of Chinese come to China if not to learn?" asks one user. But another points out that many expats can understand pinyin - usually the first stage of learning Chinese for foreigners - but can’t read the characters. Some voice concerns over the cost of any change and one person thinks it would be a step backwards, asking: "Is Shanghai no longer an international metropolis?"

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