



## Applause greets solar eclipse on Easter Island 復活節島 喝采聲中迎日食

Applause echoed around the silent, strange statues which have guarded Easter Island for thousands of years as a solar **eclipse** plunged them into darkness in the middle of the day.

"It was like being in the stadium at night with artificial light. It was like being in a dark room with a 10 watt bulb," local official Francisco Haoa told AFP.

The remote island, some 3,500km from the Chilean mainland, has been flooded with thousands of stargazers **waiting with bated breath** for the rare four minute, 41 second eclipse.

"Everyone applauded. We saw a **luminous** object near here and people started saying that they were sure it was a UFO," added Haoa.

Easter Island and its mysterious huge statues were

touted by **astronomers** as the best place to view the total eclipse which arched its way eastwards across the Pacific on Sunday.

"Many people were happy because in China (where there was a solar eclipse two years ago), there was bad weather. But here you can see it completely," added Haoa. (AFP)

☐ 食現象讓日正當中的復活節島頓時陷入黑暗，默默守護復活節島數千年的奇石像間，霎時迴盪陣陣喝采。

當地官員法蘭西斯科·哈歐亞向法新社表示：「那感覺彷彿夜間置身使用人工照明的體育場，宛若身處僅用一顆十瓦燈泡的暗室中。」

數千名遊客湧入這座距離智利本土約三千五百公里的偏遠孤島，屏息等待這歷時四分四十一秒的日食奇景。

哈歐亞還說：「民眾齊聲喝采。我們看到附近出現一個光體，

接著大家就開始議論紛紛說那肯定是幽浮。」

天文學家力推有神秘巨石群的復活節島是此次日全食的最佳觀測地點。日全食在週日向東橫跨太平洋。

哈歐亞補充說：「許多民眾很開心，因為中國（兩年前那次日食）天候不佳影響觀測，但這次可以看得清清楚楚。」

(法新社/翻譯：林倩如)

**View of Moais — stone statues of the Rapa Nui culture — during the solar eclipse on Easter Island, 3500km off the Chilean coast in the Pacific Ocean, on July 11, 2010.**

PHOTO: AFP

七月十一日，日食奇觀在復活節島（位於智利外海三千五百公里處的太平洋上）的摩埃巨石像上空登場。

照片：法新社

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **eclipse** /ɪˈkliːps/ n.

日食 (rì4 shì2)

例: Spectators were warned not to look directly at the solar eclipse.  
(觀眾都被提醒切勿直視日食。)

2. **luminous** /ˈlumɪnəs/ adj.

發光的 (fā1 guāng1 de5)

例: The luminous clock was still visible after we turned off the lights.  
(關閉光源後，還是看得到夜光鐘。)

3. **astronomer** /əˈstrɒnəmə/ n.

天文學家 (tiān1 wén2 xué2 jiā1)

例: Ian attended a conference for amateur astronomers.  
(溢安出席一場業餘天文學家會議。)

### LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

#### wait with bated breath 屏息以待

If someone is waiting with bated breath, they are waiting in excited expectation for something. According to the article, the stargazers waited with bated breath for the eclipse. The expression was first used by Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

「wait with bated breath」意指懷著興奮之情期待某事的發生。上文中提到，觀測日食的民眾屏息等待奇觀登場。這用法首見於莎士比亞之作《威尼斯商人》。