



Japanese cellphone ring tone 'cures hay fever' 日本手機鈴聲可「治花粉症」

The Japanese firm behind a dog-bark translation machine and cellphone ring tones meant to attract members of the opposite sex has a new spring-time offering — a mobile phone application to cure hay fever.

The Japan Ringing Tone Laboratory has now decided to ring the changes with its latest invention, just in time for the cherry blossom season, when white and pink petals shower the country and pollen allergies and sinus problems cause misery for millions.

The Tokyo-based high-tech gadget maker promises its newest cellphone ringtone can bring relief when users hold the handsets under their noses.

According to the developer, Dr Matsumi Suzuki, who says on his Web site that he studies acoustics and analyses voiceprints, the ring tone unleashes waves that will shake out pollen stuck in the user's nose.

Index Corporation, which markets the ring tone, warned that the effectiveness may vary among users.

"There is no guarantee that this has real health benefits," warned a company spokeswoman. She added that the

number of downloads has been three times that of their other ringtones, without disclosing sales figures.

The company has also come up with ringtones it says help users attract members of the opposite sex, lose weight, quit smoking, digest food and relieve shoulder aches.

It also developed the 'Bowlingual' gadget that can "translate" dog barks into human language, sold by toymaker Takara Tomy since 2002.

The gadget has a handset and a microphone attached to a dog collar that is billed as analysing six emotions including joy, sadness and frustration, and utters phrases such as "Play with me!" A version also exists for cats. (AFP)

研發狗語翻譯機及吸引異性手機鈴聲等產品的日本公司，推出春季新發明——能治療花粉症的手機鈴聲。

「日本來電鈴研究所」決定趕搭櫻花季來點不一樣的新發明。日本落下白色、粉紅色交織的花瓣雨時，數百萬民眾也飽受花粉過敏和鼻竇炎之苦。

這家總部位於東京的高科技裝置製造商保證，他們最新的手機鈴聲可以舒緩症狀，使用者只要將話筒置於鼻下即可。

研發者鈴木美博士在自己的網站上表示，他研究聲學和分析

聲紋後所開發的這款鈴聲會釋放過波，震落附著在使用者鼻腔的花粉。

負責銷售這款鈴聲的易德克斯公司警告，效果可能依使用者而異。

該公司一名女發言人說：「無法保證這鈴聲真的有益健康。」她還說這鈴聲的下載率是他們公司其他鈴聲的三倍，不過她並未公佈具體銷售數據。

這家公司也曾發明能吸引異性、減重、可幫助戒菸、消化，以及減輕肩膀酸痛的鈴聲。

它也曾研發能將狗叫聲「翻譯」成人類語言的「狗語翻譯機」，玩具製造商Takara Tomy二〇〇二年起開始販售該產品。

這款裝置是由一支話筒和一個建有麥克風的狗狗項圈組成，號稱可以辨識包括高興、難過、沮喪等六種情緒，以及諸如「陪我玩！」之類的片語。該翻譯機也有「貓語」版本。

(法新社/翻譯：林倩如)

Two women takes pictures of bloomed cherry blossoms at Tokyo's Ueno Park on March 22, 2010. PHOTO: AFP

三月二十二日，兩名女子在東京上野公園拍攝盛開的櫻花。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. offering /'ɔ:fərɪŋ/ n.

用品 (yong4 pin3)

例：Our latest offering should be in the stores by early May. (我們的最新產品應該五月初會上架。)

2. hay fever /'he 'fiva/ n.

花粉症 (hua1 fen3 zheng4)

例：Mitch is visiting a homeopath to try and cure his hay fever. (米契要找順勢療法醫生治療花粉症。)

3. petal /'petl/ n.

花瓣 (hua1 ban4)

例：All the visitors commented on the huge bowl of petals on the table. (所有訪客都對桌上那個裝有花瓣的大鉢盆議論紛紛。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

ring the changes 換點花樣

You ring the changes if you change something to make it more interesting. Examples: "We are planning to ring the changes and employ a professional interior designer to redecorate the entire office," or "It's a good idea to ring the changes every couple of years."

「ring the changes」意指稍做改變，讓事情更有趣。例如：「我們打算換點花樣，聘請專業室內設計師重新裝潢整個辦公室」，或「每幾年就做點改變的想法很不賴」。