

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Director of HKETO promotes Hong Kong's business advantages in Vancouver

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, visited Vancouver on May 23 to promote the unique advantages of doing business in Hong Kong.

Ms Mo spoke at the "Hong Kong: Your Gateway to Asia" lunch workshop co-hosted by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Vancouver Section) and WeWork. She introduced to the audience about the business environment of Hong Kong and the advantages of doing business in the city.

Ms Mo also called on the Mayor of Richmond Malcolm Brodie and briefed him on the latest developments of Hong Kong, as well as exchanged views with him on the trade and investment relations between Hong Kong and Canada.

Ms Mo then visited the teak boat display organised by the Dragon Boat BC at Parq Vancouver. Sponsored by HKETO, Dragon Boat BC will exhibit six dragon boats, which were donated by Hong Kong to the 1986 World Exposition in Vancouver, in various locations in Vancouver in the coming year.

In the evening, Ms Mo spoke at the 2019 West Coast Networking Reception organised by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs. She introduced Hong Kong's unparalleled business advantages and said that the city is now playing an increasingly significant role as a platform for doing business in Asia.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

[Click here to read the details.](#)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Hong Kong Week themed "Connect and Excel" organised by HKETO

<https://hkweek2019hketo.ca/>

This month, HKETO will stage and support the following activities to promote Hong Kong's strengths, advantages and potential with emphasis on the core values and attributes of the city under the "Hong Kong Week". An opening ceremony to kick off the Hong Kong Week and relevant photo exhibition will be held at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCC) on June 18, 2019. Please visit the Hong Kong Week website (<https://hkweek2019hketo.ca/>) for details.

1. Photo exhibition "Connect and Excel - Past, Present and Future" (mid to end-June)

HKETO will jointly present with the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto a photo exhibition entitled "Connect & Excel - Past, Present & Future" in different locations in the Greater Toronto Area and Vancouver. The photo exhibition will display photographs to showcase Hong Kong's high degree of connectivity globally and with the Mainland China in terms of infrastructure. It will also focus on the city's people-to-people connectivity. You are invited to connect/re-connect with Hong Kong through this photo exhibition.

The dates and venues of the exhibition are as follows:

June 15-20	CCC
June 18-22	North York Civic Centre in Toronto
June 18-30	Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library of the University of Toronto
June 24-30	Robson Square, University of British Columbia in Vancouver

[Click here to read the details.](#)

2. Seminar on "Connecting Hong Kong and Canada through Music" (June 18)

The Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library of the University of Toronto will host a seminar on "Connecting Hong Kong and Canada through Music" on June 18. This seminar will discuss the connections between Canada and Hong Kong's music cultures. Professor Chan Wing-wah is the keynote speaker. HKETO is a sponsor of the seminar.

Professor Chan is a renowned composer and conductor in Hong Kong and is currently the Music Director of the Hong Kong Oratorio Society. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and went on to finish his Master and Doctor of Music degrees at the University of Toronto on a Canadian Commonwealth

Scholarship. He had performed worldwide and written over 200 works including western and Chinese orchestral and chamber works, choral music, hymns and children songs.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

3. 2019 HKCBA National Conference (June 21)

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will host its 2019 National Conference themed "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong 2.0" in Markham, Ontario on June 21. The Conference will showcase business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Belt and Road Initiative and explore strategies Canadian companies can use to conquer trade with Asia through the Hong Kong platform.

The Conference is ideal for startups, SMEs and corporations alike interested in expanding to or attracting project funding from Hong Kong, active in Asia seeking to propel growth or seeking that competitive advantage in their international strategy. HKETO is the lead sponsor of the event. Register now.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

4. Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival (June 21 to 23)

The 31st Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival organised by the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society will be held from June 21 to 23 at Concord Pacific Place, Creekside Park and the waters of False Creek in Vancouver. 5 500 paddlers in over 200 teams from across Canada and the world will compete in this festival. HKETO is the sponsor of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office International Cup Grand Final, which will see the top Canadian teams face off against top teams from around the world.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

5. "Voices of the World" concert (June 22)

The Hong Kong Oratorio Society, led by renowned Hong Kong composer Professor Chan Wing-wah, will stage a concert entitled "Voices of the World" with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra and Vancouver Oratorio Society at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on June 22. The world premiere of a symphony piece written by Professor Chan specifically for this concert will be presented. You are invited to enjoy

this concert connecting audience and seasoned musicians from Hong Kong, Toronto and Vancouver.

Tickets are on sale now and details of the concert can be found at [this](#) link.

6. Hong Kong-themed musical performances "Try to Remember" (June 30)

Sponsored by HKETO, Dramaone Vancouver will stage two performances of the musical entitled "Try to Remember" at the Michael J Fox Theatre in Vancouver on June 30. An artistic talk hosted by Director Peter Poon and the leading actors of the musical production and a VIP reception will be held before the closing performance.

"Try to Remember" is an original play written by renowned Canadian Hong Kong Director Peter Poon about the love stories of three couples from different generations in Hong Kong. The musical will present many songs that were popular in Hong Kong from the 1960s to 1980s, through which the Canadian audience can learn and understand more about the vibrant art and culture scene of Hong Kong in different eras.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival

The 31st Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival organised by the Toronto Chinese Business Association will be held on June 15 and 16, 2019 at the Toronto Centre Island. About 200 teams with over 5 000 athletes from Canada, U.S., the Caribbean Islands, Europe and Asia will compete in the 2-day race. HKETO is the Special Sponsor of the event.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong ranked as world's second most competitive economy

Hong Kong has continued to rank second globally in the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2019 as published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Switzerland on May 28.

Analysed by the WCY's four competitiveness factors, Hong Kong maintained the top

rank in "Government efficiency", and was ranked second in "Business efficiency" and 10th in "Economic performance". Benefiting from the Government's increased investment in areas such as infrastructure and innovation and technology, as well as education, Hong Kong's ranking edged up to 22nd in "Infrastructure".

The WCY 2019 assessed 63 economies worldwide. Singapore was ranked first and Hong Kong second, followed by the US, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

CE strongly objects to German asylum for two bail jumpers

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, on May 24 told Germany's Acting Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr David Schmidt, that she strongly objects to, and deeply regrets, the reported granting of asylum to two Hong Kong residents who jumped bail to flee Hong Kong while awaiting trial on serious charges. Mrs Lam had requested the meeting with Mr Schmidt at the Chief Executive's Office in the afternoon.

Mrs Lam stressed that the HKSAR's rule of law, law enforcement agencies and judicial independence have long been held in high regard by local and international communities. In particular, independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication is guaranteed under the Basic Law. Relevant provisions in the Basic Law also provide for the invitation of judges from other common law jurisdictions to sit on the Court of Final Appeal. She said that 14 eminent overseas judges from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada currently sit on our Court of Final Appeal as non-permanent judges, which in itself is a testimony to the integrity of Hong Kong's rule of law and independent judiciary.

Mrs Lam said anyone accused of breaching the law in Hong Kong would face an open and fair trial. She expressed deep regret and strong objection to the reported granting of asylum to the two bail jumpers by Germany, which had unjustifiably undermined Hong Kong's international reputation in the rule of law and judicial independence.

Mrs Lam expressed doubts as to whether the German authorities' decision had been based on the facts. She said the two men are facing serious charges including riot and assaulting police in relation to the Mong Kok riot in February 2016. Given Germany's long-standing diplomatic presence in Hong Kong, such facts, which were on the public record and easily available, should have been duly taken into account by German

authorities in determining the truth and veracity of any asylum claim. She said she was dismayed that apparently such a basic assessment of facts had not been made.

She asked Mr Schmidt to convey her deep regrets and strong objections to the relevant German authorities.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Government committed to promoting mediation in Hong Kong

The "Mediate First" Pledge Event 2019 organised by the Department of Justice (DoJ) opened on May 24 with a forum comprising various thematic seminars featuring renowned international and local speakers sharing the latest developments and trends in mediation. The seminars were followed by a reception at which the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, and other guests launched the dedicated social media platforms for promoting, among others, mediation initiatives of the DoJ.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, Ms Cheng noted that the DoJ is committed to promoting the development locally, regionally and internationally. The speakers at the panel discussions exchanged views on topics including the benefits of mediation in sports disputes in light of the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the role of mediators in the deal making process. There was also a sharing of views in the use of mediation to resolve sector-specific disputes in Hong Kong.

The seminars were followed by a reception witnessing the launch of dedicated social media platforms for promoting, among others, mediation initiatives of the DoJ and a signing ceremony of the "Mediate First" Pledge by new pledgees. More than 800 representatives of private enterprises, public bodies, business associations, professional bodies as well as professionals in the legal and mediation sectors joined the reception.

Looking ahead, Ms Cheng said at the reception that the DoJ will continue to promote the mediation services of Hong Kong to the countries and regions along the Belt and Road and the cities in the Greater Bay Area.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

In addition, with a long and rich common law heritage, Hong Kong's mature legal system is renowned for being transparent, trustworthy, and fair, ranking well internationally and underpinning Hong Kong's reputation as one of the safest cities in

the world. The legal infrastructure is a major draw for Mainland China and overseas companies setting up and doing business in Hong Kong, where they can gain peace of mind from assurance that contracts are enforced, disputes are settled fairly and intellectual property is well protected. For an overview of Hong Kong's position as a legal hub and details of Hong Kong's legal services, please visit the website below:

<https://www.legalhub.gov.hk/>

SCED attends OECD and WTO meetings in Paris

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, paid a two-day visit to Paris, France, on May 22 and 23 to attend the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Informal Ministerial Gathering.

Speaking at the WTO Informal Ministerial Gathering on May 23, Mr Yau encouraged WTO members to actively participate in the discussions on e-commerce, domestic regulation in services and investment facilitation, which are all indispensable to global trade in the modern-day economy. The meeting provided a platform for WTO members to discuss issues relating to the fisheries subsidies rules negotiations, WTO reform and achievable outcomes for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) next year.

Prior to the WTO Informal Ministerial Gathering, Mr Yau attended the OECD MCM and spoke at a working lunch themed "Reaping and Diversifying the Benefits of Trade in the Digital Era". Mr Yau also attended an informal meeting of ministers of WTO members on domestic regulation in services to discuss how to improve the regulatory environment for trade in services globally. After the meeting, Hong Kong, together with 58 other WTO members, jointly issued a statement to commit to negotiating for an outcome by MC12.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019

The HKSAR Government is consulting the Legislative Council (LegCo) of Hong Kong on its proposal to amend the Fugitives Offenders Ordinance (FOO) and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (MLAO) (the Bill).

Surrender of fugitives and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters are long-standing international practices to combat crimes and prevent criminals from seeking havens to evade justice, and the two ordinances provide the requisite legal bases for such operation. So far, the HKSAR has signed long-term agreements on surrender of fugitive offenders and mutual legal assistance agreements with 20 and 32 jurisdictions respectively including Canada. While there is a case-based surrender mechanism with other jurisdictions under these ordinances, such arrangement has not been activated under FOO over the past 22 years due to impracticable operational requirements (i.e. the requirements for disclosure of sensitive crime information in public domain and for LegCo's scrutiny of the relevant subsidiary legislation for 28 to 49 days before making arrest of the fugitive offender) and geographical restrictions (i.e. the two ordinances are not applicable to requests between Hong Kong and other parts of the People's Republic of China).

Noting that there are already precedents of case-based surrender arrangements being activated and facilitated by certificates issued by executive authorities in foreign countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada, the HKSAR proposes to amend the two ordinances to deal with two practical problems. These problems include (i) a murder case which happened in Taiwan in early 2018 involving a Hong Kong resident allegedly killing another Hong Kong resident with the suspect subsequently returning to the HKSAR; and (ii) plugging the existing loopholes in the existing regime in criminal and juridical assistance matters, where the geographical restrictions and impractical operational requirements render the legislation inoperable in certain cases.

Extensive Human Rights and Procedural Safeguards

In respect of case-based surrender requests, the HKSAR has full discretion as to whether the requests should be acceded to. The proposal retains all procedural and human-rights safeguards in the current law on surrender of fugitive offenders, including the right to judicial review, the double criminality principle, no surrender for a political offense and protection against the death penalty, among others. These safeguards have been formulated with reference to the United Nations model treaty and accord with international practice. Under the rule of law, which will continue to thrive as our cornerstone, our independent judiciary will perform its gatekeeping role diligently in scrutinizing each surrender request without interference.

With the spirit of providing more instead of less safeguards in making the proposed case-based surrender arrangements, and having considered the specific views and concerns expressed by various sectors, the HKSAR Government accepts that additional safeguards could be provided in the following three aspects for the proposed case-based surrender arrangements under the Bill: (i) narrowing the application of the

proposed case-based surrender arrangements to the most serious offences only; (ii) adding more restrictions to the activation of the proposed case-based surrender arrangements; and (iii) enhancing protection for the rights of the surrendered persons. If the proposed legislative amendments are passed, the case-based surrender arrangements will only cover 37 serious offences punishable with imprisonment for seven years or above.

The proposed legislative amendments are meant to protect law-abiding general public including the international business community in Hong Kong from the threat of fugitives and make HKSAR a safer place and a better partner in the international fight against crime. It must be stressed that the rule of law, independent judiciary, human rights protection, as well as freedom of speech, press, assembly, etc. are Hong Kong's core values and cornerstones of our present-day success. The HKSAR Government will continue to fully safeguard these essential attributes which make Hong Kong tick.

The HKSAR Government reiterates that the Bill has a time element. The suspect in the Taiwan murder case is serving sentence for other criminal offences in Hong Kong but is expected to be released this October. There is thus a pressing need to provide a legal basis for the assistance that we want to render to Taiwan, before the LegCo goes into summer recess from mid-July to October.

The Security Bureau has publicised a pamphlet to explain why the HKSAR Government amends the FOO and MLAO:

[Click here to read the pamphlet.](#)

CS clarified the proposal with American Chamber of Commerce

The Chief Secretary for Administration of HKSAR, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, met the Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr Robert Grieves, and its President, Ms Tara Joseph, on May 29 on the amendment bill to assist the Chamber in understanding better the proposed legislative amendments, clarifying any misunderstanding and easing their concerns.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Hong Kong residents born in 1966 or 1967 should apply for new smart identity cards between June 3 and July 26

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on May 27 that from June 3 to July 26, 2019, Hong Kong residents born in 1966 or 1967 should

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

June 5, 2019



apply for a new smart identity card in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre (SIDCC). The SIDCCs will be open from Mondays to Saturdays, from 8am to 10pm (except public holidays).

Eligible applicants may make appointment bookings via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. The ImmD appeals to applicants to pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or the mobile application in order to enjoy faster service. Applicants need to bring along their existing smart identity cards when they proceed to the SIDCCs.

If eligible Hong Kong residents are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period, they can apply within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong.

For details of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk or call the enquiry hotline 2824 6111.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

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Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

June 5, 2019



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