

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Toronto ETO hosts Hong Kong Week opening ceremony and "Connect & Excel - Past, Present & Future" photo exhibition in Vancouver

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) hosted the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Week and the "Connect & Excel - Past, Present & Future" photo exhibition at the Sunroom and Gallery of Robson Square at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on June 24.

In delivering a welcome speech at the opening ceremony, the Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, said the Hong Kong Week event under the theme "Connect and Excel" aims to promote Hong Kong's strengths and potential with an emphasis on the core values and attributes of Hong Kong, Asia's world city.

Ms Mo also introduced the activities in Vancouver under the inaugural "Hong Kong Week" event organised by Toronto ETO, which included dragon boat festival activities, a Hong Kong-themed drama and the photo exhibition. In Toronto, the events included a business conference, an academic seminar, a concert as well as the photo exhibition.

The "Hong Kong Week" opening ceremony in Vancouver was attended by the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver Ms Tong Xiaoling; Member of Parliament of Canada Mrs Alice Wong and Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia Ms Teresa Wat.

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

Director of HKETO attends 2019 HKCBA National Conference

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the 2019 National Conference entitled "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong 2.0" organised by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association, GTA Section (HKCBA) in Markham on June 21.

In delivering the welcome address at the National Conference, Ms Mo congratulated HKCBA on its 35th anniversary and updated participants on the positive economic growth in Asia in 2019. She said that for Canadian businesses seeking market diversification and opportunities in the East, Hong Kong serves as the perfect business platform to tap into the world's fastest-growing Asian market. Ms Mo also introduced the unique advantages of doing business in Hong Kong and remarked that Hong Kong provides a perfect environment for start-ups.

The HKCBA's National Conference showcased business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Belt and Road region, and explored strategies that Canadian companies can use to further trade with Asia through the Hong Kong platform. It is one of the programmes of the "Hong Kong Week" event organised by HKETO.

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

"Voices of the World" concert

The Hong Kong Oratorio Society, led by renowned Hong Kong composer Professor Chan Wing-wah, staged 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 North American premiere of a symphony piece written by Professor Chan specifically for this concert was presented.

A pre-concert reception was held and attended by the Deputy Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto Ms Hong Hong, Richmond Hill Councillor Mr Godwin Chan, Markham Councillor Ms Isa Lee and other guests. The concert is one of the activities of the "Hong Kong Week" event organised by HKETO.

Director attends Hong Kong-themed musical performance "Try to Remember"

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the musical entitled "Try to Remember" staged by DramaOne Vancouver at Michael J. Fox Theatre in Vancouver on June 30.

In delivering the welcome remarks before the evening performance, Ms Mo noted the two musical performances and relevant artistic talk held on June 30 marked an end to the inaugural Hong Kong Week under the theme "Connect and Excel", which promotes Hong Kong's strengths in different aspects.

"Try to Remember" is an original play written by renowned Canadian Hong Kong Director Peter Poon and it presents many popular Hong Kong songs in the past and present, connecting the Canadian audience to the vibrant art and culture scene of Hong Kong in different eras.

The musical performance was attended by the Deputy Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver Mr Kong Weiwei, Member of Parliament of Canada Mrs Alice Wong; Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and Minister of

State for Trade Mr George Chow, Richmond Councillor Mr Chak Au and many other guests.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

International film festivals to be held in Montreal and Toronto

The 23rd Fantasia International Film Festival will be held in Montreal from July 11 to August 1. HKETO supports the screenings of five Hong Kong films at the Festival, including G Affairs, Master Z - Ip Man Legacy, The Boxer's Omen, Missbehavior and Full Contact. Among these films, G Affairs will have its Canadian premiere at the Festival and its director Mr Lee Cheuk Pan will attend the screening at the Concordia Hall Theatre in Montreal on July 15. Tickets are on sale now. The full programme of the Festival can be found at this link (<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/festival-2019>).

In addition, the 2nd Mulan International Film Festival will be held from August 9 to 17 in Toronto. HKETO is the presenting sponsor of its closing Hong Kong film "First Night Nerves" directed by Mr Stanley Kwan [at the](#) Scotiabank Theatre on August 17. Please visit <https://mulanfestival.com/> for details.

HONG KONG NEWS

Reception for 22nd anniversary of establishment of HKSAR

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, attended the reception in celebration of the 22nd anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on July 1.

Speaking at the reception, Mrs Lam said that during the past 22 years since Hong Kong returned to the motherland, Hong Kong has experienced some changes, ups and downs, in the political, economic and social areas. Yet, Hong Kong has, generally speaking, remained stable and prosperous.

She also said that the incident that happened in recent months, which led to controversies and disputes between the public and the Government, has made her fully realise the need to grasp public sentiments accurately. She said she would ensure that the Government's future work will be closer and more responsive to the aspirations, sentiments and opinions of the community. The first and most basic step to take is to change the Government's style of governance to make it more open and

accommodating. The Government also needs to reform the way it listens to public views. Such work should be carried out without delay and would start from the Chief Executive.

Mrs Lam said that she and the Government will double their efforts to restore people's confidence and get Hong Kong off to a new start.

Following is the translation of the speech by Mrs Lam at the reception:

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

HKSAR Government responds to July 1 procession

In response to the procession in Hong Kong on July 1, a government spokesman noted that the procession was conducted in a peaceful and rational manner. The Government always respects the public's freedoms and rights of assembly, procession and expression. It also understands that people have different views on Government policies. As a free and pluralistic society, Hong Kong embodies rationalism, inclusiveness, harmony and diversity. The people of Hong Kong are proud of such cores values.

The spokesman reiterated that the Government had never taken a view on the nature of the confrontation on June 12. Irrespective of how an incident is defined by any person, it would not affect the Department of Justice (DoJ) in discharging its prosecutorial duties impartially.

The spokesman said that according to the press statement released by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) on June 27, the Chairman of the IPCC, Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, has "recommended to Members of the IPCC that the IPCC should proactively undertake a study of the recent Public Order Events in performance of its statutory functions. As internal consultations are still taking place and the website is being revamped to facilitate the proposed study, the IPCC aims to give a full account of what it proposes to do in the near future".

On July 1, some protesters confronted Police from morning until night. They charged Police cordon lines and disrupted public order, causing serious impact on public safety. In the evening of that day, some radical protesters stormed the Legislative Council Complex with extreme violence. These protesters seriously jeopardised the safety of police officers and members of the public. Such violent acts are unacceptable to society.

The HKSAR Government strongly condemns such acts, and protesters should stop violent acts immediately.

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

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CE meets with Police Force Council Staff Associations

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, met with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of four Police Force Council Staff Associations on June 27. Mrs Lam expressed her heartfelt thanks to members of the force for fulfilling their duties with dedication during the disputes and clashes in society caused by the extradition legislative amendment exercise, striking a balance between the public's freedom of expression and social order, and maintaining law and order in Hong Kong. She added that she and her governing team will continue to give their full support for the force.

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

Hong Kong Customs signs Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangements with Canada and Israel

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise of the HKSAR Government, Mr Hermes Tang, attended the 133rd/134th Council Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium, which concluded on June 29. He signed Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with the Director General of Israel Tax Authority, Mr Eran Yaacov, and the President of Canada Border Services Agency, Mr John Ossowski, on June 26 and 27 respectively.

Under the MRAs, companies accredited as AEOs in Hong Kong will enjoy customs clearance facilitation in Canada and Israel and, reciprocally, companies accredited under the corresponding programmes in both countries will also enjoy customs clearance facilitation in Hong Kong. Pursuant to the framework promulgated by the WCO, such facilitation in customs clearance includes reduced examination and prioritised clearance.

The signing of MRAs with Canada and Israel fully demonstrates the three Customs administrations' efforts in upholding international cargo security while facilitating cross-boundary cargo movement.

The signing of the two MRAs with Canada and Israel brings the number of MRAs signed by Hong Kong to 11 in total. The other nine economies with which Hong Kong has signed MRAs are the Mainland of China, India, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

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

Hong Kong has strong framework and effective system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has commended Hong Kong for its strong legal foundation and effective system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing following a mutual evaluation undertaken by member jurisdictions.

The Mutual Evaluation Report of Hong Kong was examined at the FATF Plenary on June 20 in the United States. The Report assesses the compliance and effectiveness of Hong Kong's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CTF) regime against the international standards. Hong Kong's system has been assessed to be compliant and effective overall, making it the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to have achieved an overall compliant result. So far only five out of 23 assessed jurisdictions have been rated overall compliant by the FATF.

The Report finds that Hong Kong has a strong legal and institutional framework for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, and is particularly effective in the areas of risk identification, law enforcement, asset recovery, counter-terrorist financing and international co-operation.

The FATF is an inter-governmental organisation which sets global standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Comprising 39 major economies of the world, the FATF conducts peer reviews of member jurisdictions regularly to assess their compliance with the international AML/CTF standards under a mutual evaluation process.

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

HKMA welcomes setting up of a BIS Innovation Hub Centre in Hong Kong

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced on June 30 that it will establish a BIS Innovation Hub (the Hub) to foster international collaboration on innovative financial technology within the central banking community. One of the Hub Centres will be set up in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) welcomes this development.

The role of the Hub will be to identify and develop in-depth insights into critical trends in technology affecting central banking; develop public goods in the technology space

geared towards improving the functioning of the global financial system; and serve as a focal point for a network of central bank experts on innovation.

The BIS, founded in 1930, is an international financial organisation with a membership of 60 shareholding central banks. Its mission is to serve central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, to foster international cooperation in those areas and to act as a bank for central banks.

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

Applications for the Scholarship Prospective English Teachers for the 2019/20 school year

The Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers set up by the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government is one of a series of measures to enhance the professionalism of English teachers in Hong Kong. It aims to attract persons proficient in English to pursue relevant local bachelor degree programmes and/or teacher training programmes which will qualify them to become English teachers on graduation.

The Scholarship (2019/20) will be open for application from August 5 to 14. Both local and non-local students who meet the eligibility criteria may apply. For details, please visit <http://www.edb.gov.hk/scholarship>

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This message was sent from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2M7.

For enquiries, please contact:

Miss Hilda Chow, Public Relations Officer, at
hilda_chow@hketotoronto.gov.hk or 416-924-5544.

For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

Ms. Shirley Wong, Head of Investment Promotion at
shirley_wong@hketotoronto.gov.hk or visit www.InvestHK.gov.hk

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