

RECENT ACTIVITIES

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

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, visited Ottawa between October 6 and 7 to promote Hong Kong's unique role as the springboard to Asia to the business sector of the capital city.

Ms Mo spoke at the 2019 Member Appreciation Reception entitled "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong 2.0" organised by Hong Kong Canada Business Association (Ottawa Section) on November 7. She introduced the unparalleled advantages of doing business in Hong Kong and highlighted how Canadian companies can grasp the enormous businesses opportunities brought about by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development.

Before joining the reception in the evening, Ms Mo held meetings with officials of the Global Affairs Canada and the Export Development Canada respectively. She updated them on the latest development of Hong Kong and exchanged views with them on issues of mutual interests.

Earlier on November 6, Ms Mo attended and spoke at a business seminar entitled "Updates on Hong Kong - Challenges and Opportunities" organised by the Canada-China Friendship Society, to introduce the vast business opportunities arising from the Bay Area development.

At both the reception and seminar, Ms Mo talked about the latest situation in Hong Kong and remarked that the city remained an open and internationally connected cosmopolitan city despite the current challenges faced by the city.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/director-of-hketo-promotes-hong-kongs-business-advantages-in-ottawa.html>

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-promotes-hong-kong-as-an-ideal-partner-to-venture-into-the-greater-bay-area-2.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

"HongKonglicious" organised by the Canada Hong Kong Alliance

The Canada Hong Kong Alliance (Toronto) (CHKA) will host the inaugural "2019 HongKonglicious" from November 3 to 21. This three-week event features food

delicacies of classic Cantonese dishes, including Hong Kong famous street foods and snacks, to the Canadian public. HKETO is the lead sponsor of this event. A Closing Gala of the event will be held in Mississauga on November 21.

For more details, please visit the official website of CHKA:

http://www.chka-tor.ca/?page_id=2816

HONG KONG NEWS

CE attends meeting of Leading Group for Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, attended the meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) as a member at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on November 6. The meeting was hosted and convened by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, to discuss and plan for priority areas of work for the next stage of the development of the Greater Bay Area.

At the meeting, Mrs Lam reported Hong Kong's work since the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group in five key areas, namely innovation and technology, infrastructural connectivity, finance, meteorology and commerce. She also outlined the future work focuses in these areas.

Mrs Lam welcomed the 16 policy measures introduced by the Central Government after the Leading Group meeting, which would benefit people from all walks of life, or facilitate the development of various sectors in the Greater Bay Area. These measures would offer further convenience to Hongkongers developing their careers, working and living in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as enhance the convenient flow of people, goods and capital within the Greater Bay Area.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/06/P2019110600764.htm>

Police attach great importance to the injured people at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the rights of arrested persons

Police are aware of injuries inside Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) which has been struck by recurrent violence. Police attach great importance to the situation and have arranged for ambulances to convey injured people to hospital for treatment. In the morning of November 18, Police started to make arrangement for Red Cross volunteers

to enter the PolyU. At around 2pm, Red Cross volunteers arrived at PolyU to provide first aid to injured people, some of whom would be conveyed to hospital if necessary.

With reference to the latest development, Police will assist the injured people who have left the PolyU to first receive treatment in hospital before further investigation.

Police stress that there are stringent and comprehensive guidelines on handling the rights of underage arrested persons. Police officers will make the best effort to arrange for appropriate adults to accompany the arrested persons and to render assistance.

Police are also aware that President of the PolyU Teng Jin-gaung stated he would accompany arrested people to Police stations. Police have actively engaged the school's management to make respective arrangement. Police stress that they always endeavour to seek a peaceful resolution to the violent incidents in the PolyU.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/18/P2019111800744.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/18/P2019111800513.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/18/P2019111800252.htm>

Concerted efforts of members of public and Government departments to restore daily operation in society

Rioters blocked roads and caused extensive damages in various districts in recent days, severely affecting people's daily lives. Members of the public and various Government departments worked together on November 16 to clear a number of blocked roads. Relevant Government departments also spared no effort in repairing damaged facilities and arranged alternative services for the public to restore operation in society.

Apart from the initiative of the members of the public, the Police, Fire Services Department, Transport Department, Highways Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Civil Aid Service, etc. had worked together starting from morning to clear the roads and coordinate with other parties.

Rioters attacked users of the Hung Hom Cross Harbour Tunnel, set fires to the toll booths and vandalised the Administration Building. Relevant Government departments and the tunnel operator will assess the extent of the damage to the system and draw up a repair plan once the safety of the working staff can be guaranteed.

Individual MTR stations have been vandalised by rioters and are out of service, with the University station severely damaged. Relevant Government departments will liaise

closely with MTR and make suitable arrangements in accordance with the actual situation.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/16/P2019111600811.htm>

Government condemns illegal and violent acts

Illegal protests took place in various districts across the territory over the last two weeks, seriously affecting the public. Rioters took the opportunity to commit such violent acts as arson, hurling petrol bombs and attacking other members of the public in different districts, jeopardizing public safety. A HKSAR Government spokesman strongly condemns the illegal and violent acts of protesters and rioters.

The protestors and rioters' acts caused serious disruptions to traffic, bringing grave inconvenience to members of the public and hindering emergency services. With traffic interruptions, the Government is grateful to the civil servants, public service providers and people from all walks of life for standing fast at their posts, and to employers for showing compassion and adopting flexible work arrangements for affected employees.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/10/P2019111000830.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/11/P2019111100816.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/14/P2019111400083.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/15/P2019111500809.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/18/P2019111801013.htm>

Updates on Hong Kong

The information page "Hong Kong Update" under the Brand Hong Kong website provides topical info for overseas audiences to learn the updates in Hong Kong, including information on known processions, public transport and airport situation, as well as Government responses to the protest actions and clarifications. It also provides social media links about Hong Kong.

You are invited to browse the page by clicking the link:

<https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/html/en/WhatSON/HKUpdate2019.html>

Terms on Interim Injunction Order granted by the High Court against promotion, encouragement and incitement of the use or threat of violence via internet-based platform or medium amended

The Secretary for Justice as guardian of the public interest applied ex parte to the Court and was granted an interim injunction on October 31 (HCA 2007/2019 – formerly High Court Intended Action 202/2019).

The Internet Society Hong Kong Limited applied to discharge or vary the interim injunction.

The Court on November 15 ordered that the interim injunction continue but in slightly amended terms as follows:

- (a) Wilfully disseminating, circulating, publishing or re-publishing on any internet-based platform or medium (including but not limited to LIHKG and Telegram) any material or information for the purpose of promoting, encouraging or inciting the use or threat of violence, intended or likely to cause:
 - (i) bodily injury to any person unlawfully within Hong Kong; or
 - (ii) damage to any property unlawfully within Hong Kong.
- (b) Wilfully assisting, causing, counselling, procuring, instigating, inciting, aiding or abetting others to commit any of the aforesaid acts or participate in any of the aforesaid acts.

Since this June, there have been numerous instances of violent protests and vandalising acts in many districts of Hong Kong including but not limited to criminal damage to property, assaults of the person, riots and arson. The use of internet-based platform or medium, given its anonymous and instantaneous nature in communication as well as accessibility, have been abused by some to incite protesters to participate in unlawful activities, to promote the use of weapons and to mobilise protesters to damage targeted properties and injure targeted individuals (in particular police officers). Such acts have seriously breached public peace, and posed a grave and genuine danger to the police and members of the public.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/15/P2019111501028.htm>

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2019

The fourth annual Hong Kong Fintech Week ended on November 8 after five packed days of events and activities.

Presented by Invest Hong Kong, Fintech Week drew more than 12,000 attendees from over 60 economies, more than 250 world-class speakers and over 150 exhibitors and start-ups, and featured thousands of business meetings.

Delegates had the opportunity to take a deep dive into virtual banking, blockchain, future technologies, insurtech, payments and remittances, lending and credit scoring, and wealthtech and investtech. In addition, the specially arranged Deal Floor allowed for hundreds of curated business matching meetings, connecting users and solution providers. Delegates also visited Shenzhen to learn more about the development of fintech in the Mainland as well as the tremendous potential of the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong's roles in it.

Opening the event, the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, spoke about the role of the HKSAR Government in supporting the development of fintech and business in Hong Kong, while reflecting on the fintech achievements of the past year and the significance of the Greater Bay Area. He said that despite the economic challenges Hong Kong faces, the development of the city's technology sector, including fintech, will continue to be a government priority.

At the event, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for blockchain collaboration between the subsidiaries of Hong Kong Interbank Clearing Limited and the Institute of Digital Currency of the People's Bank of China to conduct a Proof-of-Concept trial, which aims to connect eTradeConnect and the PBoC Trade Finance Platform. The PoC trial is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2020. Elsewhere, the HKMA announced that the Bank of International Settlements Innovation Hub Hong Kong Centre commenced operations this month.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/12/P2019111200403.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/06/P2019110600285.htm>

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Section project wins Institution of Civil Engineers People's Choice Award 2019

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Section project, comprising the HZMB Hong Kong Link Road (HKLR) and Hong Kong Port, was awarded on

November 12 the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) People's Choice Award 2019 for its remarkable achievement in project management and contribution to the enhancement of regional transportation networks. This is the first time that a major Hong Kong infrastructure project has won the award.

The ICE People's Choice Award is a leading industry award for projects that have had a transformative effect on the built environment.

The uniqueness of this infrastructure lies in its engineering achievements and bringing the three cities, Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao, much closer, thus enhancing the prosperity and economic development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The 55-kilometre-long HZMB, comprising the 12km HKLR, 29.6km Main Bridge and 13.4km Zhuhai Link Road, commenced operation in October 2018. The HZMB serves as the unprecedented cross-boundary transport infrastructure connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and is the longest bridge-cum-tunnel sea crossing in the world, bringing the Western Pearl River Delta region within three hours' drive of Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/13/P2019111300334.htm>

Berlin-based The DO School opens regional headquarters in Hong Kong

German social enterprise The DO School announced on November 13 that it has opened its Hong Kong campus as its regional headquarters, using the city's global hub status to spread its influence across the Asia-Pacific region.

The DO School, founded in 2013, supports businesses, entrepreneurs and young talents in turning ideas into action, creating movements of change and enabling social impacts. With its unique methodology, it helps executives and other individuals enhance their innovative ability through various social and corporate engagement activities including top management meetings, intrapreneurship academies, co-creation sprints and more.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/13/P2019111200357.htm>

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