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UPCOMING EVENTS

27th Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

The 27th Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is taking place from November 8 to 19. In partnership with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), the festival will present a Hong Kong short film “Everywhere” produced by animation director Step C. and artist Kai-chung Ng. The film is part of the Wee Asian Shorts Programme of the festival to be held on November 18 for free public admission. Please click the following links for details:

<https://www.reelasian.com/festival-events/wee-asian>

<https://www.reelasian.com/festival-events/everywhere/>

Musical performances of “Button of Love”

The musical performances of “Button of Love” will be staged by DramaOne Canada at City Playhouse Theatre in Vancouver from November 17 to 18 at Richmond Gateway Theatre. Supported by HKETO, “Button of Love” is an original play written by the Artistic Director of DramaOne Canada Peter Poon who is also a noted Hong Kong Canadian director. For details, please visit <https://www.dramaone.ca/>

Cathay Ball 2023

The Cathay Ball 2023 themed “Illuminating Future” hosted by the Mon Sheong Foundation will be held on November 18. Proceeds raised at the event will go towards its “Because We Care” capital campaign for the good cause of supporting the building of two new Mon Sheong long-term care centres. The HKETO is proud to sponsor the event’s VIP Reception and highlight Hong Kong as the Asia’s cultural metropolis. For details, please visit <https://cathayball.monsheong.org/>

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

HKCBA (Montreal Chapter) Holiday Cocktail

The Hong Kong-Canadian Business Association (HKCBA) (Montreal Chapter) will host a holiday cocktail reception on November 28. The event, supported by HKETO, Invest Hong Kong (Canada) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) is a good occasion for the international trade community interested in Asian trade and Hong Kong to discover opportunities and share success stories. Details of the event:

Date: 28 November 2023

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm (EST)

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Location: 1 Square Phillips, Pavillon de présentation
539 rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, Montréal QC

For registration, please click: <https://montreal.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-montreal-holiday-cocktail>

HKCBA (Ottawa Chapter) Member Appreciation Networking Event

The HKCBA (Ottawa Chapter) will host a member appreciation social networking event on November 29. The event offers a unique opportunity for members to learn more about organisations, resources and people in place that assist with Hong Kong-Canada trade; as well as the special deals related to the “Hello Hong Kong” campaign from the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Details of the event are as follows:

Date: 29 November 2023
Time: 5:30pm to 8pm (EDT)
Location: BLG Ottawa, World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street Suite 1300, Ottawa, ON

For registration, please click: <https://ottawa.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-membership-appreciation-event-2>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong Talent Engage officially established to strengthen recruitment of and support for talent to pursue development in Hong Kong

The Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, officiated at the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) Office Opening Ceremony on October 30 and witnessed with leaders of various trades and partners the official establishment of HKTE, a new milestone of the HKSAR Government’s endeavours to trawl for and retain talent.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Mr Chan said that to create strong impetus for Hong Kong’s growth, the current-term Government boldly and innovatively formulated an array of measures to trawl for talent. They included the establishment of the HKTE online platform, the newly introduced Top Talent Pass Scheme, and enhancements to various existing talent admission schemes to proactively attract talent around the world to Hong Kong.

The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address announced the establishment of HKTE, which serves as the designated agency to formulate talent attraction strategies and provide

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support services for talent in Hong Kong. HKTE will aim at assisting talent in their long-term development in Hong Kong and formulate targeted recruitment and publicity strategies for different talent groups. HKTE will also collaborate with the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents under the Government's Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices to attract talents to Hong Kong.

In addition to the establishment of the HKTE, the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address also announced that foreign staff of companies registered in Hong Kong may, starting from tomorrow, apply with the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre in Hong Kong for "multiple-entry visas" valid for two or more years to the Mainland, enjoying priority processing.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202310/30/P2023103000257.htm>

HKMA's Global Financial Leaders Investment Summit returns with expanded scale

The Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit, organised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), was successfully concluded on November 8.

The event brought together over 350 participants, including more than 90 group chairmen or CEOs from the world's top financial institutions, representing banks, securities firms, asset owners, asset managers, private equity and venture capital firms, hedge funds and insurers.

Under the theme of "Living with Complexity", the main summit held on November 7 discussed the trends and changes that are reshaping the global financial industry. Speakers discussed the opportunities from three longer-term trends: Chinese economy, technology and sustainability. Mainland policymakers also shared insights into the conditions and future direction of the Chinese economy.

The "Conversations with Global Investors" seminar held on November 8 featured 20 global leading investors, who shared their investment insights and latest approaches to navigate a challenging landscape.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/07/P2023110700626.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/08/P2023110800593.htm>

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Legal Forum on Interconnectivity and Development held successfully

As part of the Hong Kong Legal Week 2023, the Legal Forum on Interconnectivity and Development co-organised by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR and the Department of Justice was held successfully on November 7, attracting more than 700 judges, academics, government officials, and other legal professionals from over 50 jurisdictions, including countries situated along the Belt and Road route.

The Legal Forum discussed the joint construction of international economic and trade rules, development of dispute resolution for investment disputes and use of mediation in promoting high-quality Belt and Road co-operation, as well as consideration of Hong Kong's role in strengthening legal safeguards under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/07/P2023110700555.htm>

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023

The HKMA on November 2 co-organised Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023 with the InvestHK. The eighth edition of the city's flagship fintech event gave participants worldwide opportunities to build partnerships, exchange ideas and share their fintech journeys.

During the FinTech Week, the HKMA announced a series of initiatives to strengthen Hong Kong's fintech capabilities, including FPS x PromptPay QR Payment; Tokenisation in the bond market; and e-HKD Pilot Programme.

A brochure highlighting the key achievements and future roadmap of Project mBridge was published in October 2023: For details, please visit www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-functions/financial-infrastructure/mBridge_publication.pdf

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/02/P2023110200180.htm>

Government announces major initiatives to foster co-development of fintech and real economy

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) of the HKSAR Government on November 2 announced a series of major initiatives for fintech development in Hong Kong

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in the Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023. These initiatives aim at fostering co-development of fintech and the real economy, including launching a new Integrated Fund Platform; welcoming cross-boundary e-CNY applications to benefit inbound and outbound visitors between the Mainland and Hong Kong; and promoting real economy related applications and innovations by the Virtual Assets (VA) and Web3.0 sector, as well as further development of the regulatory framework.

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, said that the Government has been committed to promoting fintech development in Hong Kong, with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of Hong Kong's financial services industry and the real economy, empowering financial institutions to accelerate digitalisation and product innovation, better serving the real economy, and providing members of the public with more convenient, less expensive, and inclusive financial services.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/02/P2023110200339.htm>

Government to temporarily exempt full-time non-local postgraduate students from restrictions on taking up part-time jobs

To enhance learning and enrichment opportunities for international students, the HKSAR Government announced that, starting from November 1, full-time non-local postgraduate students would be temporarily exempted from the restrictions on taking up part-time jobs. The arrangement will be implemented on a trial basis for two years.

A Government spokesman said that the trial arrangement allows more room for those students to look for jobs during their studies to enhance their experience and understanding of working in Hong Kong, and further increase their incentive to stay in Hong Kong for their development after graduation.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202310/26/P2023102600304.htm>

Special arrangement for applications for extension of stay due to pandemic will be discontinued

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government on November 1 reminded the public that the special arrangement under the pandemic for Hong Kong non-permanent residents outside Hong Kong to apply for an extension of stay will be discontinued on January 1, 2024. In other words, the applicants are required to be

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physically present in Hong Kong, namely both at the time of application and at the time of collection of the “e-Visa” for the extension of stay starting next year.

Under the special arrangement which is to be discontinued, eligible non-permanent residents who are admitted into Hong Kong under the following immigration policies/schemes and whose limit of stay is about to expire but are presently outside Hong Kong may apply for an extension of stay:

- General Employment Policy (including both employment and investment as entrepreneurs);
- Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals;
- Quality Migrant Admission Scheme;
- Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates;
- Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents;
- Technology Talent Admission Scheme;
- Capital Investment Entrant Scheme;
- residence as dependants; and
- students enrolled in full-time study programmes.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/01/P2023110100338.htm>

SCED updates representatives of consulates and chambers of commerce on investment promotion work

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Algernon Yau, on October 31 hosted a reception for some 150 representatives of consulates and local and foreign chambers of commerce to update them on the Government’s work on investment promotion.

Mr Yau stressed that it is a priority of the current-term Government to attract enterprises and investments. Among them, Invest Hong Kong has assisted 300 companies from various sectors around the globe to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 27 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Mr Yau also announced the signing of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPA) between Hong Kong and Türkiye. The Agreement is the first IPPA signed by the current-term Government and the 23rd IPPA that Hong Kong has signed, bringing the IPPA coverage to a total of 32 trading partners.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202310/31/P2023103100544.htm>

CE congratulates Hong Kong athletes for achievements in Asian Para Games Hangzhou

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, on October 28 extended his congratulations to Hong Kong athletes on achieving outstanding results in the 4th Asian Para Games Hangzhou, commending their distinguished performance and noble sportsmanship.

The Hong Kong team won a total of 47 medals, comprising eight gold medals, 15 silver medals and 24 bronze medals. Breakthroughs were achieved in swimming including breaking several Asian Para Games records and winning all three medals in the same event.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202310/28/P2023102800447.htm>

Media partnership to highlight Hong Kong's financial and cultural sectors

In partnership with the Information Services Department (ISD) of the HKSAR Government, Euronews (a multilingual news TV channel in Europe) has produced two five-minute TV segments on Hong Kong's business opportunities and lifestyle attractions, as well as its blooming arts and cultural scene.

1) Title: A journey through Hong Kong: Explore the city's top cultural and financial highlights

English:

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/10/30/a-journey-through-hong-kong-explore-the-citys-top-cultural-and-financial-highlights>

French:

<https://fr.euronews.com/2023/10/30/un-voyage-a-hong-kong-decouvrez-les-hauts-lieux-culturels-et-financiers-de-la-ville>

Interviewees:

- Mr Sebastien Chaker, Head of Hong Kong, Allfunds Hong Kong Limited
- Ms Nuria Sau Bassols, General Manager, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

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2) Title: Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District: a must for art enthusiasts

English:

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/10/16/hong-kongs-west-kowloon-cultural-district-a-must-for-art-enthusiasts>

French:

<https://fr.euronews.com/2023/10/16/de-l-opera-a-l-art-contemporain-la-spectaculaire-scene-culturelle-de-hong-kong>

Interviewees:

- Mr Jonathan Crockett, Chairman, Asia, Phillips
- Mr Lam Tin-yau, Cantonese opera performer

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