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UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference

Presented jointly by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), the 10th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference to be held on January 23, 2024 will delve into Hong Kong's role as a Super Connector, with the theme of "Building the Next 10". Join the conference to explore innovative ideas, biotech start-ups, and business opportunities, strengthening commercial relationships between Canada, Hong Kong, and other Asian economies. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) is a supporter of the event. Learn more: <https://www.cancham.org/event/?eid=3241>

HONG KONG NEWS

SCED hosts cocktail reception to give update on work of overseas ETOs and Mainland Offices on promoting Hong Kong

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Algernon Yau, on November 23 hosted a cocktail reception to update about 200 guests, including representatives of consulates, chambers of commerce and major trade associations, etc., on the work of the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) and the Mainland Offices on promoting the strengths and opportunities of Hong Kong.

The Heads of 14 ETOs and five Mainland Offices attended the cocktail reception during their stay in Hong Kong for the annual meeting of Heads of ETOs.

Speaking at the reception, Mr Yau said that the ETOs and the Mainland Offices have been committed in fostering closer bilateral trade ties and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and various economies, and keeping the respective governments and contacts updated of the latest developments in Hong Kong. These include their work on attracting enterprises and talents by reaching out to target enterprises proactively as well as highlighting the advantages of Hong Kong and the relevant policy initiatives and schemes.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/23/P2023112300581.htm>

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Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023 redefines fintech as digitalising finance and transforming real economy

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023 concluded on November 5, capping off a week-long feast of fintech that included the Greater Bay Area Day on October 31 and the two-day main conference on November 2 and 3, where fintech leaders, regulators, and innovators around the world gathered to discuss the rapid fintech industry evolution in Hong Kong and across the region, as well as highlighting the resulting transformation impact on the real economy.

The annual flagship event was organised by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) of the HKSAR Government, and co-organised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Insurance Authority.

Under the theme "Fintech Redefined", this year's main conference explored fintech development across six key themes - global regulations and trends such as sustainable and green finance; funding and venture capital as well as family office investments; exploring the realms of artificial intelligence (AI), Web3 and emerging frontiers; fintech innovation in the dynamic Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA); Hong Kong's innovation journey; and business showcases.

Over 500 competitors from over 63 markets around the world, pitched their ideas across the fintech, AI and Web3 categories. The entire week attracted a record high of over 35 000 attendees and over 5.5 million views online from over 100 economies, featured over 800 distinguished speakers and over 700 exhibitors, as well as attracting more than 30 Mainland and international delegations.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/30/P2023111600551.htm>

StartmeupHK Festival 2023 concludes with resounding success

The StartmeupHK Festival 2023 concluded on November 17 after an exhilarating week-long series of events, networking activities and pitching competitions. Organised by InvestHK, the Festival themed "A Future Unlimited" set the stage for more than 600 visionary speakers from across the globe.

While the StartmeupHK Festival covered a diverse range of topics, including Web3, healthtech, proptech, greentech, and AI, sustainability emerged as a prominent theme across all sectors.

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During his keynote speech at the St. Gallen Symposium Hong Kong - GBA Forum 2023, the Chairman of Our Hong Kong Foundation, Mr Bernard Chan, emphasised the importance of companies incorporating sustainable business practices into their business models and expressed Hong Kong's openness to collaboration within the region to achieve this common goal.

A number of scalable pitching competitions were held throughout the Festival, offering startups the opportunity to showcase their ideas and connect with like-minded individuals and potential investors.

The Festival drew over 12 000 participants and 16 000 online viewers from 85 countries and territories, consisting of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, tech enthusiasts and government officials. Over 800 one-to-one business matching meetings were also conducted between start-ups and investors and potential partners to explore business opportunities.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/28/P2023112800209.htm>

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2023

Top executives from around Asia and the Pacific meeting at the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2023 (APBF) on November 22 called for the private sector to lead the way towards greener and more sustainable business practices.

With the theme "An Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business: Driving the Green Transformation", this year's APBF opens discussions on how businesses are decarbonising their operations and scaling up sustainability initiatives in the region. Participants are introduced to the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business digital platform, and are able to meet key decision makers, business leaders and emerging entrepreneurs committed to sustainable development across the region.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, reiterated the HKSAR Government's commitment to working with the business sector to realise green transformation in Hong Kong, and contribute to the regional decarbonisation progress.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/22/P2023112200431.htm>

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InnoHK Summit 2023 a great success

Organised by the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), InnoHK Summit 2023 was held successfully at Hong Kong Science Park on December 6, attracting over 800 world-class academics, scientists, representatives of renowned institutes and industry leaders from Hong Kong and around the world.

Under the theme of "From Collaborative Research to Real World Impact", the Summit aims to showcase the latest innovation and technology (I&T) developments and breakthroughs of InnoHK, Hong Kong's leading role as a global research collaboration hub, and its strengths in commercialisation and talent development.

InnoHK is a major I&T initiative of the HKSAR Government to develop Hong Kong as a hub for global research collaboration. Two research clusters have been set up at the Hong Kong Science Park, namely the aforementioned Health@InnoHK and AIR@InnoHK. InnoHK involves seven local universities and research institutions as well as over 30 top-notch institutions from 11 economies, pooling together about 2 500 researchers locally and from all over the world.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/06/P2023120600451.htm>

OASES strategic enterprise partner AstraZeneca holds Plaques Unveiling Ceremony

As a strategic enterprise partner of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), biopharmaceutical enterprise AstraZeneca from the United Kingdom is setting up the AstraZeneca R&D Centre and the Hong Kong iCampus in Hong Kong. The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, and representatives of AstraZeneca jointly witnessed the Plaques Unveiling Ceremony at the Central Government Offices on November 24.

The AstraZeneca R&D Centre in Hong Kong will focus on research and development of medicines in such key areas as cell therapy and gene therapy. The Hong Kong iCampus is an incubation platform, which assists in the business expansion of start-ups in related areas, and engages in collaboration with Hong Kong universities, scientific research institutions, innovation and technology parks, etc.

Since its establishment in December last year, OASES has met with representatives from nearly 300 enterprises. Among them, about 30 strategic enterprise partners will set up

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businesses or increase their business scale in Hong Kong, investing a total of more than HK\$30 billion in Hong Kong and creating about 10 000 jobs in the coming few years.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202311/24/P2023112400723.htm>

District Council Ordinary Election to be held on December 10

The 2023 District Council Ordinary Election will be held on December 10 (Sunday). The Registration and Electoral Office has mailed poll cards to about 4.33 million registered electors to inform them of where they should cast their votes on the polling day.

Electors may cast their votes at the designated polling stations as specified on their poll cards or the near boundary polling stations (if applicable). An elector must show the original copy of his/her Hong Kong identity card at the ballot paper issuing desk.

The Electronic Poll Register system will be adopted at most polling stations, but the printed copy of the final register will be used for issuing ballot papers at dedicated polling stations and the polling stations with difficulties in installation and technical support due to remoteness or unstable network coverage. Information about the election is available on the election website (www.elections.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/01/P2023120100569.htm>

International study shows Hong Kong students' steady performance in mathematical, scientific and reading literacy

The results in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 announced on December 5 showed Hong Kong students' steady performance in mathematical, scientific and reading literacy, with overall scores continuously surpassing the international average.

In terms of mathematical literacy, Hong Kong maintained its ranking in the fourth place with a score of 540, which was significantly above the international average of 472. For scientific literacy, Hong Kong's ranking advanced from the ninth place in the previous cycle to the seventh place. Its score also increased from 517 to 520, which was significantly above the international average of 485.

Regarding mother tongue reading literacy, Hong Kong ranked 11th with a score of 500, while the international average stood at 476. In other international studies such as the

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"Progress in International Reading Literacy Study" conducted in 2021, Hong Kong students excelled and ranked second among 43 participating countries or regions.

PISA, with participation of a total of 81 countries or economies, is organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with an aim to assess the mathematical, scientific and the mother tongue reading literacy of 15-year-old students.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/05/P2023120500451.htm>

China Manned Space delegation visits Hong Kong

A China Manned Space delegation arrived in Hong Kong on November 28 for a four-day visit at the invitation of the HKSAR Government.

The delegation was led by the Deputy Director General of the China Manned Space Agency, Mr Lin Xiqiang. Members of the delegation comprised astronauts who participated in the construction of the Chinese Space Station and experts from related fields of the manned space engineering systems. The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, extended his warm welcome to the delegation, and gave thanks to the Central People's Government for the arrangements.

During the visit, the delegation attended a media briefing to introduce the latest developments of the China Manned Space Program and take questions from the press. The delegation also officiated at the opening ceremony of the "China Manned Space Exhibition" at the Hong Kong Science Museum and met with representatives of Hong Kong's innovation and technology sector, as well as teachers and students from tertiary, secondary and primary schools for exchanges.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/01/P2023120100614.htm>

Media partnerships highlighting Hong Kong's strengths

In partnership with the Information Services Department (ISD) of the HKSAR Government, the following media has produced pieces of branded contents to promote Hong Kong's strengths in various sectors.

1) The Economist has created a piece of branded content to look at how recent developments in terms of education, infrastructure and government support position Hong

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Kong's art scene to thrive into the future and further expanding the HKSAR as a top destination for artists and art enthusiasts alike.

Title: Hong Kong, a hotbed of creativity

Link: <https://impact.economist.com/projects/hk-a-premier-hub/article/hong-kong-a-hotbed-of-creativity/>

Interviewees:

- Pi Li, head of art, Tai Kwun Contemporary
- Trevor Yeung, artist
- Rosanna Li Wei-han, ceramist

2) South China Morning Post has created a video-led article featuring two culture makers of Hong Kong who have actively participated in the thriving cultural landscape, highlighting Hong Kong as an arts and culture hub.

Video: Hong Kong arts practitioners offer glimpse into city's thriving scene

Link: <https://www.scmp.com/native/lifestyle/topics/hong-kong-where-world-looks-ahead/article/3243086/thriving-arts-hub>

Interviewees:

- Lindsay McAlister, founder of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation
- Arthur de Villepin, co-founder of art gallery Villepin Gallery

3) Financial Times has created a piece of branded content about Hong Kong's strengths as a wealth management centre.

Title: How Hong Kong Attracts the Ultra-Wealthy

Link: <https://www.ft.com/partnercontent/brandhongkong/how-hong-kong-attracts-the-ultra-wealthy.html>

Interviewees:

- Sami Abouzahr, head of investments and wealth solutions, Hong Kong at HSBC
- Ivan Wong, regional head of North Asia and Hong Kong chief executive at Union Bancaire Privée (UBP)

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