

Jan 3, 2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) extends our best wishes to you! May the New Year bring you happiness, good health, and continued success.

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 (HKT) 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 HKETO is a sponsor of the event. Learn more:

<https://www.cancham.org/event/?eid=3241>

Fête Chinoise 2024 Lunar New Year Event

Capturing tradition in a refreshing light, the annual Fête Chinoise Lunar New Year cocktail party and gala will be held in Toronto and Vancouver on February 3 and 17 respectively. This signature event stands as the most coveted gathering celebrating Chinese culture in the Canadian community to showcase the essence of Chinese culture and heritage. The HKETO is a special sponsor of the Toronto event. For details, please visit:

<https://www.fetechinoise.ca/gala-2024>

2024 HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas

The HKCBA (Toronto Section) will organize the 2024 annual Lunar New Year Gala on February 24. Activities include traditional Chinese games, lion dance, band performance, table draw prizes, silent auction, etc. Grand prize draw is two round trip premium economy tickets between Toronto and Hong Kong donated by Cathay Pacific Airways. The HKETO is a supporter of the event. For details, please visit:

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

In addition, the HKCBA (Calgary Section) will organize the 2024 annual Lunar New Year Gala on March 1. Participants can enjoy a festive meal and be dazzled by performances, guest speakers and an award ceremony honouring HKCBA Calgary Scholarship winners. The HKETO is a major sponsor of the event. For details, please visit:

<https://calgary.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-chinese-new-year-gala-2024>

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HONG KONG NEWS

Survey results show Hong Kong the preferred destination for enterprises to set up and expand businesses

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on December 21, 2023 the results of the 2023 Annual Survey of Companies in Hong Kong with Parent Companies Located outside Hong Kong and the 2023 Startup Survey, which show that Hong Kong is the preferred destination for enterprises to set up and expand businesses.

According to the survey results, in 2023:-

- there were 9 039 companies in Hong Kong with parent companies overseas or on the Mainland China, representing a recovery to pre-pandemic high levels;
- the total number of people engaged by these companies was around 468 000;
- the number of start-ups reaching a record high of 4 257, up 272 from the previous year; and
- these start-ups engaged 16 453 persons, up by 10% compared to the previous year's figure.

Meanwhile, since its establishment in December 2022, the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises has attracted over 30 strategic enterprises to establish a foothold in Hong Kong. These enterprises are expected to invest a total of over HK\$30 billion in Hong Kong, and create over 10 000 employment opportunities with a majority of them being research and development or senior management positions.

The results of the two surveys have been uploaded to the websites of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1110004&scode=360) and Invest Hong Kong (www.startmeup.hk/about-us/hong-kongs-startup-ecosystem/) respectively.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/21/P2023122100507.htm>

HA Global Healthcare Professional Recruitment Centre established

The Hospital Authority in Hong Kong on December 21, 2023 announced the establishment of the Hospital Authority Global Healthcare Professional Recruitment Centre to co-ordinate the recruitment and exchange programmes of non-locally trained

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healthcare professionals from around the world with an aim to expand the manpower pool of the Hong Kong public healthcare system to cope with the growing service demand.

The Recruitment Centre will continue reaching out to more high-calibre healthcare professionals on different global platforms, introducing the working environment, explaining various registration pathways, and promulgating the advantages of serving in Hong Kong.

Apart from joining the Hospital Authority as long-term staff, global healthcare professionals are also welcome to go to Hong Kong for short to medium-term exchange or training programmes and to conduct clinical observership or participate in clinical work in Hong Kong public hospitals.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/21/P2023122100727.htm>

SCST congratulates Bonnie Pang on winning Silver Award in Japan International MANGA Award

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism of the HKSAR Government, Mr Kevin Yeung, on December 28, 2023 congratulated Hong Kong comics and illustration artist Bonnie Pang on receiving the Silver Award at the 17th Japan International MANGA Award with her work, "Chronos Express".

The Japan International MANGA Award, founded in 2007, is one of the most honorable awards in the international comics sector. It commends outstanding comics and facilitates exchanges among countries through comics. A total of 587 works from 82 countries and regions competed for the award this year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/28/P2023122800361.htm>

Hong Kong Customs introduces Virtual Customs Ambassador XiaoHui

Hong Kong Customs has developed the Smart Customs Interactive Response System and introduced on December 29, 2023 the Virtual Customs Ambassador, XiaoHui. Combined with artificial intelligence (AI) technology, natural language processing, machine learning, etc., XiaoHui will handle general enquiries in relation to Customs work in real time from members of the public and travellers, and provide them with information on control points.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202312/29/P2023122900489.htm>

Media partnership to showcase Hong Kong as the world's stage

In partnership with the Information Services Department (ISD) of the HKSAR Government, BBC has produced a content hub entitled "[Hong Kong: The World's Stage](#)", outlining what makes the city a talent haven, through the eyes of two such individuals with unique paths and perspectives.

Video title: Breaking boundaries, cueing destiny

<https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/hong-kong-the-worlds-stage/breaking-boundaries-cueing-destiny>

Interviewee: World snooker champion Ng On-ye

Article title: From the trapeze to blockchain tech: Why I made Hong Kong my home

<https://www.bbc.com/storyworks/hong-kong-the-worlds-stage/from-the-trapeze-to-blockchain-tech-why-i-made-hong-kong-my-home>

Interviewee: Patricia Auer, COO of Nest

In addition, the South China Morning Post in partnership with the ISD published an article on family businesses in Hong Kong.

Title: Hong Kong shines bright as a family office hub

<https://www.scmp.com/presented/business/banking-finance/topics/family-offices-drawn-hong-kong/article/3244741/hong-kong-shines-bright-family-office-hub>

Collaborating with ISD, the Economist has created an infographic on Hong Kong's vibrant cultural ecosystem. It also looked at how the provision of funding and the availability of programmes help nurture young artists.

Title: Hong Kong rolls out red carpet for art

<https://impact.economist.com/projects/hk-a-premier-hub/infographic/hong-kong-rolls-out-red-carpet-for-art/>

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Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd or

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Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/

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